

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2026
Reporting from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 9860	Umoja WBS: GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-014367
SMA IPMR ID: 32914	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000618
Project Short Title: GEF Biosafety Cuba	
Project Title: Creation of Additional Biosafety Capacities that Lead to A Full Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Cuba	
Duration months planned:	60
Duration months age:	107
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Latin America and Caribbean
Countries:	Cuba
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 1,826,484.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 1,920,443.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2017-07-16
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2020-03-24
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2020-04-03
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2021-09-09
Date of First Disbursement:	2020-06-08
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2026:	\$ 1,703,072.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 1,611,504.00

Midterm undertaken?:	Yes
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	2024-01-16
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2025-03-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2026-06-30
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2026-07-20
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2027-06-30

1.2 Project Description

Project objective: To further complete the process of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) through the creation of additional capacities in the areas of monitoring, liability and redress, and education. Components: 1. Creation of the necessary capacities for the identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) This component is designed to improve the country's capacity to carry out the detection and identification of LMOs in two laboratories: The Center for Scientific Research for the Civil Defense (CICDC) and the National Center for Agricultural Health (CENSA) by strengthening their technological and human capacities and supporting the completion of their accreditation process. The end goal is that these two institutions become national reference laboratories for biosafety with international recognition and can support LMO-related conflicts. 2. Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) Component 2 aims to design a coherent national system for LMO monitoring and surveillance, including the design of a field detection strategy and administrative and technical guides tailored to the specific needs of customs personnel, ORSA biosafety officers and other competent authorities. The National Toxicology Center (CENATOX) is expected to support several monitoring activities, most notably on what concerns interactions with non-target organisms. 3. Identification of socioeconomic considerations of importance for Cuba arising from the impact of LMOs, as per article 26 of the CPB: Component 3 aims to ensure socioeconomic (SE) considerations are considered in decision-making. Detailed analyses and awareness-raising materials are foreseen to increase the knowledge and understanding of SE considerations related to LMOs. 4. Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting: Component 4 consists of monitoring and evaluation of compliance with project targets and stated activities; oversight of the budget and implementation of required audits; reporting to UNEP, the Project Steering Committee (PSC), the GEF and other parties as established by the national legislation applicable to international projects; and oversight and coordination by the PSC and other partners. Executing Agency: execution is led by the Office of Environmental Regulation and Security (ORSA) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment. ORSA is the sole competent authority for Biosafety in Cuba. UNDP Cuba supports the project with international equipment purchases and payments of service suppliers. The Specialized Importer, Exporter and Distributor for Science and Technology (EMIDICT) is the broker for all equipment imports. Main government/ other partners involved: ORSA: Office of Regulation and Environmental Safety, CICDC: Center for Scientific Research for the Civil Defense, CENSA: National Centre for Agricultural Health, CENATOX: National Toxicology Centre, UNDP Cuba. The Ministries of Public Health (authority for the use of LMOs as food) and Agriculture (authority for the use of LMOs as feed. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX), as the competent authority in commercial and trade issues, is involved in contributing with relevant commercial points of view.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Office of Environmental Regulation and Security (ORSA) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
names of Other Project Partners	CICDC: Centre for Scientific Investigations of the Civil Defence-CENSA; National Centre for Agricultural Health – CENATOX; National Toxicology Centre; UNDP Cuba; EMIDICT; Specialized Importer, Exporter and Distributor for Science and Technology (company in charge of equipment imports)
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Anna Fanzeres
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Solomon Kinuthia/Arshad Hussain
UNEP Support Assistants	Gloritzel Frangakis Cano
Manager/Representative	Antonio Casanova Guilarte
Project Manager	Tanya Romay Fernández
Finance Manager	Tanya Romay Fernández
Communications Lead, if relevant	

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Foundational: Environmental governance
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	3: Healthy and productive ecosystems4: Environmental Governance
PoW Indicator(s):	• Nature: (i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity. • Governance: (ii) Number of international legal agreements or instruments advanced or developed with UNEP support to address emerging or internationally agreed environmental goals
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	Cuba UNSDCF 2026-2030, National Priority: Natural Resources and Environment, Cooperation Framework Outcome 3 (UNDP 3): By 2030, territorial governments, productive and service sectors, institutions, communities, and individuals effectively, comprehensively, and sustainably manage natural resources and the environment, disaster risk reduction, and climate change impacts, contributing to the enjoyment of a healthy and balanced environment on an equal basis. Output 3.1: Governments, institutions, sectors, and communities with strengthened technical capacities for the sustainable management of natural resources, the environment, and ecosystem conservation to contribute to a sustainable development that benefits people, including strengthened capacities for the sustainable use of natural resources and the conservation of genetic resources and biodiversity.
Link to relevant SDG Goals	• Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	• 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed • 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	111	111	111	736	This is only an estimate of the number of beneficiaries based on the resources funded by the GEF for this project. With regard to training and participation in events, both in Cuba and abroad (approximately 85% women), the procurements have enabled the creation of installed capacity at ORSA and the three participating entities; these have also provided logistical support to other national actors involved in the tasks and the achievement of the results obtained. The project has contributed significantly to institutional support for the NEA, providing valuable financial resources for several important activities involving specialists from all regions of the country. It has helped fund national events in which producers of genetically modified corn and soybeans have participated and enabled Cuban experts to represent our country at highly significant regional events.
11.1- Male	47	47	47	274	see remarks above
11.2- Female	64	64	64	462	see remarks above

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2026	Final PIR	HS	HS	L
FY 2025	5th PIR	HS	HS	L
FY 2024	4th PIR	S	HS	M
FY 2023	3rd PIR	S	HS	M
FY 2022	2nd PIR	S	MS	M
FY 2021	1st PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

Despite prolonged power outages that intensified in the first half of 2026, the project advanced steadily towards its outcome targets. Under Outcome 1.1, the accreditation process for the CICDC and CENSA laboratories reached its final phase: both completed validation of the qualitative test for corn event TC 1507 and are now awaiting the National Accreditation Body's (ONARC) Decision Committee ruling, expected for CENSA in August. A validation article on soybean event GTS 40-3-2 is scheduled for publication in the journal Applied Biotechnology. Under Outcome 2.1, the national Monitoring and Surveillance system became fully operational, with a second stage of post-harvest environmental monitoring completed in Calimete, Matanzas, and a Field Monitoring Workshop where CENATOX presented ecotoxicological results and a GIS tool for mapping new release areas. Customs capacity was strengthened through review of the national tariff classification system (SACLAP) and border-sampling training with MINAG's Plant Health Directorate, surpassing the target of training at least 50% of designated customs officers. At output level, deliverables under Components 1 and 2 were completed or are near completion. Both reference laboratories (Output 1.1.1) received the reagents and equipment needed to sustain testing, the ORSA-CENSA-CICDC collaboration MoU (1.1.2) remains in force, and the harmonized detection protocols and SOPs (1.1.3) were approved by the national competent authority. Detection thresholds (1.1.4) were finalized following the validated GTS 40-3-2 soybean assay, the TC 1507 corn validation now underway, and satisfactory results in an external FAPAS proficiency test; laboratory accreditation (1.1.6) is 90-100% complete, pending only ONARC's Decision Committee rulings. The field-detection strategy, border-sampling

guides and related workshops (2.1.1-2.1.4) were fully delivered. Under Component 3, the public communication campaign was launched with a December 2025 press conference for about 25 journalists, and an audiovisual on the project's results and community impact premiered at the 30 June closing workshop, subsequently broadcast nationally and shared with the CBD Secretariat. On project management, all reports were delivered on time, two Steering Committee meetings were held (October 2025 and June 2026), and, following the concluded Mid-Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation is scheduled to begin in September.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project's most critical challenge during the reporting period was the country's worsening energy crisis: power outages exceeding 12 hours a day and four national grid failures within five months, combined with fuel shortages limiting mobility, forced the repeated rescheduling of field and laboratory activities (rated Moderate under the Implementation Schedule risk). Closely linked to this, the sharp rise in service and input prices required constant budget re-adjustment ahead of each activity (rated Moderate under the Budget risk). Cuba's broader economic and social context continues to be monitored as a Moderate risk affecting the enabling environment for project execution, though it has remained stable without escalation during the period.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 1,920,443
Actual to date:	866,326
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: The materialized amount of co-finance represents 45,11% of the committed co-finance. The co-finance represented a key contribution to cover the financing of some activities, as well as to the payment of remuneration for the project team. Although immense efforts were done to increase co-financing to match the amount committed in USD (the currency of the GEF), the low level of co-finance occurred due to the difference in the exchange rate of the Cuban peso against the USD (1:24), imposed in January 2021. Thus, even if the contributions were high and corresponded to the level of activity of the project, they never come close to what was initially agreed upon, since the project was signed when the exchange rate of the Cuban peso against the US dollar was 1:1.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2026-06-29
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	One of the strengths of this initiative has been precisely the involvement of national actors from national entities (research centers, universities, national authorities from the Ministry of Agriculture, Foreign Trade, the National Accreditation Body of the Republic of Cuba, the General Customs Office of the Republic, among others), private producers, the pig farm located in one of the localities, and the community in general. Perhaps the most important aspect to highlight during this period has been the discovery of the possibilities and the connections that have been established between the universities of Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila and producers, companies, and regulatory agencies. At the university's Venezuela campus, training activities aimed at agricultural workers, farm managers, and decision-makers have been essential for a better understanding of these issues: this has been one of the main demands, as it helps increase the general public's knowledge and awareness of the benefits of these biotech crops. Furthermore, the Marta Abreu de las Villas Central University has formed working groups with producers and the Placetes Swine Trade Association, and has developed regional projects funded by CITMA's Environmental Fund, which has enabled them to expand research on the impact of these crops on the soil's physicochemical indicators; they have also evaluated the quality of seeds and grains, and have even set out to evaluate the feed mixtures used, linking them to the animals' feed conversion efficiency. Undoubtedly, this constitutes a significant achievement that provides a stronger scientific basis for the production of genetically modified crops in Cuba and supports the decisions of the National Biosafety Authority.

2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	Nevertheless, the project team is mostly integrated by women, both within the National Executing Agency and in the entities participating in this initiative with ORSA; hence, both the training activities and the presentation of results in scientific events have a significant participation of women. Moreover, the participants in the workshops held to date, have the representation of women as more than 60 % of the total number of attendees.

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? No If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?
New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No If yes, describe the new risks or changes?
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken? No complaints have been made or filed. However, as described in the session below, safeguards and monitoring measures are in place and the responsible governmental authorities are being trained to adopt the necessary measures.
Environmental and social safeguards management	The issue at the heart of this initiative is a priority for the Cuban government, as it is closely linked to achieving the long-awaited goal of food sovereignty. During the period under review, two meetings of the National GMO Commission were held with the participation of the relevant authorities: the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment. Representatives from the National Standardization Office and technology developers also participated. In both forums, the functioning of the GMO commissions at the territorial level was discussed, highlighting the main results and the difficulties that remain.

	Once again, emphasis was placed on the need for integration between authorities and the need for training at all levels on the benefits and risks of using this technology. At the meeting held in December, progress in the implementation of the international biosafety project was presented, emphasizing the potential and national capacities that it brings to the country at the present time. At this Commission's recent meeting held last June, the results of the socioeconomic studies conducted in Placetas, Villa Clara, were presented. These studies clearly demonstrated the impact of these crops' production on the communities, as well as the reported benefits in terms of yields, income, wages, job creation, and the participation of women and the entire family in the process: as well as the collaboration with the university to conduct scientific research on these crops, closing the cycle with the pig farming enterprise, since the feed mixtures produced from genetically modified corn and soybeans constitute the primary source of feed for this species. Therefore, it is vital to continue communicating the results of this project to the public; its fundamental message is that our country now has the necessary tools to affirm that these products are safe and comply with biosafety standards.
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2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	During the period covered by this report, a training session was held in a release area for HAmE 15 hybrid corn—which is resistant to the corn earworm and tolerant to herbicides—with the participation of project team members and ORSA regulators in Sancti Spiritus. Also participating were plant protection specialists, workers, and an agricultural producer—the farm manager of the visited area—with the aim of verifying compliance with the environmental permit requirements, collecting grain samples for shipment to laboratories, and using test strips to assess the adjacent areas, thereby evaluating compliance with biosecurity measures. Furthermore, virtual meetings have been held, to the extent possible, through a WhatsApp group created for this purpose, with ORSA specialists in all provinces to follow up on the procedures developed in Component 2 (Monitoring and Surveillance) and to update the release areas for biotech crops, information on which is presented at the two annual meetings of the National GMO Commission. Another outcome of this Component was the drafting of an article outlining Cuba's strategy and Monitoring and Surveillance System for publication; it was submitted to the journal <i>*Ambiente y Sustentabilidad*</i>, has already been accepted, and is currently under review. In addition, the following article is scheduled to be published shortly: "Validation of the qualitative real-time PCR assay for the specific event of transgenic soybean GTS 40-3-2." Madeline Blanco de Armas, María Karla Castro Montes de Oca, Adriana Mesa Delgado, Liuber Machado Zaldívar, Maylin Pupo Arias, María Teresa Pérez Guevara, Arsenio Betancourt Bravo, Yodaimys Bacallao Salcedo, Tanya Romay Fernández. <i>Applied Biotechnology</i> (Approved—next publication). ISSN: 1027-2852. As part of the training of a fourth-year student in the Faculty of Biology at the University of Havana, a research project was conducted in which the results of the maize validation formed part of her diploma thesis titled: "Validation of the Real-Time PCR Assay for the
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	Detection of the TC 1507 Maize Event,” which yielded satisfactory results and received the highest grade of 5 points.
Main learning during the period	This was yet another year that demonstrated the resilience and perseverance of the team, as well as the commitment of the institutions participating in the project alongside ORSA to achieving results. For this final period, there were relatively few activities left to complete, but the challenges were even greater when, in January 2026, the country’s electricity crisis worsened even further, with power outages lasting more than 12 hours a day; the fuel crisis prevented mobility even within the city; and, finally, the National Electric System suffered four outages in just five months. We’ve had to move forward and assess the situation almost daily to ensure we can complete our activities and revise the planning of our tasks. It has been extremely difficult this time, but when we look at the results and the tasks we’ve accomplished, we rejoice at how much we’ve grown. This shows us that if we can achieve these results in the face of adversity, just imagine the wonders we could accomplish and share when conditions are favorable.

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	N/A
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2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	This year, I’m just going to share a short story that could very well serve as a tribute to the hard work, tenacity, and dedication of one of our most beloved and unforgettable colleagues: “Tere,” as we affectionately called the Deputy Director of the Quality Department at the Civil Defense Scientific Research Center, who became indispensable over the past year and was primarily responsible for the fact that this institution’s GMO laboratory is now on the verge of receiving accreditation for its tests. With the kindness and serenity that always characterized her, she worked tirelessly alongside her colleagues and led the entire accreditation process, including exchanges with ONARC experts to address each and every observation required to meet the ISO 17025 standard. She fell ill suddenly, just two days before the end of the technical activities, and sadly left us without her physical presence, but with an immense legacy. To her today, we offer our deepest gratitude.
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Outcome 1.1: National capacities for LMO identification and detection strengthened and supporting decision-making processes	# of identification and detection events undertaken by CICDC and CENSA laboratories.	0 labs carrying out GMO detection	1 Lab has been selected and the process of equipment purchase started.	Lab accredited by the NC ISO / IEC 17025:2017	100%	The accreditation process for molecular assays in the field of biotechnology is in its final phase. The CICDC laboratory is awaiting a response from the Decision Committee regarding the accreditation of the qualitative test for soybean 40-3-2, while the laboratory located at CENSA expects this decision in August. Both laboratories have also completed the validation of the test for corn TC 1507, which will subsequently be incorporated into the services offered by both entities.	HS
Outcome 1.1: National capacities for LMO identification and detection strengthened and supporting decision-making processes	# of decisions/actions made/taken by Country based on detection of GMOs done by CICDC and CENSA laboratories.	0 Accredited labs for GMO detection.		accredited by the NC ISO / IEC 17025: 2017	100%	With the submission of this report, both entities have concluded the accreditation process in the field of biotechnology for qualitative real-time PCR testing for the detection and identification of transformation events in genetically modified crops.	HS
Outcome 2.1: National system for monitoring and surveillance established and operational.	# of M&S actions on GM fields taking place.	0 monitoring actions taking place	Draft for the: design of the M&S system, strategy for field detection and guidelines for institutions involved in national	At least 3 M&S actions taking place.	100%	In August 2024, a second stage of post-harvest environmental monitoring continued ecotoxicological soil studies in Calimete, Matanzas. The Second Field Monitoring Workshop followed in September, presenting CENATOX's results and a GIS tool for identifying new transgenic corn release areas. Specialists from the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology presented the extension strategy for the next season's crops, prompting debate on inspection and sampling	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			custom system.			procedures. A further Workshop on the Implementation of the Monitoring and Surveillance System also reported progress to date.	
Outcome 2.1: National system for monitoring and surveillance established and operational.	At least 50% of custom officers in designated check points apply biosafety procedures. (*including disaggregated data on # of men and women)	0 capacity in customs to undertake monitoring	Purchase of equipment, and materials for M&S started.	All equipment and materials received.	100%	All equipment and materials for border and field sampling were received and reviewed by ORSA and MINAG's Plant Health Directorate. Coordination between both authorities enabled the approval of working procedures for sampling LMOs and GMOs. A review of the Harmonized Commodity Classification System (SACLAP) was also carried out to identify tariff subheadings for imported GM crops, allowing Plant Health inspectors at Cuban ports to conduct phytosanitary surveillance within their functions alongside the environmental authority.	HS
Outcome 2.1: National system for monitoring and surveillance established and operational.	Personnel have been designated for undertaking sampling in borders.		At least 2 workshops executed (25% of custom officers in designated checkpoints trained). (Equal opportunities for training have been offered to men and	All planned workshops executed (At least 50% of custom officers in designated check points trained). (Equal opportunities for training have been offered to men and women)	100%	Theoretical and practical training on border sampling was held in September 2024 at the Port of Havana (HAIPHON dock), coordinated with MINAG's Plant Health Directorate. It covered port operations for GM seed/grain shipments and sampling under Cuban Standard 879:2012, with phytosanitary experts explaining container identification, documentation, and sampling methods for bulk and warehoused cargo. Emphasis was placed on sample quantities and preservation for lab detection of transformation events. ORSA inspectors (three women, two men) practiced sampling directly from bags stored at the port.	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			women)				
Outcome 3.1. Socio-economic considerations as per article 26 are considered for decision-making.	# of decisions related to GMOs that consider SE considerations	0 SE considerations are considered.	Document of the analysis of the technical and legal implications (art 26).	At least 1 decision related to GMOs considers SE consideration.	100%	A study on international SEC regulations informed Cuba's GMO policy approach, incorporating decision-makers and impact perspectives beyond biological risk; results were presented at the component's closing workshop. A public communication campaign followed, launched via a December 2025 press conference introducing ORSA and the Biosafety Project, generating print, radio, and television coverage. The campaign continued with an audiovisual on the project's social and economic impacts, plus planned educational videos linking biosafety to food security. Collaboration with universities in Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila will integrate these topics into degree programs and support regional public communication, led by ORSA through a regulator training program before year-end.	HS
Outcome 3.1. Socio-economic considerations as per article 26 are considered for decision-making.	# of decisions made considering SE considerations. (*including disaggregated data on # of men and women)	0 officials sensitized about SE consideration.	SE considerations of importance for Cuba identified and first batch of informative materials (Banners, booklets, posters, etc.) produced.	At least 3 officials from each NCA and decision-makers sensitized on SE considerations	100%	In May 2026, a visit to project intervention areas in Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila brought together ORSA, enterprise officials, and producers to organize an audiovisual showcasing their experiences and challenges with the technology. Building on the June 2025 Closing Workshop, participants were carefully selected, and the production premiered at the project's June 30 Closing Workshop. Arrangements are underway for broadcast on two national channels and CITMA's platform, with distribution to decision-makers, the National GMO Commission, universities, and other stakeholders, plus submission	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						to the CBD Secretariat with subtitles planned for international use. This has raised adequate awareness of these crops' role in the country's food sovereignty.	
Outcome 3.1. Socio-economic considerations as per article 26 are considered for decision-making.	# of cultural, economic and gender (*) considerations that are considered when assessing the possible SE impacts of GMOs. (i.e. honey producers).	0 cultural, economic and gender considerations are taken consider when assessing GMOs	Analysis of cultural, economic and gender considerations for local communities undertaken.	At least 1 of each (cultural, economic and gender considerations) are considered for GMO decision makers. (i.e. the honey producers' case as an example).	100%	The national context has favored this initiative from the outset: an approved GMO policy, a National Commission of relevant authorities, and a national biotechnology industry free of large monopolies or transnational seed producers have supported awareness-raising and crop adoption. The Commission also weighs economic factors like apiary locations and territorial production benefits. In June, the ORSA team presented socioeconomic study results to the National GMO Commission, covering producers in Placetas affiliated with the local pig farmers' associations showing that despite lower corn and soybean yields reducing pork production, the company still maintains the country's highest production levels.	HS

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 1.1.1: Two national laboratories -- Centro de Investigaciones Científicas de la Defensa Civil (CICDC) and Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (CENSA) -equipped to	2024-12-31	100%	100%	All reagents, equipment and supplies necessary for the laboratories to function have been ordered and received so that the research does not stop.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	play a role as national reference laboratories. (certified by normative NC ISO 9001:2015 and accredited by the NC ISO / IEC 17025:2000)					
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.1.1a Purchase of laboratory equipment and consumables.	2024-12-31	100%	100%	During this period, all acquired consumables and their distribution to the laboratories were monitored. A final request was submitted in April 2025 for the purchase of a standard for the verification of laboratory equipment, which must be received before the end of the year.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.1.1b Define the laboratory tests to be accredited.	2024-03-31	100%	100%	This activity was completed in the previous period. As informed, there were discussions, peer review and joint presentations of Laboratories on this issue in a technical meeting and two Workshops. The 2nd Workshop approved the proposal, and a Summary Report was released.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 1.1.2 MoU between CICDC, CENSA, and the National Competent Authority (the National Centre of Biological Safety) for the services of detection.	2020-10-31	100%	100%	This Output was delivered in prior periods. The collaboration agreements, for the development of the project, between ORSA and CENSA as well as with CICDC were signed and shared with UNEP (available through Anubis).	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.2.1a Meetings for the analysis of the agreements between the laboratories and the CSB and signature of the memorandum of understanding or agreement	2020-10-31	100%	100%	This activity was completed during prior periods. As stated, the collaboration agreements for the development of the project, between ORSA and CENSA as well as with CICDC were signed and uploaded to Anubis.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified	Output 1.1.3 Harmonized Toolkits / Guidelines / Protocols / Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on LMO detection	2024-12-31	100%	100%	The Workplan reflects that there has been follow-up on this issue during the meetings between the laboratories and ORSA during this period.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Organisms (LMOs).	developed and/or adapted to suit Cuba's reality and needs.					
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.3.1a Study of national and international standards for detection and identification of GMOs. (CTN 94)	2020-08-31	100%	100%	Eleven standards and a domestic regulation were reviewed at a meeting and completed. Afterwards, the Committee on Technical Biosafety Standards No 94 also conducted a review, and the President of CTN 91 on Food related to GMOs was invited to this meeting. A joint report signed by both laboratories was produced and shared with UNEP (available on Anubis).	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.3.1b 1st Workshop on the preparation of protocols, techniques and procedures for the detection and identification of GMOs.	2020-11-30	100%	100%	This activity was completed in the previous period. As informed, several stakeholders and national authorities attended the postponed Workshop which had two days of presentations and discussions and 11 keepings as preliminary results, including a draft regarding protocols, techniques and procedures for the detection and identification of GMOs to follow, develop and update until the 2nd Workshop.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.3.1c 2nd Workshop to revise and approve protocols and techniques.	2021-10-31	100%	100%	The success of 1st Workshop and the work done afterwards lead to the 2nd Workshop approved protocols, techniques and procedures for the detection and identification of GMOs preceded by a peer review process and a summary report. Discussed also management procedures, the need of a Schedule for the accreditation process and the issue of Certification as well. The 2nd Workshop agreed on 13 topics to follow-up.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified	Activity 1.1.3.1d Establish management procedures for the detection, identification of GMOs and other related activities.	2021-12-31	100%	100%	The 2nd Workshop discussed and identified management procedures and how these should be reflected in a report. This report is in progress and	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Organisms (LMOs).					conciliation among laboratories as well.	
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.3.1e Management meetings between the laboratories and ORSA to establish procedures.	2024-12-31	100%	100%	The procedures for sending samples to the laboratories were readjusted and details on their conservation were included. Finally, the validation schedules for the GM corn and soybean events and the initiation of accreditation of the trials were discussed, including in the analysis the requirements related to the certification and qualification of key equipment during the process.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 1.1.4 Thresholds for LMO detection officially established.	2024-12-31	100%	100%	In a technical meeting held previously, the detection limits were presented and discussed considering the review of the international reference, the experience of the laboratory visited in Mexico and the results of previous validations performed on soybean samples in both laboratories using qualitative assays.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.4.1a Study and analysis of international experiences	2020-08-31	100%	100%	This activity was completed in prior periods. As requested, a search and joint review were conducted, and a report was signed by Laboratories representatives and shared with UNEP (available on Anubis).	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.4.1b Validate the protocols defined in the output 1.1.3	2024-12-31	100%	100%	The validation of the qualitative assay for the detection and identification of the GTS 40-3-2 event in genetically modified soybeans was completed according to the adjusted schedule. An exchange was held with specialists from CNDOGM-SENASICA regarding the results obtained and the validation of corn event TC 1507 was started. Both laboratories participated in a qualitative proficiency test of a recognized supplier (FAPAS) for GMO detection with	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					satisfactory results.	
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.4.1c Meetings to discuss the thresholds.	2023-12-31	100%	100%	In technical meetings held previously, the detection limit of the assay was presented and defined considering the results obtained during the validation process of the qualitative technique for the detection and identification of a transgenic soybean event. We also took into consideration the detection limits established in international standards and the experience of the laboratory visited during the training in Mexico, whose results were like those obtained by our team for qualitative assays on soybean samples.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.4.1d Preparation of legal documents that sets the threshold.	2023-12-31	100%	100%	At the meeting of the coordinating group held on November 30, 2023, for the preparation of this report, the criteria of the specialists of both laboratories and ORSA were analyzed starting from the knowledge acquired in the last training on the implementation of ISO IEC 17025:2017 at CNRDOGM, specifically about the need for the elaboration of a legal document setting the detection limits. Additionally, the report (concluded in 2020) was reviewed, which as output of activity 1.1.3.a contains a reconciled summary of the tests and detection limits, regulations by which they were identified as well as other reference sources, reaching the conclusion that it is not necessary to develop legal documents for such purposes since the regulations by which the procedures of the laboratories were developed are in force and come from ISO standards adopted by Cuba. To show the evidence of compliance and closure of this activity, the validation report developed by both laboratories will	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					be presented in Anubis.	
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 1.1.5 Personnel at CICDC and CENSA and the NCA capacitated through training programs on detection and identification of LMOs.	2024-12-31	100%	100%	This Output was completed in the previous period.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.5.1a Training courses abroad on detection and identification of GMOs for laboratory personnel and the NCA. (Courses in Mexico, Argentina, Italy-IFPRI) (* gender issues considered)	2024-12-31	100%	100%	The last training mission took place at the National Reference Center for the Detection of Genetically Modified Organisms (CNRDOGM) belonging to the National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA) in Mexico City (November 8–16, 2023), where emphasis was placed on the implementation of the NC ISO/IEC17025:2017 standard for accreditation. The delegation was composed of technicians and specialists from the Quality Department of CENSA and CICDC, and regulators from ORSA.	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 1.1.6 National Reference Laboratory certified by the NC ISO 9001: 2015 and accredited by the NC ISO / IEC 17025: 2017	2026-03-31	95%	100%	As of the end of June, one of the laboratories (CICDC) is awaiting the final response from the Decision Committee, and the other laboratory (CENSA) is expected to receive the final decision in August. Once this is complete, both laboratories will be able to demonstrate their technical competence and serve as control laboratories for the National Biosafety Authority	HS
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.6.1a Study of standards NC ISO 9001: 2015 and NC ISO / IEC 17025: 2000 to identify requirements to be met.	2020-12-31	100%	100%	The study was concluded with previous presentations and discussions. A report was signed by Laboratories representatives and uploaded to Anubis	HS
1 Creation of the necessary	Activity 1.1.6 b Establish, implement and	2022-12-31	0%	0%	UNEP/GEF has agreed to delete this Activity as a result	Not

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	certify the quality management system according to the NC ISO 9001: 2015.				of domestic and international consultations carried out and reflected in a letter sent, and accompanied by a budget revision that reallocated the funds to the Activity 1.1.6.1c.	Rated
1 Creation of the necessary capacities for identification and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 1.1.6.1c Define the laboratory tests to be accredited and Implementation of the action for accreditation. (DD6)	2026-03-31	90%	100%	Both laboratories completed their exchange with ONARC experts, submitting documentation and receiving nonconformity evaluations, followed by an on-site evaluation of test conditions, technician performance, and procedures. CICDC now awaits the Decision Committee's accreditation response, while CENSA expects its response in August, after a power outage delayed ONARC's witnessing and required a second visit in May. Both labs also passed April proficiency tests, completed the TC1507 corn validation—presented at two international events in June 2026—and have an article on the GTS 40-3-2 soybean assay validation forthcoming in Applied Biotechnology.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 2.1.1: Monitoring and surveillance system designed and operating (building on early developments of the project implementation) including operating guidelines, clear roles and responsibilities, and equipment.	2024-08-31	100%	100%	During this period, all necessary actions for the completion of this activity have been carried out. The continuous improvement of a system under implementation is part of the work of ORSA, as the National Authority on biosafety and its role as the governing body in the introduction of the orderly and controlled use of genetically modified crops in Cuban agriculture.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.1.1a Comparative study of national and international guidelines on M&S of LMOs and adverse effects.	2020-08-31	100%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. A study on national and international regulations about monitoring and surveillance of GMOS was completed. The report was uploaded to Anubis.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.1.1b Design of the system of M&S of GMOs (Components, functions, responsibilities, etc.)	2022-11-30	100%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. The document was submitted in Anubis to close this activity.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.1.1c Workshops on the design of the M&S System of GMOs and possible adverse effects.	2021-09-30	100%	100%	The Workshop was carried out during two days in October 2021 with the participation of different Institutions related with the System. Several conferences about System of M&S of Plant Health, monitoring of transgenic maize on Cuban agricultural ecosystems, first version of field sample-drawing procedure and M&S System were shown. Five agreements were established.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.1.1d Training courses abroad on M&S of GMOs for the NCA. (* gender issues considered)	2025-03-31	100%	100%	From March 24-28, specialists from ORSA, CENATOX, and CITMA participated in a GMO biosafety training with Mexico's SENASICA, covering GMO regulation, release permits, and detection of unauthorized releases. Activities included a field sampling practice at the Autonomous University of Chapingo and visits to SENASICA's AICM Cargo Customs Office to observe seed inspection and import procedures. The program closed with Cuba's presentation on its own GMO regulation and a discussion of shared experiences and challenges.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.1.1e Draft of a field inspection strategy.	2024-12-31	100%	100%	The first draft of a field inspection strategy was prepared incorporating important aspects for the ORSA system as regulatory authority for the release of transgenic crops in Cuba. The document was presented to the National Commission on GMOs for Cuban Agriculture and is now available in Anubis.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.1.1f Purchase of supplies, equipment, and vehicle for M&S activities. (as per procurement plan)	2023-12-31	100%	100%	It is important to highlight that in this period the supplies for taking samples at borders have already been received, which were reviewed by ORSA and Plant Health specialists.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.1 g Implementation of the GMO M&S System and possible adverse effects.	2025-03-31	100%	100%	A field inspection strategy has been developed, supported by a Telegram group linking specialists and territorial regulators. Analysis identified suitable areas for applying monitoring instruments, with a first environmental monitoring stage completed in Matanzas and a second planned for August. Two National GMO Commission meetings brought together MINSAP, MINAG, Biocubafarma, and CITMA for GMO decision-making. A border-sampling training was held at the Port of Havana (Haiphong) with DSV-MINAG, and a joint ORSA-DSV-MINAG-Customs mechanism for GMO border control was established through the SACLAP classification system.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 2.1.2 Strategy for field detection (screening procedures) developed.	2022-06-30	100%	100%	The Output was fully accomplished. The field sample-drawing and detection procedure was finished. The report was uploaded to Anubis.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.2.1a Preparation and approval of the field sample-drawing and detection procedure. (* gender issues considered)	2022-06-30	100%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. The field sample-drawing and detection procedure was finished. The report was uploaded to Anubis.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 2.1.3 Administrative and technical guides designed for each involved institution (Veterinary and Phytosanitary borders Officers (Ministry of Agriculture) and	2022-06-30	100%	100%	The Output was fully accomplished. The procedure for the taking of samples in borders were finished.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Customs Officers (General Customs of the Republic of Cuba) and inspector from CSB) in the National Customs System.					
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.3.1a Preparation of procedures for the taking of samples in borders.	2022-06-30	100%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. The procedure for the taking of samples in borders were finished.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Output 2.1.4 Workshops for customs officers and personnel involved in M&S system on how to use the guidelines developed on 2.1.3.	2025-03-30	100%	100%	All workshops and scheduled activities were completed successfully. During this period, the Second Field Monitoring Workshop and the Monitoring and Surveillance System Implementation Workshop were held with broad participation from national stakeholders and relevant authorities.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.4.1a Two workshops on field monitoring techniques. (* gender issues considered)	2024-12-31	100%	100%	The second field monitoring workshop held September 26 with MINAG's Plant Health and Seeds Directorate, CENATOX, CIGB, CICDC, CENSA, and ORSA, updated environmental licenses for Cuban corn race locations, the inspection strategy, and field sampling procedures. Results from the surveys and second Calimete, Matanzas monitoring were presented alongside lessons learned, and CIGB introduced Cuba's new GM corn planting strategy. The workshop report was submitted to Anubis.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.4.1b One workshop on monitoring for customs. (* gender issues considered)	2022-06-30	100%	100%	The workshop for customs officers and personnel involved in M&S system was executed with the participation of Borders Authorities (Customs, Animal and Plant Health), the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX), CENATOX, CICDC, CENSA and ORSA. In addition, specialists from the Ministry of	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					Agriculture's Plant Health Directorate provided theoretical training in sampling at borders for biosafety inspectors linked to the Project.	
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.4 c (1) workshop to discuss M&S system's products and strategy with NCAs.	2025-03-31	100%	100%	The Workshop on Implementation of the Monitoring and Surveillance System for GMOs, held in February 2025, brought together specialists and executives from national institutions to exchange ideas on the system's initial implementation results. The system's design was presented, identifying its components, functions, and responsibilities, and highlighting key implementation deficiencies. CENATOX specialists shared the latest field monitoring results on potential adverse effects of transgenic corn, and border monitoring experiences were discussed. The exchange among specialists from MINCEX, CIGB, ORSA, CENATOX, CICDC, and MINAG's Plant Health Directorate was highly significant.	HS
2 Creation of the necessary capacities for monitoring and surveillance of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).	Activity 2.1.4.1d Publication of the methodology.	2026-03-31	95%	100%	The work methodology based on the implementation of the Monitoring and Surveillance System was submitted to the journal "Ambiente y Sustentabilidad" for publication under reference number 662 and was accepted. It is currently being reviewed by a committee of experts for its final version, a process that may still take several months before it is published.	HS
3 Identification of socio-economic considerations of importance for Cuba arising from the impact of LMOs, as per article 26 of the CPB.	Output 3.1.1 Detailed analysis of the socio-economic considerations of importance for Cuba related to LMO impacts completed and guiding decision-making.	2020-12-31	100%	100%	The output was fully accomplished. A study on international regulations about SECs was completed. The report was uploaded to Anubis.	HS
3 Identification of socio-economic	Activity 3.1.1.1a Studies of international	2020-12-31	100%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. A study on	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
considerations of importance for Cuba arising from the impact of LMOs, as per article 26 of the CPB.	regulations related to social and economic impacts. (* gender issues considered)				international regulations about SECs was completed. The report was uploaded to Anubis	
3 Identification of socio-economic considerations of importance for Cuba arising from the impact of LMOs, as per article 26 of the CPB.	Output 3.1.2 Informative materials on socio-economic considerations produced and distributed amongst general public and relevant authorities.	2025-12-31	70%	100%	A workshop on Component 3 results generated ideas for a public communication campaign on food security and community impacts, launched with a December 2025 press conference for about 25 journalists covering ORSA's role and the biosafety project. Despite worsening energy conditions, filming proceeded at all sites, producing a documentary on Cuban producers' experiences, premiered at the project's closing workshop before national stakeholders and UNEP. Contracts for accompanying educational materials have been signed, and collaboration with universities in Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila, plus planned provincial training for ORSA specialists, will sustain outreach.	HS
3 Identification of socio-economic considerations of importance for Cuba arising from the impact of LMOs, as per article 26 of the CPB.	Activity 3.1.2. a Workshops (2) one to identify SE impacts on the decision-making, and one int. experts on SEC. (* gender issues considered)	2024-12-31	100%	100%	The first SEC meeting, funded by government resources rather than GEF funds, replaced the originally planned workshop. The second workshop, held June 19-20, 2025, presented social and economic study results from Placetas (Villa Clara) and Sanguily, Venezuela municipality (Ciego de Ávila), with participants carefully selected for representativeness—producers, farm managers, officials, academics, and GMO commission members. The debate was centered on designing a public communication campaign to increase community awareness of the technology.	HS
3 Identification of socio-economic	Activity 3.1.2. b Design and production of	2025-09-30	40%	100%	A public communication campaign concluded this	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
considerations of importance for Cuba arising from the impact of LMOs, as per article 26 of the CPB.	informative materials related to SEC. (* gender issues considered)				activity, launched with a December 2025 press conference introducing ORSA and the Biosafety Project, resulting in print, radio, and television coverage. In the first half of 2026, site visits produced a video on the project's results and community impacts, premiered at the Closing Workshop. Planned educational videos in accessible language will further disseminate biosafety information and support communicator and regulator training regionally.	
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Output 4.1.1 Project reporting requirements met.	2026-07-31	87.5	97.5%	All project reports have been delivered on time and with the required quality.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.1.1a. Annual audits	2026-06-30	85%	95%	A sixth financial audit (PY5- 2025) was completed and a document was submitted to Anubis. The audit was carried out during this period in March 2026 at the request of the entity contracted for such purposes. The closing audit scheduled for September has yet to be conducted.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.1. 1b. Half year reports	2026-01-31	90%	100%	Five Half Yearly Progress Reports for the period from July 1st, 2020, to December 31, 2020, July 1st, 2021, to December 2022, July 1st, 2022, to December 31, 2022, July 1st, 2023, to December 31, 2023, July 1st, 2024, to December 31, 2024 and to July 1st, 2025, to December 31, 2025 were completed by ORSA and approved by UNEP indicating a progress in technical activities.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.1.1c. PIRs	2026-07-31	90%	100%	PIRs corresponding 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 were concluded and approved. PIR 2026 is in progress.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.1.1 d. QERs.	2026-07-31	85%	95%	To date 24 QERs have been completed and approved. The Expenditure Report for the second quarter of 2026 is currently being prepared.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Output 4.1.2 Project coordination and oversight mechanisms in place.	2026-06-31	87.5%	100%	Highlights during this period include two Steering Committee meetings held in October 2025 and June 2026, and the presentation of the project results at international scientific events held in Cuba.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.2.1a. Inception workshop	2021-09-09	100%	100%	Due to Covid-19, we postponed this activity, was accomplished on September 8-9, 2021. It was a successful meeting; some actors and entities got involved in the project. The Cuban deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, as well as the Task Manager of UNEP chaired this meeting.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.2.1b. Closure workshop	2026-05-15	0%	100%	The Closure Workshop took place June 30, 2026, bringing together national entities, the National GMO Commission, decision-makers, producers, and journalists, with UNEP joining in Teams. The event featured the premiere of the project's results documentary, presentations from each technical component, and closing remarks from Cuban biotech crop developers on upcoming planting projections—offering a valuable opportunity for exchange and celebrating achievements.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.2.1c. Communications	2026-03-31	60%	100%	Project activities (SC meetings, field monitoring, an Argentina mission) were disseminated via ORSA's social media and a Granma newspaper feature. A December 2025 press conference launched a broader communication campaign introducing ORSA and the Biosafety Project, generating media coverage. Between February and May 2026, filming at participating organizations and project sites produced a 28-minute documentary tracing biotech crop development through developers' experiences and the	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					project's contributions to national biosafety, food security, and sovereignty. This article was published in: https://www.granma.cu/ciencia/2025-08-08/que-novedades-hay-sobre-los-cultivos-transgenicos-en-cuba-08-08-2025-20-08-47	
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.2.1d. Meetings of the PMC.	2026-05-10	90%	100%	During this period, the face-to-face meetings were focused on the discussion of technical accreditation activities and the review of procedures for taking samples in the field and at the borders. A preparatory meeting was held prior to the Steering Committee meeting in October 2025. These meetings were used to review other management tasks and the organization of Closure workshop and field visits and to review aspects of project execution, verify the work plan, financial support, compliance with the schedule for the purchase of equipment and consumables, among others.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.2.1e. Meetings of the Steering Committee.	2026-04-15	85%	100%	During the year 2025, a Steering Committee was held in October 11, and the final Steering Committee was accomplished in June 29. Both chaired by Anna Fanzeres, representing the United Nations Environment Program. In those meetings, some important aspects were discussed, such as the technical and financial execution according to the completion date of the laboratory accreditation process and the fulfillment of the pending activities of each component. One of the most debated items on the agenda was the exchange between ONARC and the laboratories regarding the progress of the accreditation process, the provisional dates for the on-	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					site evaluation, and the proposed activities/tasks that form part of the communication campaign. Meanwhile, UNEP representative presented the relevant points regarding the procedure and next steps for the project's Final Evaluation.	
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.2.1f. Annual workshop on lessons learned.	2025-02-25	100%	100%	The Third Workshop on Lessons Learned encompassing the years 2023 and 2024 was held on February 25, 2025, with the participation of all national actors involved in the main results of the project: scientific entities, national authorities, among other guests. The debate was intense, interesting, and provided important contributions related to the determinations in other matrices (sheets) and how to ensure the sustainability of the laboratories once the project is completed. There was consensus that this was a motivating and highly educational event for the participants.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.2.1g. Project representation in events and identification of synergies (travel).	2025-12-31	90%	100%	Presentation of the Project in two events held in Cuba during this period: 11th International Meeting of Young Agriculturalists—INTERJOVEN 2026 and the 6th International Congress on Agricultural Sciences - AGROCIENCIAS 2026. Similarly, with financial support from this project, a coordination visit was made to the Argentine Republic in October 2025 with a view to having CONABIA experts participate in a course for regulators organized by ORSA and scheduled for this year. We took this opportunity to represent our country at the LASOVE 2025 Congress, where we were invited to coordinate the activities of the Symposium on Innovative Techniques for the Management of	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					Vectors of Interest to Public Health and Agriculture.	
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Output 4.1.3 Project evaluations completed.	2026-02-07	75%	80%	MTR has been concluded. The Final Evaluation is scheduled to begin in September.	S
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.3. a. Mid-term Evaluation	2024-01-16	100%	100%	The Mid-Term Evaluation was completed during this period with the approval of the Final Mid Term Evaluation Report on January 16, 2024.	HS
4 Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.	Activity 4.1.3.1b. Final Evaluation.	2026-02-07	0%	30%	The TORs have been reviewed to date in preparation for the start of the Final Evaluation in September–April 2027.	S

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Moderate	Low
4 Budget	Moderate	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 1 The economic and social policy of the country will be updated during the project implementation period and this may result in changes in the government's priorities	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	The risk has remained low. Biosafety continues to be a priority for our government in relation to GMOs. For example, the National Commission

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
regarding environmental issues such as biosafety.										for the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Cuban Agriculture continues to work. A summary of the authorized release areas is also presented at this meeting. Provincial commissions were created in each territory, which participate virtually in the two annual meetings and report on the main challenges in each territory. The work of the Cuban expert group addressing Objective 6 related to the biosafety of biotechnology, which is part of the Global Biodiversity Framework, continues. Both lines of work are favorable for the implementation of the project.
Risk 2 Cuba is in the midst of restructuring its economic model. which may produce changes in the international monetary system. taxes. banking regulations. etc. If substantial changes occur. they could have an impact in the way the local institutions have been operating (i.e. state budget for institutions) and also in the new possible partnerships that could be developed with private sector.	All outcomes & outputs	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	=	Risk has been kept at a medium level. These changes did affect the way co-financing was reported in previous reports but has not affected institutional collaborations or the level of engagement..
Risk 3 The reorganization of the Ministry of Science. Technology and Environment may	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	This risk has been kept low. During this period, the Ministry of Science,

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
produce structural and administrative changes for the ORSA. This could pose a risk associated to changes in personnel and autonomy of the ORSA.										Technology and the Environment has not undergone significant changes in its structure that could impact in ORSA.
Risk 4 Possible fluctuations in the personnel during the project implementation entailing changes in the coordinator and other important support staff.	All outcomes & outputs	L	M	M	S	M	M	L	↓	This risk has been decreased to low level. The changes that occurred in the previous period were mitigated by the actions identified: the entry of some specialists in the project team, the direct involvement of the Directors of the institutions and the attention to finances by the Project Coordinator have made it possible to reorganize the tasks and reach a certain balance. .
Risk 5 Delay in acquiring necessary inputs (goods and services) for project activities that depend on an import process.	All outcomes & outputs	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	=	This risk has been kept low. To date, all the necessary equipment and supplies have been received for the work to progress. Only one contract for the delivery of office supplies must be received before the end of the year. Frequent coordination with the importing company is ongoing.
Implementation schedule	All outcomes & outputs				M	M	M	M	=	The project implementation schedule has been readjusted according to the difficulties encountered at each step, first the Covid19 pandemic, then the economic reordering at the beginning of the year 2021 and more recently

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										the limitations with the availability of fuel at national level, all of which have had a negative impact on the correct development and progress of programmed activities.
Budget	All outcomes & outputs				S	M	M	M	=	Constant and effective communication between the agencies (UNDP and UNEP) and ORSA has had a significant impact on keeping this risk at a medium level during this period. It is necessary to maintain this close collaboration until the end of the project in order to optimize the mechanisms for disbursement, payment, and reporting.
Consolidated Project Risk	All outcomes & outputs	L	M	M	M	M	L	L	=	Although there two moderate risk factors related to the implementation schedule and budget, the overall classification is of low risk to this project given the high commitment of the project team and Cuban institutions.

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk 2 Cuba is in the midst of restructuring its economic model, which may produce changes in the international monetary system, taxes, banking regulations, etc. If substantial changes occur, they could have an impact in the way the local institutions have been operating (i.e. state budget for institutions) and also in the new possible partnerships that could be developed with private sector.	The actions developed to mitigate the impacts imposed by this risk have been directed in two directions: the search for contracts and offers with private enterprises; as well as an update of the contracts and offers provided by state entities with an adequate level of comfort. On the other hand, it is also being planned to involve the UNDP Finance unit in the payments to national agencies (Cubanacan, Cubatur and others) for the organization and logistic assurance of the pending workshops to be held according to the approved Work Plan.	Identify and develop proactive management for all activities that require external services and identify suppliers. *Perform trend analysis of the current prices of the goods and services to define priorities if needed. *Involvement of the UNDP Finance unit in payments to national agencies (Ergos, Enjoy Travel) for the management and logistical assurance of workshops, transfers and participation in events carried out according to the approved Work Plan.	The project has completed its technical activities; therefore, specific actions will focus on: *Managing logistical services for the Closing Audit and Final Evaluation. *Submission of Final Reports. *Receipt of pending purchases to be received in the next semester (office supplies) and payment to the supplier.	From July 2026 until the project's completion in 2027.	Project Manager and Logistics Assistant Finance Officers from UNDP Agencies
Implementation schedule	The detailed analysis of the Work Plan by components, the advance planning of the	Carry out a detailed analysis of the Work Plan by component on a systematic	The project has completed its technical activities, so the specific actions will	From July 2026 until the project's completion in 2027.	NEA Officer, Project Manager, Heads /representatives of

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	logistical needs to support each activity, the close relationship between ORSA and the institutions involved in the project to facilitate the exchange of information, as well as the discussion of difficulties in the implementation of the project with the Coordinating Group and the institutional authorities, have been the main actions for the progress in the implementation of the activities.	basis with a view to planning in advance the logistical needs that support each activity. *Address difficulties in the implementation of the project with the Coordinating Group and the Institutional authorities.	focus on: The necessary coordination for the evaluator's visit to the project's participating organizations and intervention sites.		Laboratories, Logistics Assistant and Technical Assistant. ORSA directors in Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila, the director of the Venezuela University Campus in Ciego de Ávila, and state- and privately-owned producer
Budget	Although this was one of the highest risks during the first 4 years of project implementation, actions were geared towards timely delivery/approvals of Periodic Expenditure Reports, as well as close communication between ORSA and UNDP-UNEP agencies that facilitated the exchange of timely	Ensure timely approvals of Expense Reports and accuracy in projected estimates to ensure constant fluidity that guarantees timely payment of contracted services inside and outside the country. *Maintain a close link between the ORSA finance team and UNEP and UNDP	Although the project has completed its technical activities, the final Expense report for the April-June 2026 period (QER_25), the Closing Audit, and a set of final reports still need to be finalized. To do this, the following is required: *Schedule a virtual meeting with the Finance Department in Nairobi to	July-August 2026	Project Manager, Finance Officers from UNDP and UNEP

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	information for reconciliations and disbursements.	to facilitate the exchange of Expense Reports from Nairobi and the timely receipt of financial information.	reconcile the executed balances of all FAs to date and receive guidance on completing this final Quarterly Expense Report and the final reports.		

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

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

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. 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 document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original		2020-03-24	2020-04-03	2026-04-30	NA
Amendment 01	Amendment & Extension	2025-03-28	2025-07-07	2027-07-31	non-cost extension; workplan

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 OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Office for Environmental Regulation and Safety.	23.11985	-82.42371		The Office for Environmental Regulation and Safety is located in a residential area.	Executing Agency
National Agricultural Health Center (CENSA)	22.99694	-82.15306		The National Agricultural Health Centre (CENSA) doesn't have nearby settlements. It is located near the national highway and surrounded by green and cultivation areas.	Identification and detection of GMO.
Center for Scientific Research for the Civil Defense (CICDC)	22.99833	-82.155		The Center for Scientific Research for the Civil Defense (CICDC) doesn't have nearby settlements. It	Identification and detection of GMO.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
				is located near the national highway and surrounded by green and cultivation areas.	
National Toxicology Center (CENATOX)	23.13639	-82.72306		The National Toxicology Center (CENATOX) is located in a residential area.	Monitoring and surveillance of possible adverse effects of GMOs.
Enterprise Jesus Sablon Moreno. Calimete. Matanzas province	22.57303	-80.92077			GM crop release area
Placetas. Villa Clara Province	22.1901	-79.3912			Socioeconomic studies
Venezuela municipality. Ciego de Avila province	21.4451	-78.4719			Socioeconomic studies
Sanguily. Ciego de Avila province	21.4557	-78.5217			Socioeconomic studies
Farm Renacer, CCS Enrique Villegas Martínez, Sancti Spiritus province	21.4415	-79.1496		Project partner producer	GM crop release area

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
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