UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	9860	SMA IPMR ID		32914
Project Short Title	GEF Biosafety Cuba	Grant ID		S1-32GFL-000618
		Umoja WBS		GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-014367
Project Title	Creation of additional Biosafety Capacities that lead to a Full Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Cuba			
Project Type	Medium-sized Project (MSP)	Duration months	*Planned*	60 months
Parent Programme if child project			*Age*	42.0 months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Biodiversity	Completion Date	*Planned -original PCA*	2-Apr-25
Project Scope	National		*Revised - Current PCA*	
Region	Latin America and the Caribbean	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval		17-Jul-17
Countries	Cuba	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)		24-Mar-20
GEF financing amount	USD 1,826,484	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)		3-Apr-20
Co-financing amount	USD 1,920,443	Date of First Disbursement		6-Oct-20
		Date of Inception Workshop, if available		8-9-Sep-21
Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 1,131,901.22	Midterm undertaken?		No
Total expenditure as of 31 March	USD 680,973.11	Actual Mid-term Date, if taken		
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken		Sep-Dec-23
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date		Mid-2025
		Expected Financial Closure Date		30-Apr-26

1.2 EA: 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, detection, 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 are able to 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 a number of 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 the GEF, the Project Steering Committee (PSC), 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. UNDP Cuba supports the project with international equipment purchases.

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 to contribute with relevant commercial point of views. The Specialized Importer, Exporter and Distributor for Science and Technology (EMIDICT) is the broker for all equipment imports.

1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project	UNEP, GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit Ecosystem Division	Executing Agency(ies)	Office of Environmental Regulation and Security (ORSA) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
Name of co-implementing Agency	N/A	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)
TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Ersin Esen	**EA:** Manager/Representative	Jorge Álvarez Álvarez
TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)	Tea Garcia-Huidobro	**EA:** Project Manager	Tanya Romay Fernández
TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Rachel Kagiri	**EA:** Finance Manager	Tanya Romay Fernández
TM: UNEP Support/Assistant	Gloritzel Frangakis	**EA:** Communications lead, if relevant	

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)	Thematic: Nature Action Foundational: Environmental governance	**TM:** UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)	3: Healthy and productive ecosystems 4: Environmental Governance
TM: PoW Indicator(s)	Nature Action: Outcome 2A/ Output 2.9/ indicator (i) Environmental Governance: indicator (ii)		

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages

Cuba UNSDCF 2020-2024
Result Group 3: Natural Resources and Environment
Outcome 3. Institutions, productive and service sectors, territorial governments and communities improve the protection and rational use of natural resources and ecosystems, climate change resilience and comprehensive disaster risk reduction management.
Output 3.1 Capacities of key players strengthened for the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and for the improvement of environmental quality
3.1.4. Support the sustainable management of local resources, water and forests and the conservation of genetic resources, to enhance the functioning of productive ecosystems and contribute to food and nutritional security by promoting the ecosystem approach and the increase of connectivity of terrestrial and marine biodiversity and marina in natural and productive landscapes.

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
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 or

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected value			Materialised to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
	N/A	N/A	N/A	No core indicators apply

Implementation Status 2023 — 3rd PIR (same as FY 2023)

EA

	PIR #	Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2023	3rd PIR	S	HS	M
FY 2022	2nd PIR	S	MS	M
FY 2021	1st PIR	MS	MS	M

2.3 Implementation status & Risk

EA: Summary of status
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Under **Component 1**, during the reporting period, a technical meeting was conducted by ORSA, as the National Biosafety Authority, with the participation of the National Accreditation Body of the Republic of Cuba (ONARC) and the presence of a group of experts from this entity, to which technical specialists and representatives of the Quality areas of both laboratories were also invited. As a continuation of the training received last year, two researchers from CENSA and CICDC participated in high-level training at an accredited laboratory in Mexico DF, the SENASICA National Reference Center for GMO Detection, which enabled them to acquire new specific knowledge on the subject of validation of molecular techniques and clarification of the process as a whole, as well as the preparation of an adjusted validation schedule. Similarly, a course on the NC ISO / IEC 17025: 2017 Standard was organized by the Center for Quality Management and Development (CGDC), an accredited entity for these trainings, which was developed, in a first call at the facilities of CENSA and CICDC and was attended by 17 researchers directly or indirectly involved with the accreditation process (November 2022). In February of 2023, a second call was made for another group of identified specialists from the laboratories and ORSA. As a starting point for both trainings, the procedures were reviewed once again and the accreditation schedule for CENSA and CICDC laboratories was readjusted. The validation protocol is currently being adjusted taking into consideration the criteria of experts from a Scientific Council developed between both institutions with the participation of ORSA. The activity of the laboratories is being monitored through visits to their facilities to evaluate compliance with the accreditation schedule. It is worth mentioning that the laboratories already have corn and soybean seeds produced by the national biotechnology industry to carry out the first tests and adjust the parameters of the techniques and equipment involved. Under **Component 2**, following the presentation of the first version of the Monitoring and Surveillance(M&S) System at the meeting of the National Commission for the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Cuban Agriculture held in June 2022, new ideas and criteria were included in the document after review and input from national experts from various institutions. Similarly, the procedures developed for sampling and detection in the field and at the borders were presented and discussed among experts from ORSA, CENATOX and the Plant Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture.During this period, a practical field sampling exercise was carried out in the province of Pinar del Río, in an area where transgenic maize was released, which made it possible to evaluate the procedure and obtain lessons learned for future actions. The I Workshop on field monitoring techniques was held in November 2022. This meeting brought together important actors in the field: specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), the Plant Health Directorate, the Seed Directorate, the Institute for Fundamental Research in Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT) and the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. The program included presentations of MINAG's field monitoring and surveillance systems, the system used by developers of transgenic corn and soybean seeds in Cuba and the sharing of experiences in the field of surveillance of GM corn. The results of the application of GIS as a tool in the process of risk assessment in the release of GM crops in Cuba were also presented. This work was carried out jointly with researchers from INIFAT, contributing their knowledge of the areas where the greatest diversity of maize breeds is found in Cuba. It was the appropriate framework to review and discuss once again the procedure for sampling and detection in the field.During the first half of this year, visits to the territories were interrupted due to a fuel shortage in the country, which made mobility to the territories impossible, a situation that has been prolonged over time. However, progress was made in the discussion and approval of the surveys for farmers on transgenic crops, a key aspect for monitoring potential adverse effects. Another important activity of the period was the mission to Argentina in April of 2023, where specialists from ORSA and CENATOX received training and technical assistance on issues related to the entry, monitoring and field surveillance of regulated GMO trials, including regulations and conditions for importation and field controls of GMO seeds. A visit was also made to the Molecular Markers Laboratory of the National Seed Institute (INASE) to verify the laboratory techniques developed for the detection of GMOs. The training provided new insights on the sampling methods to be used in Cuban conditions and the need to acquire test strips for rapid detection in the field.Within the context of **Component 3**, the preparatory meeting for a final workshop on relevant socioeconomic considerations in GM crop releases was held in October 2023, attended by the ORSA directors of the territories involved in these studies (Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila). The Methodology elaborated by one of these territories was presented, where a multidisciplinary team integrated by experts from the Central University Marta Abreu and the ORSA team in the province was formed. This proposal was evaluated for its application in the province of Ciego de Avila and the activities to be developed throughout the year 2023 in both territories were defined.
In February and May 2023, workshops were held to present the international biosafety project and the importance of these studies in the communities of Placetas (Villa Clara) and Sanguily, Municipality of Venezuela (Ciego de Avila), respectively, with an important participation of local stakeholders. It should be noted that the results are expected to differ in both studies, since in Placetas the study population is a community of private producers and in Ciego de Avila, the study will be carried out among workers and population working in a state enterprise.Regarding **Component 4**, several (7) coordination meetings were held during this period with specific objectives: to review the programs and logistics for the workshops; progress in the implementation of the project, review of the Component Work Plan, financial support, compliance with the schedule for the purchase of equipment and inputs, MTR, among other aspects. The 2nd Steering Committee was held in November 2022, with the participation of the UNEP Task Manager, Thais Narciso. At this meeting, the CITMA Economics and Human Resources Directorate, the International Relations Directorate (DRI-CITMA), the importing company EMIDICT and the general managers of the entities participating in the project were summoned. Some relevant aspects were discussed, such as the progress of imports according to the expected date of completion of the accreditation process of the laboratories, the delay in payments to suppliers and the financial mechanisms for disbursements from Nairobi. To date, all of the project's purchases have been reconciled and delivered to the importing company EMIDICT. In February 2023, the II Annual Workshop on Lessons Learned 2022 was held, in which the results obtained to date were presented. A representative of the DRI was invited to this meeting to present the main agreements adopted at the recent Biodiversity COP of importance for biosafety and the theme of this project. The financial contribution provided by this project enabled Cuba's participation in the II Congress of the SOVE - *Symposium on standards for the regulation of genetically modified insects* (November 2022) held in La Plata, Argentina and recently (May) the Biosafety project was presented at the IV International Seminar on Agricultural Health, held in Cuba, within the *Symposium on food safety and food security* , addressing the topic of biosafety and its relation to food security in Cuba. Updating of environmental regulations and national capacity-building on genetically modified organisms. A number of project reporting requirements were completed: 2022 Annual Audit, Half Yearly Report and Budget Review. The first Quarterly Report for 2023 is still under reconciliation and approval due to necessary readjustments between the Finance office in Nairobi and the project. On the other hand, despite constant efforts of the project team to initiate the Mid-Term Review through UNDP Cuba, to date there is no progress with contracting the services of the foreign consultant selected to carry out this activity.

2.4 Co-finance

EA: Planned Co-finance

USD 1,920,443

EA: Actual to date:

541,166.08

EA: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.

The financial contribution of the Cuban government corresponds to the level of activity developed in this period. To date, the main contribution to cofinance is by payment for import services and the participation of the Project Management Unit, specialists and personnel involved in the project´s activities.

EA: Date of project steering committee meeting

November 2022

2.5. Stakeholder

EA: Stakeholder engagement
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

This is an initiative that since its inception has incorporated numerous national actors in its development. As a novel aspect of the period, we can highlight the meetings convened by ONARC, the national entity in charge of laboratory accreditation, which has brought together a group of experts from various institutions belonging to the Ministries of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Biocubafarma, with a view to achieving technical exchanges for a better understanding and development of the accreditation process. Similarly, the need was identified to conduct training for specialists of the Quality Departments of the laboratories, technical staff and regulators, on the requirements of the NC ISO / IEC Standard 17025: 2017. For this, the service of an accredited center in our country was contracted, with recognized prestige in these issues: the Center for Management and Development of Quality (CGDC) which offered a face-to-face course twice (November 2022 and February 2023).
In the workshops held, experts from the Plant Health and Seeds Directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, from research centers related to the subject such as: the Grain Institute, the Institute for Fundamental Research in Tropical Agriculture and the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, together with specialists from CENSA, CICDC, CENATOX and ORSA, have contributed new ideas and approaches to the topics addressed.
But undoubtedly, component 3 (socioeconomic considerations) developed in two Cuban territories (Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila) has been the one that most has incorporated new actors to the project during this period: representatives of local governments, private producers, state enterprises, universities and representatives of CITMA delegations in both provinces.

2.6. Gender

TM: Does the project have a gender action plan?

No

EA: Gender mainstreaming
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Most of the participants in the courses in Mexico and Argentina, which were a form of south-south cooperation, as well as in those held in Cuba on NC ISO / IEC Standard 17025: 2017, and in the Workshops on field monitoring techniques and SECs, were women. The percentage was around 80%.

2.7. ESSM

TM: Was the project classified as moderate/high risk at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?

No

TM: If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?

TM: Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?

No

TM: If yes, please describe the new risks, or changes

TM & EA: Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?

No

TM & EA: If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken.

EA: Environmental and social safeguards management
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

In this regard, two meetings of the National Commission on GMOs were held during the period, and in this scenario, topics such as the release on a commercial scale of domestically produced genetically modified corn, the risk of its introduction in those areas where there are Cuban corn races, the proposal for the deregulation of transgenic soybeans with a specific event, as well as the implementation of a communication strategy for the public on these genetically modified crops and their possible benefits were discussed. It was suggested that these spaces could be held virtually, in order to stimulate exchange among members of the Commissions created in each territory of the country.
Component 3, on the SECs relevant to Cuba in the release of genetically modified crops, will provide specific results in two territories of the country with a history of large-scale releases of transgenic corn and soybeans. The idea for the future is to extrapolate these studies to other territories in the country, based on the financing acquired by national projects.
At the beginning of this year, initial workshops were held in two communities (Placetas, in Villa Clara and Sanguily, Municipio Venezuela, in Ciego de Avila) to inform the parties involved about the objective of the study. Work schedules were designed for the application of surveys in the identified communities, which should be during the course of this year to analyze and process the results next year, and present them in 2024 in a workshop to close this component.

2.8. KM/Learning

EA: Knowledge activities and products
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

In the months of November 2022 and February 2023, trainings on the requirements of the NC ISO / IEC Standard 17025: 2017 were conducted. These were given by CGDC experts at the request of the project management unit, aimed at specialists from CENSA, CICDC, CENATOX and ORSA. A total of 23 trainees, mostly women, received the corresponding certificate.
In March and April, two women researchers from the detection laboratories, one from CENSA and the other from CICDC, received 7 days of theoretical and practical training at the National Reference Center for GMO Detection, which belongs to the National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) in Mexico City. At this meeting, the Mexican counterpart was asked to provide a detailed program on topics of interest for validating the tests.
In addition, five specialists (3 from ORSA and 2 from CENATOX) received 5 days of training in Argentina to receive technical assistance on issues related to the entry, monitoring and field surveillance of regulated GMO trials, including regulations and conditions for importation and field controls of GMO seeds. On this occasion, the agenda was previously organized with the participation of the regulatory entities in the field and at the borders (National Seed Institute (INASE) and the National Agrifood Health and Quality Service (SENASA)).

Please attach a copy of any products

EA: Main learning during the period

The lessons learned have been numerous, from the technical point of view, progress has been made in understanding the techniques and requirements necessary to start the validation schedule of the laboratories, which are extensive and meticulous. One concern, to date, is whether it will be possible, working in an uninterrupted manner, to comply with the result of concluding the accreditation of the laboratories by the end of 2024.
On the other hand, progress has been made in the development of the monitoring and surveillance system of adverse effects adapted to our conditions, based on the experiences acquired in the training received in Argentina, which has brought new lights for the design of procedures and the strategy to be followed in field monitoring. It is necessary to look for alternatives for the application of tools for field monitoring due to the impossibility of mobilizing to all the territories.
There are many expectations regarding the study of socio-economic considerations (SECs) in the release of GM crops due to the differences that could be obtained from the results in the two territories analyzed and the final identification of these SECs, with a view to being able to incorporate them, in the future, into decision-making processes, as established by the Cartagena Protocol.
And finally, there have been numerous lessons regarding the management and implementation of a project executed by a national entity in the midst of an economic re-ordering in the country and overcoming a large number of difficulties, ranging from lack of liquidity to lack of understanding, making it necessary to establish a close link between the executing and implementing agencies, UNDP, the importers, the laboratories and other relevant actors, to achieve better results.

2.9. Stories

EA: Stories to be shared
(section to be shared with communication division/ GEF communication)

Cuba's biosafety standards are very high, and so a lot of effort and resources have gone towards preparing the country to have validated laboratory techniques and requirements to detect the presence of GMOs as part of the Cartagena Protocol. Institutional strengthening has resulted in new equipment and skills and has included south-south exchanges with other Latin American countries for an enriching learning experience and better knowledge of international standards (ISO) relevant to biosafety.

To Step 2

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3. RATING PROJECT PERFORMANCE

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives: DO)

EA **Project objective and Outcomes**	EA **Indicator**	**Baseline level**	**Mid-Term Target or Milestones**	**End of Project Target**	**EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June**	
Objective						
To further complete the process of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) through the creation of additional capacities in the						
Outcome 1						
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	Based on the training received in a reference center for detection and identification in Mexico, and the exchange of experiences with Mexican researchers of high scientific level and practical experience, it was possible to review the techniques to be accredited. This allowed readjusting the accreditation schedule for CENSA and CICDC laboratories. The schedule for protocol validation is currently being reviewed and approved. On the other hand, during this period, the second call for the course on the requirements of NC ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was held for another group of specialists from the laboratories and ORSA. In addition, the activity of the laboratories was also monitored through technical meetings and face-to-face visits to assess compliance with the accreditation schedule. It should be noted that the laboratories already have corn and soybean seeds to perform the first test and adjust the parameters of the techniques and equipment involved.	S
			MoU signed		The collaboration agreement for the project development between ORSA, CENSA and CICDC, were signed in 2020 and uploaded to Anubis.	S
			Instruments as per output.	Instruments finalized and approved by NCA.	All protocols, techniques and procedures for the detection and identification of GMOs, were approved by NCA. A summary report was signed by leaders and representatives of each laboratory and uploaded to Anubis.	HS
			1.1.3 Drafted and socialized for comments. -2 workshops on GMO detection were hosted.	Key personnel from NCA and reference lab trained in GMO detection, procedures, etc. as needed.	The two workshops on detection and identification were conducted prior to this report. The most novel aspect of this period was the training received in a highly qualified reference center in Mexico, which allowed two researchers from CENSA and CICDC to receive international training on the validation process and clarification of the step-by-step process.	S
Outcome 2						

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 custom system.	At least 3 M&S actions taking place.	Following the presentation of the first version of the Monitoring and Surveillance System at the meeting of the National Commission for the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Cuban Agriculture held in June 2022, new ideas and criteria were included in the document after review and input from national experts from various institutions. Similarly, the procedures developed for sampling and detection in the field and at the borders were presented and discussed among experts from ORSA, CENATOX and the Plant Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. During this period, a practical field sampling exercise was carried out in the province of Pinar del Río, in an area where transgenic maize was released, which made it possible to evaluate the procedure and obtain lessons learned for future actions.	HS
	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.	During this period, all offers were requested and approved for the purchase of the materials needed for field and border monitoring, and it is planned that these will be received by September of this year. As a result of the training conducted in Argentina, test strips that will be of great help for field monitoring were requested during this period.	S
	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 women)	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)	The workshop for customs officials and personnel involved in the M&S system was held in the previous reporting period. During the training in the Republic of Argentina, a visit was made to the Exolgan S.A. port terminal (Port of Buenos Aires) to verify the procedure for importing regulated GM seed, which served to train the Cuban specialists. A training session is scheduled to be held at the Havana port terminal before the end of this year for the Component 2 team of the project.	S
Outcome 3						
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.	A study on international regulations about SECs was completed.	MS

	# 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	As reported in PIR the 1rst meeting addressing SECs was held as scheduled. This meeting replaced the first workshop reflected in activity 3.1.2.a. No GEF funds were required for its execution, but government resources were used. In order to move forward in this issue, and in view of the second workshop, a preparatory meeting was held in October with the presence of the territories involved in carrying out the economic and social studies. A methodology for undertaking such studies was presented. The overall objective of the local proposal is the evaluation of the social and economic impacts of GM crops (maize and soy) recently released in Placetas, Villa Clara.and Sanguily , municipalilty of Venezuela, Ciego de Avila province. Specifically, the initiative aims to determine the economic and consequently social effects on the communities associated with the areas cultivating transgenic crops in the municipality. In addition, it seeks to diagnose the perception of producers, beneficiaries and the population of the communities under study, on the socioeconomic effects resulting from the use of such crops. Several tools like interviews and surveys were drafted to be applied in a defined sample. The sample is composed by different segments of the population, namely, producers, decision makers and local population linked to the release areas. It is hoped that the studies start early in 2023 and to be extended to other territories in a phase manner. According to the date of performing the studies and tacking into account that its duration will cover the whole 2023, it is recommended to convey the final workshop to 2024 as suggested in the previous column of this table. The second workshop is conceived as a results workshop. In this regard, this event must be scheduled once the studies have been completed, in order to show the possible SECs to be approved in the Cuban context.	S
	# 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).	In this period, the preparatory meeting for a final workshop on relevant socioeconomic considerations in GM crop releases was held in October, attended by the ORSA directors of the territories involved in these studies (Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila). The Methodology elaborated by one of these territories was presented, where a multidisciplinary team integrated by experts from the Central University Marta Abreu and the ORSA work team in the province was formed. This proposal was evaluated for its application in the province of Ciego de Avila and the activities to be developed throughout the year 2023 in both territories were defined. In February and May, workshops were held to present the international biosafety project and the importance of these studies in the communities of Placetas (Villa Clara) and Sanguily municipality of Venezuela (Ciego de Avila), respectively, with an important participation of local stakeholders.	MS

For joint projects with other agencies, and where applicable, ratings should also be discussed with the UNEP Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

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

EA	EA	EA	EA	
Output	**Expected completion date** (according to latest Workplan)	**Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%)** (Towards overall project targets)	**Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%)** (Towards overall project targets)	**EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay**

Under Comp 1

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 play a role as national reference laboratories. (certified by normative NC ISO 9001:2015 and accredited by the NC ISO / IEC 17025:2000)	**31/12/2024**	**65%**	**93%**	At of the date of this report, all reagents, equipment and supplies necessary for the laboratories' to function have been ordered. All the most important equipment and reagents have been received so that the research does not stop.	**S**
Activity 1.1.1 a Purchase of laboratory equipment and consumables.	31/12/2024	30%	85%	During this period, all acquired consumables and their distribution to the laboratories were monitored.	S
Activity 1.1.1 b Define the laboratory tests to be accredited.	31/03/2024	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	HS
Output 1.1.2 MoU between CICDC, CENSA, and the National Competent Authority (the National Centre of Biological Safety) for the services of detection.	**31/10/2020**	**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**
Activity 1.1.2 a Meetings for the analysis of the agreements between the laboratories and the CSB and signature of the memorandum of understanding or agreement	31/10/2020	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
Output 1.1.3 Harmonized Toolkits / Guidelines / Protocols / Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on LMO detection developed and/or adapted to suit Cuba´s reality and needs.	**31/12/2024**	**85%**	**96%**	The workplan 2023 reflects that there has been follow-up on this issue during the meetings between the laboratories and ORSA.	**HS**
Activity 1.1.3 a Study of national and international standards for detection and identification of GMOs. (CTN 94)	31/08/2020	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
Activity 1.1.3 b 1st Workshop on the preparation of protocols, techniques and procedures for the detection and identification of GMOs.	30/11/2020	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 fallow, develop and update until the 2nd Workshop	HS
Activity 1.1.3 c 2nd Workshop to revise and approve protocols and techniques.	31/10/2021	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 fallow-up	HS
Activity 1.1.3 d Establish management procedures for the detection, identification of GMOs and other related activities.	31/12/2021	85%	100%	The 2nd Workshop discussed and identified management procedures and how these should be reflected in a report. This report is in progress and conciliation among laboratories as well.	HS
Activity 1.1.3 e Management meetings between the laboratories and ORSA to establish procedures.	31/12/2024	40%	80%	The workplan 2023 reflects the follow-up on this issue during meetings between the laboratories and ORSA. The procedures for the arrival of the samples and their conservation have been reviewed, as well as how the laboratories will provide the services to the ORSA and other Cuban entities that request it and thus guarantee the sustainability of the laboratories.	HS
Output 1.1.4. Thresholds for LMO detection officially established.	**31/12/2024**	**32.75%**	**66%**	Progress has been made in the definitions of the detection limits established on the basis of the training recently received in Mexico and the results of the tests carried out by the specialists of both laboratories during this period. The cohesion and exchange of knowledge of experts from the Quality Control Departments of CENSA and CICDC has been important in defining the limits for the qualitative tests to be accredited, the main output of this component.	**S**

Activity 1.1.4. a Study and analysis of international experiences	31/08/2020	100%	100%	This activity was completed in prior periods. As informed, a search and joint review were conducted and a report was signed by Laboratories representatives and shared with UNEP (available on Anubis).	HS
Activity 1.1.4 b Validate the protocols defined in the output 1.1.3	31/12/2023	21%	50%	Although progress has been made in the validation of the protocols for qualitative tests for the detection and identification of two events, one in soybean and the other in GM corn, there are still reasonable doubts regarding the time proposed for the completion of this activity (December 2023).	S
Activity 1.1.4 c Meetings to discuss the thresholds.	31/12/2023	10%	70%	An updated version should be ready in October 2023 which will be presented at a technical meeting.	S
Activity 1.1.4 d Preparation of legal documents that sets the threshold.	31/12/2024	0%	45%	Based on the review of the regional and international regulations on this topic and with an interest in qualitative tests, a necessary technical and legal meeting is foreseen to officially establish the thresholds for the detection of GMOs. The proposal will be presented to the National GMO Commission in December of 2023 for its subsequent approval.	HS
Output 1.1.5 Personnel at CICDC and CENSA and the NCA capacitated through training programs on detection and identification of LMOs.	**31/12/2024**	**35%**	**90%**	In addition to the training opportunities in Mexico reported in the previous period, in November 2022 and February 2023, trainings on the requirements of the NC ISO / IEC Standard 17025: 2017 were conducted. These were given by CGDC experts at the request of the project management unit, aimed at specialists from CENSA, CICDC, CENATOX and ORSA. A total of 23 trainees, mostly women, received the corresponding certificate.	**HS**
Activity 1.1.5 a Training courses abroad on detection and identification of GMOs for laboratory personnel and the NCA. (Courses in Mexico, Argentina, Italy-IFPRI) (* gender issues considered)	31/12/2024	35%	90%	Two researchers of CENSA and CICDC participated in a Validation training on molecular biology techniques for detection and identification of GMOs,in a Mexican centre during march 2023.	HS
Output 1.1.6 National Reference Laboratory certified by the NC ISO 9001: 2015 and accredited by the NC ISO / IEC 17025: 2017	**31/12/2023**	**65%**	**70%**	As a starting point for both trainings, the procedures were reviewed once again and the accreditation schedule for CENSA and CICDC laboratories was readjusted. The validation protocol is currently being modified taking into consideration the criteria of Quality experts from both institutions with the participation of ORSA. One concern, to date, is whether it will be possible, working in an uninterrupted manner, to comply with the result	**S**
Activity 1.1.6 a Study of standards NC ISO 9001: 2015 and NC ISO / IEC 17025: 2000 to identify requirements to be met.	31/12/2020	100%	100%	The study was concluded with previous presentations and discussions. A report was signed by Laboratories representatives and uploaded to Anubis	HS
Activity 1.1.6 b Establish, implement and certify the quality management system according to the NC ISO 9001: 2015.	31/12/2022	Closure activity in Work Plan 2022		UNEP/GEF has accepted to delete this Activity as a result of domestic and international consultations carried out and reflected in a letter sent, and accompanied by a budget revision that reallocates the funds to activity 1.1.6 c	
Activity 1.1.6 c Define the laboratory tests to be accredited and Implementation of the action for accreditation. (DD6)	31/12/2023	30%	75%	The exchange with the researchers from the Mexican laboratory in the training carried out made it possible to define the laboratory tests to be accredited in relation to our capacities, for which reason the schedule previously prepared by both laboratories was readjusted. They are currently working on its compliance A second call for a training course on the NC ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was also carried out. General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories to 6 pending participants	S

Under Comp 2

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.	**31/08/2024**	**52.80%**	**81%**	The most significant results in this period were the revision of the documents elaborated: the first version of the Monitoring and Surveillance System presented at the GMO National Comission in june 2022 and the procedures developed for sampling and detection in the field and at the borders. These were reviewed and discussed among experts from ORSA, CENATOX and the Plant Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. Similarly, during this period, a practical field sampling exercise was carried out in the province of Pinar del Río, in an area where transgenic maize was released, which made it possible to evaluate the procedure and obtain lessons learned for future actions. Another important action was to accomplish the mission to Argentina in April of this year, where specialists from ORSA and CENATOX received training to obtain technical assistance on issues related to the entry, monitoring and field surveillance of regulated GMO trials, including regulations and conditions for importation and field controls of GMO seeds.	**S**
Activity 2.1.1 a Comparative study of national and international guidelines on M&S of LMOs and adverse effects.	31/08/2020	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

Activity 2.1.1 b Design of the system of M&S of GMOs (Components, functions, responsibilities, etc.)	30/11/2022	50%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. The document was submitted in Anubis to close this activity.	HS
Activity 2.1.1 c Workshops on the design of the M&S System of GMOs and possible adverse effects.	30/09/2021	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
Activity 2.1.1 d Training courses abroad on M&S of GMOs for the NCA. (* gender issues considered)	31/05/2024	10%	70%	5 specialists from ORSA and CENATOX participated in a training course on M&S of GMOs in Argentina with experts from the National Agrifood Health and Quality Service (SENASA) and the National Seed Institute (INASE), both from the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Nations belonging to the Ministry of Economy. During the course, a visit to a port terminal was made to observe the sampling of regulated seeds of Genetically Modified crops. Subsequently, field trials with transgenic soybeans were visited to review biosafety measures and the use of rapid diagnostic methods. Further courses are now being considered abroad, in countries such as Brazil, as potential training options for the next reporting period.	HS
Activity 2.1.1 e Draft of a field inspection strategy.	31/08/2023	40%	60%	The proposed schedule for taking samples in the field for the first semester of 2023 could not be met, due to complex difficulties in the availability of fuel in the country, which limited mobility to the territories. However, both the procedures developed and the surveys that should be applied to farmers and phytosanitary workers in the release areas were reviewed. The field inspection strategy will be based on the application of surveys to farmers and based on their results, a follow-up of specific cases will be carried out to identify possible adverse effects.	S
Activity 2.1.1 f Purchase of supplies, equipment, and vehicle for M&S activities. (as per procurement plan)	30/09/2023	40%	80%	During this period, all offers were requested and approved for the purchase of the materials needed for field and border monitoring, and it is planned that these will be received by September of this year. As a result of the training conducted in Argentina, test strips that will be of great help for field monitoring were requested during this period.	MS
Activity 2.1.1 g Implementation of the GMO M&S System and possible adverse effects.	31/08/2024	30%	60%	New ideas and expert criteria were included in the System of M&S GMOs after its presentation for first time at the National Commission for the use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Cuban Agriculture. In recent meeting of this Commmision releases of genetically modified corn and soybean crops and their realtionship with honey produccion were reviewed to avoid contamination with transgenic pollen and to evaluate possible adverse effects on bees or other species. So far no inicident has been reported.	S
Output 2.1.2 Strategy for field detection (screening procedures) developed.	**30/06/2022**	**100%**	**100%**	The activity was fully accomplished. The field sample-drawing and detection procedure was finished. The report was uploaded to Anubis.	**HS**
Activity 2.1.2 a Preparation and approval of the field sample-drawing and detection procedure. (* gender issues considered)	30/06/2022	100%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. The field sample-drawing and detection procedure was finished. The report was uploaded to Anubis.	HS
Output 2.1.3 Administrative and technical guides designed for each involved institution (Veterinary and Phytosanitary borders Officers (Ministry of Agriculture) and Customs Officers (General Customs of the Republic of Cuba) and inspector from CSB) in the National Customs System.	**30/06/2022**	**90%**	**100%**	The activity was fully accomplished. The procedure for the taking of samples in borders was finished.	**HS**
Activity 2.1.3 a Preparation of procedures for the taking of samples in borders.	30/06/2022	90%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. The procedure for the taking of samples in borders was finished.	HS
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.	**30/06/2024**	**27,5%**	**44%**	The second workshop on field monitoring techniques was planned for October 2023 but it will be not possible to do so, because the proposed program for taking samples in the field for the first semester of 2023 could not be fulfilled, due to fuel problems in our country.	**HS**

Activity 2.1.4 a (2) workshops on field monitoring techniques. (* gender issues considered)	31/12/2023	10%	60%	The first workshop on field monitoring techniques was held over two days in November 2022 with the participation of different institutions related to the subject. The second workshop was scheduled to take place in October 2023, but it will be postponed to the first quarter of 2024 due to the fact that the planned program for taking samples in the field could not be met, the results of which were to be presented at the second workshop. The causes of this non-compliance are related to the severe difficulties that have been occurring in the country with the availability of fuel, which increase even more in the territories outside the capital. However, both the procedures and the surveys to be applied to farmers who cultivate transgenic crops were reviewed.	S
Activity 2.1.4 b (1) workshop on monitoring for customs. (* gender issues considered)	30/06/2022	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 Agriculture's Plant Health Directorate provided theoretical training in sampling at borders for biosafety inspectors linked to the Project.	HS
Activity 2.1.4 c (1) workshop to discuss M&S system´s products and strategy with NCAs.	31/03/2024	0%	10%	Some of the actors involved and the topics for discussion have been identified. During the workshop will be disscus the results of the surveys for farmers and the applications of the procedures for the taking of samples in field and in borders and the strategy to be followed by NAC.	S
Activity 2.1.5 d Publication of the methodology.	30/06/2024	0%	5%	Different documents have been reviewed to conform the methodology, in addition, a doctoral thesis on environmental risk assessment of transgenic corn whose author is one of the members of component 2 of the project will be considered.	S

Under Comp 3

Output 3.1.1 Detailed analysis of the socio-economic considerations of importance for Cuba related to LMO impacts completed and guiding decision-making.	**31/12/2020**	**100%**	**100%**	The activity was fully accomplished. A study on international regulations about SECs was completed. The report is ready to be uploaded in Anubis	**S**
Activity 3.1.1. a Studies of international regulations related to social and economic impacts. (* gender issues considered)	31/12/2020	100%	100%	The activity was fully accomplished. A study on international regulations about SECs was completed. The report is ready to be uploaded in Anubis	HS
Output 3.1.2 Informative materials on socio-economic considerations produced and distributed amongst general public and relevant authorities.	**30/06/2024**	**25%**	**43%**		**S**
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)	30/06/2024	50%	70%	As reported in PIR the 1rst meeting addressing SECs was held as scheduled. This meeting replaced the first workshop reflected in activity 3.1.2.a. No GEF funds were required for its execution, but government resources were used. In order to move forward in this issue, and in view of the second workshop, a preparatory meeting was held in October with the presence of the territories involved in carrying out the economic and social studies. A methodology for undertaking such studies was presented in October 2022. The overall objective of the local proposal is the evaluation of the social and economic impacts of GM crops (maize and soy) recently released in Placetas, Villa Clara and Sanguily, municipality of Venezuela in Ciego de Avila province. Specifically, the initiative comprises, to determine the economic and consequently social effects on the communities associated with the areas that have incorporated the cultivation of transgenic crops in the municipality. In addition, to diagnose the perception of producers, beneficiaries and the population of the communities under study, on the socioeconomic effects resulting from the use of such crops. Several tools like interviews and surveys were drafted to be applied in a defined sample. The sample is composed by different segments of the population, namely, producers, decision makers and local population linked to the release areas. In February and May 2023, workshops were held to present the international biosafety project and the importance of these studies in the communities of Placetas (Villa Clara) and Sanguily municipality of Venezuela (Ciego de Avila), respectively; with an important participation of local stakeholders. It should be noted that the results are expected to differ in both studies, since in Placetas the study population is a community of private producers and in Ciego de Avila, the study will be carried out among workers and population working in a state enterprise.	S

Activity 3.1.2. b Design and production of informative materials related to SEC. (* gender issues considered)	30/06/2024	0%	15%	To date, some entities specialized in the design and printing of communication materials have been contacted. At the same time, some materials such as surveys and interviews have been identified as important information to be printed for the studies and at this time the contract is being made between ORSA and the entity that will print the surveys to be applied in the territories.	HS
Under Comp 4					
Output 4.1.1 Project reporting requirements met.	**31/12/2024**	**40%**	**53%**		
Activity 4.1.1. a. Annual audits.	31/12/2024	25%	40%	A third financial audit (PY3- 2022) was concluded and a document be submitted to Anubis.The audit was carried out during this period in the month of May, at the request of the entity contracted for such purposes. They are provided with the requested information, everything that is reflected in the documents delivered. There have been numerous lessons regarding the management and implementation of a project executed by a national entity in the midst of an economic re-ordering in the country and overcoming a large number of difficulties, ranging from lack of liquidity to lack of understanding, making it necessary to establish a close link between the executing and implementing agencies, UNDP, the importer and other relevant actors, to achieve better results.	S
Activity 4.1.1. b. Half year reports	31/12/2024	50%	60%	Three Half Yearly Progress Reports for the period from July 1st, 2020, to December 31, 2020, July 1st, 2021 to December 2022 and July 1st, 2022, to December 31, 2022 were completed by ORSA and approved by PNUMA indicating a progress in technical activities despite a low ejecution.	S
Activity 4.1.1. c. PIRs	31/12/2024	50%	60%	PIRs corresponding 2021 and 2022 were concluded and approved.	S
Activity 4.1.1. d. QERs.	31/12/2024	35%	50%	To date 11 QERs have been completed. The expense report corresponding to period 1 of 2023 is now being approved due to the recent indication from the implementing agency, UNEP, of the review and reversal of the amounts charged to budget lines 5302 and 5375 in all previous reports. It is proposed to align the charges reflected by UNEP and ORSA for payments made to UNDP for financial management.	S
Output 4.1.2 Project coordination and oversight mechanisms in place.	**31/12/2024**	**42%**	**55%**		
Activity 4.1.2. a. Inception workshop	31/10/2020	100%	100%	Due to Covid-19, we postponed this activity, and it was finally 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.	S
Activity 4.1.2. b. Closure workshop	31/12/2024			Not yet applicable	
Activity 4.1.2. c. Communications	31/03/2024	25%	35%	During this period we completed a contracted job related to the visibility of the project at the NEA facilities. In addition, DL4 /2020 was recently printed, which contains an update of the regulations for the work of the National Authority on GMOs. Materials for the work were designed (almanacs, mouse pads and posters for the dissemination of the project theme. The elaboration of some informative materials is foreseen with an update of the main results of the project to date.	S
Activity 4.1.2. d. Meetings of the PMC.	31/12/2023	40%	60%	7 coordination meetings were held during this period with specific objectives: to review the programs and logistics for the workshops; progress in the implementation of the project, review of the Component Work Plan, financial support, compliance with the schedule for the purchase of equipment and inputs, MTR, among other aspects	HS
Activity 4.1.2. e. Meetings of the Steering Committee.	30/09/2024	40%	60%	A second Steering Committee was held in November 2022, with the participation of the UNEP Task Manager, Thais Narciso. At this meeting, the CITMA Economics and Human Resources Directorate, the International Relations Directorate (DRI-CITMA), the importing company EMIDICT and the general managers of the entities participating in the project were summoned. Some relevant aspects were discussed, such as the progress of imports according to the date of completion of the accreditation process of the laboratories, the delay in payments to suppliers and the financial mechanisms for disbursements from Nairobi.	HS
Activity 4.1.2. f. Annual workshop on lessons learned.	31/12/2024	25%	40%	In February 2023, the II Annual Workshop on Lessons Learned 2022 was held, in which the results obtained to date were presented. A representative of the DRI was invited to this meeting to present the main agreements adopted at the recent Biodiversity COP of importance for biosafety and the theme of this project.	HS
Activity 4.1.2. g. Project representation in events and identification of synergies (travel).	31/12/2024	20%	35%	The financial contribution provided by this project enabled Cuba's participation in the II Congress of the SOVE - Symposium on standards for the regulation of genetically modified insects (November 2022) held in La Plata, Argentina and recently (May) the Biosafety project was presented at the IV International Seminar on Agricultural Health, held in Cuba, within the Symposium on food safety and food security, addressing the topic of biosafety and its relation to food security in Cuba. Updating of environmental regulations and national capacity-building on genetically modified organisms.	HS

Output 4.1.3 Project evaluations completed.	**31/12/2024**	**0%**	**25%**		
Activity 4.1.3. a. Mid-term Evaluation	31/03/2023	0%	25%	Given the impossibility of the executing agency ORSA to contract the services of a foreign company for the Mid Term Review of the Biosafety Project, a file with relevant information and sufficient evidence of the funds deposited in this agency to defray the costs of the review and the charges that UNDP provides for this service was presented to the Purchasing Unit of UNDP Cuba. To date, we have not received a response for what has been requested, from the direction of the project in ORSA, for the intervention of the Directorate of International Relations of CITMA and a representation of UNEP in Havana to arrange a meeting as soon as possible and advance with the process.	MS
Activity 4.1.3. b. Final Evaluation.	31/12/2024			Not yet applicable	

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

To Step 3

4 Risk Rating

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

	Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
1	Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low : Well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the	Low : Well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
2	Governance structure - Oversight	Low : Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a yearand Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC	Low : Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a yearand Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
3	Implementation schedule	Moderate: Project progressing according to work planand Adaptive management and regular monitoring. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the	Moderate: Project progressing according to work planand Adaptive management and regular monitoring. Moderate likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
4	Budget	Substantial: Minor budget reallocation needed with no changes beyond the margins of 10% across the different components – excluding the PMC.or	Substantial: Minor budget reallocation needed with no changes beyond the margins of 10% across the different components – excluding the PMC.or Imbalanced utilisation of budget or exhaustion of PMC before project completion. Significant likelihood of negative impact on the project
5	Financial Management	Low : Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted forand Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of	Low : Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted forand Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
6	Reporting	Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and	Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
7	Capacity to deliver	Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.

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): 3rd PIR automatic formula!

EA: *Insert ALL the risks identified at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous PIRs (1, 2, 3, etc), current PIR, and MTR. Use the last row to propose a suggested consolidated rating.*

Risk	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	Risk Rating: CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	PIR 6	Variation respect to last rating: 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 regarding environmental issues such as biosafety.	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L				=	Risk has remained low. Biosafety remains priority for our goverment in relation to GMOs, for example the National Commission for the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Cuban Agriculture continues working. During its meetings in this period, new ideas and expert criteria were included in the System of M&S for GMOs after its presentation at the Commission. In addition, there is a group of Cuban experts working on goal 6 related to Biosafety of biotechnology that is part of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Both lines of work are favorable for project implementation.
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				=	Risk has been kept at a medium level. These changes did affect the way co-financing was reported in 2022 but has not affected institutional collaborations or the level of engagement.
Risk 3 The reorganization of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment may produce structural and administrative changes for the ORSA. This could pose a risk associated to changes in personnel and autonomy of the ORSA.	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L				=	This risk has been kept low. During this period, the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment has not undergone significant changes in its structure that could impact in ORSA. Nevertheless, many changes in relation to personnel involved with the project, have also occurred, which has happened for different reasons.
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				↑	Risk has risen above medium level. There were three changes in relation to personnel involved with the project. The coordinators from components 1 and 3 and the Financial Assistant are no longer part of the project team. For this reason the work for the project team, at this time, is more difficult and faces challenges in meeting the objectives of the project.
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				=	The risk has been kept at a medium level as this continues to be a challenging aspect.

Implementation schedule	All outcomes & outputs				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 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					Delays with expense report approvals and the financial mechanisms in place for disbursement of funds from Nairobi, as well as the lack of accurate communication between ORSA-UNDP-UNEP have led to delays in payments to suppliers and the liquidity needed for overseas training and other national activities.
Consolidated project risk		**L**	**M**	**M**	**M**					5 risk have been identified, only one of them have increased their results respect to last rating in PIR 2

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

*List here only risks from Table A and B above that have a risk rating of **M or higher** in the **current** PIR*

Risk	**Actions decided during the previous reporting instance** (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	**Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period**	**Additional mitigation measures for the next periods**		
			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. *Address the difficulties for the implementation of the project with the Coordinating Group and institutional authorities.	*Improve activity planning *Meetings on a regular basis with our Logistics Department and institutional authorities.	From July 2023 onward Regularly	Project Manager and head representatives of laboratories Project Manager and Logistics Assistant
Risk 4 Possible fluctuations in the personnel during the project implementation entailing changes in the coordinator and other important support staff.	It was planned that during this period there would be an absence of the team (responsible for Component 3) that was left in charge of this task until the end of April. To mitigate the effects of this absence, during the visits made in February to the territories where the SEC studies would be carried out, a group of specialists from both provinces were linked, forming teams in both territories, and ORSA's General management oriented ORSA's directors in Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila to coordinate from each territory the tasks to be developed, periodically communicating the adjusted activity schedules and the needs of each activity, which are financed from the Project's account. The reality was higher than expected, there were two other leaves in the project unit during this period: the financial assistant and the responsible for component 1.	*Involvement of ORSA's Directors in Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila and their work team in the development of Component 3. *Direct assistance of the Head of the Biodiversity and Biosafety Dept. in the implementation of this component, who in turn updates the work of the project in general with the General Director of ORSA, providing reports at the monthly Board of Directors meetings. *Replacement of the person in charge of Component 1 by one of the Department's specialists who had been working with him since the beginning, coordinating the activities of this Component. From this moment on, she will be in charge of the actions to be developed. *Two new specialists from one of the laboratories (CENSA) are incorporated to the Component 1 team. * The national coordinator of the project is now in charge of the project's finances, in collaboration with ORSA's Economic Directorate for the review of executed expenses and future projections.	* Involvement of the authorities of the territories where SEC studies will be carried out with a view to obtaining the necessary authorizations in case it is necessary to issue the fuel required for mobility within each province. * Incorporation of new specialists in the project activities.	During the remainder of the project	Project Manager, Head of the Biodiversity and Biosafety Dept, ORSA´s General Director, ORSA's Directors in Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila

Risk 5 Delay in acquiring necessary inputs (goods and services) for project activities that depend on an import process.	The project will carry out import procedures well in advance in order to procure goods and services in a timely manner; it will also maintain regular contacts with importing companies, and negotiate support from UNDP for direct payments in USD.	*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 *Address the difficulties for the implementation of the Project with the Coordinating Group and Institutional authorities *Meetings with the EMIDICT Management to address the issues	*Readjusted Procurement Plan for 2023-2024. *Present to the importer (EMIDICT) a Plan for import needs by 2023-2024. *Meetings at regular intervals with the EMIDICT specialist and management to address the issue.	During the remainder of the project	Project Manager, representatives of Laboratories,Logistics Assistant
Implementation schedule		*Carry out a detailed analysis of the Work Plan by component on a systematic basis with a view to planning in advance the logistical needs that support each activity. *Periodically readjust the number of activities and join together related meetings (dates and participants) in order to be more efficient in terms of attaining results and rendering expenses. *Maintain close liaison between ORSA and other institutions involved in the project to facilitate the exchange of information and manage new risks that arise. *Address difficulties in the implementation of the project with the Coordinating Group and the Institutional authorities.	*Improve activity planning. *Meetings at regular intervals between project unit and Heads/} representatives of Laboratories and ORSA, to facilitate the Implementation schedule progress.	Monthly	Project Manager, Heads /representatives of Laboratories, Logistics Assistant and Technical Assistant.
Budget		*Carry out a proactive analysis of the Work Plan by component in a systematic way with a view to planning in advance the logistical needs that support each activity. *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 to facilitate the exchange of Expense Reports from Nairobi and the timely receipt of financial information.	*Improve activity planning. *Meetings at regular intervals between project unit and UNDP or UNEP to facilitate financial progress and reporting.	Regularly and before the completion of each QER	Project Manager, Finance Officers from UNDP and UNEP

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.

To Step 4

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

Minor amendments

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signiture Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original Legal Instrument					
Amendment 1	Revision				
Extension 1	Extension				

GEO Location Information: (EA)

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 (https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79) or GeoNames(http://www.geonames.org/) 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(https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx)

Location Name Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field if the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Office for Environmental Regulation and Safety.	23.11985	-82.42371	502, 28th and 5th Avenue. Miramar, Playa. Havana, Cuba.	The Office for Environmental Regulation and Safety is located in a residential area.	Executing Agency
National Agricultural Health Center (CENSA)	22.99694	-82.15306	Tapaste and National Highway, San José de las Lajas. Mayabeque. Cuba.	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	Jamaica-Tapaste and National Highway, San José de las Lajas, Mayabeque. Cuba. Postal Code 32700.	The Center for Scientific Research for the Civil Defense (CICDC) doesn't have nearby settlements. It is located near the national highway and surrounded by green and cultivation areas.	Identification and detection of GMO.
National Toxicology Center (CENATOX)	23.13639	-82.72306	31th Avenue and 114 street, Postal Code 14020 Marianao, Havana. Cuba.	The National Toxicology Center (CENATOX) is located in a residential area.	Monitoring and surveillance of possible adverse effects of GMOs.
Cubaquivir Enterprise, Consolación del Sur, Pinar del Rio	22° 34´ 97" N	83° 17´ 60" O			GM crop release area
Placetas, Villa Clara Province	22° 19´ 01" N	79° 39´ 12" O			Socioeconomic studies
Venezuela municipality, Ciego de Avila province	21° 44´ 51" N	78° 47´ 19" O			Socioeconomic studies
Sanguily, Ciego de Avila province	21° 45´ 57" N	78° 52´ 17" O			Socioeconomic studies

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

Empresa Cubaquivir - Latitud 22° 34´ 97" N Longitud 83° 17´ 60" O
Placetas - Latitud 22° 19´ 01" N Longitud 79° 39´ 12" O
Sanguily - Latitud 21° 45´ 57" N Longitud 78° 52´ 17" O
Venezuela - Latitud 21° 44´ 51" N Longitud 78° 47´ 19" O

Empresa Cubaquivir
Municipio
Consolación del Sur

[* Annex any linked geospatial file]

To step 5 or