



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021



1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean
Country (ies):	Brazil
Project Title:	Reversing the Desertification Process in Brazil's Susceptible Areas: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation (REDESER)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/BRA/085/GFF
GEF ID:	5324
GEF Focal Area(s):	LD, BD, SFM/REDD+ (multiple focal areas)
Project Executing Partners:	Federative Republic of Brazil, Ministry of the Environment (MMA), Secretariat of International Relations (SRI), Department of Environmental Economics and International Agreements (DEAAI)
Project Duration:	19-Jan-18 to 28-Feb-22
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	All coordinate files have been included in the drive.

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	09-May-2016
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	19- January- 2018
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	30 June 2022
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	N/A
Actual Implementation End Date³:	N/A

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 3,930,155
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¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

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

Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	USD 15,766,666
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	USD 273,082
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	USD 20,000

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	07/06/2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	Frist semester 2022
Actual Mid-term review date:	Second semester 2022
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	To be checked
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	No
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	No

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	MU
Overall implementation progress rating:	MU
Overall risk rating:	M

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

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

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

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

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

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Status

Implementation Status <i>(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	3th PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Tiago de Carvalho Franca Rocha	Tiago.DeCarvalhoFrancarocha@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Pieter Van Lierop (LTO) with support from Jessica Casaza (LTC)	Pieter.VanLierop@fao.org Jessica.Casaza@fao.org
Budget Holder	Rafael Zavala	Rafael.Zavala@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Hernan Gonzalez	hernan.gonzalez@fao.org

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

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

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s):						
Outcome 1: Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) integrated and extended to landscape scale	<p>A) Number of hectares where the INRM is adopted and integrated</p> <p>B) Number of INRM tools and methodologies introduced</p> <p>C) Number of small land owners with increased and diversified production based on INRM</p> <p>D) % of small properties that are administered by a woman</p>	<p>A) 0 (zero)</p> <p>B) 0 (zero)</p> <p>C) There is no baseline</p> <p>D) There is no baseline</p>	<p>A) 271,243 ha</p> <p>B) 3 good practices applied in 30% of the target area</p> <p>C) 470 additional people</p> <p>D) 30% of the 470 small landowners are women</p>	<p>A) 904,142 ha</p> <p>B) 3 good practices applied</p> <p>C) 1,567 people</p> <p>D) 30% of the small properties are administered by a woman</p>	The project unit is carrying out the organization of information and landscape analysis. These activities, linked with stakeholders' consultation, is the base to define the needs, sites, methodologies and technologies that will be implemented in the field.	MU

⁹ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

¹⁰ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Marginally Satisfactory (MS)**, **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

<p>Outcome 2: Forest areas under Multiple-Use Sustainable Forest Management increased</p>	<p>Number of hectares providing a sustained services flow in dryland forest ecosystems.</p>	<p>0 (zero)</p>	<p>10,000 ha being restored with native species</p>	<p>30,000 ha being restored with native species</p>	<p>The project unit is carrying out the organization of information and landscape analysis. In this outcome, these activities will provide information, such as, identifying landscape with potential areas to implement activities according to the Sustainable Forest Management guidelines.</p>	<p>MU</p>
<p>Outcome 3.1: Seed production capacity improved seedlings to support the restoration of degraded land in the Areas at Risk of Desertification (ARD</p>	<p>Specific handling practices that integrate BD: b) restoration with native species</p>	<p>0 (zero) restoration</p>	<p>10,000 ha being restored with native species</p>	<p>30,000 ha being restored with native species</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>HU</p>
<p>Outcome 3.2. Sustainably managed forest with connectivity points established Outcome</p>	<p>A) Carbon stocked in forest ecosystems and emissions from deforestation and degradation avoided (direct, permanent) B) Restoration/rehabilitation of degraded forests</p>	<p>0 in the project intervention area (without restoration)</p>	<p>a) 146,400-ton CO2 eq aa) direct impact: 174,055 tons of additional CO2eq and indirect impact; 618,087 tons of additional CO2eq B) 10,000 ha</p>	<p>a) + 30,000 ha of restored forest area, + 439,200-ton CO2eq sequestered and additional carbon reinforcement in forest areas through SFM (target: 618,062 ha, 2,058,146 t CO2eq-indirect impact)</p>	<p>The project unit is carrying out the organization of information and landscape analysis. In this outcome, this analysis can provide information on forest fragments, potentially favorable areas</p>	<p>MU</p>

				a. a.) Deforestation and forest degradation avoided (emissions avoided (direct impact): 696,219-ton CO ₂ eq ha at 5,709 ha) Indirect impact: Emissions of 2,472,347 tons of CO ₂ eq in 60,820 ha avoided. b) 30,000 ha	for the implementation of ecological corridors, permanent preservation areas, among others.	
Outcome 4.1 Improved capacity of key state and municipal institutions on Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest and Land Restoration (FLR)	Number of teams with improved capacity at the local level B) Number of knowledge management networks in ARD	ARD states have very limited exchange on LD and desertification.	At least 50 people benefited from the capacity building plan. An online database based on LD projects in ARD, with the help of experts and stakeholders	Increased capacity in LD and desertification issues of at least 270 people from the 14 municipalities in the 9 ARD states A strong knowledge exchange network established in ARD	No progress	HU
Outcome 4.2. Policy-makers and farmer, private sector and education stakeholders have capacity to implement SFM, FLR, INRM and BD conservation.	Availability of good-quality materials at local level.	Poor information materials and delivery.	Enhanced production of material on LD, SFM, FLR, and BD for training courses and other events.	Materials for forest officers, nursery staff and seed collectors is produced and distributed in each project site	No progress.	HU
Outcome 5.1 Functional synergy with complementary initiatives to promote	Number of initiatives with collaborations established.	Poor synergy	Interaction with 10 key initiatives	Most interested and relevant stakeholders are currently interacting.	In the first semester of 2021, UGP made contact with two	MU

<p>sustainable management and restoration benefits at landscape level</p>					<p>important institutions that have been working in the Caatinga Bioma, with their synergic projects and initiatives related to Redeser scope. The Interaction with these two key initiatives (Embrapa and APNE) has showed possibilities to work together. At the moment, APNE is working on a proposal to integrate some actions in the Northeast region. This proposal is based on the Sustainable Forest Management such as implementing management in properties that supply firewood for the ceramic industry (important for regional development), surveying of</p>	
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					forest management plans in the Northeastern states and spreading / sharing of good practices.	
Outcome 5.2. The project is implemented with results-based management and incorporation of findings and lessons learned	Delivery of the project products is compliant with the FAO-GEF information requirements.	N/A	Project reports	Full compliance	4 Progress Project reports	S

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 1.1 INRM has been mainstreamed and scaled up at landscape level.	1) Validation of information and landscape analysis in the project's focus municipalities - identification of degradation/recovery trends and potential application of practices to combat desertification processes. 2) Establishment of partnerships for mapping the best practices and actors that are developing activities in the field. 3) Establishing partnerships to implement best practices in the field	1) Coordination by UGP and FAO consultants Partners (APNE and Embrapa) 2) UGP and MMA 3) UGP	1) Until September 2021 2) Until December 2021 3) Until January 2022

Outcome 2: Forest areas under multi-purpose Sustainable Forest management (SFM) have been increased.	<p>1) Establish partnerships for the implementation of component 2- ongoing discussions with APNE (Association of Plants of the Northeast).</p> <p>2) Define sites where the production chain will be evaluated (related to activity 1.1.1.1.)</p> <p>3) Identify innovative sustainable forest management practices (FMP).</p> <p>4) Define a mechanism to implement practices with beneficiaries and eligibility criteria for properties and local producers.</p>	<p>1) UGP</p> <p>2) UGP, MMA and partner</p> <p>3) Partner</p> <p>4) UGP and MMA</p>	<p>1) October 2021</p> <p>2) December 2021</p> <p>3) March 2022</p> <p>4) March 2022</p>
Outcome 3.1: Seed/seedling production capacity improved to support restoration of degraded lands in ASD.	<p>1) Mapping of actors and nurseries.</p> <p>2) Partnership to support the registration of producers in the seed system.</p>	<p>1) UGP</p> <p>2) UGP</p>	<p>1) Unti March 2022</p> <p>2) May 2022</p>
Outcome 3.2. Forest connectivity sites have been identified, sustainably managed, and restored.	<p>1) Survey of data and secondary data/information (physical, biological, and social) and ecosystem restoration/recovery initiatives (correlation with activity 1.1.1.1).</p> <p>2) Selected locations for the promotion of connectivity corridors and identified partners (products, gov, NGO, Universities, city halls, etc.).</p>	<p>1) UGP</p> <p>2) UGP</p>	<p>1) Until June 2022</p> <p>2) Until July 2022</p>
Outcome 4.1. Improvement in capacity of key state and municipal institutions about SLM, SFM and FLR	<p>1)Identify databases and institutions.</p> <p>2)Develop a communication plan.</p>	<p>1) MMA and UGP</p> <p>2) UGP</p>	<p>1) Until December 2021</p> <p>2) Until December 2021</p>
Outcome 4.2. Policymakers and farmer, private sector and education stakeholders have capacity to implement SFM, FLR, INRM and BD conservation.	<p>1) define a strategy for training the target public.</p>	<p>1) UGP</p>	<p>1) December 2021</p>

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

Output 5.1 Synergy with complementary initiatives to promote sustainable management and restoration benefits at landscape level.	1) Identify synergistic initiatives and actors.	2) UGP and MMA	2) from June 2021
Output 5.2. Project implemented with results-based management and application of findings/lessons learned.	1) Strengthen the UGP team: hiring consultants. 2) Structure implementation arrangement	1) UGP 2) MMA and FAO	1) July and August 2021 2) August 2021

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

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴					Implementation status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR		
Output 1.1.1 best practices in INRM identified, evaluated and replicated at property and landscape levels	Q4 Y4			<i>There is no progress shown in the defined indicators, however the structuring activity of data collection and landscape analysis are in the validation phase to define intervention sites</i>			0%	As reported in the last PIR, the identification of best practices and locations for replication was planned. The definitions of the sites are underway, and the identification of best practices will be done through partnerships under negotiation. However, the current crisis at COVID-19 has not yet allowed field actions to be carried out.

¹² Outputs as described in the project log frame or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

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

¹⁴ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

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

Output 1.1.2 INRM NWFPs incorporated in government programs and projects and in local agribusiness	Q4 Y4			<i>There is no progress shown in the defined indicators</i>			0%	Strategy to be defined with new MMA focal point in the second semester 2021
Output 1.1.3 Capacity to identify, evaluate and promote strengthened INRM systems in state departments and agencies	Q4 Y4			There is no progress shown in the defined indicators			0%	Strategy to be defined with new MMA focal point in the second semester 2021.
Output 2.1.1 Innovative small-and large-scale SFM practices identified, evaluated and replicated in selected experimental forest management areas	Q4 Y4		.	<i>The intervention areas are in the definition phase, through the analysis of the landscape and survey of the production chains. The survey of the production chain associated with</i>		N/A	0%	Due to the need to re-plan the project, the action was delayed as it required a new negotiation phase with MMA, and with potential implementing partners.

				<i>sustainable forest management is in the planning stage with partners (APNE)</i>				
Output 2.1.2 Support for the development of Multiple-Use SFM production chains	Q4 Y4		.	Associated with output 2.1.1. Will be carried out with partnership with local stakeholders		N/A	0%	Due to the need to re-plan the project, the action was delayed as it required a new negotiation phase with MMA, and with potential implementing partners
Output 2.1.3 Guidelines for SFM practices developed and monitoring of protocols at the local level implemented	Q4 Y4			Output strategy is in definition phase.		N/A	0%	To achieve this output, a survey (in the planning phase) of sustainable forest management plans and verification of bottlenecks will be carried out (Loa with local institution).
Output 3.1.1 small land owners and public nurseries in legalized ARD with improved native seed and seedling production	Q4 Y4			No progress to be reported.		N/A	0%	Strategy to be defined.
Output 3.1.2 Seed collectors and nursery	Q4 Y4					N/A	0%	The COVID-19 situation does not allow the evaluation of the capacities of nursery staffs at the moment. This activity will be further

workers trained and registered in the National Seed and Seedling System (SNSM)								defined after the social distancing measures are suspended. In the second semester 2021, an assessment will be carried out to identify the focal public and the partners to execute the activities to achieve this output.
Output 3.1.3 Guidelines for Forest and Land Restoration practices in ARD developed and adopted by stakeholders	Q4 Y4			No progress to be reported.		N/A	0%	Strategy to be defined.
Output 3.2.1 Appropriate locations for forest restoration and connectivity are identified and work plans elaborated using adapted cost-effective restoration techniques	Q4 Y4			Landscape analysis is carrying out to support the restoration sites decision.		N/A	0%	Based on landscape analysis and restoration synergic initiatives UGP and MMA will define the sites and opportunities.
Output 3.2.2 Participatory projects for the restoration of degraded land and improvement of productive	Q4 Y4			No progress to be reported.		N/A	0%	Strategy to be defined.

landscapes and land use practices								
Output 4.1.1 Reinforced learning networks and actions, facilitating field exchanges in ARD	Q4 Y4			No progress to be reported.		N/A	0%	Strategy to be defined.
Output 4.2 Public policy makers and farmers, private sector and education stakeholders have the capacity to implement SFM, Forest and Land Restoration (FLR), and biodiversity conservation	Q4 Y4			No progress to be reported.		N/A	0%	Strategy to be defined.
Output 4.2.1 Guidelines and briefs on best practices and lessons learned related to SFM, FLR and INRM in ARD prepared	Q4 Y4			Output strategy is in definition phase.		N/A	0%	The targets of this output will be re-evaluated and integrated into the communication plan of the project, to be elaborated.

Output 4.2.2 academic community in ARD engaged against LD and desertification	Q4 Y4			No progress to be reported.		N/A	0%	Strategy to be defined.
Output 4.2.3 Awareness raising on sustainable forest restoration in ARD	Q4 Y4			No progress to be reported.		N/A	0%	The targets of this output will be re-evaluated and integrated into the communication plan of the project, to be elaborated.
Output 5.1.1 Effective collaboration with complementary initiatives	Q4 Y4		s	Interlocution is in progress with APNE (NGO with reference work in sustainable forest management in the Caatinga) and with Embrapa Semiárido to formalize partnerships and synergies		N/A	20%	The surveying of initiatives is being carried out in conjunction with the state-of-the-art integration and surveying process.
Output 5.2 The project is implemented	Q4 Y4	Project reports		Project reports		N/A	30%	

with results-based management and application of findings and lessons learned			Project reports					
Output 5.2.1 Project Monitoring System providing information on progress made towards achieving project outputs and targets			M&E framework designed and fully operational	M&E framework designed and fully operational . Annual workplan approved.		N/A	20%	
Output 5.2.2 Midterm and final evaluation performed, best practices and lessons learned from the project published and disseminated				N/A		N/A	0%	

4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

This report has shown advances in Redeser Project that will support the actual start of the project but there is no progress yet in outcome or output targets. Efforts were made to approve an official plan that is in implementation phase. The official annual plan was approved by Steering Committee on June 07, with a significant presence of FAO staff (Headquarter; Regional Office and Brazilian Office), as can be seen in the Minutes of the meeting attached (Portuguese version).

This plan is based on series of meetings and discussions between Brazilian Government and FAO.

Brazilian government has presented a proposal to execute REDESER project according to their guidelines, such as investing more financial resources and efforts for direct actions in the field to improve good practices in Sustainable Forrest Management, Integrated Natural Resources Management, landscape and forest restoration and support value chains in the Redeser area. As reported in the last PPR, it was suggested by the Ministry of Environment (MMA) the expansion of the REDESER project area, including priority municipalities, in Minas Gerais State, in susceptible desertification areas (figure 1). As evaluated by FAO team, the expansion of the Project area will not affect the actions and the budget, since the exchange rate appreciation has significantly increased the financial resources for carrying out the activities. For MMA, the increase in the project area will also allow the possibility of testing actions to minimize the effects of desertification on a national scale.

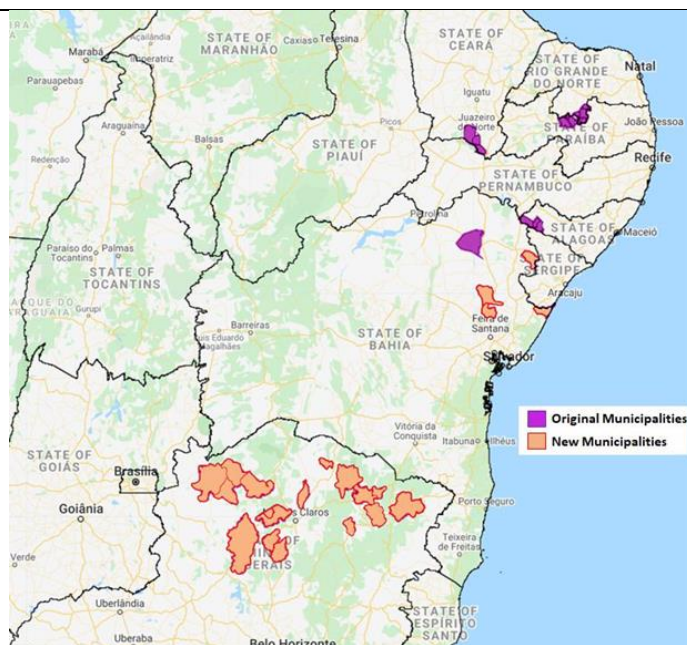


Fig 1. Redeser area (Coordinates in Annex 2 and FAO System)

The activity “Landscape analysis in the municipalities that are the focused on the project” is in execution stage. This activity is the base of some outcomes, since the generation of information and analysis of the landscape will allow a definition of the actions and development of outputs, such as:

- i. Outcome 1.1 – INRM mainstreamed and scaled up at landscape level- Output 1.1.1- INRM best practices identified, evaluated and up-scaled at farm and landscape levels;
- ii. Outcome 2.1 - Forest area under SFM have been increased- Output 2.1.1 -Innovative small- and large- scale SFM practices identified, evaluated and replicated in selected experimental areas, and;
- iii.(iii) Forest connectivity sites have been defined, sustainably managed and restored- Appropriate sites identified and restoration plans under implementation for restoration and establishment of forest connectivity using cost-effective and adapted restoration techniques.

An application tools, related with this activity, is in development stage and can be found in the link below: <https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/brazil-redeser>

The approval of the work plan by the steering committee made it possible to advance in the contact with stakeholders and the mapping of potential institutions. In recent months, two key institutions were contacted, the NGO Associação de Plantas do Nordeste (APNE) and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa). In the first few meetings, the new project planning was presented and possible synergies to work together were identified. Currently, FAO and the institutions are studying internally the possibilities and the strategy to work together.

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

The major challenge in this report period was to approve the work plan, with the MMA's guidelines and expectation, in line with the original logical framework. Some issues (beyond the project's control), such as a National Director replacement, requested a long negotiation process. Nevertheless, the MMA Deputy Secretary made a great effort to expedite, as much as possible, the review and approval of a work plan by the steering committee in June 2021.

Another challenge is establishing partnerships for the execution and implementation of the Project. During the period, a series of meetings were made with Embrapa and local NGO to analyze synergies and possibilities to work together. However, as it is a "return" in direct communication with these institutions, it requires a strategy that is sensitive to the participatory process but, at the same time, efficient in establishing agreements in the short term.

The effects of the Covid pandemic in Brazil resulted in considerable social and economic impacts for the population and an uncertainty about the possibilities of beginning field activities. It also created difficulties in the communication with local agents, which often required field visits, information verification and awareness of managers and communities. The approved work plan considered these factors, indicating the start of field intervention activities in 2022.

However, according to the monitoring of the COVID-19 pandemic, actions can be carried out in the field, as soon as authorized, such as verification of information related to the activity of "landscape analysis" and scheduling visits to local entities.

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

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

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

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	U	MU	The actions planned for the 2021 period were reviewed, as requested and suggested by the Ministry of the Environment, in a proposal sent at the end of 2020. The proposal evaluation and negotiations on the scope of activities were carried out in a few months and, a great effort was made not to modify the Project's scope (and its logical framework) and to add the government strategy and initiatives to combat desertification. However, after this extended period, the project plan was approved by the steering committee, also attributing greater autonomy to FAO for project execution. Thus, negotiations were initiated with potential partners and executors (for example, APNE and Embrapa). Activities to collect and analyze information were also initiated, which are the basis for defining technologies and sites of implementation of the Project's actions.
Budget Holder	U	MU	FAO Brazil has been committed to strengthening the partnership with the Federal Government (MMA) to make significant progress in the Project's actions. The approved work plan in the steering committee in June 2021, and the actions already started indicated that the project's implementation is in practice with a promising execution horizon. However, it is necessary to continuously monitor the actions to answer the deadlines that the project requires.

¹⁶ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

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

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

<p>GEF Operational Focal Point</p>			<p>Our evaluation seeks to be impartial since we are not directly involved, we belong to a central government body, specifically in the Ministry of Economy, however we monitor the development of the project based on information from the implementing agencies and other sources.</p> <p>A series of factors in sequence contributed to the delay, making the project impossible to move forward.</p> <p>It is a fact that recent political changes must have had an influence on the evolution of the project. Board component changes are a consequence of these and may have impacted the project. Structural changes also contributed to the delay, including the uncertainty of who could be the executor.</p> <p>In this sense, it is important to involve permanent employees whose careers and duties are not subject to political changes, including linking projects to state policies and strengthening their permanent premises.</p> <p>But a variable no less important, but decisive for the vulnerability of any process are the times between the design, elaboration and approval of the project and its execution period.</p> <p>We believe that the Pandemic may have affected the project in some way, but we do not see it as a major factor until now. We believe that the hiring of new coordinators for the second half of 2020 can help the development, but the Pandemic can delay this process until the beginning of 2021.</p> <p>We emphasize the importance of structuring strong project coordination units, linked to programs and permanent structure of the executor</p>
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Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	U	MU	<p>During this period, substantial progress was made with the Federal Government which made it possible to begin the implementation of the project. The meeting of the Steering Committee was held on June 7, approving the official work plan that began its implementation, although there is still no progress in the results or outputs.</p> <p>It was agreed to expand the REDESER project area by integrating new municipalities in the state of Minas Gerais, which increases its effects to combat desertification's process without affecting the actions and budget of the project. Contacts were initiated with key Institutions for implementation and measures have been considered in the framework of the COVID-19 contingency to carry out actions in the field within the framework of landscape analysis.</p> <p>There is an encouraging prospect of reactivating the project, which requires continuous monitoring.</p>
FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	MU	MU	<p><i>As described above, the Government of Brazil has made a significant effort to start the implementation of the project, and as of June 2021 we have an approved work plan that will build the basis for project investments. These assessments and agreements (under negotiation) with key partners promise to speed implementation of a highly desired and needed project. The project team will also align the work proposed in the project document with the latest guidance from the UNCCD regarding LDN.</i></p> <p><i>Once the baseline assessments are updated, the project sites are validated (during 2021), and investment plans are developed, , the project team will make every effort to ensure that an annual work plan is developed and approved before the end of the year to ensure that investments on restoration and SFM/SLM are carried out during 2022 to start looking towards achieving the project targets.</i></p> <p><i>Looking towards the future, the COVID pandemic represents one of the highest risks that may delay project implementation. The project will work with local partners to try to minimize these risks.</i></p>

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

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

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

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

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

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
M	It is not necessary to modify the risk classification

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

6. Risks

Risk ratings

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

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

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	<p>The increased frequency of droughts and drastic reduction in rain fall.</p> <p>Several changes related to climate events affect the target population</p>	M	<p>The project will introduce best practices for soil moisture conservation and water accumulation through the installation of underground dams and surface water collection systems and systems that favor the penetration of water under regional soil structure conditions.</p> <p>Other prevention or mitigation actions are planned to support small irrigation projects and the diversification of family farming initiatives for food security, including the distribution and production of traditional seeds that are more resilient to the effects of climate change, as well as the introduction of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems compatible with semi-arid environments.</p> <p>The project will use participatory planning to deal with climate uncertainty, and support seminars for the exchanging of experiences on</p>	Field actions were not initiated.	Landscape analysis will allow exploring time series of biophysical indicators (Earth and Climate) for decision making for actions in the project territory and with national reach.

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

²² If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period”.

			appropriate practices in crops located under semi-arid conditions.		
2	<p>Increased forest fragmentation in the selected areas.</p> <p>Increased pollution of water resources due to unsustainable land and forest management practices.</p>	M	<p>The project will promote best practices for sustainable land management and the adoption of sustainable forest management. As for the maintenance of productive landscape mosaics, the project will contribute to the capacity-building of the staffs in state environmental agencies for the implementation of the National Rural Registry (CAR) and the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA) in line with the New Brazilian Forest Code, ensuring compliance with the Permanent Preservation Areas (PPA) and Legal Reserve (LR) requirements.</p>	No progress to be reported	Landscape analysis will provide information and show the mainly areas to be connected.
3	<p>Increased pressure from the agribusiness sector, resulting in increasing deforestation of forests in vulnerable transition areas.</p>	M	<p>The project will expand the actions supported by the international cooperation agreement, promoting capacity-building and institutional strengthening in the state environmental agencies for the implementation of the national rural registry (CAR) and the environmental regularization program (PRA). The project will promote systematic actions with the staffs of the agencies for the understanding and adoption of SFM as an alternative to the full removal of vegetation for alternative land uses.</p>	The Landscape Analysis tool is under development and will provide information for working with staff agencies.	The discussions with the agencies' focal points allowed, in the validation phase of the Landscape analysis tool, the promotion for adoption of SFM as an alternative to the removal of vegetation for alternative land uses.

4	<p>Institutional/financial risk.</p> <p>Participating entities fail to meet financial commitments.</p>	M	<p>The project will guarantee that the co-financing is maintained via project governance instances such as the National Desertification Combat Committee, and by insisting on the importance of upholding international commitments. The project will maintain an ongoing dialogue with civil society through its organizations in order to ensure that the commitments between the project and its various partners are maintained.</p> <p>The participating institutions have signed Co-Financing Letters related to the project. These institutions are also members of the Project Steering Committee; and this will help guarantee, to a greater extent, their commitment to the project. Contributions under the PSC and project co-financers will be coordinated to guarantee their commitment to annual budget allocation, and their contributions, whether in cash or in kind, will be monitored.</p>	<p>The Project's planning proposal, submitted in October 2020 by the Ministry of the Environment, presents new possibilities for co-financing sources that are being negotiated with other ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Ministry of Regional Development). Expected to be defined until Mid-term Project evaluation.</p>	
5	<p>Institutional instability</p>	S	<p>Institutional structure that ensures the technical execution of project actions and the strengthening of partnerships.</p>	<p>An approximation was made to bring the technical area of the Ministry closer to the FAO focus groups that work with the theme of Land Degradation Neutrality and the Wocat system. A joint action agenda was planned.</p>	<p>For manage this risk, one point to be considered is providing wider autonomy for the Project Management Unit to carry out actions of local articulation and prospecting for partnerships to implement the planned actions.</p>

				National Director has been replaced and the new Director has been working with the FAO team, making the decisions process faster and more effective.	
6	COVID-19 Pandemic	S	The actions related to the minimization of the Covid-19 pandemic include the adoption of security measures for technicians, managers and beneficiaries of the project, and routine updates on the effects of the pandemic in the Project.	Since no field actions can be carried out at the time, the telework of the project team has focused on Spatial analysis of the degradation of the project areas from satellite data, according to subnational and national levels	FAO hired specialist team that is working in a participatory tool that can provide technical information and make survey with key stakeholders.

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

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	M	<p>Despite COVID and Institutional risks in the MMA, Project Unit is carrying out an important activity supported by FAO LDN area and a consultant team, which was hired last March. This activity promotes the development of a methodology and information collection between government institutions to support decision-making in the context of LDN. It focuses on developing decision-making tools to determine LDN targets (national territory) and priority sites to invest actions to combat desertification's process and restore degraded areas.</p> <p>Nevertheless, some structural issues should be strengthened, mainly the institutional arrangement and the capacity in the field to promote actions. MMA restructured its staff and FAO will hire specialist team to strengthen the capacity for execution.</p> <p>The planning process was completed with the approval of the Project's execution plan, highlighting the activities that will be developed in 2021 and 2022.</p>

**7. Adjustments to Project Strategy –
Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)**

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

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

Adjustments to the project strategy.

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

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

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

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

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

8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

If your project had a stakeholder engagement plan, specify whether any new stakeholders have been identified/engaged:

If a stakeholder engagement plan was not requested for your project at CEO endorsement stage, please

- list all stakeholders engaged in the project
- please indicate if the project works with Civil Society Organizations and/or NGOs
- briefly describe stakeholders' engagement events, specifying time, date stakeholders engaged, purpose (information, consultation, participation in decision making, etc.) and outcomes.

Please also indicate if the private sector has been involved in your project and provide the nature of the private sector actors, their role in the project and the way they were involved.

Covid-19 pandemic is a very relevant factor that puts pressure on the execution of the project, which strongly depends on activities in the field and on the support of high-level stakeholders' arrangement. Covid impacted the articulation and mapping actors in the field. In this reporting period, travel and missions were forbidden. Travel to the field is still not possible.

This guideline has been changed in May 2021, by the new MMA focal Point. So, since this date, UGP has been working to map the stakeholders and technical Agencies to work together in Redeser Project. However, The Federal Government changed the Project's original counterparts. The new leading team in MMA is evaluating the articulation process which was led by the old director to achieve a political arrangement to strengthen Redeser activities.

The landscape analysis work allowed contact with national institutions and the participation of regional and local actors. They are expected to contribute with information and other inputs for decision making on the application of good practices in the territory and, at the same time, support Brazilian Government to define LDN targets in national scale.

The Project began actions that can be developed at the "office" and will support the decisions to promote the activities in the field, such as the analysis of the landscape and the survey of good practices. Tools are being developed for research on a virtual basis, as well as virtual meetings with key actors to define the best way and possible sites to implement the project.

Another point to be considered is to provide wider autonomy for the Project Management Unit to carry out actions of local articulation, and to prospect new partners in order to implement the planned actions and reach the goals. in order to implement the planned actions and reach the goals.

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)

Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.

Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender results and impacts?

Does the project staff have gender expertise?

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources.
- improving women’s participation and decision making; and or
- generating socio-economic benefits or services for women

No update to be reported in relation to the previous report.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

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

- Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.
- Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.
- Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected global environmental benefits. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.
- Please provide links to publications, leaflets, video materials, related website, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.
- Does the project have a communication and/or knowledge management focal point? If yes, please provide their names and email addresses

There is no knowledge management or best practices developed in the report period.

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

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

If applies, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities
Do indigenous peoples have an active participation in the project activities? How?

Not applicable.

12. Innovative Approaches

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

An application tool is currently under development, the objective of which is to promote information analysis (biological, physical, landscape and anthropogenic data) to support decision-making and monitoring in the dynamics of desertification in the Redeser area. See the link: <https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/brazil-redeser-dev>

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

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

- Are the outcomes/outputs still achievable within the project period.
- Will the timing of the project MTR or TE be affected/delayed?
- What is the impact of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc.
- Are there good practices and lessons learned to be shared?

As related in the sections above, the COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting the local articulations activities and has made actions in the field unfeasible. So, the planning process must be continued to improve a structure, in the field, able to conduct the activities with local partners.

UGP has been working this way to find a new implementation arrangement and has been discussing with a local ONG and a governmental Agency.

At the same time, the activities have been focused on data analysis to support decisions, such as, sites and activities that we will focus on.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²³	Name of Co-finance	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2020	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Civil Society	AGENDHA - Assistance and Management in Nature Research etc.	In kind	160.000		N/A	160.000
Civil Society	APNE/ Plant Association of the Northeast	In kind	160.000		N/A	160.000
State Government	CEPIS - Paraíba Technological Park Foundation	In kind	533,333		N/A	533,333
Civil Society	FA-Araripe Foundation	In kind	160.000		N/A	160.000
United Nations Organization	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	In kind	200,000	20,000	N/A	200,000
State Government	FUNETEC - Foundation of Technological	In kind	800,000		N/A	800,000

	and Cultural Education					
Civil Society	IABS - Brazilian Institute of Sustainability and Development	In kind	266,666		N/A	266,666
Civil Society	ICRAF - World Agroforestry Center	In kind	100,000		N/A	100,000
Federal Government	INSA - National Institute of the Semi-Arid Region	In kind	1,333,333		N/A	1,333,333
Federal Government	MDA - Ministry of Agricultural Development	Grant	3,360,000		N/A	3,360,000
Federal Government	MMA - Ministry of the Environment	In kind	1,866,667		N/A	1,866,667
State Government	SEAFDS - Agriculture Secretariat of Paraíba	In kind	1,066,667		N/A	1,066,667
Civil Society	SEAPAC - Support Services for Alternative Community Projects	In kind	160.000		N/A	160.000
State Government	SEIHRMACT - Environment Secretariat of Paraíba	In kind	800,000		N/A	800,000

Municipal Government	SEMA - Crato Environment Secretariat	In kind	533,334		N/A	533,334
State Government	SEMARH - Alagoas Environment Secretariat	In kind	533,333		N/A	533,333
State Government	SEPLAN - Rio Grande do Norte Planning Secretariat	In kind	1,066,666		N/A	1,066,666
Federal Government	SFB - Brazilian Forest Service	Grants	2,666,667		N/A	2,666,667
TOTAL			15,766,666	20,000		USD 15,766,666

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

The Project's planning proposal, submitted in October 2020 by the Ministry of the Environment, presents new possibilities for co-financing sources which are being negotiated with other ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Ministry of Regional Development). Expected to be defined by Mid-term Project evaluation.

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions: Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as

“good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.