



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report **2023 – Revised model**

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean
Country(ies):	Brazil
Project Title:	Reversal of the Desertification Process in Susceptible Areas of Brazil: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation (REDESER)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/BRA/085/GFF
GEF ID:	5324
GEF focal area(s):	LD, BD, MFS/REDD+ (multiple focal areas)
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA), National Secretariat of Traditional Peoples and Communities and Sustainable Rural Development, Department of Combating Desertification.
Initial project duration (years):	4 years
Project coordinates: <i>This section should be completed ONLY by: a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) Where the geographical coverage of the project activities has changed since the last period covered by the report.</i>	<i>[Projects in categories a) and b) must indicate YES here and provide the geocoded data in Annex 2] It has changes. In the previous PIR, municipalities in the State of Minas Gerais were contemplated, which are now not among the priority areas of the Project.</i>

Project Dates

GEF CEO endorsement date:	09-May-2016
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD:	19-Jan- 2018
Project/NTE Implementation End Date¹:	30-Dec-2024
Final date of execution of the revised project (if approved) ²	N/A

Financing

GEF grant amount (USD):	USD 3 930 155
Total amount of co-financing (USD):³	USD 15,766,666
Total delivery of GEF grants (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	USD 1,152,756
Total actual GEF grant expenditure (excluding commitments) as at 30 June 2023 (USD):⁴	USD 670,376
Estimated total co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	USD 233,782

¹ According to FPMIS.

² If the extension of the NTE has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

³ This is the total amount of co-funding included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

⁴ The value shall show the amounts included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to section 13 of this report, where updated co-financing estimates are requested, and indicate the total amount of co-financing materialized.

M&E milestones

Date of the last meeting of the Project Board (CPS):	07-Jun-2021
Planned date for the mid-term review ⁶ :	30-Jun-2022
Effective date of the mid-term review (if it has already been completed):	June-September 2023
Expected date for the evaluation of the terminal ⁷ :	30-Jun-2024
Monitoring tools (TT)/Key Indicators (CI) updated before the MTR or TE phase (provide as an annex)	<i>YES. We will present after the MTR.</i>

Overall standings

Overall ranking of progress towards objectives/results (cumulative):	<i>Moderately Satisfactory</i>
Overall ranking of progress in implementation:	<i>Moderately Unsatisfactory</i>
General risk rating:	<i>Moderate</i>

ESS Risk Rating

Current ESS risk rating:	<i>Moderate</i>
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State

Implementation status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	5 th PIR
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Project Contacts

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⁶ The Intermediate Review (MTR) should occur after the 2nd PIR, about half a point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English must be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years from the date of endorsement of the CEO.

⁷ The terminal evaluation date should be discussed with the OED 6 months before the NTE date of the project.

2. Progress towards the project objective(s) (development objective)

(All entries in this section should be cumulative from the start of the project, not annual)

Project or Development Objective	Findings	Result indicators ⁸	Reference	Medium-term objective	Project end goal	Cumulative progress since the start of the Level project on June 30, 2023	Progress rating
<p>Project Objective:</p> <p>Halting and reversing environmental degradation in areas susceptible to desertification (ASD), ensuring the flow of ecosystem services, promoting integrated management of natural resources, generating environmental benefits and contributing to poverty reduction.</p>	<p>Result 1.1 - The Integrated Management of Natural Resources (GIRN) was integrated and expanded at the landscape level</p>	# of hectares where GIRN is adopted and integrated	0 (zero)	271,243 ha	904,142 ha	<p>In the Letter of Agreement (LoA) 04/2022 signed with the Basic Christian Association (ACB), we aim to: Implement and strengthen good practices of integrated management of natural resources in productive landscapes of the Caatinga, focused on food production and sustainable use of the biome, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life in the socioeconomic and environmental aspects of rural communities of the Chapada do Araripe Environmental Protection Area.</p> <p>In this LoA we are adopting the GIRN in the areas of intervention (13%).</p>	MS
		# of the GIRN tools and methodologies introduced	0 (zero)	3 good practices applied in 30% of the target areas	3 Asset practices applied in 100% of target areas and disseminated in capacity development activities	<p>- 18 good practices identified and evaluated in the updated diagnosis for the target areas and 08 good practices have the potential to be applied.</p> <p>- In LoA 04/2022 executed by ACB in the Araripe Territory, agroforestry systems (SAF) are being implemented. In this way, a good practice was performed in a target area. Thus, considering 8.33% of the executed goal.</p>	
		# of small producers with growing and diversified	Insignificant	470 additional people	1,567 people	- In CoD 04/2022 run by ACB GIRN methodologies are being implemented in six areas.	

<p>Development Objective:</p> <p>Increase and improve the provision of goods and services from the sustainable management and restoration of dryland forest and agroforestry production landscapes.</p>		production based on the GIRN				<p>Communities / Geographic Location</p> <p>Vila Nova / District Monte Alverne-7.121886 -39.535758</p> <p>Engenho da Serra / District Santa Fe-7.080637 -39.341467</p> <p>General Site / District Monte Alverne-7.105152, -39.518704</p> <p>General Site / District Monte Alverne-7.131017, -39.528066</p> <p>Correntinho / District Monte Alverne-7.12507433 -39.54964064</p> <p>Small Stream / Mount Alverne District-7.130276, -39.527561</p> <p>This implementation includes a total of 30 people. This is equivalent to 2% of the total target.</p>	
		% of small farms that are managed by a woman	Insignificant	30% of the 470 smallholders are women	30% of small farms are run by a woman	<p>- In CoD 04/2022 run by ACB GIRN methodologies are being implemented in six areas. Of those six areas, three are run by women.</p> <p>Approximately 3% of the target achieved.</p>	
	Result 2.1 - Forest areas under multipurpose sustainable	# of hectares providing sustained flow of services in forest ecosystems in drylands	0 (zero)	309,031 ha	618,062 ha of forest area (85% of the forest cover in the project area)	<p>From the CoA 02/2022 that is executed by the Association Plants of the Northeast (APNE) the following results were reached: 26 new potential areas for PMFS were identified in the region (priority area of Rio</p>	MU

	forest management (MFS) were increased					Grande do Norte - RN and Paraíba- PB). Of these, 8 have an interest in the activity, but depend on some conditions for its effectiveness and go beyond the governability of the project; Thus, the following conditions were highlighted: Authorization of wind farm, minimum price guaranteed, available labor, consensus with settlement partners and confirmation of viable forest stock. These areas can be confirmed and the PMFS implemented within the framework of the future Letter of Agreement for these priority areas (PA). We are in the process of selection for the execution of a CoA that aims to: Strengthen activities of sustainable use and recovery of natural resources for reduce pressures and environmental degradation in the Seridó Priority Area (Paraíba and Rio Grande do Norte) with the expansion of the supply of forest biomass for energy and forage, by means of forest and silvopastoral management of the Caatinga and the intensive production of forage, and also the promotion of beekeeping and meliponiculture. At least 3,000 ha of managed area	
	Result 3.1 - Seed production capacity improved seedlings to support the recovery of degraded lands in Desertification Risk Areas (ARD)	Specific management practices that integrate BD: b) restoration with native species	0 (zero) restoration	10,000 ha under restoration with native species	30,000 ha under restoration with native species	- In CoA 04/2022 executed by ACB are being implemented restoration processes in 7 ha with the installation and strengthening of agroforestry systems, adopting regenerative agriculture practices with family farmers, totalling 06 areas with good practices/interventions. The Agroforestry Systems Demonstration Unit (UDSA) was also created, based on the existing	MU

						<p>successful experience of SAF in the community.</p> <p>The implementation of the UDSA was one of the first activities carried out. In the UDSA there is an area that has been implanted for about a year and a half; In the area, management was carried out and existing practices were improved and strengthened. At the same time, training actions and exchanges involving family farmers were developed.</p>	
	<p>Result 3.2 - Sustainably managed forest with established connectivity points</p>	<p>1) Carbon stored in forest ecosystems and emissions from deforestation and degradation avoided (direct, throughout life):</p> <p>a) Conservation and increase of carbon in forests</p> <p>b) Avoided deforestation and forest degradation</p>	<p>a) 0 (zero) in the area of intervention of the project (without restoration)</p>	<p>a) 146,400 tons CO₂eq</p> <p>b) direct impact: 174,055 additional tons of CO₂eq and indirect impact: additional 618,087 tons of CO₂eq</p>	<p>a) Conservation and increase of carbon in forests: +30,000 ha of restored forest, +439,200 tons of CO₂eq sequestered and additional increase of carbon in the forest through the MFS (target: 618,062 ha, 2,058,146 t CO₂eq - indirect impact)</p> <p>b) Avoided deforestation and forest degradation (avoided emissions (direct impact): 696,219 tons of CO₂eq ha in 5,709 ha)</p> <p>Indirect impact: avoided emissions of</p>	<p>It has not yet been possible to perform the calculations for the conversion of areas into CO₂. REDESER has already developed an application that can support this monitoring to assess soil carbon and forest gain/loss. Thus, one of the next activities of the project will be the realization of this calculation for conversion of area into CO₂.</p>	<p>U</p>

					2,472,347 tons CO ₂ eq on 60,820 ha		
	<p>Result 4.1 - Improvement of the capacity of the main state and municipal institutions in Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Sustainable Forest Management (MFS) and Forest and Territorial Restoration (FLR)</p>	<p>a) Number of teams with improved capacity at local level.</p> <p>b) Number of knowledge management networks in DSAs</p>	<p>States with ASD have very limited exchange on DL and desertification</p>	<p>(a) At least 50 persons have benefited from the capacity development plan.</p> <p>b) An online database based on LD projects in ASD, with the help of experts and stakeholders</p>	<p>a) Increase of capacity in LD and desertification issues of at least 270 people from the 14 municipalities of the 9 states with ASD</p> <p>b) A strong knowledge exchange network established in ASD</p>	<p>a) Total number of people benefited by courses and seminars: 122, being:</p> <p>a.1) Virtual Seminar for presentation and discussion of the results of the Caatinga Forest Management Network (RMFC) – In all, 33 institutions registered presence, totalling 89 people.</p> <p>a.2) Virtual Seminar on the Diagnosis of Sustainable Forest Management Plans of the Caatinga – The participation in the Seminar reached a significant number of institutions and participants totalling 33 people. This demonstrates the interest in the technical-scientific findings of research on sustainable forest management of the Caatinga. Participants were 15 federal, 06 state and 01 municipal institutions. In addition, we had the presence of 10 non-governmental organizations (NGOs).</p> <p>b) An excel database on MFS's plans for the Northeast Region was delivered by APNE as one of the products of LoA 02/2022.</p>	MS
	<p>Outcome 4.2 - Policymakers and farmers, the private sector and education stakeholders have the capacity to</p>	<p>Availability of good quality materials at local level</p>	<p>Poor information and delivery materials</p>	<p>Improved production of material on LD, MFS, FLR and BD for training courses and other events</p>	<p>Materials for forestry technicians, nursery staff and seed collectors are produced and distributed at each project site</p>	<p>Material still in preparation. An activity initiated within the scope of the CdA of APNE, the delivery of the technical and scientific content for a future publication entitled: Forest Management in the Caatinga: 40 years of experimentation</p>	U

	implement the conservation of MFS, FLR, GIRN and BD					of the Forest Management Network is registered.	
	Result 5.1 - Functional synergy with complementary initiatives to promote sustainable management and the benefits of restoration at the landscape level	Number of initiatives with established collaborations	Little synergy	Interaction with 10 key initiatives	Most of the relevant and stakeholders are currently interacting	Alignment meetings were held with the following institutions seeking to provide possibilities for synergies with the initiatives being implemented in the territories. The institutions that advanced in the articulations were: i) Associação Plantas do Nordeste (APNE), ii) Serviço Florestal Brasileiro (SFB). Still in the process of articulating the identification of synergies with the following institutions: i) National Institute of the Semiarid, Embrapa Semiarid, Araripe Foundation, Government of the State of Rio Grande do Norte.	MU
	Result 5.2 - The project is implemented with results-based management and incorporation of findings and lessons learned	The delivery of the project products complies with the information requirements of FAO-GEF	N/A	Project reports	Full compliance	Period Progress Reports- PPR December 2022	S

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

Result	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	How long?
1.1 - The GIRN has been integrated and extended at landscape level	<p>1) The Araripe Foundation was hired to carry out activities related to this result in the Uauá area. We must monitor the implementation.</p> <p>2) Launch of three Letters of Agreement to implement/improve GIRN best practices and apply locally in each target area. These Letters will be developed in the following priority areas: Alagoas, Araripe and Seridó.</p>	<p>1) FAO and MMA</p> <p>2) FAO</p>	<p>1) Second half of 2023</p> <p>2) Second half of 2023</p>
2.1 - Forest areas under multi-use sustainable forest management (SFM) have been increased	<p>1) Mapping of the main public policies of the federal government on MFS</p> <p>2) Dialogue with the bodies responsible for public policies and identify potential areas of management</p>	<p>1) Project Management Unit</p>	<p>1) Second half of 2023</p>
3.1 - Improvement of seed/seedling production capacity to support the recovery of degraded areas in ASD	<p>1) Articulation with the agencies of the Federal Government that have public policies and programs related to the production of seeds/seedlings;</p> <p>2) Articulation with non-governmental organizations operating in the priority territories that work with this theme</p>	<p>1) Project Management Unit</p>	<p>1) First half of 2024</p>
3.2 Forest connectivity sites have been identified, sustainably managed and restored	<p>1) Select sites for the promotion of connectivity corridors and identify partners (farmers, governments, NGOs, universities, municipalities, etc.), based on the updated diagnosis, to implement restoration projects</p> <p>2) Articulate with the Brazilian Forest Service to support the identification of these sites</p>	<p>1) Ministry of the Environment and Brazilian Forest Service</p>	<p>1) First half of 2024</p>
4.1 - Improvement of the capacity of the main state and municipal institutions on SLM, MFS and FLR	<p>Capacity improvement plan developed and being implemented</p>	<p>1) Ministry of the Environment</p>	<p>1) Second half of 2023</p>

Result	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	How long?
4.2 Policy makers and farmers, the private sector and education stakeholders have the capacity to implement the conservation of MFS, FLR, GIRN and BD	1) Scheduled publication of the book - FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE CAATINGA - 40 YEARS OF EXPERIMENTATION	1) Project Management Unit and APNE	1) Second half of 2023
5.1 - Synergy with complementary initiatives to promote sustainable management and restoration benefits at the landscape level	1) Identify more synergistic initiatives and actors	1) Project Management Unit	1) Second half of 2023

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Indicate the progress made during the current fiscal year in accordance with the Implementation Plan/Annual Work Plan)

Results and Outputs ⁸	Indicators (according to Logical Structure)	Annual Goal (according to the Annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ⁹ (please DO NOT repeat the results reported in the previous year's PIR)	Describe any variation ¹⁰ in output delivery
Result 1.1 - Integration and expansion of the GIRN at the landscape level	<p>a) # of the hectares where the GIRN is adopted and integrated</p> <p>b) # of the GIRN tools and methodologies introduced</p> <p># of small producers with growing and diversified production based on the GIRN</p> <p>% of households led by women</p>	<p>271,243 ha.</p> <p>b) 3 good practices applied in 30% of the target areas</p> <p>470 people</p> <p>(30% of households are led by women)</p>	<p>- In LoA 04/2022 executed by ACB are being implemented in the areas of intervention agroforestry systems (SAF) - 7 hectares.</p> <p>30 people</p> <p>66% of households with implemented areas are headed by women</p>	<p>The implementation of LoA 04/2022 with ACB began in the second half of 2022 and is still being implemented. It was the only strategy implemented in the period.</p> <p>The fulfilment of the planned annual targets will occur from the execution of the new Letters of Agreement (Araripe, Seridó, Xingó and Uauá Territories) from the second half of 2023.</p>
Output 1.1.1 GIRN best practices identified, assessed and replicated at the property and landscape level	<p>a) % of the project intervention areas in which best practices have been implemented</p> <p>b) 10 sites of good practice for up-scaling are identified</p> <p>c) 3 good practices: i) sustainable production of non-timber forest and agricultural products; (ii) forest and landscape restoration; and (iii) sustainable management of natural resources.</p>	<p>a) Best practices evaluated at 904,142 ha</p> <p>b) 4 Good practice sites for up-scaling are identified</p> <p>c) 3 good practices: i) sustainable production of non-timber forest and agricultural products; (ii) forest and landscape restoration; and (iii) sustainable management of natural resources.</p>	<p>Implementation of best practices with agroforestry systems in six areas in the territory of Araripe, municipality of Crato (7 ha)</p>	<p>The implementation of LoA 04/2022 with ACB began in the second half of 2022 and is still being implemented.</p> <p>The fulfillment of the planned annual targets will occur from the execution of the new Letters of Agreement (Araripe, Seridó, Xingó and Uauá Territories) from the second half of 2023.</p>

⁸ Outputs as described in the Project Logframe or in any approved design review.

⁹ Use the same unit of measure as the project indicators according to the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Work Plan. Please be concise (maximum one or two short sentences with key accomplishments).

¹⁰ Variance refers to the difference between expected progress and actual progress at the time of the report.

<p>Output 1.1.2 GIRN NWFPs incorporated into government programs and projects and local agribusiness</p>	<p>Increase in products purchased by PAA (National School Purchasing Program)/PNAE (National School Feeding Program) (20%)</p>	<p>No target set for the period</p>	<p>No breakthroughs</p>	<p>Only initiatives that are producing food can be included in the two government procurement programs. This has not yet occurred with REDESER's actions.</p>
<p>Outcome 1.1.3 - Ability to identify, evaluate, and promote strengthened GIRN systems in state departments and agencies</p>	<p>a) 1 set of guidelines developed for the identification and evaluation of GIRN systems b) 100 technicians prepared to use the guidelines</p>	<p>No target set for the period</p>	<p>In the seminars promoted by APNE under the Letter of Agreement 02/2022 we had the participation of representatives of state departments and agencies in two seminars</p>	<p>1) Virtual Seminar for presentation and discussion of the results of the Caatinga Forest Management Network (RMFC) – In all, 33 institutions registered presence, totalling 89 people. 2) Virtual Seminar on the Diagnosis of Sustainable Forest Management Plans of the Caatinga – The participation in the Seminar reached a significant number of institutions and participants totalling 33 people. This demonstrates the interest in the technical-scientific findings of research on sustainable forest management of the Caatinga. Participants were 15 federal, 06 state and 01 municipal institutions. In addition, we had the presence of 10 non-governmental organizations (NGOs).</p>
<p>Result 2.1 - The forest area under MFS was increased</p>	<p># of hectares providing sustained flow of services in forest ecosystems in drylands a) Area covered by forest management plans b) with conservation and valorization of forest carbon through the MFS BD-2 iii): Specific management practices that integrate BD: a) MFS Plans DL-2 ii): Full spatial coverage of MFS practices and technologies</p>	<p>309,031 ha Another 4,000 ha. with MFS plans</p>	<p>From the LoA 02/2022 that is being executed by the Association Plants of the Northeast (APNE) in its product 08: Report with identification of potential areas for implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Plan - PFMS, guidelines for selection of areas of Sustainable Forest Management - MFS in the creation of corridors, maintenance/recovery of Permanent Preservation Areas - APPs in the priority area of Seridó and evaluation of the implementation of 1,000 ha of sustainable management of multiple use; the reactivation of 3 PMFS in the state of Rio Grande do Norte was articulated, of which two</p>	<p>The reactivation is being monitored by the technical responsible and the resumption of these three PMFS will mean an increase of 1,283 ha of MFS in the region. However, it should be noted that the reactivation and elaboration of new PMFS depends on multiple factors that go beyond the governance of the project.</p>

			are already in progress and another depending on articulation with a ceramic production company.	
Output 2.1.1 - Innovative small- and large-scale MFS practices identified, evaluated and replicated in selected experimental forest management areas	<p>a) 6 Demonstration areas with selected MFS practices</p> <p>b) 15,000 ha with MFS</p>	We have identified 26 potential areas to implement MFS in the Seridó Region	In relation to the Seridó Territory, 26 new potential areas for Sustainable Forest Management Plans (PMFS) were identified	Of these, 8 showed interest in the activity, but depend on some conditions for its implementation, which were identified in the CdA of APNE. Available, low price for firewood. The CoA for the Territory of the Seridó will include elements to overcome these challenges.
Output 2.1.2 -Support for the development of MFS production chains for Multiple Use	2 MFS plans multiple use with PFM in the Araripe APA (APA) and buffer areas of the São Francisco MONAT (Natural Monuments - MONAT)	<p>- Best practices identified and proposed for 2 selected sites (1 for each target area: Araripe and Xingó)</p> <p>- 1 MFS plan for multiple use with PFM in implementation (1 in each target area)</p>	No progress	MONAT is still in the process of implementation and consolidation
Output 2.1.3 - Guidelines for developed MFS practices and monitoring of locally implemented protocols	<p>a) Technical guidelines</p> <p>b) 100 forest officers and agency using the guidelines</p>	<p>a) Set of guidelines with recommendations for the elaboration and implementation of MFS, and protocols for monitoring MFS plans</p> <p>b) 20 forest officers aware of the guidelines for developing, implementing and monitoring MFS plans</p>	From the CoD 02/2022 that is being executed by the Association Plants of the Northeast (APNE) in its product 05: Report with the most current results of the experimentation of forest management of the Caatinga and manual with technical guidelines for the implementation of the MFS of the Caatinga, including types of cutting and cutting cycle; A technical-scientific document was elaborated from the most recent and most complete analyses of the results of the experimental units. This technical report offers the most current conclusions and recommendations on a diversity of	A manual was elaborated from this consultancy that is currently in the phase of adjustments and revisions of the final version

			<p>aspects linked to the MFS of the Caatinga.</p> <p>The conclusions and technical recommendations for management will support the development of a guide that will support the implementation of public policies related to Sustainable Forest Management Plans.</p>	
<p>Outcome 3.1 - Improvement of seed and seedling production capacity to support the restoration of degraded forests and lands in ASD</p>	<p>Restoration with native species</p>	<p>10,000 ha under restoration with native species</p>	<p>Preliminary progress has already been made from LoA 04/2022 executed by ACB with the implementation of a restoration process in 7 ha</p> <p>The implementation of the Agroforestry Systems Demonstration Unit (UDSA) was one of the first activities carried out.</p>	
<p>Production 3.1.1 - Small owners and public nurseries in legalized ARD with improved production of seeds and native seedlings</p>	<p>35 nurseries registered</p>	<p>Evaluation of existing tree seed nurseries in the target areas</p>	<p>From the LoA 02/2022 that is being executed by the Association Plants of the Northeast (APNE) in its product 02 was presented an evaluation of the scenario of seeds and nurseries and a proposal of strategic actions to be taken in the five target areas of the project. This report presents a diagnosis and characterization of the scenario of seeds, seedlings and nurseries in the semiarid region. It generated a series of recommendations that can subsidize future training on this topic. In addition to a list of seed collectors and seedling nurseries in the northeast region of the country.</p>	<p>It is in the process of negotiating with the Ministry of Agriculture a training for registration of nurseries in the National System of Seeds and Seedlings (SNSM)</p>
<p>Output 3.1.2 - Collectors and nurseries trained and registered in the</p>	<p>a) Staff capacity level work in nurseries (1600 employees) with at least mid-level capabilities)</p>	<p>Staff capacity assessment of tree nurseries and seed collectors</p>	<p>From the LoA 02/2022 that is being executed by the Association Plants of the Northeast (APNE) in one of</p>	<p>The results generated by this consultancy and which deals with the situation of the nurseries in the territories are being evaluated by the coordination</p>

<p>National System of Seeds and Seedlings (SNSM)</p>	<p>b) Capacity-building materials prepared and adapted to ASD and the local social context. Modular training courses for seed collectors and developed day care workers.</p>	<p>At least 1 training in seed processing and nursery</p>	<p>its products was carried out a diagnosis of the regional scenario of supply of seeds and native seedlings. It demonstrates the current situation of the forest seed network of the Caatinga; the characterization of the actors in the collection of seeds and production of native seedlings in the Northeast and deals with the training needs of collectors and nurserymen.</p>	<p>of the project in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment and from this carry out an update of the data of the nurseries and identify which nurseries have conditions of sustainability</p>
<p>Outcome 3.1.3 Guidelines for forest and land restoration practices in ARD developed and adopted by stakeholders</p>	<p>Guidelines developed and adopted for Brazil based on FAO's global guidelines</p>	<p>No target set for the period</p>	<p>No progress</p>	
<p>Outcome 3.2 - Forest connectivity sites have been defined, sustainably managed and restored</p>	<p>1. Carbon stored in forest ecosystems and emissions avoided by deforestation and forest degradation of this project (Direct useful life): a) Conservation and increase of carbon in forests b) Avoided deforestation and forest degradation</p>	<p>a) 146,400 ton CO₂eq b) Direct impact: additional 174,055 ton CO₂eq and indirect impact: additional 618,087 ton CO₂eq</p>	<p>No progress</p>	
<p>Outcome 3.2.1 - Appropriate sites for forest restoration and connectivity are identified and work plans drawn up using adapted and cost-effective restoration techniques</p>	<p>Number of hectares with restored forest connectivity (30,000 ha selected with restoration plans in place)</p>	<p>Selected area and restoration plans developed Area with restoration plan in progress</p>	<p>No progress</p>	
<p>Result 3.2.2 - Participatory projects for the recovery of degraded lands and</p>	<p>Number of local projects prepared for financing (8 projects in 15,000 ha prepared and negotiated with the MMA and national banks)</p>	<p>No target set for the period</p>	<p>Not applicable - N/A</p>	

improvement of productive landscapes and land use practices				
Result 4.1 - Improvement of the capacity of the main state and municipal institutions on DL and desertification	# staff with improved capabilities at local level # of knowledge management networks in ASD	The capacities of the 270 employees are evaluated Capacity development plan based on prepared needs assessment Projects related to DL and identified and related desertification issues	Two webinars were held on this theme with the participation of technicians from the national and subnational governments	The previous PIR described a set of trainings carried out from partnerships between the Ministry of the Environment and FAO. Already in this current PIR the set of webinars and trainings carried out were originated from Letters of Agreement implemented by REDESER.
Outcome 4.1.1 - Strengthening learning networks and actions by facilitating exchanges on the ground in the ELD	a) # of the actions (38 articles elaborated, 12 courses and 24 workshops executed, 270 multiplier agents trained) b) Sustained flow of adequate information on best practices c) An online network/database developed for the exchange of information, knowledge and projects relevant to DSA issues	a) 2 seminars	- The webinar WOCAT: Introduction to the Global Database on Best Practices in Sustainable Land Management (GST) was held on May 31, 2023 - And two virtual seminars were held by APNE as part of the deliveries of LoA 02/2022. The first was held on 05/23/2023: "Virtual Seminar on the Diagnosis of Sustainable Forest Management Plans of the Caatinga" and the second on 05/30/2023: Virtual Seminar on the results of 40 years of experimentation of the Caatinga Forest Management Network – RMFC	
Outcome 4.2 - Policymakers and farmers, the private sector and education stakeholders are better informed about MFS, FLR, GIRN and	Availability of good quality materials locally	No target set for the period	No progress	

biodiversity conservation				
Output 4.2.1 - Guidance and summaries on best practices and lessons learned related to MFS, FLR and GIRN in ARD prepared	# of informative materials (1 folder, 5 videos, 48 radio spots and 1 event)	- 1 Communication plan - 4 instructional videos on topics related to the scope of the project - 1 folder about the project - Media database with images and videos - 1 bulletin	In LoA 04/2022 with ACB we are creating a bank of images and videos for each product delivered. There will be five products and each one will have a folder with the images and videos referring to the products	For the second half of 2023, the review and reformulation of the communication plan carried out in July 2022 is planned, in order to adapt it to the new goals of the LoA signed and to the fulfilment of the pending demands. It will also be carried out the planning of activities and preparation of new communication products for internal and external audiences.
Result 4.2.2 - Academic community in ARD committed against LD and desertification	a) # of publication (5000 booklets, 5 books with new edition) b) # of disseminated booklets (Publication and distribution of booklets and books through partnerships (PRONATEC ¹⁵ , RENASEM ¹⁶)/9 events with family farmers)	No target set for the period	N/A	
Result 4.2.3 - Raising awareness of sustainable forest restoration in the DRA	# of events to improve communication about MFS and FLR in ASD (7 events and 1 radio programs for each target area)	No target set for the period	N/A	
Result 5.1 - Synergy established with complementary initiatives to promote sustainable management and the benefits of restoration at the landscape level	# of initiatives with established collaboration	Interaction with 10 key initiatives	Two collaborations were made with the institutions: i) Associação Plantas do Nordeste (APNE), ii) Serviço Florestal Brasileiro (SFB)	Still in the process of articulating the identification of synergies with the following institutions: i) National Institute of the Semiarid, ii) Araripe Foundation, iii) Government of the State of Rio Grande do Norte. We have an opportunity to resume and strengthen now the articulations with the organs of the Federal Government, including with states, municipalities and civil society organizations, from a coordination of the Ministry of the Environment and the inclusion of the agenda of the fight against desertification and land degradation, in agendas related to the environment and sustainable development
Result 5.1.1 - Effective collaboration with complementary initiatives	a) # of initiatives with established collaboration (30 initiatives)	a) Identification of updated initiatives and ways to implement synergies	NA	

	b) # of jointly formulated work plans (12 annual work plans)			
Result 5.2 - Project implemented with results-based management and application of project results and lessons learned	Project delivery complies with FAO-GEF reporting requirements	1 Annual Work Plan 2 Project Progress Reports (PPR) 1 Project Implementation Report (PIR)	2 Project Progress Reports (PPR) 1 Project Implementation Report (PIR)	
Output 5.2.1 - Project Monitoring System that provides information on the progress made in achieving project results and goals	M&E system established and fully operational	M&A established and fully operational Indicators chosen and added to the annual work plan	No progress	
Results 5.2.2 - Mid-term and final evaluation carried out, best practices and lessons learned from the project published and disseminated	The results of the project are monitored annually and disseminated	1 Project Steering Committee Mid-term assessment	We had no meeting of the Steering Committee of the project in this period. The Midterm Evaluation of the project was initiated and for this in the first half of 2023 terms of reference were drawn up for the hiring of two evaluators for the execution of this evaluation. Subsequently, they were contracted with the support of FAO's regional office and began the evaluation work, which should be completed by July 2023.	A meeting is planned for the second half of 2023 with the Project Steering Committee

4. Summary of progress and ratings

Provide a summary paragraph about the progress, challenges, and results of the project implementation, consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (maximum 400 words)

In March 2023, the Ministry of the Environment recreated the Directorate for Combating Desertification, as well as appointing a new director of the area. This team has played a key role in resuming dialogue with institutional actors of the federal government and civil society organizations and will soon initiate a dialogue with subnational governments as well.

In the period of coverage of this PIR, we had the execution of two Letters of Agreement and that were extremely valid for the development of actions that will support the next activities of REDESER. The studies elaborated from the Letter of Agreement with the Plants Association of the Northeast (APNE), were of great importance for the creation of a set of scientific information, on the sustainable forest management of the Caatinga, and how to boost improvements in this management of the forest resources of the biome; in addition, it was fundamental for the realization of a broad diagnosis on the priority territories that the REDESER project should support interventions. This Charter had an investment of R\$ 479,029.00.

Another advance identified is the actions that are under development from the Charter of Agreement with the Basic Christian Association in the Araripe territory. The total value of this Letter of Agreement is R\$ 420,043.10. It was possible to implement a strategy of good practices of integrated management of natural resources in productive landscapes of the Caatinga, focused on food production and sustainable use of the biome, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life in the socioeconomic and environmental aspects of rural communities of the Chapada do Araripe Environmental Protection Area. From these activities, a Demonstration Unit and five more agroforestry units have already been implemented.

The Letter of Agreement for the development of activities in the priority Territory of Uauá-BA, in the amount of R\$ 1,504,000.00, will be signed in July 2023. This Letter of Agreement aims to expand and improve the supply of goods and services from conservation, sustainable management and recovery in areas susceptible to desertification. The population that will be served with the intervention is composed of a group of traditional peoples and communities, in this case it is a community of Fundo de Pasto.

For three other territories (Seridó, Araripe and Xingó) organizations will be hired for the execution of three Letters of Agreement.

Advances are identified in relation to the implementation of the REDESER Project in the period 2022-2023, but some challenges still remain, such as:

- Low exchange rate of the dollar – the dollar is the reference currency for the REDESER project. In this first half of 2023, the dollar has depreciated against the national currency – the real. Thus, a drop in the value of the dollar can impact on increased costs and the project budget; and
- The non-approval by the National Environment Council of a set of regulations and guidelines that deal with sustainable forest management in the Caatinga.

Development Goal (OD) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings, and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall classifications of DO and IP must be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project outcomes.

	Fiscal Year 2023 Development Goal Classification ¹¹	Fiscal Year 2023 Implementation Progress Ranking ¹²	Comments/reasons ¹³ justifying ratings for fiscal year 2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager/Coordinator	MS	MS	In May 2023, a new technical coordinator for the project was appointed. Despite the short time of activity with REDESER, the coordination of the project has carried out a work in articulation and integration of activities with the technical team of the Ministry of the Environment. The efforts that are being put into practice by the project team, in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, are in order to implement a set of activities and strategic deliveries focused on the effectiveness of the actions of the REDESER project. In this sense, the technical coordination effectively supported the Ministry of the Environment in holding a National Meeting to celebrate the World Cup to Combat Desertification, an event that marked the resumption of the MMA's leading role in the implementation of the National Policy to Combat Desertification as well as the alignment with the UNCCD. In this event we had the opportunity to present to parliamentarians, representatives of subnational governments, representatives of regional universities and social movements; the main actions that REDESER is planning for the year 2023 in its priority territories, from the implementation of Letters of Agreement.
Budget Holder	MS	MS	As demonstrated in the report, the project had difficulties in implementation and execution during the last one-year period. However, there is a clear demonstration and commitment from the current Brazilian government and the preparation of the FAO team to overcome obstacles and complete the project successfully. The implementation strategy through Letters of Agreement, that are in progress and efforts to carry out direct actions in the field, seeking the impact expected by the Project. FAO will intensify monitoring of letters of agreement in the territories supported by the project and, the impacts generated together with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, coordination with subnational governments and other regional actors.

¹¹ **Development Objectives Classification** – A classification of the extent to which a project is expected to meet or exceed its main objectives. For more information on classifications and definitions, see Annex 1.

¹² **Implementation Progress Rating** – A classification of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities conforms to the implementation plan approved by the projects.

. For more information on classifications and definitions, see Annex 1.

¹³ Make sure ratings are evidence-based.

GEF Operational Focal Point¹⁴			
Lead Technical Officer¹⁵	MU	MS	<p>During this period, the re-establishment of the National Department to Combat Desertification in the Ministry of the Environment, the appointment of the National Director and the Technical Coordinator of the project have created encouraging conditions for the implementation of the project, making it possible to streamline processes and advance the implementation of activities and products.</p> <p>In this context, it is clear that the project continues to be aligned with the priorities of the current Brazilian government.</p> <p>Two Letters of Agreement in execution with delivery of products, in addition to a third LoA that will soon start execution, and the agreed Terms of Reference for another three LoAs, address the planned project actions in the priority areas and represent good progress in this period; however, due to the delays and problems that the execution has experienced in these years, relevant outcomes have not yet been achieved.</p> <p>It is expected that the mid-term evaluation, which is currently underway, will generate conclusions and recommendations that will provide feedback and improve the development and sustainability of the project.</p>
Technical Officer GEF, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	MS	MS	<p><i>The project continued to have issues with implementation, but this is expected to change with the government that took office in early 2023 and with the hiring of the new project manager. The LOAs currently under implementation have provided good results and the project team is expected to move ahead with the implementation of the 2023 AWP.</i></p> <p><i>The re-establishment of the National Department to Combat Desertification has brought new energy to the government's desires to meet its commitments under the UNCCD. Brazil's UNCCD Focal Point participated in the Regional Workshop on LDN and is expected to lead a side event at the CRIC. The REDESER project will help build the conditions and provide field data and results to ensure the new vision can be achieved.</i></p> <p><i>FAO is expecting delivery and results to increase during the 2023 calendar year. The Mid Term Review recommends that the project be extended until December 2025 conditional on satisfactory implementation of field activities. In this regard, a supervision mission will be fielded by mid 2024 to evaluate the status of implementation.</i></p>

¹⁴ If the GEF OFP has not provided your comments, please explain why.

¹⁵ LTO will consult the technical head of the headquarters and all other technical support units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (FAO to elaborate)

Describe the progress made towards meeting the approved ESM plan. Please note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved as of June 2015, must have submitted an ESM plan/table with the CEO's endorsement. This does not apply to **low-risk** projects. Indicate if new risks have arisen during this fiscal year.

Social and Environmental Risk Impacts Identified in the CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this exercise	Other measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
SSE 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				
SSE 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
SSE 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
SSE 8: Equality between men and women				
SSE 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this fiscal year				

If the project did not include an ESM Plan in the CEO's approval phase, indicate:

Initial ESS Risk rating (In the project submission)	Current ESS risk rating Indicate whether the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ¹⁶ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Moderate	Moderate

<i>Please let us know if any complaints have been received in accordance with FAO and GEF ESS policies. If so, please indicate how it is/has been addressed.</i>
Not applicable.

6. Risks

The following table summarizes the risks identified in the project document and also reflects any new risks identified during the implementation of the project (including risks related to COVID-19). The last column should be used to provide additional details about the risk manifestation in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk classification	Identified in ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation actions	Advances in mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with the Project Management Unit
1	Environmental risks: Increased frequency of droughts and drastic reduction of rainfall.	H	Y	The project will introduce best practices for the conservation of soil moisture and water accumulation through the installation of underground dams	Up-to-date landscape analysis and selection of GIRN tool/methodology criteria for each TA will	The planning of the activities is considering the analysis of the landscape so that the

¹⁶ **Important:** if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has been changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project must prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (SME) or other ESS management tools and instruments based on the new risk classification (see page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>).

	<p>The sequence of events related to climate change affects the target population.</p>			<p>and surface water collection systems and dissemination of systems that favour water penetration in regional soil structure conditions.</p> <p>Other preventive or mitigating actions are planned to support initiatives focused on climate-resilient agriculture, diversification of family farming initiatives for food security, including the distribution and production of traditional seeds with greater resilience to the effects of climate change, and the introduction of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems compatible with semi-arid environments.</p> <p>The project will use forms of participatory planning to deal with climate uncertainty, supporting seminars to exchange experiences on practices suitable for crops in the semiarid region.</p>	<p>support project planning to minimize this risk</p>	<p>field actions can be better executed</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Increased forest fragmentation in selected areas.</p> <p>Increasing pollution of water resources due to unsustainable land and forest management practices.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The project will promote best practices in sustainable land management and the adoption of sustainable forest management. As for the maintenance of the productive mosaics of the landscape, the project will contribute to the training of the teams of the state environmental agencies for the implementation of the National Rural Registry</p>	<p>The updated analysis of the scenario and the selection of criteria of GIRN tools/methodologies for each TA will support the promotion of the most appropriate practices for each case</p>	<p>The main areas to be connected will be identified for each target area in a more detailed planning based on landscape analysis</p>

				(CAR) and the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA) in line with the New Brazilian Forest Code, ensuring compliance with the requirements of Permanent Preservation Areas (APP) and Legal Reserve (RL).		
3	Increased agribusiness pressure resulting in increasing deforestation of forests in vulnerable transition areas	H	Y	The project will expand the actions supported by the international cooperation agreement, promoting training and institutional strengthening in 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 teams of the agencies for the understanding and adoption of the MFS as an alternative to the total removal of vegetation for alternative land uses.	The updated landscape analysis provided a better understanding of the current situation of each TA. The pressure from agribusiness will be evaluated for the implementation of practices based on the updated diagnosis.	The Brazilian Government will publish regulations that will standardize the procedures for the approval, implementation and monitoring of MFS plans in the Northeast region. This should facilitate the implementation of MFS and state agencies should be able to promote MFS as an alternative to removing vegetation for alternative land uses, including agribusiness.
4	Institutional/financial risk: Participating entities do not meet financial commitments	M	Y	The project has so far failed to enable an effective co-financing strategy. To this end, dialogue with a set of institutional actors and civil society organizations is being resumed in order to ensure compliance with the commitments between the project and the various partners.	Dialogues and articulations with the old partners are being resumed, as well as the identification of new actors that can support the project in an effective co-financing strategy	The MMA together with FAO are mapping possible partners that can contribute both in the implementation of activities and in the co-financing and implementation of strategies

				<p>For this it is being articulated so that these organizations can sign letters of adhesion and define their roles as partners of the project.</p> <p>In addition to co-financing, an eminent risk is related to the oscillation of the dollar against the Brazilian currency (Real).</p>		
5	Institutional instability	M	N	<p>Institutional structure that ensures the technical execution of project actions and the strengthening of partnerships</p>	<p>A new MMA technical team took over in March 2023. The Ministry's Anti-Desertification Department was recreated. The new managers and the technical team have already shown a great interest in the resumption of the implementation strategies in an effective way of the project.</p>	<p>FAO is in close cooperation with the new MMA team and has been able to work in partnership and focused on the implementation of the project's strategic actions</p>
6	<p>The non-approval by the National Environment Council of a set of regulations and guidelines that deal with sustainable forest management in the Caatinga</p>	M	N	<p>Inclusion of regulations as a priority subject for discussion at the next meetings of the National Environment Council.</p> <p>Presentation to the full members of the National Council for the Environment on the negative impacts of the non-approval of the norms that will cause serious difficulties for the implementation of the MFS since we will not have</p>	<p>The Department of Combating Desertification of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is already in negotiation with the Minister's Office requesting the prioritization of these regulations for the next meetings of the</p>	

				regulations and guidelines on this topic.	National Environment Council	
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Overall project risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial, or High):

Fiscal Year 2022 Classification	Fiscal Year 2023 Classification	Comments/reason for classification for fiscal year 2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	M	<p>In the first half of 2023, changes occurred in the technical teams of the project at both FAO and the Ministry of the Environment. These two teams have carried out an important articulation focused on the integration of actions, the planning of the next activities and the definition of the main strategies for the effective monitoring of the project.</p> <p>There is still a challenge regarding the co-financing of the project, which is being resumed the dialogue with various political, institutional and civil society organizations.</p>

7. Follow-up of the mid-term review or supervisory mission (only for projects that have carried out an MTR)

If the project has an MTR or oversight mission, report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year, as indicated in the Management Response or oversight mission report.

MTR or supervisory mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation.....	
Recommendation.....	

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If so, please summarize	
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8. Minor design changes

Small changes are changes in the design or implementation of the project that have no significant impact on the objectives or scope of the project, or an increase in GEF project funding up to 5%, as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines¹⁷. Describe any minor changes introduced by the project to the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents attached to this report, if available.

Change category	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the time of the change	Approved by
Results table	-	-	-
Components and cost	-	-	-
Institutional and implementing provisions	-	-	-
Financial management	-	-	-
Implementation timeline	The end date of the implementation of the project has been extended until December 30, 2024	09 NOV 2022	OCB
Executing entity	-	-	-
Category of executing entity	-	-	-
Minor change in project objective	-	-	-
Safeguards	-	-	-
Risk analysis	-	-	-
Increased funding of GEF projects by up to 5%	-	-	-
Co-funding	-	-	-
Location of the project activity	In the areas of Minas Gerais, no actions were taken and a government position was awaited to identify the priorities of the project. Given the short time we have and the budget and the interest of the current government, we chose to consider the original territorial scope of the project. This decision will be deliberated at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.	Will be discussed at the next meeting of the Steering Committee	-
Other minor design changes (define)	-	-	-

¹⁷ Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

9. Stakeholder Engagement

Report the progress, results, and challenges in stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the stakeholder engagement plan) included in the CEO Endorsement/Approval <u>during this reporting period</u>			
Name of interested parties	Performance in the execution of the project (as presented in ProDoc)	Advances and results in Stakeholder Engagement	Challenges in stakeholder engagement
Government Institutions			
Ministry of the Environment (MMA)	<p>The MMA is one of the main co-founders of the project. The Directorate for Combating Desertification is responsible for the implementation of the National Plan to Combat Desertification, as well as the main government strategies related to the theme of combating desertification. This same department is responsible for the implementation of Brazilian commitments to the UNCCD and is responsible for the design and implementation of public policies to combat desertification and land degradation and conserve biodiversity in territories susceptible to desertification.</p>	<p>In 2023 with the new definition of the structure of the Ministry of the Environment, the Department of Combating Desertification was recreated. The technical team of the board was expanded and the theme of combating desertification became one of the priority agendas of the Ministry of the Environment. The current head of the Directorate for Combating Desertification is the national focal point of the UNCCD.</p>	<p>The commitment of the Ministry of the Environment has been of total integration with the actions of REDESER. We have not been able to identify risks or challenges that could compromise the implementation of the project.</p>
Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio)	<p>ICMBio, a member of the MMA, manages the federal conservation units (Conservation Units) and promotes community development in those that allow sustainable use, as well as research and knowledge, environmental education and ecosystem management. It will support the development of informational materials and training and assist in the training of farmers on the best practices of agroforestry and NMFP production, as well as identify the best alternatives for the recovery</p>	<p>An articulation was made between the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the new leaders of the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) to verify which fronts this government agency can insert itself in the strategies of REDESER. In addition, one of the interventions supported by the project and which is implemented in the territory of Cariri - Ceará; carries out an articulation between its actions with</p>	<p>New contacts should be established to improve the partnership with this stakeholder – forecast August 2023</p>

	of degraded areas providing biological connectivity between forest remnants. It seeks greater integration between protected areas and local communities and society in general.	REDESER and the initiatives of FLONA. Another activity foreseen in the project is totally related to the actions developed by ICMBio, such as support for the development of multi-use MFS production chains.	
Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA)	IBAMA, which is also part of the MMA, will participate in the definition of technical and regulatory frameworks and coordinate with state environmental agencies the internalization of technical standards and the elaboration of appropriate guidelines for environmental monitoring, law enforcement and administrative sanctions, especially with regard to the prevention and control of deforestation and forest fires. The institution will benefit from the best practices and sustainable production standards to be generated by the project and will use them in monitoring and guidance.	The MMA's Directorate for Combating Desertification will resume contacts with IBAMA and identify possible transversalities between the project and the actions implemented by IBAMA	The MMA's Directorate for Combating Desertification will resume contacts with IBAMA and identify possible transversalities between the project and the actions implemented by IBAMA
Brazilian Forest Service (SFB)	The Brazilian Forest Service (SFB) supports forest management activities in the Caatinga and other biomes. It is responsible for the management of national forests (FLONA) such as Araripe, where it can test the results of the project. The SFB is responsible for the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) to enforce the Forest Code and for drafting and coordinating detailed federal and state regulations on its application.	It is an important stakeholder of the project in the Northeast region. This governmental institution has already expressed interest in resuming the articulations for its effective involvement in the actions of the Project. On June 27, 2023, he sent MMA a document appointing a focal point with REDESER.	It has already been identified in the planning of REDESER's activities who, in four initiatives, will be of fundamental importance the articulation of the SFB in these initiatives
Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Agriculture (MDA)	The Ministry is responsible for formulating and implementing public policies aimed at rural and agrarian development in the country. Its main mission is to	That minister was recreated in 2023. A conversation is scheduled with managers of this folder to identify possible adhesions and	The MMA's Directorate for Combating Desertification will resume contacts with the MDA and identify possible transversalities between the

	<p>promote social inclusion and sustainable development of the Brazilian rural environment. Among the main areas of activity of the MDA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrarian Reform • Family Agriculture • Territorial Development • Strengthening of Rural Settlements • National Land Credit Program • The Fight against Rural Poverty <p>The territories in which the REDESER Project is being implemented is one of the priority areas of the country for the implementation of its public policies.</p>	<p>implementations of activities, programs and policies jointly and in tune with REDESER's strategies.</p>	<p>Project and the actions implemented by the Ministry</p>
<p>Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger (MDS)</p>	<p>The Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger was recreated in 2023 and has as main policies the strategies of food and nutritional security, fight against hunger and poverty, rural productive inclusion and water access policies from the implementation of a set of social technologies in the Brazilian semiarid region.</p>	<p>The policies implemented by this ministry are totally related to the actions and activities of REDESER. This agency of the federal government is responsible for the implementation of one of the main strategies of coexistence with the Brazilian semiarid region, which is the Cisterns Program. In addition to this program, it also has a transversality with the government procurement programs (Food Acquisition Program and National School Feeding Program) and that is related to strategic activities of the REDESER Project.</p>	<p>The MMA's Directorate for Combating Desertification will resume contacts with the MDS and identify possible transversalities between the Project and the actions implemented by the Ministry</p>
<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock</p>	<p>The mission of the Ministry is to promote the sustainable development of agricultural production chains, for the benefit of Brazilian society. One of the initiatives of this ministry and that is related to the project the National</p>	<p>Two important activities of the project were identified that need an effective articulation with the Ministry of Agriculture, which is the diagnosis and training for registration of nurseries in the National</p>	<p>The MMA's Directorate for Combating Desertification will resume contacts with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and identify possible transversalities between the Project and the actions implemented by the Ministry</p>

	System of Seeds and Seedlings.	System of Seeds and Seedlings	
Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA)	Embrapa Semi-arid has a performance focused on the sustainability of agricultural production systems in the Brazilian Semiarid, in the areas of rain-dependent agriculture, irrigated agriculture and natural resources. It is one of the institutions that has shown interest in articulating its activities with the actions implemented in the territories of the Brazilian semiarid region.	Embrapa Semi-arid begins to insert itself in the discussions of the resumption of the implementation of the project.	A partnership with Embrapa-Semi-Arid is already under discussion
Ministry of Education (MEC)	The Ministry of Education (MEC) plays a key role in the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) in Brazil. The PNAE is a government program that aims to guarantee the right to adequate and healthy food for students of public basic education. The MEC plays a role of coordination, supervision and technical support in the implementation of the National School Feeding Program. Its goal is to ensure that students in public basic education have access to healthy and quality meals, thus promoting the health and proper development of these students. At least 30% of the resources transferred to the municipalities must be used to purchase products from family farming, stimulating local and regional economic development and reducing extreme poverty. In addition to conventional products, the program also promotes the sustainable use of biodiversity.	The National School Lunch Program (PNAE) can be one of the destinations of the production of rural beneficiaries. The municipalities manage the budget for this program. Local organisations and rural households in the Project Target Areas should be empowered to access the market, including this programme.	The challenge is that the activities developed by REDESER cannot generate production for its insertion in government procurement programs, such as the PNAE

<p>Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MCTI)</p>	<p>The Northeast Regional Center of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, conducts detailed satellite monitoring in the Caatinga that will provide valuable data for the monitoring and evaluation of projects.</p>	<p>The monitoring performed by the MCTI was used to elaborate the landscape analysis of the target areas. Your database will be constantly queried to update the landscape analysis project database.</p>	<p>In the current management of the federal government the articulation with this Ministry has not yet occurred, but an urgent articulation is necessary mainly because some of the organs of this ministry have total relationship with the REDESER project, such as the National Institute of the Semiarid and the National Institute of Space Research. The articulation of REDESER's actions with these institutions is of great importance and should be done as soon as possible. The risks and challenges in relation to this Ministry are minimal since the objectives of REDESER are in line with some of the main projects of this Ministry.</p>
<p>Caixa Econômica Nacional (CEF), Banco do Nordeste (BNB), Banco do Brasil (BB)</p>	<p>These three federal banks grant loans under the National Program for the Strengthening of Family Agriculture (Pronaf). The financing supports agroforestry systems, agroecology, recovery of Legal Reserves (RL) and Permanent Preservation Areas (APP), family farming in general and processing and marketing of agricultural products. The project will seek to promote and adapt credit lines for sustainable forestry activities and operationalize special financing systems for the promotion of MFS and dissemination of good production practices among farmers and wild harvesters and their associations.</p>	<p>These stakeholders are not the focus of engagement. Need for articulation of the MMA with these development banks.</p>	<p>Not raising awareness of the issue of combating desertification</p>
<p>State Environmental Agencies (OEMAs)</p>	<p>Due to decentralization to subnational governments, state environmental agencies are increasingly responsible for the planning and implementation of environmental licensing and</p>	<p>Soon after the signing of each of the Letters of Agreement, in a partnership between the MMA and the technical team of the Project at FAO, meetings will be held</p>	<p>MMA should contact state governments to verify their role in the implementation of the project</p>

	regulation. For this project, they will play a key role in the implementation of state action programs to combat desertification in all states of the ASD (Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte).	with the representatives of the OEMAs of the States in which the projects will be implemented.	
National Institute of the Semi-arid (INSA)	Collaboration with partners in research and teaching institutions will provide support for the implementation of technical assistance in the field, staff training and better awareness of local conditions.	The MMA is in discussion with the INSA technical team for the resumption of the discussions of the national network of researchers working with the theme of combating desertification. The technical team of this national institute has extensive knowledge of the strategic lines of REDESER and has been available to contribute to the project.	Budget cuts that may hinder the implementation of their activities in the territories. The MMA has already initiated a dialogue with this institution for its effective adhesion to the project.
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)			
Semi-arid Network (ASA)	The ASA includes more than 1,000 civil society organizations that advocate the goal of living in harmony with semi-aridity. Implements the "One Million Cisterns" program, which promotes household storage of rainwater for human and productive use. ASA will support the project through: a) dissemination of best production practices in the field; b) capacity building and mobilization of rural communities; c) exchanges with African and Latin American countries.	This institution has a wide capillarity in the semi-arid region and has had good experiences as a co-participant in the implementation of a set of interventions in the area of social technology of coexistence with the semi-arid. In addition, it has a network of organizations that develop activities focused on the theme of coexistence with the semi-arid and climate change.	An articulation has already begun with ASA leaders to re-establish the partnership and define its role in the implementation of the project. It has already been identified in the planning of the next activities the need for the adhesion of the ASA, because in some of these actions it was identified that this entity has good conditions to implement them.
Northeast Plants Association (APNE)	One of the co-financiers, this association promotes sustainable development through the promotion of MFS and greater knowledge about the flora of the Caatinga through the implementation of training courses, field evaluations and studies of ASD environments.	This institution has carried out several studies and diagnoses that have been fundamental for the resumption of the project in several territories of the semi-arid region.	No challenges identified

	The project will work with APNE establishing agreements to support training on seed collection, forest nursery practices, MFS, degraded areas and biological connectivity.		
Araripe Foundation (FA)	The foundation, one of the co-financiers, plays a key role in raising awareness and disseminating information on improving living conditions in the semiarid region. It already implements PFNT production chains in the Crato region, in Ceará. The foundation will support project activities to promote best production practices in ASD, staff training and production of informational materials.	An important and strategic institution to support the execution of activities in the Araripe Region and also throughout the semiarid region. This institution should sign in July 2023 a Letter of Agreement to implement a set of actions in the Region of Uauá – Bahia	No challenges identified
<i>New stakeholders identified/engaged</i>			
The information of new stakeholders, possible partners who can engage and support the project, is in the systematization phase. This work is being carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in partnership with the technical team of the FAO project			

10. Gender mainstreaming

Information on progress on gender-sensitive measures as documented in CEO Endorsement/Approval in the Gender Action Plan or equivalent (where applicable) during this reporting period.

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe the progress and results achieved during this reference period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socioeconomic assessment made at the formulation stage or during execution	Yes	<p>For the implementation of the next Letters of Agreement, an aspect that has been contemplated is the realization of an analysis of gender and youth in territorial strategies. This ensures that the project is inclusive and addresses the specific needs of different layers of the population. For this, the following evaluations are being carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stakeholder involvement: Dialogue with representatives of target groups, civil society organizations and Ministry of the Environment team for an engagement of these political-institutional actors and social actors to support the identification of the main issues, challenges and disparities faced by gender and youth groups in activities focused on area recovery and integrated management of natural resources; 2) Identification of successful experiences in the territories that were contemplated gender and youth strategies in programs and interventions focused on climate change and coexistence with the semi-arid; 3) Articulation with the Gender Focal Point of the FAO Brazil Office to support us in the creation of relevant criteria and key indicators to measure and evaluate gender equity and youth of the REDESER project.
Any gender-sensitive measures to close the gender gap or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	<p>In the three Letters of Agreement that will be launched in the second half of 2023, the strategies for the participation of women and young people have been expanded. Although the project contemplates that 30% of the beneficiaries served are women, for these three Letters this percentage was increased to 50%. The decision was made because in the areas in which the project will be implemented there are already initiatives and interventions that contemplate gender equity and youth.</p> <p>In addition to the change in this percentage, it is also proposed to identify the challenges that still</p>

		persist in the priority territories for a greater inclusion of this population in the strategies of REDESER with a focus on economic empowerment and the productive inclusion of this public. To this end, awareness and training strategies focused on promoting and raising awareness about the importance of gender equity and youth in the project's activities are contemplated.
Indicate in which area(s) of results the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at the design stage of the project):		
a) Bridging the gender gap in access to and control of natural resources	Yes	From the processes of training and training there will be an increase in the participation and involvement of women in access to and control over natural resources
b) Improve women's participation and decision-making	Yes	Women's capacity building will improve participation in decision-making in their communities and in interventions implemented in their territories
c) Generate socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	From the training and training it will be possible in the future to measure possible socioeconomic benefits for the women served by the project
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	A monitoring plan for the project's indicators is being drawn up and gender-related indicators will be monitored
Team with experience in gender	Yes	Ursula Andressa Morais Zacarias Gender Focal Point FAO Brazil
Any other good practices on gender	No	It is not yet possible to measure because the strategies will be implemented later

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities/products (where applicable), as described in the Knowledge Management Approach approved in the CEO Endorsement/Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
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 with the project so far.	As a knowledge management strategy the project will use the WOCAT platform. To this end, it has already made a request to the managers of the platform for translation into Portuguese of the form for the insertion of good practices. From this in the monitoring visits to the projects, those responsible for the implementations in the territories will be trained to insert the experiences in the platform. From there, knowledge will be shared between professionals, experts and decision-makers involved in the sustainable management of the land from the REDESER project. It will be resumed from August 2023, within the event Semi-arid Show, the resumption of the national network of researchers and scholars on the fight against desertification.
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of communication successes and challenges this year .	For the second half of 2023, the review and reformulation of the communication plan carried out in July 2022 is planned, in order to adapt it to the new goals of the LoA signed and to the fulfilment of the pending demands. It will also be carried out the planning of activities and preparation of new communication products for internal and external audiences. Need for rebranding: Creation of visual identity and definition of editorial line that adapts the various contents of partners to the key messages of the project and the planned models. Analysis and organization of the material already delivered, monitoring of the production processes and validation of products elaborated by the MMA and technical responsible.
Please share a human interest story of your project, focusing on how the project helped improve people's livelihoods, contributing to achieving the expected global environmental benefits. Please indicate any socio-economic co-benefits that have been generated by the project. Include at least one quote and perspective of the beneficiary, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	IN
Please provide links to the related website, social media account	FAO Brazil's tweeter account, @FAOBrasil, publishes news of many projects, including REDESER.
Provide a list of publications, brochures, video materials, newsletters, or other communication assets published on the Web.	The LoA between FAO and APNE was news on the FAO Brazil website: https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1476372/

Indicate the name and contact details of the communication and/or knowledge management focal point	Pereira, Danielle (FAOBR) GEF Project Communicator <i>Email: danielle.pereira@fao.org</i>
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12. Involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (according to the approved Project Document)? If so, please explain briefly.

The project does not involve indigenous communities, but is part of a strategy to serve local communities. Specifically for the implementation of the Letter of Agreement of the Uauá Territory in Bahia, the public served represents a group of traditional peoples and communities: Pasture Fund.

This public is characterized by a group of socio-environmental communities that have an ancestral and sustainable relationship with the territory in which they live. Their territories are collective, the families living in these areas have relations of kinship and solidarity, sharing work, natural resources and traditional knowledge. These communities have a strong connection to the land and depend on it for their livelihood and maintenance of their cultural traditions. Pasture funds are characterized by the practice of sustainable management of natural resources, such as the rotation of pasture areas and the preservation of water resources. In addition to raising cattle, these communities are also engaged in subsistence agriculture, the extraction of non-timber forest products and other complementary activities, such as the production of handicrafts.

13. Co-financing framework

Sources of co-financing ¹⁸	Name of the Co-funder	Type of co-financing ¹⁹	Value Confirmed in CEO Endorsement/Approval	Actual value materialized as of June 30, 2023	Actual Value Materialized in the Medium Term or Closing (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Total disbursement expected by the end of the project
Civil society	AGENDHA - Advisory and Management in Nature Studies, Human Development and Agroecology	In Kind	160,000		N/A	160,000
Civil society	APNE - Association of Northeast Power Plants	In Kind	160,000	152,782	N/A	160,000
State Government	CEPIS - Technological Park Foundation of Paraíba	In Kind	533,333		N/A	533,333
Civil society	FA - Araripe Foundation	In Kind	160,000		N/A	160,000
United Nations	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	In Kind	200,000	81,000	N/A	200,000
State Government	FUNETEC - Foundation for Technological and Cultural Education	In Kind	800,000		N/A	800,000
Civil society	IABS - Brazilian Institute of Sustainability and Development	In Kind	266,666		N/A	266,666
Civil society	ICRAF - World Agroforestry Centre	In Kind	100,000		N/A	100,000
Federal government	INSA - National Institute of the Semi-arid	In Kind	1,333,333		N/A	1,333,333
Federal government	MDA - Ministry of Agrarian Development	In Kind	3,360,000		N/A	3,360,000

¹⁸Sources of co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Beneficiary Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Others.

¹⁹Grant, Loan, Capital Investment, Guarantee, In Kind, Public Investment, Others (see *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf

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Federal government	MMA - Ministry of the Environment	In Kind	1,866,667		N/A	1,866,667
State Government	SEAFDS - Secretary of Agriculture 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 - Secretary of Environment of Paraíba	In Kind	800,000		N/A	800,000
Municipal Government	SEMA – Secretariat of Environment of Crato	In Kind	533,334		N/A	533,334
State Government	SEMARH - Secretary of Environment of Alagoas	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	In Kind	2,666,667		N/A	2,666,667
TOTAL			15,766,666	233,782	-	USD 15,766,666

Explain any significant changes in project co-financing since the signing of the project document, or differences between anticipated and actual disbursement rates?

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Classification of development objectives. A classification of the extent to which a project is expected to meet or exceed its main objectives.	
Highly Satisfying (HS)	The project is expected to meet or exceed all of its major global environmental objectives and produce substantial global environmental benefits without major deficiencies. The project can be presented as "good practice"
Satisfactory(S)	The project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives and produce satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor deficiencies
Moderately Satisfactory (SM)	The project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives , but with significant shortcomings or modest global relevance. The project is not expected to achieve some of its key global environmental objectives or produce some of the expected global environmental benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major deficiencies or to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	The project is not expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives or produce any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (UH)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environmental goals without worthwhile benefits

Implementation progress rating. A classification of the extent to which the execution of the components and activities of a project conforms to the approved project execution plan.	
Highly Satisfying (HS)	The implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be considered as "good practice"
Satisfactory(S)	The implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan, except for only a few that are subject to corrective action
Moderately Satisfactory (SM)	The implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan, with some components requiring corrective action
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan, with most components requiring corrective action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	The implementation of most components does not substantially conform to the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (UH)	The implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

The risk rating. will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project that may affect the execution or prospects of achieving the project objectives. The risk of the projects should be classified on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a greater than 75% probability that the assumptions will not hold up or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial risk(S)	There is a 51% to 75% probability that the assumptions will not hold up or materialize, and/or the project could face substantial risks

Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability between 26% and 50% that the assumptions will not hold up or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that the assumptions will not hold up or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks