

FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2025 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

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IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:

The final version of this PIR will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

The report will then be publicly available on the GEF website (click here).

Sensitive information should be submitted in Annex to be uploaded separately.

In such cases, please contact faogef-pir-support@fao.org for guidance.

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)
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
Type of Trust Fund(s):	GFF
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity, Land Degradation, MFA, Sustainable Forest Managment
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):	Four years

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	09/05/2016
Actual Agency Approval Date	28/06/2016
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD:	19/01/2018
First Disbursement Date	19/02/2018
Planned Project End Date/NTE1:	28/02/2022
Revised project implementation End date (if approved)2:	30/12/2025
Actual Completion Date:	n/a
Expected Financial Closure Date:	30/12/2026

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	\$ 3,930,155.00
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2025 (USD):	\$ 3,058,997.78
Total Co-financing amount (USD)3:	\$ 15,766,666.00
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2025:	\$ 6,291,627.00

M & E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	10 December 2023
Expected Mid-term Review date:	n/a
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	28/08/2023
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date6:	30/06/2025

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/outcomes (cumulative):	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
Overall implementation progress rating:	Satisfactory (S)
Overall risk rating:	Moderate

Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	7th PIR
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2 If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

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

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

5 The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

6 The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Antonio Manoel Timbó Lima Gomes	Manoel.Timbo@fao.org
Budget Holder (BH)	Jorge Alberto Meza Robayo	jorge.meza@fao.org
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Livia Farias Ferreira de Oliveira	livia.oliveira@fazenda.gov.br
Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Andrea Jéssica Casaza	jessica.casaza@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer (GTO)	Hernán González	hernan.gonzalez@fao.org

Key Project Management Unit Personnel

Please indicate the composition of the PMU as per the Terms of Reference in the ProDoc. If any new position was established during the project implementation, please insert it accordingly.

Position planned (as per ProDoc)	Position filled (Yes/No)	Start date, Name, Contact	Comments
Project Coordinator (PC)	Yes	Antonio Manoel Timbo Lima Gomes manoel.timbo@fao.org	Has been serving in the role since May 2023
Position planned (as per ProDoc)	Yes	Jéssica Airisse Guimarães Sampaio jessica.sampaio@fao.org	Has been serving in the role since April 2025

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development objective)

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

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.								
Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress level at 30 June 2025	% of cumulative progress	Progress rating
Project Objectives: 1. To halt and reverse environmental degradation in areas susceptible to desertification (ASD), ensuring the flow of ecosystem services, promoting integrated natural resource management, generating environmental benefits, and contributing to poverty reduction; and 2. To expand and improve the provision of goods and services from sustainable management and the restoration of dry forest landscapes and agroforestry production.	Outcome 1 The Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) has been mainstreamed and scaled up at the landscape level.	Number of hectares where INRMis adopted and integrated		0 271,243 hectares	904,142 hectares	1.232.642 hectares - Although some initiatives are still in the implementation phase, the adoption of sustainable practices has been completed in all 14 municipalities of the priority area, covering a total of 904,142 hectares — 100% of the initially established target. During the process, it was identified that the territorial scope in the State of Bahia needed to be expanded, as it had until then included only the municipality of Uauá. With the inclusion of Monte Santo, the total area under GIRN adoption and integration rose to 1,232,642 hectares, representing 136.33% of the planned target.	136.33%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
		Number of INRM tools and methodologies introduced		3 good practices applied in 30% of target areas	3 INRM practices applied in 100% of the target areas and disseminated in the activities carried out	5 - In all four priority territories, at least three INRM practices have been applied to 100 % of the target areas, with dissemination actions—through Demonstration Units and Sustainable Use Plans—ensuring that the techniques are integrated into the daily routines of family farmers. Territory Araripe - Agroforestry Systems – 6 Demonstration Units. Territory Uauá / Bahia - Agroforestry Systems – 6 agro-systems in Demonstration Units, Silvopastoral Systems– 12 units employing thinning, pruning and enrichment techniques, Loose-Stone Successive Dams ("Barragens Base Zero – BBZ") – 5 dams on drainage lines, Beekeeping– 3 Demonstration Units, Stingless Beekeeping – 4 Demonstration Units, Sustainable and Potential Use Plans – 14 plans developed for 14 communities (7 in Uauá and 7 in Monte Santo), covering approximately 16 000 ha Each partner community received at least three of the listed practices, covering 100 % of the target areas and incorporating them into training sessions and field manuals. Territory Xingó - Rock-Edged Barrages ("Barrocais")– 14 units for cultivation in socio-biodiversity alluvial plains, Caatinga Restoration – planting seedlings in Permanent Preservation Areas All 14 focus communities received both practices, ensuring environmental restoration and extension of techniques in 100 % of the target areas. Territory Seridó - Forage Agroforestry Systems – Demonstration Units focused on animal feed production, Apicultural Pasture Systems– integration of beekeeping into pasture lands, Beekeeping – units for honey production * **Stingless Beekeeping** – units for production of native-bee honey > Each community adopted at least three of these practices across their target areas, with knowledge exchange facilitated through local fairs and technical materials.	100.00%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
		Number of small producers with growing and diversified production based on GIRN		470 people trained	1,567 people	967 people have been trained, achieving 61.7% of the planned target. It is important to emphasize that, in all activities carried out by REDESER, training strategies have been applied transversally, aiming not only at land restoration and the implementation of sustainable practices, but also at strengthening climate-resilient agriculture.	61.70%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)

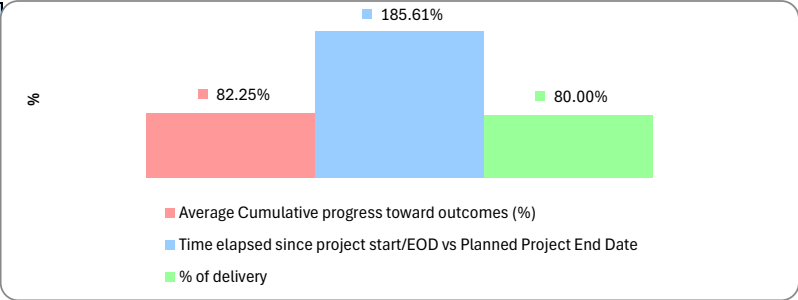
		% of small farms managed by a woman	30% of the 470 smallholders are women	30% of small farms are managed by a woman	48.9 - In the Araripe territory, since the establishment of the agroforestry units, 66.6% of the farms are managed by women. In some cases, they do not formally hold the land title, but their role as managers has been decisive for the success of the activities. The agreement for this intervention was finalized in 2023, and to this day the agroforestry systems remain fully operational under their management. In Uauá (BA), the communal pasture areas do not allow for individual management measurement, but women are actively involved in all production stages and community administration. Many hold leadership positions in local associations and cooperatives; for example, the current president of COOPERCUC is a woman, demonstrating progress in female representation. In the Xingó territory, 50% of the implemented units are managed by women, indicating a balanced distribution of responsibilities. In the Seridó territory, 30% of the areas where the project operates are under female management, exactly meeting the target set for this indicator. Considering only these three territories, the average rate of female management is approximately 48.9%. In Uauá, although no exact percentage is available, women's strong participation and leadership suggest that it also approaches or exceeds the 30% threshold. Therefore, the overall target has been met, with an average of about 49% in the areas measured.	100.00%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
	Outcome 2 Forest areas under multi-purpose Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) have been increasing	Numbers of hectares providing sustained flow of services in dryland forest ecosystems	309,031 ha.	618,062 ha of forest area (85% of forest cover in the project area)	32134.8 hectares - To date, the REDESER project has reached a total of 16,645.8 hectares under direct intervention with sustainable practices through actions implemented in the Uauá (BA) territory, carried out by Fundação Araripe under the framework of the signed Agreement. A total of 300 hectares under management has already been implemented in the Xingó (AL) territory, where a strategy is being executed for the management of productive units in a sociobiodiversity crop consortium system for animal feed. Sustainable Forest Management Plans are being implemented in the Araripe and Seridó territories, totaling 7,200 hectares under management across both areas. With co-financing from Fundação Araripe's Sustainable Rural Project, the Araripe territory has 7,989 hectares under management.	5.19%	Unsatisfactory (U)
	Outcome 3.1 Improved seed production capacity to support the recovery of degraded land in Areas Susceptible to Desertification (ARD)	Seed production capacity improved seedlings to support the recovery of degraded land in Areas at Risk of Desertification (ARD)	10,000 ha being restored with native species	30,000 ha being restored with native species	3909 hectares - To date, the project has supported the recovery of degraded lands in the Areas Susceptible to Desertification (ARD) by restoring 2,609 hectares in the Uauá (BA) territory. One of the strategies employed the Agrocaatinga model, focused on reestablishing Caatinga vegetation with native species such as mandacaru, caatinga passion fruit, and umbu; in the Araripe territory, an initial 7 hectares were established under Agroforestry Systems in Demonstration Units; in Xingó, the RAMPAS strategy—Agroecological Reserves of Mandacarus, Palms, and other socio-biodiversity forage species—has already covered 300 hectares; and in Seridó, agroforestry interventions with forage species and apiary pasture native to the Caatinga are underway over 100 hectares. With co-financing from the Araripe Foundation, an additional 893 hectares of degraded lands have been restored with native species, bringing the total to approximately 3,909 hectares out of the 30,000 -hectare target. It is worth noting that contributions from co-financiers of the Sertão Vivo, Semeando Resiliência Climática em Comunidades Rurais no Nordeste, and Dom Helder Câmara projects are currently being updated, which is expected to further accelerate progress toward achieving the goal.	13.30%	Unsatisfactory (U)
	Outcome 3.2 Sustainably managed forest with established connectivity points	1) Carbon stored in forest ecosystems and avoided emissions from deforestation and degradation (direct, over a lifetime): a) Conservation and increase of carbon in forests b) Avoided deforestation and forest degradation		a)Conservation and increase of carbon in forests: +30,000 ha of forest restored, +439,200 tons of CO2eq sequestered and additional increase of carbon in the forest through SFM (target: 618,062 ha, 2,058,146 t CO2eq - indirect impact). b) Avoided deforestation and forest degradation (avoided emissions (direct impact): 696,219 tons of CO2eq ha on 5,709 ha).	0 - The calculation results are expected to be available in October 2025.	0.00%	Not Rated

	Outcome 4.1 - Improved capacity of key state and municipal institutions in Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest Management and Forest and Land Restoration	a) Number of teams with improved capacity at local level. b) Number of knowledge management networks in DSA
	Outcome 4.2 - Policy-makers and farmers, the private sector and education stakeholders have the capacity to implement SFM, FLR, IWRM and BD conservation	Availability of good quality materials locally.

a) At least 50 people benefited from the capacity building plan. b) An online database based on LD projects in SSA, with the help of experts and stakeholders	a) Capacity building on LD and desertification issues for at least 270 people from the 14 municipalities in the 9 SSA states b) A knowledge exchange network established in DSA	a) 527 people The actions carried out involved a total of 527 people across the REDESER project municipalities, far surpassing the target of training 270 individuals on desertification and land-degradation issues. These activities strengthened the capacity of six local teams — ATER technicians, teachers, cooperatives, members of traditional communities, representatives of civil-society organizations, and governmental institutions — through two virtual seminars (89 participants at the presentation of the Caatinga Forest Management Network results; 33 at the diagnosis of management plans), in-person exchanges (32 participants in Uauá, BA; 50 in Seridó), and meetings/webinars (258 at the 1st Regional Meeting of Agroforesters; 65 at the webinar on the National Seedling System). *Additionally, the Regional Network of Agroforesters was established, bringing together 258 participants at its Crato (CE) meeting and thus meeting the indicator of creating at least one knowledge-exchange network in ASD. Three existing networks were also further strengthened: the Caatinga Forest Management Network (RMFC), the Paraíba Native Seeds Network, and the Network of Integrated Sustainable and Agroecological Family Farmers (REFAISA). b)The global WOCAT platform was selected as the reference database. To this end, its forms were translated into Portuguese, and a virtual training seminar on its use was held. Thanks to these efforts, the National Institute of the Semi-Arid Region has become one of the platform's national focal points.	195.18%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Improved production of material on LD, MFS, FLR and BD for training courses and other events	55 materials for forestry technicians, nursery staff and seed collectors are produced and distributed at each project site	40 materials - "Under the Letter of Agreement for the Uauá Territory (BA), a set of four booklets was produced and used in the training process and during field days with beneficiaries. The booklets covered the following topics: (1) Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biodiversity and Forest/Natural Resources; (2) Production of Native Seedlings and Planting; (3) Collection and Management of Native Seeds; and (4) Associativism. Five practical guides were also created to support the implementation of Agroforestry Systems, Beekeeping, Meliponiculture, Soil and Water Conservation, and ILP – Silvopastoral Management. Also produced were publication-format documents for the 14 Integrated Natural Resource Management plans of the ""fundo de pasto"" communities, along with 14 banners summarizing the main productive elements of the plan's coverage areas. For the activities implemented under the management plan in the Seridó Territory, a booklet on Silvopastoral Management in the Caatinga was developed. In June 2024, the publication Forest Management in the Caatinga: 40 Years of Experimentation by the Forest Management Network was launched. The REDESER project supported field data collection across 13 experimental units in the states of Piauí, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, and Bahia, conducted collaboratively with technicians, researchers, and specialists from the Caatinga Forest Management Network. The project also financed the graphic design and editing of the publication. It is available at: https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/composicao/snpct/dcde/movimento-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-desertificacao-e-as-secas/livro_manejo_florestal_da_caatinga_versao_ajustada_07junho24_menor.pdf (https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/composicao/snpct/dcde/movimento-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-desertificacao-e-as-secas/livro_manejo_florestal_da_caatinga_versao_ajustada_07junho24_menor.pdf) The REDESER project further supported the preparation of the publication "COP-16 UNCCD Report: Brazil's Participation". In total, twelve publications were produced."	73.00%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)

	Outcome 5.1 - Functional synergy with complementary initiatives to promote sustainable management and the benefits of restoration at landscape level	Number of initiatives with established collaborations.		Interaction with 10 key initiatives	Interaction with key initiatives	"1. As part of the South–South International Cooperation Project – Central American Dry Corridor, the activities carried out in Uauá were integrated into the experience-exchange mission with the Central American Dry Corridor countries under the "Innovation for the Reduction of Agro-environmental Risks in Central American Dry Corridor Countries – Climatic Risk Agricultural Zoning (ZARC) and Water Resources Management" project. During the workshops, the REDESER experience was showcased prominently, and the field mission included visits to the implementation sites in Uauá (BA). The engagement of youth in desertification-combat strategies was also highlighted, sparking strong interest for replication in the Dry Corridor countries. 2. National Policy for Combating Desertification – REDESER collaborated in designing a program aligned with the country's National Policy for Combating Desertification, aimed at mobilizing resources, generating synergies and forging partnerships to address worsening desertification, land degradation, droughts and biodiversity loss driven by the climate emergency. The program defines clear guidelines and strategic actions to halt and reverse desertification processes in Areas Susceptible to Desertification. 3. Still within the scope of the National Policy for Combating Desertification, REDESER supported Brazil's participation in the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (December 2024) by preparing a technical study that underpinned the country's contributions to the COP 16 thematic pillars, thereby strengthening its representation and aligning national desertification-combat actions with the international agenda. 4. In synergy with the Public Policy Seminar on Combating Desertification in the Semi-arid (TCE-PB/TCU), REDESER's coordination presented the project's identified best practices in integrated natural-resource management—Agroforestry Systems, multi-purpose forest management and social technologies such as beekeeping—and emphasized the importance of partnerships to reverse environmental degradation in areas prone to desertification. The event, which disseminated the results of state-level policy implementation analyses by the Courts of Accounts of Paraíba, Ceará, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe, culminated in the forwarding of the REDESER model for adoption by subnational governments. (https://seminario.tcepb.tc.br/) 5. In the municipality of Uauá, REDESER achieved notable progress through an articulated, integrated implementation with local partners; in particular, collaboration with the Regional Appropriate Small-Scale Farming Institute (IRPA) was pivotal for disseminating the "agrocaatinga" sustainable agricultural-management technique. 6. Also in Uauá, REDESER deepened its partnership with Coopercuc, strengthening the production of native fruits for agro-industry, boosting the local economy. 7. In the same territory, REDESER supported the Sertão Family Agricultural School (EFASE), which expanded its training and technical-assistance activities and installed Demonstration Units for forest management, soil and water conservation, beekeeping and meliponiculture, Agroforestry Systems and integrated livestock-forest-pasture (ILPF). This fostered the adoption and dissemination of best practices in integrated natural-resource management and desertification control. 8. Within that educational setting, another key synergy was the integration of desertification-combat topics into the regular curriculum of the technical agricultural course. 9. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative targeting the Fundo de Pasto communities provides a significant synergy with REDESER: project activities identified opportunities to integrate territorial monitoring with desertification-combat actions and to strengthen the traditional knowledge of these communities. REDESER is now supporting the preparation of the Technical-Scientific Dossier for their GIAHS nomination and the Dynamic Conservation Plan. 10. The synergy between REDESER and the National Seed and Seedling System (SNSM) first manifested in institutional visibility, by incorporating SNSM into Project activities and ensuring wide dissemination of seed and seedling registration guidelines to both local and national partners. Through targeted training and technical coordination, the official legislative framework was fully integrated, directly involving the Ministry of Agriculture team and technicians from the SNSM directorate, and training 129 participants qualified to apply these protocols in the field. These combined actions strengthened SNSM public policy, expanded its reach across REDESER's priority territories, and established a robust technical foundation for its sustainable implementation."	100.00%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
	Outcome 5.2 - The project is implemented with results-based management and incorporation of findings and	The delivery of project products complies with FAO-GEF information requirements.			5 PIR	6 - The aforementioned PIR and PPR were delivered by FAO.	120.00%	Highly Satisfactory (HS)

Average Cumulative progress toward outcomes (%)	Time elapsed since project start/EOD vs Planned Project End Date	% of delivery
82.25%	185.61%	80.00%



Development Objective (DO) Ratings, and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported above. The ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of results since project start

FY2025 Development Objective rating¹	Project Manager/ Coordinator	Budget Holder	Lead Technical Officer¹³	GEF Operational Focal Point	GEF Technical Officer (GTO)
	Satisfactory (S)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)		Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
Comments/rea sons¹² justifying the ratings for FY2025 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period	The performance during the period was satisfactory, with the full execution of the activities outlined in the REDESER Project work plan: we formalized and implemented three Agreements, signed four contracts, and carried out all bidding and consultancy procurement processes for the required studies. At the same time, we successfully updated the co-financing amounts, reinforcing the project's financial sustainability.	Currently, the project is in full implementation, with a realistic activity plan organized by territory. Field activities are underway in all targeted territories. However, not all the outcomes will be achieve in 2025, the last year of implementation.	The project has made adequate progress toward some of its main development objectives, demonstrating achievements in several expected outcomes. During the reporting period, new Letters of Agreement were planned and implemented in the different territories. These measures allowed for the implementation of a set of interventions focused on Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) and Sustainable Forest Management, as well as the promotion of formal and informal training activities, in some cases exceeding the planned goals. The project demonstrates the generation of livelihood improvements in the intervention areas. Furthermore, the actions in the territories are mostly linked to ongoing processes, generating synergies and strengthening the implementation of good practices, allowing for greater effectiveness and support for post-project sustainability. In this final stage of execution, an exit strategy is also being implemented. It is expected that, despite the changes and delays the project has undergone, the most relevant objectives will be achieved.		As the project enters its final stage, the project management team and partners have made a big effort to implement the work plan developed after the MTR. Regarding component 1 (INRM), the project surpassed its targets given national interest in adopting sustainable practices and contracts executed on time. Implementation of Component 2 (SFM) is delayed as some contracts were delayed but are currently under implementation. While the project may not reach the targets established during program design, it will implement demonstration activities (agrocaatinga model, agroforestry systems, RAMPAS strategy) with high potential for replication in the target areas. Greenhaouse as emissions (and stored carbon) calculations will be available in October 2025. In terms of capacity building efforts and development of knowledge materials, the project is on its way to achieve its objectives--learning material is available and exchange activities have taken place with technical experts from the Central American Dry Corridor. In addition, youth, gender and Indigenous Peoples issues have been embedded in the project's core strategy

Measures to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2 above

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By When?
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Outcome 2 Forest areas under multi-purpose Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) have been increasing	To reverse the “insufficient” rating for the indicator on areas under Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), we will begin by adjusting the co-financing values through the formalization of co-financing with INCRA–CE—leveraging its interest and new settlement-management strategy—with completion scheduled for November 2025. Simultaneously, we will integrate into the REDESER portfolio the public-policy activities carried out by the Brazilian Forest Service, expanding the reach of SFM plans in the Araripe and Seridó territories by October 2025.We will also mobilize additional resources from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change via the ATER Biomes program and Ecoforte (funded by BNDES and Banco do Brasil) to strengthen technical teams and finance new management fronts. By the same October 2025 deadline, we will identify calls for proposals and credit lines compatible with the project’s scope. Finally, we will review and expand our field-activity portfolio—including participatory diagnosis, technical training, and the establishment of SFM demonstration units—by October 2025.	FAO	October 2025.
Outcome 3.1 Improved seed production capacity to support the recovery of degraded land in Areas Susceptible to Desertification (ARD)	To reverse the rating for this result, the project’s technical team at FAO will update the co-financing amounts by finalizing agreements with current partners and soliciting new contributions. A mapping has already been completed of the main programs and public policies synergistic with this output—Projeto Sertão Vivo; Semeando Resiliência Climática em Comunidades Rurais no Nordeste; Programa Dom Helder Câmara (PDHC); Programa Próspera – Agronordeste; the National ATER Pact “Agroecology for Food Production and Biome Restoration” (ATER Biomas); Programa Floresta Viva (Caatinga); and the Programa Produtor de Água – Projeto Nascentes do São Francisco—and, based on this mapping, we will establish formal partnerships with their managing institutions.	FAO	October 2025.
Outcome 3.2 Sustainably managed forest with established connectivity points	To date, there has been no progress on the indicator, as the contracting of a specialized consultancy is underway to develop practical guidelines and recommendations for forest and landscape restoration, with an emphasis on ecosystem connectivity in the REDESER territories. The organizations implementing the Agreement in Xingó and the contract in Seridó already possess expertise in carbon measurement according to the FAO methodology. To consolidate this technical framework and coordinate these initiatives, a consultant will be hired in August 2025 to conduct an integrated study that will serve as the basis for the effective implementation of actions and thus enable concrete progress on the indicator.	FAO	October 2025.

7 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.

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

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and outputs	Indicators (as per the logical framework)	Main achievements in the last 12 months (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance 9 in delivering outputs
Outcome 1.			
Output 1.1 Integration and expansion of the INRM at landscape level	a) # of hectares where INRM is adopted and integrated b) # of INRM tools and methodologies introduced # of small producers with growing and diversified production based on INRM % of households headed by women	In this period, three Letters of Agreement were executed: in December 2025, work in the Uauá territory was completed and implementation continues in the Xingó territory. In 2025, two contracts were also signed for the Seridó territory, which until then had not received any project interventions. All of these activities include Integrated Natural Resources Management practices such as barrocal—rock check dams for cultivation in alluvial floodplains—agroforestry systems focused on forage and pasture production, as well as apiculture and meliponiculture. With the implementations in the Seridó territory, all of REDESER's priority municipalities are now covered by Integrated Natural Resources Management strategies. Three strategies are being implemented in Seridó. During the period report, the project trained 695 family farmers and small-scale producers in Integrated Natural Resources Management. These training sessions were integrated with productive practices, creating synergies that directly support increased productivity. All activities, whether implemented under Letters of Agreement or contracts, must include at least 30% women among the participants.	Most outputs were delivered as planned: work in Uauá territory was completed and activities in Xingó proceeded on schedule. The only significant variance occurred in the Seridó territory, where contract execution was delayed by approximately two months, postponing the start of agroforestry and apiculture interventions by the same period. No other deviations from the approved timeline were recorded.
Output 1.1.1. INRM best practices identified, evaluated and replicated at farm and landscape level	a) % of project intervention areas in which best practices have been implemented	a) Currently, in 100% of REDESER's target municipalities, Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) strategies have been implemented in the Uauá and Araripe territories and are underway in the Seridó and Xingó territories.	The only significant variance occurred in the Seridó territory, where administrative delays in finalizing contracts pushed back the establishment and evaluation of good-practice sites by about eight weeks.

	best practices have been implemented b) 10 good practice sites are identified and implemented 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		All other outputs—identification and replication of best practices in Uauá, Araripe and Xingó—were delivered on schedule with no further deviations from the approved plan.
Output 1.1.2.- Non-timber forest products (NTFP) from INRM incorporated into government programs and projects and local agro-industries	Increase in products purchased by PAA (National School Purchasing Program) /PNAE (National School Feeding Program) (20%)	During the implementation period, important actions were developed related to the production and structuring of non-timber forest product (NTFP) chains and agroecological food products. However, the direct insertion of these products into institutional purchasing programs (PAA/PNAE) remains incipient or nonexistent in a significant portion of the priority areas. Araripe : Initiatives supported by the CdA resulted in the production of vegetables intended primarily for family self-consumption. Surpluses are sold locally, without any current linkage to public school feeding policies. No concrete progress was made in engaging with either the PNAE (National School Feeding Program) or the PAA (Food Acquisition Program) in the region during this project cycle. Uauá and Monte Santo (BA) More structured advances were achieved. Potential and Sustainable Use Plans for the Collective Forest Areas of Fundo de Pasto were developed, focusing on sustainable productive planning and strengthening community agro-industries. Agroforestry food systems were established, emphasizing native and adapted exotic species for the semi-arid region (e.g., umbu, licuri, caatinga passion fruit, among others), with part of the harvest supplying community enterprises such as the Lages das Aroeiras popsicle factory. In addition, well-structured local organizations—such as COOPERCUC and ARESOL—already have established capacity to participate in public procurement. For example, COOPERCUC has maintained an agreement with the PNAE since 2011, supplying both processed and fresh products to municipal schools in the region. Production stemming from project-supported initiatives could be integrated into these existing arrangements, although the direct increase in participation has not yet been measured. Under the terms of the Uauá Agreement, a webinar entitled “Credit Planning for Agro-Extractivism” was also held. This event included participation by the Development Agent program of Banco do Nordeste do Brasil—the main financial and development agent for productive activities in Brazil’s semi-arid region—and representatives of local producer groups. The initiative aimed to present the credit lines that BNB makes available to extractivist farmers and to outline the requirements producers must meet to access these credits.	In Uauá and Monte Santo, although agroforestry systems and community enterprises have been established and existing procurement channels (for example, Family Agricultural Cooperative of Canudos, Uauá and Curaça -- COOPERCUC under the PNAE) could absorb additional supply, the actual increase in purchases has not yet been measured.

Output 1.1.3 - Capacity to identify, evaluate and promote strengthened INRM systems in state departments and agencies	a) 1 set of guidelines developed for identifying and evaluating INRM systems b) 100 technicians prepared to use the guidelines	In the seminars promoted by APNE under the framework of Letter of Agreement 02/2022, which addressed the topic of Caatinga management, we had the participation of 120 representatives from state departments and agencies.	Aiming to expand and strengthen the training processes for both farmers and rural extension technicians, the Project Management Unit developed a set of guidelines to guide the delivery of an online course on Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM). The course—targeted at technicians in environmental management, rural development, technical assistance, and rural extension, including representatives of civil society organizations—is scheduled for August 2025 and will accommodate 620 participants.
Outcome 2			
Output 2.1- Integration and expansion of the INRM at landscape level Forest area under SFM has been increased	# of hectares providing sustained flow of services in dryland forest ecosystems a) Area covered by forest management plans b) with conservation and valorization of forest carbon through SFM	Since early 2025, actions have been underway in the Araripe and Seridó territories to develop and reactivate Sustainable Forest Management Plans in the Caatinga, covering a total of 7,200 hectares.	By executing a series of contracts in 2025, the development and reactivation of management plans in two priority territories were made possible.
Output 2.1.1 - Innovative small and large-scale SFM practices identified, evaluated and replicated in selected experimental forest management areas	a) 6 demonstration areas with selected SFM practices b) 15,000 ha with MFS	In 2025, implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Plans began in the Araripe and Seridó territories. These actions encompass the development and reactivation of management plans in the Caatinga, covering 7,200 hectares already under management, where the innovative SFM practices previously selected in the fifteen demonstration areas across both territories are being applied.	We will review the total target value together with the co-financing partners by September 2025.
Output 2.1.2. - Support for the development of multiple-use SFM	2 Multiple-use SFM with NTFPs in the Araripe	In the Araripe APA, implementation of 3,000 hectares under forest management began in 2025; in the Xingó territory, 300 hectares of forest restoration were initiated. Together, these actions will cover a total of 3,300 hectares.	

production chains	APA (APA) and the Xingó priority area		
Output 2.1.3 - Guidelines for SFM practices developed and monitoring protocols at local level implemented	a) Technical guidelines b) 100 forestry agents using the guidelines	In 2025, a consultant specializing in Caatinga forest management and relevant legislation was hired to, in partnership with FAO, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the Brazilian Forest Service, define the methodology for a course on the application of CONAMA Resolution No. 507/2024. Scheduled for September 2025 and aimed at technicians and managers of the State Environmental Agencies (OEMAs), the course will have two main outcomes: 1. Development of a set of technical guidelines and monitoring protocols for Sustainable Forest Management Plans (SFM). 2. Training of 50 forest agents in the use of these guidelines and protocols at the local level.	The training course will be held from September 22 to 26, 2025.
Outcome 3.			
Output 3.1 - Improved capacity for seed and seedling production to support the restoration of forests and degraded lands in ASDs	Restoration with native species	A Letter of Agreement is being implemented to qualify the Community Seed Houses and strengthen local capacities for collecting, selecting, and storing native seeds, as well as for producing seedlings in nurseries of native and forest species. These best practices are being applied in REDESER's priority areas, with 400 hectares under restoration in the Seridó and Xingó territories.	
Output 3.1.1. - Smallholders and public nurseries in legalized ASDs with enhanced production of native seeds and seedlings	35 nurseries identified for the Registered	Through a Letter of Agreement in REDESER's priority areas, a webinar with 68 participants was held, along with five in-person workshops on the National Seed and Seedling System in rural and urban community spaces, involving 61 individuals from NGOs and local public agencies—totaling 129 participants. These events covered Law 10.711/2003, MAPA Ordinance 616/2023, complementary RENASEM regulations, and procedures for registration, production, quality control, traceability, and marketing of native seedlings. As a result, all participants consolidated knowledge and protocols for seed and seedling registration and management, establishing an essential technical foundation to support Community Seed Houses and nurseries, and strengthening sustainability and innovation in community-based agroecological family farming. All these activities included participation by the technical team from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, as well as technicians from the directorate responsible for the National Seed and Seedling System.	The target of identifying 35 nurseries has been fully achieved. The project is now supporting their formal registration in the National Seed and Seedling System (SNSM), providing technical and logistical assistance to overcome the bureaucratic hurdles of the process, which can take up to seven months to validate a registration.
Output 3.1.2 – Collectors and nursery operators trained and registered in		Surpassing the target of 14 trainings, between March and May 2025, 24 workshops on seed collection, selection, and storage, as well as seedling production techniques, were held, directly involving 135 participants who engaged in field practices and hands-on exercises in nursery management and native seed processing. Additionally, under the Letter of	Significant progress has been made in implementing the training activities; however, the project has an extremely

the National Seed and Seedling System (SNSM)	a) Level of staff capacity working in nurseries (1600 employees) with at least medium-level skills b) Capacity-building materials prepared and adapted for DSA and local social context training activities for seed and seedling collectors	Agreement for the Uauá priority area, the “Nursery and Seedling Production” course was delivered in June 2024, comprising 32 hours of instruction for 20 technicians. This resulted in the publication of the guide “Native Seedling Production and Planting” and consolidated a mid-level technical skill set among the trained professionals. Altogether, 223 people were trained on the topic. The training materials were developed and adapted to the conditions of the Areas Susceptible to Desertification (ASD) and the local sociocultural context, combining theoretical modules with discussion circles, presentations of SNSM legal content, and practical field activities. This approach, together with the provision of inputs and equipment to six Community Seed Houses and nurseries, enhanced the capacities of seed collectors and nursery managers, elevating their competence levels and promoting technical autonomy and sustainability in community actions.	ambitious target, and to expand the number of people trained, an evaluation will be conducted with co-financing partners.
Output 3.1.3 – Guidelines for forest restoration practices developed and adopted by stakeholders	Guidelines developed and adopted for Brazil based on FAO global guidelines	A consultancy is being procured for the “Development of practical guidelines and recommendations for forest and landscape restoration and forest connectivity in the context of Areas Susceptible to Desertification, under the REDESER Project.	
Outcome 3.2 – Forest connectivity sites have been defined, sustainably managed, and restored	1. Carbon stored in forest ecosystems and avoided emissions from deforestation and forest degradation from this project (Direct service life): a) Conservation and increase of carbon in forests b) Avoided deforestation and forest degradation	Actions related to forest connectivity, restoration, and the implementation of sustainable management practices are underway, but have not yet produced consolidated measurements of stored carbon or avoided emissions. Carbon results will be measured after the field activities and area management have been consolidated, using recognized MRV methodologies.	
Output 3.2.1 – Suitable sites for forest restoration and connectivity are identified and work plans drawn up using adapted and cost-effective restoration techniques	No. of hectares with restored forest connectivity (30,000 ha selected with restoration plans under implementation)	The project supported the restoration of 2,609 hectares of degraded land in the Uauá (BA) territory. In Xingó, the establishment of agroecological reserves of mandacarus, palms, and other socio-biodiversity forage species has already rehabilitated 300 hectares. In Seridó, agroforestry interventions with forage species and pasture areas for Caatinga-native beekeeping are currently underway across more than 100 hectares.	The project has made considerable progress in the total area under restoration, but it will be necessary to update the co-financing agreements with partners by revising the supported restoration area targets to ensure the expansion of activities. This update has already begun through the implementation of a monitoring schedule with partners to validate these figures.

Output 3.2.2 - Participatory projects to reclaim degraded land and improve productive landscapes and land use practices	No. of local projects prepared for financing (8 projects on 15,000 ha. prepared and financing negotiated with the MMA and national banks)	The REDESER project is advancing the structuring of initiatives that could form its portfolio of participatory recovery and sustainable management projects, but to date no local project has been formally finalized or submitted for financing. Key actions underway: In the Araripe (PE) and Seridó (RN) territories, Sustainable Forest Management Plans (SFMPs) will be developed or reactivated in priority areas, including agrarian reform settlements. In Seridó, four SFMPs have already been completed. In parallel, Business Plans are being drafted to support the commercialization of forest products; three of these plans are already finalized. In the Uauá (BA) territory, a Forest Inventory was completed across 14 Fundo de Pasto communities, providing a detailed diagnosis of potential and current forest production under Sustainable Forest Management. This technical report will be presented by the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) to integrate these communities into public programs. Nevertheless, the transformation of this diagnosis into formally structured, fundable projects has not yet been completed.	Considering the target of preparing eight local projects for financing with the Ministry of the Environment (MMA) and national banks, to date only three Sustainable Forest Management Plans and their corresponding Business Plans have been completed, and no project has been formally submitted for funding.
Outcome 4.1 - Improved capacity of key state and municipal institutions on LD and desertification	# personnel with enhanced capacities at the local level # knowledge management networks in Desertification-prone Areas (ASD)	Two virtual seminars were held (one on the National Seedling System and another on credit for extractivist products), along with two in-person exchanges (Uauá, BA and Seridó). These activities strengthened the capacities of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (ATER) technicians, teachers, cooperatives, traditional communities, civil-society organizations, and governmental institutions. Technical materials, presentations, and event records have been shared with local teams and partner institutions; regular exchanges are being maintained on sustainable Caatinga management and forest management. Two existing networks were strengthened and linked—the Paraíba Native Seeds Network and REFAISA (Integrated Network of Sustainable and Agroecological Family Farmers)—as in-person and digital spaces for sharing information, projects, and good practices.	
Output 4.1.1 - Strengthening learning and action networks, facilitating field exchanges in Areas Susceptible to Desertification	a) # of actions (38 articles written, 12 courses and 24 workshops held, 270 multiplier agents trained) b) Sustained flow of adequate information on best practices c) An online network/database developed to exchange information, knowledge and projects relevant to SSA issues	The recruitment of four consultants is underway to map good practices across the ten states of Brazil's semi-arid region and upload these findings to the global WOCAT platform, ensuring REDESER's support both in populating the platform and in organizing the 1st National Meeting of the Network of Desertification Researchers.	

Outcome 4.2 - Policy-makers and farmers, the private sector and education stakeholders are better informed about SFM, FLR, IWRM and biodiversity conservation	Availability of good quality materials locally	Under the Letter of Agreement for the Uauá Territory (BA), a package of four booklets was developed and used in training activities and field days with beneficiaries. The materials covered the following topics: (1) Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biodiversity and Forest/Natural Resources; (2) Production and Planting of Native Seedlings; (3) Collection and Management of Native Seeds; and (4) Associativism. In addition, five practical guides were prepared to support the establishment of Agroforestry Systems, Beekeeping, Meliponiculture, Soil and Water Conservation, and ILP – Silvopastoral Management. For the actions carried out under the management plan in the Seridó Territory, a dedicated booklet on Silvopastoral Management in the Caatinga was produced. In June 2024, the Caatinga Forest Management Network launched the publication *Forest Management in the Caatinga: 40 Years of Experimentation.* The REDESER project also supported the preparation of the COP 16 UNCCD Report: Brazil's Participation. In total, twelve publications were produced.	Efforts were expanded to include a comprehensive portfolio of booklets, practical guides, and detailed reports. This increase in volume and variety not only broadened our reach—allowing us to train more participants and support a greater number of network partners—but also accelerated the adoption of best practices in the field.
Output 4.2.1 - Guidelines and summaries on best practices and lessons learned related to MFS, FLR and GIRN in ARD prepared	# of information materials (1 folder, 5 videos, 48 radio spots and 1 event)	The project maintains an organized repository of images and videos documenting the strategies implemented. A summary video presenting the Project's main results was produced. Under the Uauá Letter of Agreement, and with support from students of the *Escola Família Agrícola*, six informational brochures on Integrated Natural Resources Management were developed.	Efforts were expanded by establishing a comprehensive media repository (photos and videos), producing a dedicated results video, and developing several brochures on Integrated Natural Resources Management. This growth in scope and volume increased the project's visibility.
Outcome 4.2.2 - ARD academic community committed to combating LD and desertification	Two meetings focused on dialog with the academic community working on the theme of neutrality of land degradation and desertification	We are in the process of contracting a consultant to support the organization of the 1st National Meeting of the Network of Researchers on Combating Desertification.	

Outcome 4.2.3 - Increased awareness of SFM and RFP practices in SSA	# of events to improve communication about Sustainable Forest Management in areas susceptible to desertification (7 events and 1 radio program for each target area)	A closing event for the Letter of Agreement in the Uauá Territory was held to present the main results. Under the Letter of Agreement in the Xingó Territory, an event was also conducted to share the project's preliminary results. These events aim to disseminate the results achieved and to work with local governments to identify and discuss strategies for continuity and sustainability of project actions after completion.	
Outcome 5.1 – Synergy established with complementary initiatives to promote sustainable management and restoration benefits at the landscape level.	a) # of initiatives with established collaboration (30 initiatives) b) # of jointly formulated work plans (12 annual work plans)	1. Technical support for Brazil at UNCCD COP 16 (Dec 2024) through a study that underpinned the country's thematic contributions, reinforcing its representation and alignment with the international agenda. 2. Integration of REDESER with the GIAHS initiative for Fundo de Pasto communities, developing the Technical-Scientific Dossier and Dynamic Conservation Plan, thereby strengthening territorial monitoring and traditional knowledge. 3. Partnership with the National Seed and Seedling System (SNSM) to incorporate its guidelines into project activities; training 129 participants and targeted technical coordination consolidated the legal framework, expanded reach in priority territories, and established a robust foundation for sustainable implementation.	
Outcome 5.2 – Project implemented with results-based management and application of project results and lessons learned.	The results of the project are monitored annually and published	During the period covered by this PIR, no Project Steering Committee meeting took place. In March 2025, ahead of the project activities planning meeting, a general presentation of the results and indicators up to that point was delivered.	
Output 5.2.1 – Project Monitoring System that provides information on progress made toward achieving project results and targets.	M&E system established and fully operational	The project has monitoring strategies that, although functional, are not yet systematized into a robust and integrated system.	
Outcome 5.2.2 – Mid-term and final evaluations conducted; best practices and lessons learned from the project published and disseminated.	The results of the project are monitored annually and published	During the period covered by this PIR, no Project Steering Committee meeting took place. In March 2025, ahead of the project activities planning meeting, a general presentation of the results and indicators up to that point was delivered.	

Implementation Progress (IP) , and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported above. The ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of results during the fiscal year (July 1 2024, to June 30, 2025)

	Project Manager/ Coordinator	Lead Technical Officer	Budget Holder	GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP)	GEF Technical Officer (GTO)
FY2025 Implementation Objective rating ¹⁰	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Satisfactory (S)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Satisfactory (S)
Comments/reasons justifying the ratings for FY2025 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period	The Project Coordination has concentrated on implementing REDESER around five strategic pillars: carrying out the work plan approved by the Steering Committee in December 2023, together with the priority activities set during the March 2025 planning session; monitoring the Letters of Agreement and associated contracts to ensure that agreed targets and indicators are met; strengthening and streamlining internal processes to guarantee effective implementation and address bureaucratic challenges; updating co-financing figures, identifying new synergies, and crafting strategies to secure post-project sustainability in priority areas; and maintaining ongoing collaboration between FAO and partner organization management teams responsible for the two active Letters of Agreement and contracts, with frequent dialogue to mitigate risks and oversee execution effectively.	The project is progressing satisfactorily with the activities planned for the reporting period, particularly in the implementation of sustainable land management practices, integrated Natural Resource Management and in developing local capacity in the intervention sites, especially with the implementation of a gender approach. Significant efforts are evident in the systematization of good practices and in the implementation of the exit strategy. The project is facing some administrative challenges that may affect its efficiency. However, measures are being taken to address these challenges, and overall, the project is operating as planned in the workplan and with an adaptive implementation approach in the different sites.	Although the drought in the region poses a significant challenge, risk mitigation measures are monitored, allowing for immediate adjustments to minimize any impacts.	Comments	Activities under component 1 have advanced satisfactorily and the program will meet its targets. The main challenges stem from Component 2, where delays in establishing contracts have delayed project implementation. As of the date of submission of this PIR, contracts are underway to implement SFM in target areas. Results will be available by the end of the year. Similarly, efforts are underway to ensure seedling production capacity is improved. The project advanced in a satisfactory manner in terms of capacity building and development of technical material. Results of the program were showcased by the government of Brazil in the UNCCD COP in Saudi Arabia.

4. Summary on progress and challenges

Please provide a summary paragraph on project implementation progress consistent with the information reported in section 2 and 3 of the PIR (Max 400 words) (This section will be uploaded to the GEF portal)

As of 30 June 2025, the REDESER project has made significant progress toward its two development objectives. Under **Outcome 1**, the adoption of Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) exceeded the end-of-project target, covering 1,232,642 ha – 136 % of the planned 904,142 ha – and three best-practice INRM approaches have been fully applied across 100 % of the target areas through 35 Demonstration Units and 14 Sustainable Use Plans for Fundo de Pasto communities. Training reached 967 smallholders (62 % of the 1,567 target), and women now manage, on average, 48.9 % of agricultural units, surpassing the 30 % goal.

Under **Outcome 2**, Sustainable Forest Management was initiated on 32,135 ha (5 % of the target), remaining a key challenge; **Outcome 3** achieved the restoration of 3,909 ha of degraded land. For **Outcome 4**, 527 stakeholders were trained (195 % of the target) and 12 high-quality training materials were produced (218 %), while **Outcome 5** secured collaborations with all 10 key initiatives. Currently under execution are two Letters of Agreement, four contracts, and a team of six consultants conducting studies and supporting the project’s various components.

Please provide a summary paragraph on challenges of project implementation consistent with the information reported in section 2 and 3 of the PIR (Max 400 words) (This section will be uploaded to the GEF portal)

We recognize that the indicators for Components 2 and 3 present a high level of difficulty, as the defined targets require significant advances in the country’s environmental policy within a short timeframe. In addition to the need to review and update in-kind co-financing agreements with institutional actors—a task that in itself demands inter-institutional negotiations and validations—we also face the challenge of completing a series of internal FAO procedures before the end of the implementation phase, scheduled for the second half of 2025. These procedures relate to procurements and acquisitions such as the selection of consultancy services, the purchase of inputs, and the contracting of services, all subject to public calls for tenders, deadlines for expressions of interest, proposal evaluations, and internal approvals.

Implementation of Exit Strategy

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please describe the progress to implement it.	Yes, the project has developed an Exit Strategy. Progress in its implementation includes strengthening institutions to support “fundo de pasto” communities and preparing studies to enable these communities’ candidacy for the SIPAM (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems – GIAHS). Additionally, in the Xingó territory, a seminar was held to present preliminary results from the activities conducted under the Letter of Agreement. At this event, local governments outlined their commitments as part of a post-project sustainability strategy. Complementing these efforts, the project is hiring a consultant to mobilize new resources from national and international donors through the preparation of a Concept Note.
How is the project enhancing institutional capacities to foster country ownership for more durable / sustained results?	Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Sustainable Forest Management Plans (PMFS) The REDESER Project has focused efforts on strengthening the capacities of public institutions and improving the design and implementation of public policies. In this context, it has directly supported the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, specifically through its Department for Combating Desertification, to enhance its institutional performance and effectiveness in implementing public policies aimed at combating desertification. Notable activities already carried out include support for technical studies to inform the design and strengthening of public policies on desertification, as well as improving Brazil's participation and preparation for COP-16 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Currently, discussions are underway for the implementation, scheduled for September 2025, of a training course focusing on the Resolution issued by Brazil's National Environmental Council (CONAMA), addressing sustainable forest management practices in the Caatinga biome. This training will involve the participation of 50 technicians from state environmental agencies across ten Brazilian states, directly enhancing the technical and institutional capacities of these government bodies.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS): risks from the project

Initial ESS Risk Classification (at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage)	Medium Risk
New environmental and social risks.	N/A
Progress made towards implementing the Enivronmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) (only for Moderate and High Risk Projects)	The PRODOC did not include environmental and social safeguards. In 2021, a consultancy was engaged to systematize and prioritize, based on FAO's safeguard guidelines, those most relevant for application to the REDESER project.
Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)	N/A

6. Risks to the Project

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation.

	Type of risk	Risk rating11	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Description of Risk	Mitigation measure implemented
1	Environmental	High	Yes	* Increased frequency of droughts and a drastic reduction in rainfall. * The sequence of events related to climate change impacts the target population.	The project has enabled the adoption of various practices tailored to the semi-arid climate, within a strategy of Integrated Natural Resource Management. This approach promotes methods that protect and conserve soil and water by incorporating techniques that reduce environmental impact, enhance soil health, and increase moisture retention. Moreover, these practices help local communities adapt to and mitigate the effects of adverse semi-arid conditions, while fostering the sustainable use of natural resources and improving the quality of life for the populations served.
2	Environmental	High	Yes	Increased forest fragmentation in the selected areas	The project focuses on adopting best practices for sustainable land management and sustainable forest management in the Caatinga biome. In terms of maintaining productive landscape mosaics, the project has contributed to training teams from state environmental agencies to implement a set of public policies, regulations, and specific legislation, ensuring compliance with the requirements for Permanent Preservation Areas (APP) and Legal Reserves (RL).
3	Economic	High	Yes	Increased pressure from agribusiness resulting in growing deforestation of forests in vulnerable transition areas	REDESER mitigates agribusiness pressure on vulnerable transition areas by implementing demonstration agroforestry systems and soil and water management techniques that increase productivity without expanding frontiers; by training state teams to enforce environmental legislation and develop Sustainable Forest Management Plans; by coordinating public policies; and by strengthening local value chains for native Caatinga species.

4	Economic	High	Yes	Participating entities fail to meet their financial commitments	The REDESER Project Coordination is meeting with co-financiers to reaffirm their commitments to the REDESER project and update their contributions as non-financial counterparts, and this initiative has already begun to yield results.
5	Institutional	Moderate	Yes	Institutional instability	The REDESER Project Coordination has implemented a continuous, structured communication and institutional engagement strategy to mitigate risks of miscoordination, delays, and uncertainties among partners. This approach includes providing updates to the technical team of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MMA), detailing the progress of ongoing processes and activities to ensure transparency and enable immediate corrective actions. In parallel, regular meetings and ongoing dialogue are maintained with the LTO and the Better Environment Coordinator, ensuring aligned expectations, real-time resolution of queries, and effective technical collaboration. Additionally, all planning and execution phases are developed in close cooperation with the MMA, thereby strengthening institutional stability.

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):		
FY2024 rating	FY2025 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2025 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	Moderate	One of the main risks stems from several contracts expiring on November 30, 2025, shortly before the project’s completion on December 30, 2025. This tight timeline requires activities to be executed swiftly and accurately, with no possibility of extensions. To mitigate this risk, the Project Coordination holds regular implementation monitoring meetings, enabling the early identification of potential deviations and the immediate adoption of corrective measures.

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission in 2024, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented during this Fiscal Year
Recommendation 1: Recommendation 1: Take advantage of the favorable context of the current government to accelerate the implementation of the project together with the MMA. The project needs strengthening: (i) Its social dimensions (cross-cutting themes), to create elements of connection with the current situation; (ii) Deepen the aspects related to land degradation and the fight against desertification, linking them to the effects of drought and the climate emergency; (iii) Become better known beyond the MMA	Regarding the Letter of Agreement and the tender notice, the project bolstered its social dimensions and cross-cutting themes, establishing links between the REDESER project and the policies and programs implemented by the federal government. A positive outcome is outlined in the first section of this document, which discusses synergies between REDESER’s activities and a range of public policies.
Recommendation 2: The FAO should actively participate in the search for co-financing for the project. Suggestion: negotiate with the MMA, since the FAO can collaborate in this process.	FAO is already conducting the process of updating the project’s co-financing.
Recommendation 3. Reinforce throughout the team that the gender, youth and indigenous peoples and traditional communities approaches are not only a priority for the WFAM, but also for the FAO. These issues must be incorporated into everyday life and not considered an exception. Suggestions: - (i) Insert these components as indicators in the products of the processes, whenever possible; - (ii) Try to integrate women into project teams.	The themes of gender, youth, and traditional peoples and communities are embedded in the project’s core strategies. The implementation of the Letter of Agreement in the Uauá, Bahia territory targeted the Fundo de Pasto peoples—a traditional community group. Activities carried out throughout the implementation have included the participation of women and youth, and part of the technical team currently executing the project is composed of local young people. As a result, a pool of professional capacities is being developed among these youth in the territory. The current FAO technical team for the project has gender parity.
Recommendation 4: It is imperative to carry out a detailed analysis of the project's progress, the pending activities agreed with the GEF, the current context and progress, and the indicators and targets of the results framework, in order to update the execution strategy according to the available resources, deadlines and country priorities. The update proposal must be agreed and approved by the Project Steering Committee. This will allow for better project management, promoting the achievement of the proposed results and the fulfillment of commitments to the donor and society (accountability). One suggestion is to organize an internal event to adjust the project and discuss/present the next steps (updating the risk matrix, implementation strategies, outstanding issues, communication strategy, M&E system, quality of reports, treatment of cross-cutting issues).	In March 2025, FAO’s project coordination held a planning workshop for the 2025 actions with the participation of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change team.
Recommendation 5: The project should abandon the sequential implementation strategy, with one step after another (what PRODOC called a single track), and adopt a multidimensional implementation strategy. This will speed up the results and optimize the remaining time (doing more with less). A practical suggestion is to start the dialogue with the value chains immediately.	The risk is being mitigated through mapping and prioritizing parallel activities, immediate engagement with value chains, and continuous monitoring of performance indicators.

Recommendation 6: The project should immediately develop a governance strategy based on the governance structures proposed in PRODOC and approved by the GEF. FAO Brazil and the MMA will not be able to implement the project in isolation, hence the importance of partners. The strategy must promote opportunities for participation, balance between the partners and generate a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. The responsibility of the partners cannot fall solely on the MMA. One suggestion is for the PMU to develop a calendar of conversations and visits with potential partners.	One of the main risk mitigation strategies is proactive dialogue between FAO and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA) with local stakeholders where the project is implemented, prioritizing the establishment of partnerships and the planning of a transition (“exit”) strategy. This approach was adopted before the finalization of the Uauá Letter of Agreement and, more recently, when presenting its preliminary results in the Xingó territory.
Recommendation 7: It is important to develop a viable and clear exit strategy to ensure sustainability after the end of the project. The current exit strategy requires more time to mature than the total duration of the project. Suggestion: - (i) Start talks on the exit strategy with the entities that signed letters of agreement to assess what their suggestion is for this problem; - (ii) The sustainability strategy should include efforts: in capacity building and technical assistance; in creating channels for the flow of production; in developing value chains for marketing the products of the project's initiatives; in choosing promising and receptive practices; and in encouraging governments to create counter-cyclical policies to prevent a few years of economic recession/crisis from destroying the project's entire legacy.	One of the main risk mitigation strategies is proactive dialogue between FAO and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA) with local stakeholders where the project is implemented, prioritizing the establishment of partnerships and the planning of a transition (“exit”) strategy. This approach was adopted before the finalization of the Uauá Letter of Agreement and, more recently, when presenting its preliminary results in the Xingó territory.
Recommendation 8: Communication should be two-way: partners should have the autonomy and freedom to consult the PMU for assistance and supervision in the activities to be carried out (especially in the context of letters of agreement) and the PMU should be able to contact them when it considers it necessary. Partners must also be guaranteed the creation of an environment that conveys the feeling that they are participants in the project and not guests. All communication material should always refer to the WFMF.	Communication between the parties has been strengthened through clear channels. Regular meetings have been held with the organizations implementing the Letters of Agreement and with contract implementers.

8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines 12. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available. (This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

9. 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 during this reporting period. (This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)			
Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MMA)	Executing Agency	Together with the FAO, the MMA is responsible for coordinating the REDESER Project. The Ministry of the Environment has been fully involved in REDESER's actions.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Farming - MDA	Co-financing partner	Engagement with the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) was initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, but it is imperative to resume inter-ministerial dialogue due to the lack of response and effective support to date. This process also involves collaboration with the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA), whose contributions are essential to addressing certain REDESER challenges, given that the settlements it oversees hold significant forest assets critical for forest management and landscape connectivity.
Government Institutions	Brazilian Forest Service - SFB	Co-financing partner	The Brazilian Forest Service is a co-financier of the REDESER Project and maintains a regional office in the Northeast, covering all of REDESER's priority municipalities. It has played a key role as a technical interlocutor with the project team regarding Caatinga forest management.
Government Institutions	Government of the State of Rio Grande do Norte	Co-financing partner	In Rio Grande do Norte, two State Secretariats develop policies and programs to combat desertification—contributions that will be crucial for the planned interventions in the Seridó Territory, a focal area of the REDESER Project. The State Secretariat of Environment and Water Resources, which serves as the focal point for this domain, maintains close alignment with REDESER through the State Council for Combating Desertification, ensuring a coordinated and efficient approach. We recently held a meeting with the team responsible for implementing a desertification-combat program and updated the co-financing amounts.
NGOs	Articulation with the Semi-Arid - ASA	Co-financing partner	It is a co-financier of the project and serves as the implementing party for a Letter of Agreement.
NGOs	Advisory and Management in Nature Studies, Human Development and Agroecology - AGENDHA	Co-financing partner	It is currently implementing a Letter of Agreement in the Xingó Territory in Alagoas, with the general objective of implementing actions aimed at reducing the degradation of natural resources by livestock farming through the recovery of Legal Reserve areas integrated with sustainable forage production and the sustainable use of natural resources in the area. Under this Letter of Agreement, forage reserves will be created integrated with the recovery and conservation of Legal Reserve areas, and motivation, dissemination and training activities will be developed.
NGOs	Association of Plants of the Northeast - APNE	Co-financing partner	It is one of the project's co-financiers and has already implemented a Letter of Agreement that guided the Terms of Reference for REDESER's implementation strategies.
NGOs	Araripe Foundation	Co-financing partner	The Foundation is one of REDESER's co-financiers and currently holds implementation contracts for the project in two territories. In July 2025, it updated its co-financing amounts.
NGOs	COOPERCUC	Co-financing partner	COOPERCUC is a regional cooperative and one of the co-financiers of the REDESER project.
NGOs	EFASE	Co-financing partner	EFASE is one of the REDESER project's co-financiers and currently holds implementation contracts in two territories.

10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period. (This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources – the project has been responsive to gender issues. Through capacity-building and training processes, there has been an increase in women's participation and involvement in accessing and controlling natural resources. Moreover, this has enabled women to assume leadership roles within their organizations.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Building women's capacities will enhance their participation in decision-making within their communities and in interventions carried out in their territories, as well as foster their transversal inclusion in leadership spaces within their organizations.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Based on the training courses, it will be possible in the future to measure possible socio-economic benefits for the women served by the project.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	Another gender-related good practice has been the implementation of agroforestry systems in the Araripe territory, where women lead over 60% of the areas. Today, these women manage their own projects and actively participate in groups dedicated to mitigating the effects of climate change.

11. Knowledge and Learning Activities	
Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management (and Learning) Approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval, during this reporting period. (This section will be uploaded to the GEF Portal)	
Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	The project's knowledge management strategy includes leveraging the WOCAT platform. The platform managers have already been asked to translate the good-practice submission form into Portuguese. Currently, one consultancy is being contracted to map lessons learned and manage knowledge, and another to populate the WOCAT platform with documented good-practice experiences.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	N/A
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	One of the communication strategies was to strengthen coordination with the project's partner and implementing organizations in the territories, from which a diverse array of materials was produced to support the dissemination of best practices. As a result, a significant increase in project mentions was observed on social media channels linked to the intervention areas. These efforts solidified the role of partner organizations as content multipliers and reinforced community trust in the project's implementation process.
Human-interest story: 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. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1712828/ https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1712827/ https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1730955/ https://www.fao.org/newsroom/story/three-theses-of-biodiversity-revival-in-latin-america/en https://x.com/FAOBrasil/status/1934959217489637884 https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1730955/
Please provide links to related website, social media account	FAO Brazil's tweeter account, @FAOBrasil, publishes news of many projects, including REDESER. In addition to the official FAO Brazil account. The partner organizations also publicize the activities carried out under their letters of agreement. Instagram: @agendha @fundacao_araripe @redeasa @diaconia
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets publised on the web, if any.	N/A
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.	Luiza Olmedo FAO Communications Officer in Brazil luiza.olmedo@fao.org

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communitess Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

If applicable, 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 and/or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

The Project does not involve Indigenous communities but is part of a broader strategy to serve local populations. Specifically, in the implementation of the Letter of Agreement for the Uauá Territory in Bahia, the target group consisted of a traditional peoples and communities group known as Fundo de Pasto.

These communities are characterized by an ancestral and sustainable relationship with their territory. Their lands are held collectively, and the families living there share kinship ties and solidarity, pooling labor, natural resources, and traditional knowledge. They maintain a strong connection to the land, relying on it for their subsistence and the preservation of their cultural traditions.

The Fundo de Pasto practice sustainable natural resource management—rotating pasture areas and preserving water sources. Beyond cattle ranching, they engage in goat and sheep farming, subsistence agriculture (cultivating crops such as corn and beans), and the extraction of caatinga fruits, notably umbu and licuri. They also carry out complementary activities, including integrated silvopastoral systems using native caatinga plants, as well as meliponiculture and apiculture.

Building on this experience, a technical-scientific dossier and a dynamic conservation plan were developed to support this group’s application to the GIAHS program.

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement/approval (in USD)	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2025 (in USD)
Civil society	AGENDHA - Advisory and Management in Nature Studies, Human Development and Agroecology	In Kind	\$160,000	\$200,400
Civil society	APNE - Association of Northeast Power Plants	In Kind	\$160,000	\$152,782
State Government	CEPIS - Technological Park Foundation of Paraíba	In Kind	\$533,333	
Civil society	FA - Araripe Foundation	In Kind	\$160,000	\$474,545
United Nations	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	In Kind	\$200,000	\$200,000
State Government	FUNETEC - Foundation for Technological and Cultural Education	In Kind	\$800,000	
Civil society	IABS - Brazilian Institute of Sustainability and Development	In Kind	\$266,666	
Civil society	ICRAF - World Agroforestry Centre	In Kind	\$100,000	
Federal government	INSA - National Institute of the Semi-arid	In Kind	\$1,333,333	
Federal government	MDA - Ministry of Agrarian Development	In Kind	\$3,360,000	
Federal government	MMA - Ministry of the Environment	In Kind	\$1,866,667	
State Government	SEAFDS - Secretary of Agriculture of Paraíba	In Kind	\$1,066,667	\$4,057,340
Civil society	SEAPAC - Support Services for Alternative Community Projects	In Kind	\$160,000	
	SEIHRMACT - Paraíba Environment Secretariat	In-kind	\$800,000	
	SEMA - Crato Environment Secretariat	In-kind	\$533,334	
	SEMARH - Alagoas Environment Secretariat	In-kind	\$533,333	
	SFB - Brazilian Forest Service	In-kind	\$2,666,667	\$200,000
Civil Society Organization	Coopercuc	In-kind	\$0	\$266,660
Recipient Country Government	SEPLAN - Rio Grande do Norte Planning Secretariat	In-kind	\$1,066,666	\$560,000
Civil society	EFASE- Escola Família Agrícola do Sertão	In Kind	\$0	\$179,900
Total		Total	\$15,766,666	\$6,291,627

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since CEO Endorsement/Approval, or differences between the pledged and materialized co-financing amounts.

The Project team is in the process of updating the co-financing amounts. One challenge is that the figures on record reflect a period when certain environmental policies were priorities on the government’s agenda; over time, some of these policies have been discontinued. Therefore, it makes sense to update these amounts.

Annex. Monitoring Area-based GEF Core Indicator Commitments and Progress with FERM

The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), developed by FAO, is the official monitoring platform for tracking global progress and disseminating good practices for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The FERM can serve as an integrated GIS-based platform, providing GEF staff and all relevant stakeholders the chance to display the progress of committed versus achieved land under restoration or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use, along with clear results such as the percentage of project achievement. Having a common tracking and monitoring platform allows users to comprehensively assess and report on project progress. A user-friendly dashboard showcasing project results gives stakeholders a clear understanding of the extent to which project targets have been achieved. Projects with area-based GEF Core Indicators (GEF Core Indicators 1-5 and LDCF Core Indicator 2) are encouraged to register in the FERM platform.

Useful links:

- [FERM website](#)
- [FERM User Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [FERM YouTube channel](#)
- [Email Carmen Morales](#)

26 It also supports countries in reporting areas under restoration for the Kunming-Montreal GBF Target 2 (areas under restoration) for which FAO is the custodian agency.