



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023 – Revised Template

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):	Ecuador																			
Project Title:	LDN Target-Setting and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes in Western Andes and Coastal areas																			
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/ECU/093/GFF																			
GEF ID:	10184																			
GEF Focal Area(s):	Land Degradation																			
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock																			
Initial project duration (years):	Five (5) years																			
Project coordinates: <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> <i>a) Projects with 1st PIR;</i> <i>b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location Name</th> <th>Latitude</th> <th>Longitude</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Northern Highlands</td> <td>78° 39.5' W</td> <td>0° 35.4' N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>77° 59.9' W</td> <td>0° 11.77' S</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Central Highlands</td> <td>79° 15.9' W</td> <td>1° 7.4' S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>78° 31.3' W</td> <td>1° 49.12' S</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Coast</td> <td>80° 51.3 W</td> <td>1° 22.4' S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80° 20.5' W</td> <td>2° 16.10' S</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>[Projects in a) and b) categories should indicate YES here and provide the geocoded data in Annex 2]</i></p>		Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Northern Highlands	78° 39.5' W	0° 35.4' N	77° 59.9' W	0° 11.77' S	Central Highlands	79° 15.9' W	1° 7.4' S	78° 31.3' W	1° 49.12' S	Coast	80° 51.3 W	1° 22.4' S	80° 20.5' W	2° 16.10' S
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Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	11 June 2018
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	Sep, 2021
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	Dec, 2026
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	Not applicable

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 4,416,210
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	USD 28,328,787
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	USD 767,762
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	USD 386,194
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	USD 1,946,940.93

¹ As per FPMIS

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 The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

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

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	10 February 2023
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	April 2024
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	Not applicable
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date⁷:	Not applicable
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	<i>[It is mandatory for projects to update the TT or CI before Mid-Term or Terminal Evaluation stage. For projects that have a planned MTR or TE in the next fiscal year, please indicate YES here and provide the updated TT or CI as Annex.]</i>

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	<i>Satisfactory</i>
Overall implementation progress rating:	<i>Moderately Satisfactory</i>
Overall risk rating:	<i>Medium</i>

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	<i>Moderate Risk</i>
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Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	1st PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Manuel Peralvo	manuel.peralvo@condesan.org
Budget Holder (BH)	Eve Crowley	Eve.crowley@fao.org
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Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Andrea Jessica Casaza	Jessica.Casaza@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Hernan Gonzalez	Hernan.gonzalez@fao.org

⁶ 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.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

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 ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective: Prevent, reduce and reverse land degradation processes (SDG 2, 13, 15) to promote the sustainable development of rural communities, ensuring the provision of key ecosystem services and food	Outcome 1.1: Institutional actors make decisions with a LDN approach based on an established monitoring system that is regularly fed	Project Indicator # 1: LDN information gathering and monitoring system working and producing LDN national indicator reports mainstreaming gender and interculturality variables.	There are several national monitoring initiatives led by the MA AE and the MAG, this includes national progress for LUCC and COS. In addition, MAAE and MAG have environmental (SUIA),	Information system gathering and monitoring the LDN established, defining national LDN targets, protocols for monitoring indicators and institutional arrangements, sensitive to gender and multiculturalism, for long-term monitoring agreed among key actors	System survey information and monitoring of LDN running and generating national LDN indicators, reports, integrating variables related to gender and multiculturalism.	A first proposal of Memorandum of Understanding and work plan has been developed with the main objective to establish a collaboration with World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) partner of the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) thus WOCAT will work directly on the improvement of the land degradation core indicator baseline that will support decision-making and the development of the Land Degradation Neutrality Action Plan. In the same way, a general proposal and initial agreements have been developed to create a land degradation observatory that includes functions for the development of joint research agendas by site and common protocols. This contributes to fostering the necessary enabling conditions for the sustainability of a land degradation monitoring system. (15%)	MS

⁸ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic co-benefits as well.

¹¹ 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). Refer to Annex 1.

<p>sovereignty , within the framework of national efforts to achieve the LDN in Ecuador (2.4.1; 13.2.1; 15.3.1)</p>			<p>agricultural (SIPA) and forest information systems. Progress is needed in the development of national LDN indicators and targets that are reported to the Convention.</p>	<p>(including MAAE and MAG).</p>			
	<p>Outcome 1.2: Key actors at national and sub-national levels apply knowledge and tools for the implementation of the LDN approach to measures planning, implementation and monitoring.</p>	<p><u>Project Indicator # 5:</u> Number of people with capacities strengthened in the LDN approach for the implementation of SLM/SFM practices and that apply knowledge and tools in the three intervention areas (disaggregated by sex, ethnicity and age).</p>	<p>The LDN approach is new to most actors at the national and sub-national level. The application of knowledge and tools relevant to the LDN approach will require the development of capacities</p>	<p>A less 30 Technical (national, subnational, researchers) with capacities strengthened in planning the LDN approach to the monitoring of the LDN.</p> <p>At least 10 community promoters with training to promote the LDN approach (40 % are women; 30%</p>	<p>At the least 100 technical (national, subnational, researchers) with knowledge and capabilities strengthened in the LDN approach planning, implementation of measures and the monitoring of the LDN.</p> <p>At least 30 community promoters with training to promote the LDN approach (40% are women; 30% belong to towns and nationalities).</p>	<p>Currently, part of the needs relates to capacity building aimed at national government actors, subnational governments and beneficiary communities has been identified. (2%).</p>	<p>MU</p>

			and tools that allow their use by technicians and landowners / users to plan, execute and monitor LDN measures.	belong to peoples and nationalities). At least 30 people with strengthened capacities to implement SLM practices (40% are women; 30% belong to peoples and nationalities).	At least 90 people with strengthened capacities to implement SLM practices (40% are women; 30% belong to peoples and nationalities).		
Outcome 1.3: National and sub-national authorities include the LDN approach into national policies and planning processes, at different levels and with appropriate inter-agency coordination mechanisms.	Project Indicator # 7: Effective inter-institutional and / or multilevel coordination mechanisms to achieve LDN	Inter-institutional coordination mechanisms on this issue are weak, and are not implemented on a regular basis.	At least 1 intersectoral and / or multilevel coordination mechanism activated with LDN actors.	At least 1 intersectoral and / or multilevel coordination mechanism activated with LDN actors.	The review of the national legal framework and within the intervention sites is underway. Substantial inputs have been provided to national policy tools such as the Paramos National Action Plan and the guidelines for the update of Development and Land Use Plans all these actions will allow in a middle time identified decisions makers platforms (e.g. an Inter-institutional Committee on Climate Change) which could include a specific space where national and subnational keys actors could take decision around Land Degradation Neutrality (8%)		S
Outcome 2.1: Landowners and users adopt sustainable land management practices at intervention sites to prevent and/or reduce land degradation and restore ecosystem services.	GEF Indicator # 3.2: Area in hectares (ha) of forest areas restored to maintain ecosystem services in 3 intervention sites	0	0	2,000 ha	There are operational agreements built collaboratively with the main partners and beneficiaries of the Project in the intervention sites, which respond to synergies between the LDN approach and the ongoing processes of sustainable land management. (5%).		N/A
	GEF indicator # 3.3: Area in hectares of páramo areas and shrub ecosystems restored to maintain ecosystem services	0	0	2,000 ha			N/A

		in 3 intervention sites					
		<u>GEF indicator # 4.3:</u> Area in hectares of landscapes under SLM in productive systems in 3 intervention sites	0	0	4,750 ha		N/A
		<u>GEF indicator # 4.4:</u> Area in hectares of high-value forests conserved in 3 intervention sites	0	0	20,000 ha		N/A
		<u>GEF Indicator # 11:</u> Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and ethnicity as a co-benefit of the GEF investment	0	At least 1,250 people (500 women and 375 belonging to peoples and nationalities) have implemented SLM practices on the farm and their comprehensive impact has been evaluated.	At least 3,750 people (1,500 women and 1,125 belonging to peoples and nationalities) have implemented SLM practices on the farm and their comprehensive impact has been evaluated.		MU
		<u>GEF Indicator # 6:</u> tCO2e sequestered or emissions avoided due to SLM practices and avoided deforestation	0	0	9'596,730 tCO2e q		N/A
	Outcome 3.1 <u>Actors in selected value chains include the SLM approach to enhance resilience and</u>	<u>GEF Indicator # 11:</u> Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and ethnicity as a co-benefit of the GEF investment	0	At the least 300 beneficiaries access SLM incentives and mechanisms	At the least 1000 beneficiaries / as access SLM incentives and mechanisms to strengthen the SLM in value chains.	The strategies for field activities in the intervention sites identify specific communities and local organizations with the potential to adopt SLM practices and related incentives. Value chains have been prioritized with the participation of local stakeholders. The field strategies have comprised in feedback meetings and gathering information with provincial governments in the three intervention	S

	generate socio-economic benefits based on incentives and improvements in market access mechanisms.			that promote SLM in value chains. At least 360 people with strengthened capacities in LDN (disaggregated by sex and ethnicity).	At least 480 people with strengthened capacities in LDN (disaggregated by sex and ethnicity).	zones, beneficiaries of these intervention zones and other actors such as UNORCAC, GIZ, FEPP, FURNOSAL, CARE (14%).	
		<u>Project Indicator # 12:</u> On-farm generated smallholder income improved through SLM / SFM practices and incentives	To be defined in year 1.	0	At least 10% increase in the income generated in the farm of small owners who have incorporated the SLM.		N/A
	Outcome 4.1: Knowledge management, M&E and disseminated lessons learned from the project.	<u>Project Indicator 15:</u> Project results achieved and demonstrating sustainability	N/A	10 0% of goals fulfilled medium term.	100% scope in achieving results . Proven sustainability.	The project was launched in April 2022 and has been presented in the intervention sites. Strategies for communications and knowledge management have been developed and the image manual has the approval from Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition. A M&E tool has been developed and procedures are in place to use it (46%)	S

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

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
1.1 LDN Monitoring System (MS)	A MOU is under development with WOCAT to work in the protocols and improvement of the base national LDN indicators. With this arrangement it is expected to improve the communication and exchange of experiences with other countries that are working in the development of their national LDN monitoring systems.	PIU in collaboration with MAATE and FAO	Operations under the MOU with WOCAT are expected to start in August 2023
1.2 Capacity building (MU)	Capacity building needs will be extracted from the work plans that have been elaborated with the project partners in the intervention sites. At the national level, capacity building needs will be identified in the context of the design of the National LDN Observatory, which will convene a core group of researchers from four universities with experience in monitoring land degradation dynamics. Based on this information, communication and capacity building tools will be developed and tailored to the specific needs of these target audiences.	PIU	Development of capacity building tools is expected to start in August 2023 and implementation of capacity building activities in the fourth quarter of 2023.
2.1 Landowners and users adopt sustainable land management practices at intervention sites to prevent and/or reduce land degradation and restore ecosystem services. (MU)	<p>Participatory Implementation Plans will be developed in the context of specific land use and development planning needs by project partners in the intervention sites. This should secure adequate participation and promote the adoption of the planning tools and related information.</p> <p>On the other hand, it is important the development and implementation of a simplified but effective Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol.</p>	PIU	<p>A 50% of Participatory Implementation Plans will be developed at the end of December 2023.</p> <p>By the end of October 2023, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be established.</p>

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
Outcome 1.1 Institutional actors make decisions with a LDN approach based on an established monitoring system that is regularly fed				
Output 1.1.1 LDN indicators baseline assessed at national and local level.	<u>Project Indicator # 2:</u> Number of LDN base line indicators established	4%	<p>A document containing the definition, types and causes of land degradation under the LDN approach has been developed.</p> <p>A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed to initiate work in conjunction with World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) partner of the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD). Similarly,</p>	The design of the project considered the revision of the baseline through a consultancy. During the implementation, a cooperation mechanism (MOU) with WOCAT has been identified as a more robust strategy to promote knowledge management, local appropriation and links with similar processes in other countries.

¹² Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹³ Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁴ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

			<p>a general proposal for a land degradation observatory has been developed that includes functions for the development of joint research agendas by site and common protocols.</p> <p>In February 2023, Ecuador submitted to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) the Performance Review and Implementation System (PRAIS) report in its fourth edition which included the presentation of the baseline in the indicators of land use change, soil organic carbon and land productivity. This baseline will be reviewed and improved in the context of the collaboration with WOCAT to reduce the uncertainty of the results.</p>	
<p>Output 1.1.2 Participatory assessment of SLM practices that prevent and reduce land degradation, restore ecosystems, reduce emissions and enhance the provision of ecosystem services.</p>	<p>Project Indicator # 3: Methodologies to systematize and evaluate SLM practices aligned with LDN targets and land degradation trends at the national and sub-national level that are implemented with a gender and intercultural approach.</p>	<p>8%</p>	<p>A literature review has been carried out that has allowed establishing a classification typology of SLM practices. A conceptual document has been developed that establishes the approach and methodology for the evaluation of practices.</p> <p>The identification of value chains relevant for LDN is</p>	<p>N/A</p>

			<p>anchored in coordination with the local governments in Imbabura and Santa Elena Provinces, civil society organizations in Bolívar (FEPP, CARE and FUNORSAL), and Santa Elena (Pasos Foundation) and other initiatives operating in the intervention sites (e.g. GIZ's Biovalor in Santa Elena, and Mountain Program in Central Andes). Further refinement in the characterization of SLM practices will continue in the development of the national assessment.</p>	
<p>Output 1.1.3 Monitoring of LDN indicators at national and sub-national levels, integrated with reporting mechanisms.</p>	<p><u>Project Indicator # 4:</u> Methodologies and institutional-operational arrangements to monitor long-term progress and fulfillment of LDN targets that facilitate the participation and representation of women and men in decision-making on SFM/SLM</p>	<p>3%</p>	<p>Initial meetings have been held with relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to conceptualize governance for monitoring and implementing actions to combat Land Degradation within the framework of the elaboration of the LDN National Action Plan.</p> <p>Between December 2022 and February 2023, information relevant to establish the baseline and</p>	<p>N/A</p>

			<p>monitoring for LD indicator was compiled and the PRAIS4 report sent to the UNCCD within the timeframe defined by the Convention.</p> <p>Based on meetings with universities such as the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Universidad Nacional de Loja, Escuela Superior Técnica de Chimborazo, an initial general proposal has been developed to establish a national degradation observatory that includes the development of research agendas and protocols to monitor subnational land degradation indicators.</p>	
<p>Outcome 1.2 Key actors at national and sub-national levels apply knowledge and tools for the implementation of the LDN approach to measures planning, implementation and monitoring.</p>				
<p>Output 1.2.1 Capacity strengthening tools for LDN targets planning, implementation and monitoring, with a gender</p>	<p><u>Project Indicator # 6:</u> Number and type of capacity building tools for planning, implementing and monitoring the LDN targets,</p>	2%	<p>Part of the capacity building priorities have been identified in the development of the operational planning with</p>	N/A

<p>and intercultural approach, and available, operational and implemented by key actors.</p>	<p>SLM and SFM with a gender and intercultural approach, available, operational and applied by key stakeholders</p>		<p>the project partners in the intervention sites.</p> <p>In collaboration with FAO, MAATE and WOCAT, a regional exchange between GEF-funded LDN projects was designed and implemented in Quito between June 6-9, 2023.</p>	
<p>Outcome 1.3 National and sub-national authorities include the LDN approach into national policies and planning processes, at different levels and with appropriate inter-agency coordination mechanisms.</p>				
<p>Output 1.3.1 National policies and sub-national territorial planning instruments (new or existing) are part of the LDN approach and consider the specific priorities of women and peoples and nationalities.</p>	<p><u>Project Indicator # 8:</u> Number and type of policy instruments national and territorial planning tools that incorporate LDN and SLM and capacities, priorities and territorial conditions for women, men and indigenous populations</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>The consultancy for the characterization of the regulatory framework relevant for land degradation, sustainable land management, and LDN is underway.</p> <p>The LDN project supported the initial workshop of the Participatory Management, Conservation and Soil Recovery Plan (PMPCRS) which is being developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). That workshop was implemented to gather inputs for the construction of a roadmap for the development of the</p>	<p>The Ecuadorian Government is being supported in the development of a tool or web application called "Climate Risk Calculator" with the main objective to support local governments to include Adaptation to Climate Change and Land Degradation criteria's in its Planning and Development Plans. This tool will primarily focus on determining climate risk with land degradation considerations.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the Project will develop an additional and complementary tool to the</p>

			<p>Plan. Its relevant to mention that PMPCRS will include LDN approach in its design.</p> <p>Contributions were made to the development of the Páramos National Action Plan (PAN Páramo) to incorporate criteria to combat land degradation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Technical assistance was provided to the Macro Zoning process of the Province of Bolívar, which defined scenarios for priority areas for conservation, restoration, and sustainable production.</p> <p>Criteria for land degradation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change were included in the guide for updating land use and development plans.</p> <p>In a complementary way, a conceptualization of a territorial planning tool has been developed that will support the subnational governments of Ecuador to include criteria of Adaptation to Climate Change and Land</p>	<p>"climate risk calculator" that will foster the LDN approach into local planning.</p>
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			Degradation in their planning processes.	
Output 1.3.2 National LDN Action Plan designed and operational including national LDN targets.	Project Indicator # 9: National action plan for LDN with a gender perspective	1%	A meeting of the Project Technical Committee was carried out to discuss and obtain feedback on the conceptualization proposal of the LDN Action Plan.	N/A
Outcome 2.1 Landowners and users adopt sustainable land management practices at intervention sites to prevent and/or reduce land degradation and restore ecosystem services				
Output.2.1.1 Ongoing participatory plans for the LDN implementation (mainstreaming gender, landscape, and intercultural approaches) in the context of the LDN National Action Plan.	Project Indicator # 10: Number of plans designed for the implementation of LDN level subnational, in coordination with governance processes and local consultation, and focusing on landscape, gender and intercultural	3%	The relevant subnational regulations for the promotion of SLM practices in the intervention sites are being reviewed as part of the consultancy for the characterization of the legal framework relevant for LD and LDN. Within the framework of the participatory construction of work plans with the project partners in the intervention sites, three initiatives have been identified with the potential to be included in the development of Participatory Implementation Plans: 1) A life plan for a local community in the Santa	N/A

			Elena Province, 2) the paramo conservation and management plan for the Association of Municipalities of Southwestern Tungurahua, and 3) a province level plan to support land use and development planning in the Imbabura Province.	
<p>Output 2.1.2 Gender and intercultural-sensitive SLM/SFM practices implemented in the project intervention areas (ecosystems and productive landscapes), which restore vegetative cover, soil organic carbon, water regime and increase productive systems sustainability.</p>	<p><u>Project Indicator # 11:</u> Number and type of SLM / SFM practices promoted, with a gender and intercultural approach in the three areas of intervention</p>	2%	<p>The mapping of actors in the intervention sites has been updated within the framework of the articulation of the project with ongoing processes relevant to the LDN approach. This has made it possible to identify and prioritize value chains and SLM practices to be worked on at the sites.</p> <p>Six work plans have been developed in a participatory manner for the operation of the project in the intervention sites with its local partners. In this manner, proposals for agreements have been prepared to formalize Agreements to formalize the articulation with the Provincial Governments of Santa Elena, Bolívar and Imbabura.</p>	N/A

Outcome 3.1 Actors in selected value chains include the SLM approach to enhance resilience and generate socio-economic benefits based on incentives and improvements in market access mechanisms				
Output 3.1.1 Designed and operational mechanisms and institutional arrangements for the implementation of incentives to promote the adoption of SLM/SFM, mainstreaming gender and interculturality.	<u>Project Indicator # 13:</u> Number and type of mechanisms of incentives and institutional arrangements that facilitate the adoption of SLM / SFM practices by small producers (men and women) in each area of intervention	23%	Opportunities has been identified to generate and strengthen reimbursable and non-reimbursable financing incentives for the adoption of SLM practices, within the framework of updating the mapping of actors and processes in the intervention sites.	N/A
Output 3.1.2 Designed and operational mechanisms and institutional arrangements to improve market access for smallholders (men and women) that are part of the SLM approach into the selected value chains.	<u>Project Indicator # 14:</u> Number and type of mechanisms and institutional arrangements to improve market access at local and national level of the products generated by small producers partners (men and women) that integrate the SLM approach in value chains prioritized in each area intervention	9%	Value chains with the potential to contribute to the implementation of the LDN approach have been identified, within the framework of updating the mapping of actors and processes in the intervention sites.	N/A
Outcome 4.1 Knowledge management, M&E and disseminated lessons learned from the project.				

Output.4.1.1 Mid-term review and Final evaluation carried out.	Project Indicator # 16: Number and type of evaluation reports	0%	No progress planned for this reporting period.	N/A
Output: 4.1.2 Overall environmental benefits, co-benefits and costs of SLM/SFM monitored, assessed and lessons learned from the project analyzed.	Project Indicator # 17: Project results framework with outcome and output indicators, baseline and targets Gender perspective incorporated in project management and actions	15%	<p>The Project has developed a monitoring tool and operational follow-up, which has registered progress until June of this year.</p> <p>The project's national kick-off workshop was held in April 2022.</p> <p>So far, start-up workshops have been held in two of the three intervention sites: southern Andes (February 2023) and Northern Andes (May 2023), with the participation of the Provincial, cantonal and parish governments of these sites and the potential beneficiaries. of the project.</p> <p>The work and procurement plans have been prepared and validated as planned, as well as the semi-annual technical reports and the quarterly financial execution reports.</p>	N/A
Output: 4.1.3 Knowledge management outputs, developed and disseminated.	Project Indicator # 18: Number and type of products knowledge about the causes of land degradation, best practices SLM and lessons	15%	An initial version of the knowledge management strategy has been developed, with key questions for the implementation of LDN	N/A

	learned about LDN published and disseminated (including the impact differentiated in women and men, and the way it has been integrated do gender approach in project implementation) and cultural / ethnic relevance.		monitoring, SLM practices, incentives, governance and planning.	
Output: 4.1.4 Communication strategy developed and implemented to support the expansion of SLM/SFM to achieve LDN targets.	<u>Project Indicator # 19:</u> Number and type of communication materials about LDN gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate, disseminated	31%	The Project already has a communication strategy approved by the Steering Committee. At the same time, the project image manual has been generated and validated. Key messages linked to LDN have been disseminated within the framework of different project activities (e.g. launch events at intervention sites).	N/A

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

Progress in the implementation of the NDT Project has been made in two main fronts. First, substantial headway has occurred in the establishment of institutional arrangements that will sustain implementation in the intervention sites. Stakeholders and on-the-ground initiatives relevant for the implementation of the LDN approach have been identified, and operational arrangements and workplans have been developed in close collaboration to foster impact at the local level and secure a solid basis to generate lessons for LDN at national scale. Additionally, the Project has been building collaborative arrangements with academic institutions in the intervention sites (e.g. Chimborazo province) and other areas (e.g. Loja province) which have substantial experience in monitoring land degradation dynamics. The strategy is to start a participatory construction of the conceptual and operational frameworks for the National Land Degradation Observatory with this initial group of researchers.

A second area of progress corresponds to key outputs, with emphasis on the review and update of the national baseline for the three main national LDN indicators (Land use and land cover change, soil carbon and trends in productivity) in the context of the generation of the PRAIS4 report to the UNCCD. Part of this process has been the start of a collaborative arrangement with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) to further improve the protocols to monitor the base LDN indicators, as well as to develop complementary indicators adjusted to the land degradation dynamics present in Ecuador. Additional progress has been made through contributions to key national and subnational planning processes and tools, to secure the incorporation of land degradation and climate change factors and responses. These include the National Action Plan for Paramos, the guidelines for the update of Development and Land Use Plans by subnational governments, and the macro zoning tool for the Bolivar province.

At project onset, the main challenge was to reach agreement with the focal point at MAATE on operational procedures to secure adequate feedback and appropriation of the process by the national environmental authority. This process took substantial time, especially during the second semester of 2022, and caused delays in the formation of the Project Implementation Unit, generating a cascading effect in the progress of Project's results and outputs. An important mechanism to solve this bottleneck was the establishment of a technical liaison role through the M&E official of the PIU, who has allowed an agile flow of information and validation with MAATE since the start of 2023.

Before June 2023, core project team had a role to establish and maintain the relationship with local governments and communities that implied a considerable effort generated certain delays in activities at the national level related to governance, monitoring and capacity building. Part of these challenges were linked to social mobilizations in June 2022, and the cycle of elections of local authorities in the first semester of 2023. Conformation of local team project has been carried out and it is expected that the start of their activities from July 2023 will allow them to overcome delays and foster the local and national activities.

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

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

	FY2023 Development Objective rating¹⁵	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating¹⁶	Comments/reasons¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator Manuel Peralvo	S	MS	<i>Albeit delays in the implementation of activities in specific outputs, the LDN Project has established a solid basis to generate substantial impacts in the prevention, reduction and reversion of land degradation processes at national a subnational level. Planned activities in some outputs have exceeded the annual planning. For example, substantial progress has been made in the incorporation of land degradation neutrality principles in national and subnational public policy instruments (e.g. Paramo National Action Plan). Delays in other outputs such as the development of a capacity building program are being addressed in the operational planning in the intervention sites.</i>
Budget Holder	MS	MS	<i>Despite the project facing delays in the implementation of several activities, it is expected that with the hiring of the core team and field technicians, strategies will be employed to achieve the established objectives within the specified timeframe. It's worth highlighting the progress the project has made in areas related to public policy and the incorporation of LDN principles into them.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point¹⁸			<i>Ratings/comments</i>
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹ Jessica Casaza	MS	MS	<i>The project has had delays in the start of operation to achieve the necessary procedural agreements with the national environmental authority. This process had an impact on the timely formation of the Project Implementation Unit; however, it was overcome and the</i>

¹⁵ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁶ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

¹⁸ In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

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

			<p><i>team is currently in operation. In addition, the formation of local teams is being carried out.</i></p> <p><i>In turn, the process of elections for local authorities and the social context in the country also affected the start of activities related to governance, monitoring, and capacity development.</i></p> <p><i>In any case, corrective measures are being applied and the project is currently progressing adequately in its implementation, for example: in the establishment of institutional arrangements in the intervention sites; identification of local initiatives for the implementation of the LDN approach; a participatory process for the development of the National Land Degradation Observatory; the review and update of the national baseline for the three main national LDN indicators, which has allowed the initiation of a collaboration agreement with World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT).</i></p> <p><i>Despite the delays at this early stage, the project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives.</i></p>
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	S	MS	<p><i>The project has recently started implementation on the ground. Project team is now fully in place and project activities have started at a good pace.</i></p> <p><i>The project organized, with great success, an international event on LDN in early June 2023. LDN experts from more than 13 countries (including UNCCD focal points from Uruguay, Panama, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago and Ecuador), as well as GEF agencies and technical experts from UNCCD and GIZ participated. It is expected that a informal working group will be established to advance knowledge on LDN in the region.</i></p>

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
2.5 - Would this project involve access to genetic resources for their utilization and/or access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that is held by indigenous, local communities and/or farmers?	The project will seek to implement practices that consider the neutrality approach to land degradation in various areas of the country, which may include indigenous populations. As part of the activities, pasture and crop management will be carried out, planting native plants and strengthening their value chains. For these activities, the use of native plants will be promoted according to the landscape and area to be intervened, in accordance with national regulations.	The PIU is following guidelines related to FPIC in the development of the operational planning in the intervention sites and FPIC will be fully implemented in the relevant cases (e.g. common lands in indigenous territories). Strengthening local processes of ecosystem conservation is a key component in the cooperation arrangements with local actors, as well as	N/A	Project Implementation Unit

	<p>The development of participatory plans for the implementation of LDN will be supported.</p> <p>The operationalization of the PDOTs in each intervention area aligned with the LDN approach will be supported.</p>	<p>the use of native species for ecosystem restoration.</p> <p>Sustainable land management practices are being identified with the participation of local actors and have a focus on generating benefits through improved conditions in market access and better prices for traditional practices.</p>		
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
3.2.1 - Would this project involve the importing or transfer of seeds and/or planting materials for cultivation?	<p>It will work in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Provincial Governments who manage the agroecological nurseries in each province.</p> <p>The sowing material must be previously cultivated, in most cases it belongs to the sowing of native agrobiodiversity.</p> <p>The procurement processes are carried out based on FAO standards.</p> <p>The terms of reference are approved by the LTO of the FAO project.</p>	<p>The NDT Project will prioritize native species and best practices to preserve local agrobiodiversity. For instance, in august 2022, the LDN project will support native seed interchange in the Northern Andes intervention site in coordination with the women indigenous organization of UNORCAC.</p>	N/A	Project Implementation Unit
3.4 - Would this project establish or manage planted forests?	<p>Support the definition of local instrument plans, such as conservation agreements</p>	<p>The LDN Project is working in coordination with the National Project of Landscape</p>	N/A	Project Implementation Unit

	<p>that promote sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Activities will promote sustainable land management based on the LDN approach.</p> <p>The restoration activities of 4,000 hectares of forests and páramos will be coordinated in conjunction with MAAE and MAG, as well as monitored for greater control.</p>	<p>restoration from the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition and will follow the guidelines related to the use of local germplasm and support of local nurseries for restoration activities.</p> <p>In the context of the support of ILUP processes, the LDN Project will secure the inclusion of forest and ecosystem restoration with native species.</p>		
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
<p>9.2 - Are there indigenous peoples living in the project area where activities will take place?</p>	<p>The project's complaint mechanism will be implemented and publicized, which can be activated by project</p>	<p>Formal arrangements are still in preparation for work with indigenous communities and organizations following FPIC guidelines aligned</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Project Implementation Unit</p>

	beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. During the first year of project execution, an FPIC process will be carried out.	with national regulations.		
9.4 - Would this project be located in an area where cultural resources exist?	Hold bilateral meetings in-situ as each indigenous people that will participate in the project activities through a prior approach and signed consensus. Carry out a FPIC process once the communities according to province and parish have been specifically identified for the implementation of the project. Inception workshops will be held in each intervention zone that has indigenous peoples as part of the FPIC process.	At project onset, no substantial physical cultural resources have been identified in the intervention areas. However, a close coordination with local governments and other relevant agencies is being implemented to identify and minimize any potential impact to local cultural resources.	N/A	Project Implementation Unit
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Moderate	Moderate

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

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

No grievances have been received during the reporting period.

6. Risks

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

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	<u>Environmental:</u> Extreme weather conditions adversely affect restoration and SLM practices. Accelerated land degradation and biodiversity loss due to severe climate change.	Low	Yes	Section 1.a Project Description - 1) global environmental problem includes projections on climate change effects in Ecuador. The project design includes considerations for mitigation and adaptation to climate change effects. The project's Theory of Change was developed considering the Guide 'Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment Framework (RAPTA)'. The project will implement existing climate change adaptation strategies by paying attention to changes affecting biodiversity, land and forest resources.	Potential actors and initiatives are being identified in which conservation, restoration and sustainable land management measures increase resilience to extreme climate events. . For example, the conservation and restoration of paramo areas in Imbabura, Bolívar and Tungurahua provinces is key to maintain critical water regulation services in	

²¹ Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

				<p>The project will raise awareness and increase the knowledge of key stakeholders and other groups about the importance of moving towards SLM and LDN to prevent, reduce and reverse land degradation, including synergies between biodiversity, carbon, water, climate change and impacts on local livelihoods.</p> <p>The integration of LDN approach in project actions (e.g., integration of the LDN in national policies and in DAGs land planning tools, the elaboration of the LDN National Action Plan) will contribute to integrate and/or strengthen adaptation and resilience to the effects of climate variability in these instruments and their implementation. In the development of the National Action Plan, an economic assessment will be carried out to create scenarios on the impact of land degradation and climate change.</p> <p>Participatory Implementation Plans will include climate risk analysis to identify and promote measures that are resilient to the effects of climate change. The prioritization and validation of SLM practices will consider their potential to create synergies with biodiversity, ecosystem services and carbon, and their contribution</p>	<p>the context of worsening drought events as a result of climate change.</p> <p>Also, one of goals of restoration pilots of severely degraded lands in the San Marcos community, Santa Elena province is minimizing the occurrence of flash floods related to the loss of water regulation capacity of these areas.</p>	
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			<p>to enhancing climate resilience especially in contexts where climate risks are identified. The implementation of SLM practices will reduce the vulnerability of systems to extreme climate events (e.g., SLM practices will be carried out in key areas that regulate water flow). The project will consider the contribution of women in developing management practices and adopting measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g., conservation of native seeds).</p> <p>Coordination with the GEF Project #4345 'Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change in Andean Water Resources' as well as lessons learned from the GEF/FAO project <i>Climate-smart Livestock Management Integrating Reversion of Land Degradation and Reduction of Desertification Risks in Vulnerable Provinces</i>, will allow access to the methodologies and tools designed in this regional project, systematizing implemented measures (e. g. restoration of hydrological services in prioritized watersheds through adaptation measures based on SLM/SFM practices, climate-smart measures for livestock, and will promote</p>		
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				exchange with stakeholders in order to set up links in the implementation of adaptation measures under the LDN approach.		
2	<u>Social</u> Problems in land tenure regularization make it difficult for landowners to access to incentives and other schemes that promote the adoption of SLM practices.	Medium	Yes	The project will not condition the participation of farmers in project activities despite having no regularized land.	The development of work plans in the intervention sites has been done in close collaboration with local governments, indigenous organizations and NGOs with long term knowledge of the local land and resource access regimes. This strategy will foster the participation of a broad basis of local producers, linked to existing initiatives implemented by the Project's partners.	
3	<u>Social</u> High migration rates in intervention sites affect the capacity of communities and farmers to adopt SLM practices.	Medium	Yes	The project will be implemented considering information on temporary and permanent migration cycles and other local working and organizational conditions. The intervention sites will be prioritized considering migration as a local social parameter.	In Santa Elena and Imbabura, capacity building activities incorporate by design approaches targeted to women and young adults, to foster local leadership and alternatives to permanent or temporal migration.	
4	<u>Social</u> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, local people	High Low	Yes	The project will promote the use of biosecurity measures for training development. In	In May of this year, the World Health Organization (WHO)	

	will avoid attending training spaces for fear of contagion, reducing their participation in project activities, especially the vulnerable population.			addition, training spaces with reduced numbers of participants and in open spaces will be privileged.	declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, for that reason this type of risk step from high to low rating. However, the prevention measures of the project that include the concentration of people in reduced spaces are still maintained.	
5	<u>Political/Institutional:</u> Changes in administrations and institutional organizations can affect decision-making, project continuity, as well as the appropriate scaling of experiences and lessons.	Medium	Yes	The project will give priority to capacity development processes focused on permanent staff and local community members. The interventions will also involve various organizations at each intervention site, to ensure the permanence of relevant local actors at each site. Mechanisms for inter-institutional multi-level coordination and cooperation (national and sub-national) will be strengthened, which will serve to support the process continuity in case of institutional change. To the extent that local actors are more knowledgeable, aware and trained in SLM and LDN, they will support the continuity of the actions, being the main stakeholders in the implementation. The project will promote institutional arrangements between the MAAE and MAG for the	The startup strategies in the intervention sites have been developed in close collaboration with technical teams in local governments, indigenous organizations and NGOs. In most cases, these key focal points have been stable, even taking into account the change in elected officials in may 2023.	

				implementation of activities, which will contribute to the continuity of activities in case of changes. Likewise, the design and agreement on a governance model for the LDN with roles and responsibilities of the participating actors will also contribute to the continuity of actions. In addition, the project activities will create tools for the implementation of SLM practices that are permanently available to the relevant actors and authorities.		
6	<u>Political/Institutional:</u> Low local technical capacity at different work levels leads to delays in the project activities implementation.	Medium	Yes	The project will pay special attention to maintaining a continuous capacity development process through the exchange of experiences and the training of technicians from the institutions participating in the project. The training activities will serve to promote and empower the competences, capacities and skills of technicians and beneficiaries (men and women). The project will also promote spaces for the participation of these beneficiaries in project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes to encourage ownership.	An initial identification of training needs have been carried out focus on: central government, subnational government and beneficiary communities' levels. It is expected to apply the training programs in synergy with compliance with the Participatory Implementation Plans.	
7	<u>Political/Institutional:</u> National and local development programmes that	Medium	Yes	The project will work with MAG and local governments to influence the implementation of national agricultural programmes	The LDN Project is actively engaging the National Environmental	

	discourage the adoption of SLM practices in the project's intervention areas.			in the project intervention areas through information, tools, training and dialogue. The strengthening of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms will contribute to the continuous dialogue on SLM in the programmes. The integration of the LDN approach in national policies (e.g., in the PCPMR to be led by MAG) and the land planning instruments of the DAGs will contribute to improving the coordination between national and local programmes regarding SLM.	Authority and the National Agricultural Authority of Ecuador to mainstream the land degradation neutrality approach in public policy tools (e.g. National LDN Action Plan, Participatory Management Plan, Conservation and Soil Recovery). Additional actions to promote synergies between national programs and the adoption of SLM practices will be implemented in the context of the governance of the Land Degradation Neutrality Action Plan in Ecuador.	
8	<u>Economic/Financial:</u> Market fluctuations affect profits in the sustainable value chains promoted by the project.	Medium	Yes	A market analysis will be carried out to help companies articulate themselves in markets with advantageous conditions. The project will provide technical assistance and training to producers and sellers in prioritised value chains to meet market challenges. Long-term relationships with anchor companies and fair-trade organizations will be fostered to ensure a steady supply to	The following value chains that the Project will support for the adoption of SLM practices offer opportunities to improved market access conditions: - Toquilla straw: better prices for fibre collected under	

				<p>companies and organizations while producers benefit from stable markets. Consumer promotion opportunities on LDN and responsible consumption that can deliver benefits when trading products will also be assessed.</p>	<p>improved management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milk: Organic certification and sustainable pasture management practices can command better market prices. - Fresh vegetables: produce of agroecological practices will have improved access to fairs. 	
9	<p><u>Economic/Financial:</u> Lack of engagement of the private sector along the selected value chains</p>	Medium	Yes	<p>An important criterion in the selection of value chains in the intervention sites is the strength of engagement of private actors along the chain, and the potential to further develop incentives to support widespread adoption of SLM practices in the production link of the chain. During the PPG phase, several value chains were identified with an important engagement of private actors, such the honey and bamboo value chains in the intervention site in the Coast. Furthermore, the project will also prioritize mechanisms that improve direct access to markets by producers, through mechanisms such as short food supply chains, and participatory guarantee systems that provide</p>	<p>As part of the update of stakeholder maps, in the intervention sites, private sector stakeholders are being identified that can open opportunities to improve market access for sustainable products. For example, in the Coastal intervention site, private actors in the Panama hat value chain have been identified that could provide incentives for the adoption of better management practices in the harvest of toquilla straw.</p>	

				incentives for agroecological production practices.		
10	<u>Economic/Financial:</u> The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic can affect the sources of co-finance for the project	Medium	Yes	The conceptual basis for LDN seeks the integration of policy instruments and actions that balance social, economic and environmental goals in development and territorial planning, promote food security and the maintenance and recovery of key ecosystem functions. The implementation of the project will promote synergies of these goals, to mitigate potential changes in policy orientation at the national and subnational level that could impact the amount of co-finance that has been identified in the PPG phase. In addition, during project implementation further efforts will be made to broaden the sources of co-finance, through collaborative arrangements with stakeholders in the public sector, private sector and civil society.	Economic impacts by COVID-19 are still felt, for example, in the shortage of funding for local governments. The project is incorporating an integrated land use planning approach in selected public policy tools that foster synergies between conservation, restoration and sustainable production, optimizing the use of scarce public and private funds for sustainable land management practices.	
11	<u>Economic/Financial:</u> The COVID-19 pandemic causes an economic downturn that constrains the demand for the products promoted by the project in the identified value chains.	Medium	Yes	The project will promote trading partnerships with the private sector for the procurement of products in the intervention areas.	Selected value chains are less sensitive to the effects of the pandemic on demand (e.g. toquilla straw, corn, milk).	
12	<u>Environmental:</u>	Substantial	No	Organizations such as the National Committee of Ecuador	The PIU is monitoring closely the evolution	

	Impacts relate to ENSO phenomena in Ecuadorian coast			for the Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN, known in Spanish) and NOAA have issued alerts about an unusual increase in the surface temperature of the sea, which warn of the presence of the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, which It can affect the project activities, especially in the coastal part of the provinces of Manabí and Santa Elena, in which the project is implementing activities.	of the ENSO event. Site selection for specific actions will consider the likely impact of ENSO on road infrastructure, and other likely impacts of increased precipitations.	
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Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Medium	Medium	N/A

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, 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 <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1:	N/A
Recommendation 2:	N/A
Recommendation 3:	N/A
Recommendation.....	N/A
Recommendation.....	N/A

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	
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8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²². 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.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	An opportunity was identified to support the Ecuadorian Government in the design and development of a tool or web application for the inclusion of criteria for adaptation to climate change and land degradation in local planning. For that reason, there was an increase of the scope of output 1.3.1 due that in a first instance the scope of output 1.3.1 was focusing on generate a tool just for planning land degradation at the level of the intervention sites.	10 February 2023	Steering committee (SC) in meeting that took place on 10 February 2023 validated this change
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements	In a first instance, it had been stipulated that the activity corresponding to output 1.1.1 be carried out through a consulting process, however, through the previous work that Ecuador has been doing as country party within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) entailed an initial to execute a conversation with WOCAT.	April 2023	Pending by approval from SC

²² Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

	WOCAT, is one of the most important partners institutions from the UNCCD, and has a lot of experience working with others countries from the Latin-American and Caribbean Region in strengthen land degradation core indicators baseline (soil organic carbon, land productivity and land cover change).		
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 and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government institutions			
Ministry of Environment Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE)	Main focal point through the Climate Change Secretariat	MAATE is actively participating in the strategic steering and validation of project operations through: 1) participation in the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Management Committee (PMC), 2) Supporting mainstreaming of LDN in public policy tools such as Paramo Action Plan, guidelines for territorial development plans, report to the UNCCD.	Reaching agreements for tracking, validation and monitoring procedures took the second semester of 2022. This generated delays in key processes such as hiring the technical staff for the Project Implementation Unit (PIU).
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)	Main technical and political partner	Active participation in the PSC and PMC has provided important feedback to processes such as the development of productive soil conservation plan and the start of the development of the LDN Action Plan.	More coordination among the different sections in MAG is needed to support a more robust design of LDN strategies at national and subnational scales.
FAO	Implementing Agency	Technical support and monitoring of project implementation are working effectively and in a timely fashion. An important process of cooperation was implemented in the design and implementation of a regional workshop to improve South-South cooperation. in GEF-funded LDN projects (Quito, Jun 6-9, 2023).	Changes in the technical team at FAO Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean and country office required socialization spaces about the objectives and scope of the LDN project to the new staff. More integration with other initiatives implemented by FAO Ecuador as a Andean Landscape Project with substantial SLM components is expected.
Autonomous Decentralized Provincial Government* of Bolívar	Project partner	Project launch at the Central Andes intervention site was co-organized with this local government (Guaranda,	Changes in local authorities has required a new process of communication of the operational and

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		February 9 th 2023). The LDN project provided technical assistance in a land management plan for the province, incorporating goals of conservation, restoration and sustainable land management.	institutional arrangements of the project in this Province.
Autonomous Decentralized Provincial Government* of Imbabura	Project partner	Project launch at the Northern Andes intervention site was co-organized with this local government (Ibarra, May 5 th 2023). A solid operational plan has been developed for this Province, with the advantage that the key technical personnel did not change and facilitated the communication of the project with the new elected officials.	Changes in local authorities has required a new process of communication of the operational and institutional arrangements of the project in this Province. This GAD has requested that the project also work in the drier areas in northeastern Imbabura, outside the original geographic area established during the PPG. Viable operational arrangements will be assessed in the following months.
Autonomous Decentralized Provincial Government* of Pichincha	Project partner	Ongoing process of coordination of activities of the LDN project in the territory of the Conservation and Sustainable Use Area (ACUS) Mojanda Cambugán.	Changes in local authorities has required a new process of communication of the operational and institutional arrangements of the project in this Province.
Autonomous Decentralized Provincial Government* of Santa Elena	Project partner	Project launch at the Coastal intervention site is being co-organized with this local government and programmed for the first week of July 2023. An operational plan has been developed with this GAD to complement SLM actions in the province system of ACUS.	Changes in local authorities has required a new process of communication of the operational and institutional arrangements of the project in this Province.
Tungurahua Fund for Paramo Conservation and Fight Against Poverty (FPTLP)	Project partner	Coordination with this stakeholder is happening in the context of the operational arrangement with the FSO (following line).	The FTLP is working in a process of re-design of its planning and implementation tools. This has delayed specific operational arrangements, but it is foreseen that better articulation will ensue through the

			activities planned for the FOS (following line).
Association of Municipalities of Southwestern Tungurahua (FSO)	Project partner	An operational plan has been developed with this association of four municipalities, with emphasis on: 1) monitoring land cover and water regulation, 2) implementation of paramo restoration practices, 3) pilot of rehabilitation of degraded dry forest areas with <i>guarango (Tara spinosa)</i> .	FSO is also in the process of communicating and validating with the new elected majors its strategic and operational plans.
NGOs²³			
CONDESAN	Executing Agency	PIU is physically based in CONDESAN and working under the administrative arrangements agreed in the Operating Manual.	More integration with other initiatives implemented by CONDESAN in Ecuador with substantial SLM components is expected.
Ecuadorian Fund Populorum Progressio (FEPP)	Project partner	A joint operating plan with FEPP has been developed for the Simiatug parish, Bolivar Province with emphasis on: 1) strengthening women's producer organizations linked to the management of paramo ecosystems, 2) supporting local indigenous communities in conservation of hydrologically important areas, 3) supporting adoption of SLM practices in high elevation rangelands.	Currently FEPP is experiencing a reduction in the portfolio of projects in Bolivar, which somehow limits the potential to expand the operations of the LDN project in additional communities in Simiatug.
Union of Peasant Organizations of Salinas (FUNORSAL)	Project partner	A joint operating plan with FUNORSAL has been developed for the Salinas parish, Bolivar province with emphasis on: 1) supporting the adoption of SLM practices in the milk value chain, 2) establishing model farms to foster farmer-to-farmer learning and exchanges, 3) supporting integrated land use planning (ILUP) in the Salinas-Simiatug biocorridor	It is expected that local producers will be interested in the added value that SLM practices could bring downstream the value chain (e.g. in the production of high-value, mature cheese). Challenges may arise in engaging with aging producers that may not be open to these alternatives.

²³ Non-government organizations

CARE Ecuador	Project partner	A joint operating plan with CARE has been developed to coordinate actions to: 1) support the development of a second cycle of the agroecological school with rural women, 2) support value chains Coordination meetings and joint field visit to CARE sites in Guaranda Municipality has allowed the identification of opportunities for synergies in SLM practices.	CARE is implementing a project focused on strengthening women's economic rights. The challenge for the LDN project will be to expand interest in SLM practices to a broader set of producers in Bolivar.
BanEcuador	Co-development of financial products	This institution is the main public bank in Ecuador that funds agricultural activities. The team at the Credit Promotion Area is interested in developing a special credit product to incentivize / support sustainable land management practices.	Anticipated elections for national authorities programmed for August 2023 may generate changes in the strategic goals of BanEcuador.
Private sector entities			
Others²⁴			
GIZ - Mountain Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Use Program	Project partner	This initiative implemented by GIZ ends in 2024. Two main opportunities have been identified to sustain support in the Salinas parish, Bolivar: 1) expand areas under improved pasture management, 2) continuo support to the Yacubiana Cooperative to obtain certification for organic milk production.	Given the late stage in the implementation cycle of this initiative, the opportunities for synergies focus on continuation of activities relevant for the LDN approach.
Superior Polytechnic School of Chimborazo (ESPOCH)	Project partner	A group of researchers with experience in monitoring of land degradation dynamics is interested in contributing to the design and establishment	Internal communication among research groups working on soil dynamics, water management and production systems is limited and has

²⁴ They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

		of the National Land Degradation Observatory	
Universidad Nacional de Chimborazo (UNACH)	Project partner	A study is being designed collaboratively to implement monitoring of water regulation in a watershed critical for irrigation systems in the FSO.	UNACH has no specific funding for this initiative, the collaboration will be established through a MSc Thesis.
Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL)	Project partner	A group of researchers with experience in monitoring of land degradation dynamics is interested in contributing to the design and establishment of the National Land Degradation Observatory	Fragmentation of research groups may impede the engagement of a wider set of researchers working in relevant areas for the monitoring of land degradation and SLM dynamics.
National University Loja (UNL)	Project partner	A group of researchers with experience in monitoring of land degradation dynamics has confirmed its participation in the design and establishment of the National Land Degradation Observatory (NLDO). Also, four MSc Thesis in the Landscape Restoration Program will be implemented in the area of influence of the FSO.	The effective participation of these researchers may face challenges linked to funding limitations. It is expected that the LDN Project can remove this bottleneck at least until the NLDO starts the implementation of its sustainability strategy.
Management Committee – Mojanda Cambugán Conservation and Sustainable Use Area (ACUS)	Project partner	Coordination with the Management Committee of this ACUS started in June and the initial collaboration areas identified are: 1) strengthening of forest conservation management, and 2) supporting a network of farms that implement demonstrative SLM practices.	The ACUS was formally established in 2022, even though the supporting local land governance processes have been in place for decades. Main priorities for operation are being identified by the Management Committee.
Union of Peasant Organizations of Cotacachi (UNORCAC) - Womens Network	Project partner	A joint operating plan has been developed in collaboration with the Women's Network within UNORCAC. The priorities are: 1) Identify market access opportunities for sustainable products, 2) supporting traditional SLM practices in diverse productive systems (e.g. the Andean chakra food production system).	A latent tension has been perceived between the Women's Network and the main leadership of UNORCAC. The Project will foster transparency and dialogue in all the phases of the articulation with these stakeholders.
<i>New stakeholders identified</i>			

<p>World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)</p>	<p>Co-development of protocols and indicators to monitor LDN at the national level</p>	<p>Collaboration with WOCAT started in the generation of the PRAIS4 report for the UNCCD. Additional collaboration occurred in the design and implementation of the regional workshop to improve South-South cooperation in GEF-funded LDN projects (Quito, Jun 6-9, 2023). Furthermore, a collaborative arrangement is being developed to work in the adaptation of protocols for the main LDN indicators, and the adjustment of a Decision Support System that facilitates access to and adoption of LDN principles in ILUP processes.</p>	<p>Developing a collaborative arrangement with WOCAT can promote a more robust methodological development of indicators adapted to the Ecuadorian context. However, this will require minor adjustments to the programming of the activities specified in the PPG stage.</p>
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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.		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	No	According to planification, a consultancy process will be carried out it will in charge of develop a national diagnosis and in the intervention sites about gender and land degradation in Ecuador, as well as characterize through an analysis how land degradation can affect in the different intersectional approaches.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	The identification of the different initiatives with high potential to be considered within the project as measures that combat land degradation, associations with high level of women participation are being prioritized.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Northern Andes intervention site, work meetings have been established with the Union of Indigenous Peasant Organizations of Cotacachi (UNORCAC) specifically with the women's committee from this organization to work on issues of sustainable land management.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	In general, the participation of women in project activities has so far been 33% compared to 67% of men in decision-making spaces.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	The collaboration initiated with the Union of Indigenous Peasant Organizations of Cotacachi (UNORCAC) specifically with the women's committee of this organization paves the way for the identification of possible economic and non-economic incentives for the adoption of sustainable land management practices.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	<i>Please provide progress on gender sensitive indicators of the project results framework.</i> Currently, the monitoring and follow-up tool disaggregates the participation in the training and decision-making spaces of men and women in the different activities of the project.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	Despite the absent a specific gender specialist, the technical team of the project in various workshops has been sensitized to gender.
Any other good practices on gender		Half of the Project's core technical team are women and they are sensitized to gender issues.

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
<p>Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.</p>	<p>A first version of a knowledge management strategy (Annex DD) has been developed which identifies key research questions at the Project's onset. This instrument will be revisited towards mid-term evaluation to assess progress in filling the main knowledge gaps. The main knowledge activities implemented in this period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of stakeholder mapping and characterization of the main opportunities for collaboration in the implementation of the LDN approach in the intervention sites. • Methodological design and scope for the assessment of SLM practices at national level and in the intervention sites. • Methodological design and scope for the assessment of value chains and incentives linked to SLM practices identified with the participation of local stakeholders (See Section 9 of this report).
<p>Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.</p>	<p>A communication strategy was developed which establishes six communication objectives: 1) make visible the implementation and impacts of the LDN Project, 2) facilitate access to knowledge and lessons generated by the project, 3) promote an adequate understanding of the impacts of land degradation, 4) support participatory action research in the intervention sites, 5) incentivize adoption of SLM practices in selected value chains, including the promotion of demand for food produced sustainably, and 6) strengthen capacities of communication in topics related to land degradation, SLM, and LDN.</p> <p><u>Successes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National project launch and in two of the three implementation sites (Central and Northern Andes) with broad participation of stakeholders from the public sector, civil society, academy and local communities. • Start of process of communication of key messages using available social media channels. • Collaborative design and implementation with FAO, WOCAT, MAATE of the regional workshop to improve South-South cooperation in GEF-funded LDN projects (https://twitter.com/Ambiente_Ec/status/1667257893698129928) <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will not have a webpage (see explanation in following item), which will require the use of alternative channels to effectively communicate progress, impacts and lessons learned. • The communications official had a shared position within CONDESAN and left the institution in May 2023. Currently, a combined position is being created with a specialist shared by the LDN and SEAP GEF projects that are currently being implemented by FAO.

<p>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.</p>	<p>It is expected that success stories can be generated in the second semester of 2023, as the project starts activities with partners at local sites. These stories will be shared with GEF and FAO for inclusion in appropriate communication channels.</p> <p>A success story is being produced in the format of a short video that documents the regional workshop that took place in Quito, between 6-9 of June 2023.</p>
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	<p>At project onset, the Climate Change Secretariat (SCC) at MAATE shared the directive that Projects will not have independent webpages. Current work within the SCC is ongoing to develop the National Climate Change Registry that is expected to provide an online environment to share knowledge and information related to the LDN approach and the implementation of the Project. Until that platform is developed, a microsite at CONDESAN’s web infrastructure is being used to communicate calls for applications and provide basic information for the project:</p> <p>https://condesan.org/proyecto-neutralidad-de-la-degradacion-de-la-tierra-ecuador/</p>
<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	<p>A few communication materials are Shared in Annex DD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotional video for LDN. • Post associated to the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. • Information for Twitter regarding the launch event in the Northern Andes intervention site. • Series of key messages related to the LDN approach published through FAO’s Twitter account.
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point’s name and contact details</p>	<p>The position of communication specialist is being filled in a collaborative arrangement with the SEAP GEF Project. This shared position will provide support for the most urgent communication activities. However, it is expected that a position with more time dedication will be needed as the project moves to a full operations regime in the intervention sites and at the national level.</p>

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities 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.

According to the Indigenous Peoples Plan from LDN project, Afro-Ecuadorian, indigenous and Montubio communities inhabit the LDN project intervention sites. In the starting workshops and bilateral meetings with the actors in the territory, people belonging to these indigenous peoples have participated.

In the Center Andes and Northern Andes intervention sites, LDN project activities are focusing on to strengthen those associations and value chains whose members belongs to indigenous peoples. For instance, in Northern Andes, work is being done with the Women's Network, which is part of the Union of Indigenous Peasant Organizations of Cotacachi (UNORCAC). UNORCAC was created 46 years ago and covers more than 40 indigenous communities and organizations in the Cotacachi canton, Imbabura province to revalue ancestral knowledge, improve access of local populations to basic services, and strengthen organizational, productive and access capacities to markets. The LDN Project will work on productive systems that are important for food sovereignty (e.g. Andean chakra system) and will seek to remove bottlenecks in market access.

On the other hand, in the Sierra Centro landscape, the LDN Project is collaborating with two local organizations, FUNORSAL and FEPP, which has worked for several decades with indigenous organizations, promoting more equitable access to the local resource base, and productive alternatives based on broad local ownership. The emphasis of the LDN Project will be to promote the adoption of SLM practices that allow the conservation and restoration of key ecosystem services (e.g. water regulation), and improve the management of pastures, soils, and the productivity of food production systems.

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁵	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²⁶	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National Government	Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition	In kind	4,545,914.00	909,182.80	N/A	4,545,914.00
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	In kind	18,612,692.00	3,722.53	N/A	18,612,692.00 46,111.00
		Grant	46,111.00	9,222.20		
GEF Agency	FAO	In kind	3,125,000.00	625,000.00	N/A	3,125,000.00 50,000.00
		Grant	50,000.00	10,000.00		
National Government	REM Program	In kind	1,000,000.00	200,000.00	N/A	1,000,000.00
Donor Agency	GIZ	In kind	300,000.00	60,000.00	N/A	300,000.00
Decentralized Autonomous Government	GADP Manabí	In kind	77,070.00	15,414.00	N/A	77,070.00

²⁵Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

²⁶Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

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

Decentralized Autonomous Government	GADP Chimborazo	In kind	100,000.00	20,000.00	N/A	100,000.00
Decentralized Autonomous Government	GADP Imbabura	In kind	200.000,00	40,000.00	N/A	200,000.00
Civil Society	CONDESAN	In kind	67,852,00	13,570.40	N/A	67,852.00
		Grant	204,148.00	40,829.00	N/A	204,148.00
		TOTAL	28,328,787.00	1,946,940.93		28,328,787.00

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

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

Implementation Progress Rating. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

Annex 2.**GEO LOCATION INFORMATION**

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
<u>Northern Highlands</u>	78° 39.5' W <u>77° 59.9' W</u> -0.196167	0° 35.4' N <u>0° 11.77' S</u> -77.998333	<u>3655635</u>	Areas corresponding to forests, páramos and agricultural lands that extend from the southern limit of the Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve (RECC) in Imbabura towards the province of Pichincha;
Central Highlands	79° 15.9' W <u>78° 31.3' W</u> -1.818667	1° 7.4' S <u>1° 49.12' S-</u> 78.521667	<u>3654870</u>	It covers the páramos and the agricultural mosaic, the area surrounding the Chimborazo Faunal Production Reserve (RPFC) and the slopes of the Carihuairazo volcano in the provinces of Tungurahua, Chimborazo and Bolívar
Coast	80° 51.3 W <u>80° 20.5' W</u> -2.268333	1° 22.4' S <u>2° 16.10' S</u> -80.341667	<u>7062138</u>	It includes forests (dry and humid) and the agricultural mosaic along the Chongón Colonche coastal range in the provinces of Manabí and Santa Elena.