



## 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

<b>Region:</b>	Central Africa
<b>Country (ies):</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Project Title:</b>	Enhancing Equatorial Guinea's institutional and technical capacity in the agriculture, forestry and other land-use sector for enhanced transparency under the Paris Agreement
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP/EQG/016/GFF
<b>GEF ID:</b>	10120
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Climate Change
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Forest and Environment (<i>New denomination</i>)</li> <li>National Institute for Forestry Development and Management of the Protected Areas System (INDEFOR-AP.</li> <li>National Institute of Environmental Conservation (INCOMA)</li> </ul>
<b>Initial project duration (years):</b>	2 years
<b>Project coordinates:</b> <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.	<i>[Projects in a) and b) categories should indicate YES here and provide the geocoded data in Annex 2]</i>

### Project Dates

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	20 May, 2020
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	01 February 2021
<b>Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	31 Jan 2023
<b>Revised project implementation End date (if approved) <sup>2</sup></b>	31 Jan 2024

### Funding

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	863,242 USD
<b>Total Co-financing amount (USD)<sup>3</sup>:</b>	536,896 USD
<b>Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):</b>	548,557 USD
<b>Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)<sup>4</sup>:</b>	531,551 USD
<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023<sup>5</sup></b>	968,000 USD

<sup>1</sup> As per FPMIS

<sup>2</sup> If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

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

<sup>4</sup> The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

<sup>5</sup> 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**

<b>Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:</b>	28 October 2022
<b>Expected Mid-term Review date<sup>6</sup>:</b>	NA
<b>Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):</b>	NA
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date<sup>7</sup>:</b>	<b>01 November 2023</b>
<b>Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)</b>	<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> YES

**Overall ratings**

<b>Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):</b>	<i>Satisfactory (S)</i>
<b>Overall implementation progress rating:</b>	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>
<b>Overall risk rating:</b>	<i>Moderate Risk (M)</i>

**ESS risk classification**

<b>Current ESS Risk classification:</b>	Low
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**Status**

<b>Implementation Status (1<sup>st</sup> PIR, 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR
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**Project Contacts**

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Name, Title, Division/Institution</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Project Coordinator (PC)</b>	Recruitment process for personnel replacement ongoing	Recruitment process for personnel replacement ongoing
<b>Budget Holder (BH)</b>	Hernani Coelho Da Silva/ FAOR	<a href="mailto:Hernani.CoelhoDaSilva@fao.org">Hernani.CoelhoDaSilva@fao.org</a>
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)</b>	Antonio Micha Ondo	<a href="mailto:amicha_antonio@yahoo.fr">amicha_antonio@yahoo.fr</a>
<b>Lead Technical Officer (LTO)</b>	Jeremie Mbairamadji / FAO SFC LTO Marieke Sandker / FAO NFO HQ Officer	<a href="mailto:jeremie.mbairamadji@fao.org">jeremie.mbairamadji@fao.org</a> <a href="mailto:marieke.sandker@fao.org">marieke.sandker@fao.org</a>
<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)</b>	Nifesimi Ogunkua, GEF Technical Specialist, OCB	<a href="mailto:Nifesimi.ogunkua@fao.org">Nifesimi.ogunkua@fao.org</a>

<sup>6</sup> The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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)

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators <sup>8</sup>	Baseline	Mid-term Target Mid-term Target <sup>9</sup>	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress <sup>10</sup> since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
In line with national priorities, this project will strengthen institutional and technical capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU) sector to respond to the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Equatorial Guinea has enhanced institutional capacities to coordinate, collect and report data and knowledge for the AFOLU sector.	Degree of increase of institutional capacity for activities related to the transparency framework.	There is no specific institution for the ETF	There is no specific institution for the ETF	There is a specific institution for the ETF, but with insufficient staff and capacity. It lacks the power or mandate to coordinate ETF activities.	Technical support provided to INDEFOR -AP in order to strengthen their capacities related to the ETF. In addition to the two training events on ETF took place targeting technical staff of INDEFOR to improve their capacity on ETF.	S
	<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Equatorial Guinea has the technical capacity and improved data and information to regularly report transparent, accurate and consistent data for the AFOLU sector.	Degree of increase of institutional capacity to report on data from the AFOLU sector.	Very little measurement is done, reporting is partial and irregular and verification is not there	Measurement systems are in place but data is of poor quality and/or methodologies are not very robust; reporting is done only on request or to limited audience or partially; verification is not there	Measurement systems are strong in a limited set of activities however, analyses still needs improvement; periodic monitoring and reporting although not yet cost/time efficient; verification is only upon specific request and limited	The NFI data collection process has completed around 80 % of field work (110 sampling Units already measured) and there are still few sites remaining to conduct forest inventories there. Bases on a robust methodology, a preliminary analysis of the data have been initiated and to be finalized once the remaining forest inventories are completed.	S
	<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Equatorial Guinea has enhanced technical capacity in the AFOLU sector to report emissions and removals in compliance with transparency-related requirements achieved.	Number of documents available from the AFOLU sector for dissemination	0	100	200	100 documents available from the AFOLU sector for dissemination. The web based database are updated with the data gathered in the field. Two WEB sites ( <a href="https://www.silvahn.com/BibliografialNFGE/app_Login/">https://www.silvahn.com/BibliografialNFGE/app_Login/</a> and <a href="https://www.silvahn.com/infguineaecuatorial/app_Login/">https://www.silvahn.com/infguineaecuatorial/app_Login/</a> ) have been developed in which around 100 documents of the AFOLU sector were uploaded.	MS

<sup>8</sup> This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

<sup>11</sup> 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.

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

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?

### 3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs <sup>12</sup>	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements <sup>13</sup> (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance <sup>14</sup> in delivering outputs
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Equatorial Guinea has enhanced institutional capacities to coordinate, collect and report data and knowledge for the AFOLU sector	Degree of increase of institutional capacity for activities related to the transparency framework	Design of a training plan to improve the preparation of international reports based on the diagnosis of the structure and technical capacities of the relevant institutions for the ETF	Technicians from INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA had been identified to be trained about ETF. Training Plan developed and available	6 people trained in ETF through long-term online workshop of FAO.
<b>Output 1.1.1</b> A report containing a coordination mechanism and institutional arrangements to integrate and plan transparency-related activities in the AFOLU sector is prepared	Number of technical groups with formally established agreements to prepare international reports	1	At least 15 INDEFOR technicians have been trained and are participating in NFI data collection, and they will receive training for data analysis and preparation of international reports.	Four groups of technical staff of INDEFOR were formed and involved in the field work activities of forest inventories under the technical guidance of the project CTA as part of strengthening their capacity on forest data collection and reporting.
<b>Output 1.1.2</b> Government personnel, in specific national correspondents responsible for international reporting, is trained on different international reporting processes (GHG inventory/Forest Reference Level to the UNFCCC and FAO-FRA) and consistency requirements	Number of functionaries linked to the preparation of international reports participating in the trainings, disaggregated by gender.	10 (7 men and 3 women)	6 men	60% of the annual target achieved, further efforts need to be made to reach the end of the project target of 30 beneficiaries trained. Special attention will be given to enrol more women participants in the next cohorts to be trained.
<b>Outcome 2.1</b> Equatorial Guinea has the technical capacity and improved data and information to regularly report	Degree of increase of institutional capacity to report on data from the AFOLU sector.	Institutional arrangements has been established for	Institutional and coordination arrangements put in place and technical work teams formed for the MTR.	The relevant institutions for the ETF (Ministry of Forest and Environment, INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA) are working jointly as

<sup>12</sup> Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

<sup>13</sup> 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)

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

<b>transparent, accurate and consistent data for the AFOLU sector</b>		the ETF in the AFOLU sector		result of a promotion to improve the coordination and Transparency in the AFOLU sector. .
<b>Output 2.1.1</b> A report is developed containing a subset of national data for different land use classes collected and analysed	Report on the different national land use classes, approved and published	0	The report is planned to be drafted in the second semester of 2023	Delay to conduct this activity is mainly due to challenges faced by the project to conduct field activity following the resign of the CTA and the CNP while looking for other qualified candidates. CNP and national technical staff to conduct forest inventories and reporting on land uses are currently under recruitment will start field work end of July.
<b>Output 2.1.2 A</b> land classification system and a land use/cover map is developed	% progress in updating the national land coverage/use map	0	The land classification system is planned to be developed in the second semester of 2023	Delay to conduct this activity is mainly due to challenges faced by the project to conduct field activity following the resign of the CTA and the CNP while looking for other qualified candidates. CNP and national technical staff to conduct forest inventories and reporting on land uses are currently under recruitment will start field work end of July.
<b>Output 2.1.3</b> A report is developed containing country-specific emission factors for different land classes in order to support estimates of carbon stocks.	Report on national emission factors for different classes of land approved and available for a subset of national data	0	The report is planned to be drafted in the second semester of 2023	Delay to conduct this activity is mainly due to challenges faced by the project to conduct field activity following the resign of the CTA and the CNP while looking for other qualified candidates. CNP and national technical staff to conduct forest inventories and reporting on land uses are currently under recruitment will start field work end of July.
<b>Output 2.1.4.</b> Government personnel and key actors (e.g. from university) with a role in national capacity development (i.e. train-the-trainers) is trained on data collection consistent with MRV requirements as outlined by IPCC and additional relevant guidance like GFOI, GOF-C-GOLD	Number of people trained on data collection for the NFI, with gender awareness and community approach	20 (16 men and 4 women)	17 men and 4 women	Achieved more than expected annual target. Additional effort needed to ensure that the end target is reached with no less than 40 people trained including 11 women
<b>Outcome 3.1</b> <b>Equatorial Guinea has enhanced technical capacity in the AFOLU sector to report</b>	Number of documents available from the AFOLU sector for dissemination			

emissions and removals in compliance with transparency-related requirements achieved				
<p><b>Output 3.1.1</b> An archiving and dissemination system is developed for documentation for the AFOLU sector and to support the preparation of the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory</p>	<p>% progress of the file repository with AFOLU sector documentation.</p>	<p>40%</p>	<p>40% A systematized work to compile the AFOLU documentation is planned to be conducted in the second semester of 2023.</p>	<p>Delay to conduct this activity is mainly due to challenges faced by the project to conduct field activity following the resign of the CTA and the CNP while looking for other qualified candidates. CNP and national technical staff to conduct forest inventories and reporting on land uses are currently under recruitment will start field work end of July.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.1.2</b> South-South cooperation and exchange initiatives are organized on ETF experiences, the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and/or 2019 Refinement, and national GHG inventories and projections of emissions/removals for the AFOLU sector</p>	<p>Number of South-South cooperation initiatives established or exchanges of experiences carried out</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Events has been assessed for South-South cooperation to organize exchanges of experiences under this project earlier this year.</p>	<p>Delay to conduct this activity is mainly due to challenges faced by the project to conduct field activity following the resign of the CTA and the CNP while looking for other qualified candidates. CNP under recruitment will start field work end of July.</p>



## 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)**

The project activities progress was under track until the end of 2022, especially the activities of component 2, on which 77% of the budget is allocated to the National Forest Inventory (NFI). This component is key as it will provide a set of data on forest inventories at national level that will help to get a sound status of the country's forests. NFI data are critical to monitor the progress of the country with regards to its commitments with different conventions and international agreements on the AFOLU sector. To date, the NFI data collection is 82% completed and the remaining forest inventories data will be completed by the end of 2023 now that the recruitment of a CNP and 3 technical staff to conduct the field forest inventory in remaining sites is completed.

Since the first quarter of 2023, the project has experienced significant delay related to short of qualified staff (national & international) dedicated to this project despite a number of vacancies issued to get project staff in replacement of previous staff who had resigned. Hence, the project had some time without field activity the time to discuss with government counterpart on how to involve more national technical forest inventories experts to the project implementation and complete the inventories work left since the departure of the CTA and the project coordinator.

One of the biggest challenges faced in this period was the difficulties to find a qualified expert as CTA and a National Project Coordinator to move project implementation during the first semester. On the other hand, the country held presidential elections in November 2022 that resulting in a constitution of the new government since February 2023 had a significant impact on the implementation of project activities.

It is important to highlight fruitful consultations initiated with the government counterpart to agree on ways to improve the implementation of the project activities using as possible national expertise. As a result of these consultations, the government counterpart agreed that national experts of the national forest development institute (INDEFOR) specialized in forest inventories be recruited to support and complete the forest inventories activities remaining. With this positive outcome, a panel was set to interview candidates from INDEFOR who applied for the position of forest inventories experts and who met the recruitment criteria. The panel led to the selection of 3 technical forest inventories experts and one national project coordinator. With this new team on board the project is back to track and field activities to completed remaining forest inventories will start and be finalized by October. In the meantime, a new and qualified CTA will be recruited to complete the forest inventories data analysis and to conduct technical training of INDEFOR experts on forest inventories data analysis as well as to complete the few other project activities remaining by December 2023.

### ***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.

	<b>FY2023 Development Objective rating<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>FY2023 Implementation Progress rating<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>Comments/reasons<sup>17</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period</b>
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<i>Recruitment process for personnel replacement ongoing</i>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>The Project has presented a significant delay in the planned activities under the extension period due to challenges related to the resignation of the project CTA due to personal reasons. However a progress has been made on the NFI data collection, reaching an 82% of the data to be collected. It to acknowledge project governance roll-out and coordination meetings with government counterpart to address project challenges, ensuring that project get on track and the remaining activities to be completed by the end of this year.</i>
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>MU</b>	<b>MU</b>	<i>The Project has experienced a delay in its implementation due to the departure of the ATP and the National Coordinator. The participation of the GEF Operational Focal Point in the selection of the ATP is recommended. The National Office of FAO, together with the Government, are making efforts for the resumption of activities to achieve the expected results.</i>
<b>Lead Technical Officer<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>Despite the challenges faced by the project with the resign of the CTA followed by the resign of the national project coordinator, the project activities completed before their resign were satisfactory. Moreover, efforts made by CO with technical support of SFC to bring the project back to track produced positive outcome with the recruitment of qualified project technical staff to complete the forest inventories activities remaining by the project NTE.</i>

<sup>15</sup> **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.

<sup>16</sup> **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.

<sup>17</sup> Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

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

<sup>19</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>Efforts should be intensified to ensure earliest commencement of field activities while ensuring consistency with existing data and methodology. Newly recruited project staff are encouraged to take related forest inventory courses on FAO-eLearning platform.</i>
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## 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
<b>ESS 1: Natural Resource Management</b>				
<b>ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats</b>				
<b>ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management</b>				
<b>ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement</b>				
<b>ESS 7: Decent Work</b>				
<b>ESS 8: Gender Equality</b>				
<b>ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage</b>				
<b>New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY</b>				

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 <sup>20</sup> . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Low

<i>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.</i>
NA

<sup>20</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit ([Esm-unit@fao.org](mailto: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> )

## 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 <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Difficulty to find a qualified Spanish expert as CTA with the resign of the previous CTA	High	N	Coordination efforts made with government counterpart to explore options in using national expertise.	National experts under the National Forest Institute who applied for the position have been interviewed by a panel to select 3 of them to be part of project team.	<b>A Roster of qualified experts, nationals and internationals is recommended to avoid delays on identifying a suitable candidate when needed.</b>
2	Lack of coordination between institutions.	Moderate	Y	Promote regular dialogue between different relevant institutions (INDEFOR, INCOMA, Ministry Environmental Conservation Directorate, Ministry of Finance...)	A supervisory field mission and bilateral meetings, including one meeting of the Project Steering Committee have been held with participants from all relevant institutions (INCOMA, INDEFOR, Ministry Environmental Conservation Directorate, Ministry of Finance...) where items to promote coordination have been included on the agenda	<b>The Project Management Team is required to follow and organize the planned supervisory meetings and Steering Committee meetings in line with the approved ProDoc</b>

<sup>21</sup> 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.

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	Certain national development policies in conflict with REDD+ aims.	Moderate	Y	Efforts to establish a REDD+ mechanism in Equatorial Guinea, supported by FAO, seek to ensure that the country adopts an economic development path that does not exacerbate pressures on forests, and supports its conservation and sustainable management.	A REDD+ National Investment Plan has been developed and validated. This was supported by FAO with an allocation of 150,000 USD on his Technical Cooperation Programme	<b>Advocacy with stakeholders on projects sustainability is recommended</b>
4	Insufficient technical capabilities of national personnel or lack of interest to carry out project activities	Moderate	Y	Outputs 1.1.2 and 2.1.4 involve actions to mitigate this risk, including training of trainers to improve the scope of capacity development efforts. In addition, the planned budget for training is adequate so that capacities are developed in a comprehensive and exhaustive manner, to ensure sustainability	The capacity building of the national experts were planned and the training activities are followed to address this risk	<b>A capacity building is an integrated part in the project work plan implementation, in which, the participants are involved and receive trainings for activities implementation.</b>
5	Limited or no uptake of project outcomes.	High	Y	Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.1.2.1.2, 2.1.4, 3.1.1 and 1.1.1 involve actions to mitigate this risk.	All interested parties are involved in the development of the activities, ensuring that they validate the results of the project. During the two meetings of the Steering Committee the importance of the results of the project is explained	<b>Advocacy with stakeholders on projects sustainability is recommended</b>
6	Delays linked to the need to provide enough time for consultation processes; especially if conflicts linked to a lack of understanding of the REDD+ MRV arise (in particular, during NFI data collection)	High	Y	Use tools and experiences developed as part of the process of consultation with stakeholders and the great dissemination campaign that the country has developed for REDD+. These tools and experiences will be used to engage even more with government institutions and local communities to improve knowledge of project objectives and activities	Advocacy efforts in place with INDEFOR, INCOMA and the Ministry of Environment through regular meetings to ensuring a better understanding of the REDD+ MRV	<b>A technical group from INDEFOR is recommended to be involved in the project and participate on trainings regarding REDD+ MRV</b>

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
7	Limited representation of civil society in negotiation processes.	Moderate	Y	The Government and FAO will actively seek their participation in the different phases, providing relevant documents and data in a transparent manner, as well as validating the results through open events	The Project involve Civil society in project activities and seek their participation accordingly	<b>Advocacy with stakeholders on projects sustainability is recommended</b>
8	Effects of climatic variability in field data collection; in particular, heavy rains or extreme events and their effects.	Moderate	Y	To plan activities related to the collection of NFI field data and the validation of the land coverage and use map adapted to climatic conditions	Appropriate material and equipment is provided to the field participants and field activities are planned considering climate conditions	<b>Local seasons and climate conditions is considered when planning projects activities.</b>
9	Social and/or political instability.	High	Y	Follow relevant FAO/UN protocols if the stable political situation in the country changes and civil disturbances occur.	Constant monitoring of the political situation in the country is carried out by the UNCT, including FAO, and UNDSS	<b>All interested parties should informed in the event of any social and/or political instability</b>
10	Availability of co-financing amounts indicated at ProDoc	High	NO	Adaptive management measures will be triggered to ensure the project is able to deliver expected results despite the lack of materialization of co-financing.	Given the lack of co-financing in terms of vehicles provided by the government to cover transportation needs for field activities, the project assessed relevant alternatives and adopted appropriate solutions in terms of their cost-effectiveness and best value for money.	<b>A point on progress regarding the Co-financing should be included in the project Steering Committee meetings</b>
11	Use of cash in field missions related to mission expenses at local level where there is no access to electronic payment systems	High	N	Cash management is limited to project team who receive instructions on eligible concepts for mission expenses at field level.	A detailed list of items eligible for mission spending at the field level is prepared at each mission and those responsible for cash management are instructed on its use	<b>Efforts should be kept to avoid the use of cash in field mission</b>

**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
<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	Being within the extension period, a delay on the implementation of project planned activities due to departure of project are affecting negatively

**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:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation.....	
Recommendation.....	

<p><b>Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize</b></p>	<p>The main strategy of the project is to carry out the planned activities with the support of the institutions that will be responsible for monitoring in the future. However, a general exit strategy will be prepared.</p>
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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 Guidelines<sup>22</sup>. 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			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
<b>Co-financing</b>	The cofinancing from the Government didn't materialize which hindered the field work, hence the need for the budget revisions undertaken to cover transportation costs for field work while ensuring core technical interventions of the project are fully delivered.	Since project started	Project Steering Committee (see letter from Gov., and note to file)
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

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

## 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
<b>Government institutions</b>			
INCOMA	Key institution for the coordination and execution of activities.	Constant participation in activities and in the steering committee	None
INDEFOR-AP	Key partner for the coordination and execution of activities; in particular, those related to components 2 and 3 of the project.	Constant participation in project activities and in the steering committee. The institution provides office space to the project for its operation, in addition to personnel to carry out field measurements.	None
General Directorate of Environmental Conservation	Share the project results and participation in the steering committee	Participation the steering committee	None
<b>NGOs<sup>23</sup></b>			
Several NGOs	Share the project results	NGOs were involved in various activities conducted by the project including consultations and workshops	In recent years the NGOs have remained inactive and some of them have disappeared.
<b>Private sector entities</b>			
Forest industry of the country	Share the project results and apply a survey about the situation of the forest industry in the country.	Participation in project launch event	Once the NFI data analysis is completed, they will have greater participation to validate the results obtained by the project.
<b>Others<sup>24</sup></b>			
UNGE	Training students on field data collection will be coordinated with UNEGE, seeking for its involvement. The participation of female advanced students of the Environmental Sciences carrier will also be coordinated, motivating them to develop a career in this	Participation of 4 students who have completed their studies in training events and in the NFI data collection	

<sup>23</sup> Non-government organizations

<sup>24</sup> 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

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	field, for example, through talks made by professional women of INDEFOR-AP.		
ECA	Training students on field data collection, with the idea that the new professional know about the methodologies about forest monitoring.	Participation in project launch event	
Local communities	Be informed about the NFI process and accompany the measurement crews as local guides, in addition, respond to the survey about socioeconomic aspects.	Participation in the data collection process of more than 70 sampling sites.	Most communities in the continental region speak Fang, so it is important that at least one crew member speaks Fang to facilitate rapprochement and communication. On the other hand, a very formal permitting process is required to access the communities.
<b><i>New stakeholders identified</i></b>			

## 10. Gender Mainstreaming

<b>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.</b>		
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.	Yes	The recommendations of the gender analysis conducted during the design stage continue to inform project implementation, efforts were made to the extent possible to capture the gender perspective in reports, ensure gender balance in Project trainings and events, and adopt gender-sensitive data collection protocols.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	Progress was made in terms of supporting women participation into decision making.
<b>Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):</b>		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	No	
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Efforts have been made to involve a greater number of women in the training events and in the technical activities of the project so that in the future they have the necessary tools to make decisions to improve the management of the country's forest
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	No	
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	In training events and other activities, participation is disaggregated by gender. For example, in the workshops the women participation is around 25% and the 21% of the field crew members are women.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	The project staff has received training on gender issues and has the support of FAO staff in the Malabo central office who can support specific plans or actions related to gender.
Any other good practices on gender	No	

## 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>	
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.	Yes, project's products focus on the generation of national knowledge and capabilities
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges <b>this year</b> .	The project has not developed a communication strategy. However, the FAO Country office has a communication strategy that supports the dissemination and visibility of the activities of all the projects under implementation.
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.	
Please provide links to related website, social media account	<a href="https://www.silvahn.com/BibliografialNFGE/app_Login/">https://www.silvahn.com/BibliografialNFGE/app_Login/</a> <a href="https://www.silvahn.com/infguineaecuatorial/app_Login/">https://www.silvahn.com/infguineaecuatorial/app_Login/</a>
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	In the website <a href="https://www.silvahn.com/BibliografialNFGE/app_Login/">https://www.silvahn.com/BibliografialNFGE/app_Login/</a> There is a list of publications related with the AFOLU sector.  In the website <a href="https://www.silvahn.com/infguineaecuatorial/app_Login/">https://www.silvahn.com/infguineaecuatorial/app_Login/</a> there is a picture collection (contact to request the access: Asdrubal.CalderonAmaya@fao.org)
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details	José Antonio Masa +240 222 231 513

## 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.

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

The National Forest Inventory requires the collection of field data on both biophysical and socioeconomic aspects, so it is necessary to have the authorization and consent of local communities to access forest areas. Generally, before starting the measurement activities, meetings are held with communities' leaders, who are informed about the activities to be carried out and their importance for the government and the country in general. Local guides and tree species identifiers are hired from the communities to accompany the field work. Socioeconomic surveys are carried out with focus groups in which both men and women participate.



### 13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing <sup>25</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing <sup>26</sup>	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
Government	INDEFOR-AP+ INCOMA	In kind	91,335	68,000		91,335
Donor Agency	GCF	Grant	445,561	600,000 <sup>27</sup> 300,000 <sup>28</sup>		900,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	536,896	968,000		991,335

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

<sup>26</sup>Grant, 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](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Preparatory support to the NDA of Equatorial Guinea to engage with the GCF in early phases of REDD+ (NMFS and FREL/FRL)

<sup>28</sup> Resilient Recovery Rapid Readiness Support in Equatorial Guinea

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

At the time of project formulation, the government, through INDEFOR and INCOMA, identified that it could support with office facilities, staff time, vehicles and other aspects as a co-financing to carry out project activities. However, after two years the counterpart does not have vehicles in good condition, many of them are damaged and it does not have funds to repair. The Project counterpart has taken steps to acquire three new vehicles, but their acquisition is uncertain and may take a long time for government to allocate resources for INCOMA and INDEFOR for vehicles acquisition. Given this situation, country office in consultation with government counterparts explored alternatives to address the challenge and they agreed on the alternative to rent of vehicles to support the field missions, considering this alternative with the lowest impact on the project results.

## Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

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

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

<b>Risk rating</b> 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:	
<b>High Risk (H)</b>	There is a probability of greater than <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
<b>Substantial Risk (S)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>51%</b> and <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
<b>Moderate Risk (M)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>26%</b> and <b>50%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
<b>Low Risk (L)</b>	There is a probability of up to <b>25%</b> 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

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