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RECONNECT PROJECT COORDINATION UNIT**



**MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “RESTORATION OF
ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS OF WEST MAYO-KEBBI IN CHAD, IN
SUPPORT OF THE MULTIPLE LAND AND FOREST BENEFITS”
(RECONNECT)**

Main report



*This evaluation was commissioned by the coordination of the RECONNECT project
The assessment was carried out by a team of international and national consultants between
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cooperation which made it possible for the work to proceed smoothly..*

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Acronyms

ACC	VAC	Climate Change Mitigation
ADC	CDA	Cantonal Development Association
AGR	IGA	Income Generating Activities
ANADER	ANADER	National Agency for Rural Development
BIOPALT	BIOPALT	Project "Biosphere and Heritage of Lake Chad"
CAPBL	CAPBL	Binder-Léré Protected Areas Complex
CCD	CCDs	Cantonal Development Committee
CDA	ADC	Departmental Action Committee
CVS	CVS	Village Monitoring Committee
DAC-OECD	DAC-OECD	Development Assistance Committee-Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
DFLCD	DFLCD	Department of Forests and the Fight Against Desertification
EMF	EMF	Microfinance institution
FEM	WEF	Global Environment Facility
GAR	GAR	Results-Based Management
GDF	SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
ILOD	ILOD	Local Orientation and Decision Bodies
MEP	ME P	Ministry of Environment and Fisheries
MEPA	MEPA	Livestock and Animal Production
MEPDCI	MEPDCI	Ministry of Development Planning and International Cooperation
MKO	MKO	Mayo-Kebbi West
NDT	NDT	Land Degradation Neutrality
ODD	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ONDR	ONDR	National Office for Rural Development
PDL	PDL	Local Development Plan
PND	PND	National Development Plan
PNSO	PNSO	Sena-Oura National Park
PRCPT	PRCPT	Project to strengthen resilience and peaceful coexistence in Chad
PRODALKA	PRODALKA	Decentralized Rural Program of Mayo-Dallah, Lac Léré and Kabbia
RAPTA	RAPTA	Resilience and Adaptation Pathways Framework and Transformation Assessment
RECONNECT	RECONNECT	Project "Restoration of ecological corridors of Mayo-Kebbi Ouest in Chad, in support of multiple land and forest benefits"
RN	RN	Natural resources
RNA	RNA	Assisted Natural Regeneration
SIG	GIS	Geographic information system
UGP	PMU	Project Coordination and Management Unit
UICN	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ULCP	ULCP	Local Project Coordination Unit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overall, the RECONNECT project is achieving good performance. The objectives and actions of the project contribute to the achievement of sectoral and sustainable development objectives. The alignment of these actions with the aspirations and priority needs of the target groups as well as the results achieved are beginning to provide benefits in terms of improving the living conditions of the beneficiary populations and building the capacities of local and state structures. The changes induced by the project's actions on the socio-economic and environmental conditions of its area of intervention lead to improvements in forest ecosystems with a greater capacity for carbon sequestration.

However, the strengthening of this good progress is limited by the delay incurred during the start-up of the project and the delays in the processing of requests for funds. Furthermore, the sustainability of the achievements already obtained by the project will require accentuating the capacity building of actors at the local level and the financial empowerment of local coordination units. It is to be feared that the low salary level of the coordination team could be a source of discouragement, while the motivation and skills of the project managers constitute a key factor in the performance of the results obtained. The evaluation recommends an increase in the salaries of project staff.

The mission also considers that the results and impacts of actions in favor of IGAs take time and will only be achieved if the initial duration of the project is extended. In fact, in addition to the delays noted in the start-up of activities, the transfer to local actors of skills in setting up and managing business plans requires a long preparatory work. Thus, after the implementation of the IGA funding mechanism and the training of beneficiaries, the first requests for funding begin.

The consolidation of the achievements and the scaling up of the results of the project will be done through a new phase of RECONNECT. The mission recommends for this new intervention that a national team made up of sectoral ministries can deepen the thematic and geographical options of this next intervention. These options are proposed in the concept note appended to this appraisal report.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Reminder of contextual elements

The project "Restoration of the ecological corridors of Mayo-Kebbi Ouest in Chad, in support of multiple land and forest benefits" (RECONNECT) is the result of collaboration between the Republic of Chad, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It reinforces the achievements of previous initiatives and projects in terms of adopting best practices in forestry and management of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems from which the Mayo-Kebbi Ouest Region has benefited in the past.

1.2 Purpose and objectives of the project

The goal of this project is to restore and maintain ecosystem services, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration, in the forests and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems of Mayo-Kebbi. West (MKO). To achieve this goal, the project intervention logic is built on the following theory of change:

"Rates of deforestation, degradation and fragmentation of natural ecosystems will be reduced; sustainable "best practices" in forestry and management of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems will be adopted and implemented by communities and other MKO stakeholders.

As the health of ecosystems improves, additional co-benefits (e.g. increased soil productivity, conservation of biodiversity, and provision of goods and services) will be realized, thereby improving human well-being. population of the MKO".

The overall objective of the project is to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and forest resources in particular in order to reduce CO2 emissions and maintain ecosystem services. This objective will be achieved through:

- Improving the commitments and capacities of the various actors for the sustainable management of natural resources in the long term with a strong involvement of grassroots communities;
- Increased capacity for CO2 sequestration through sustainable management of forest ecosystems covering 21,600 ha;
- The sustainable exploitation of natural resources, including the development of sustainable income-generating activities and the strengthening of the general resilience of communities to climate change.
- Increased production from degraded soils.

1.3 Institutional arrangements

Placed under the supervision of the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Fisheries, the project is managed by a Project Management Unit (PMU) created within the Ministry of the Environment and Fisheries (MEP) whose The Executing Agency is the General Directorate of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Resources and technically attached to the Directorate of Forests and the Fight Against Desertification (DFLCD). The PMU is based in Pala, capital of MKO Province, with a relay office in N'Djamena. The project area is made up of three departments (Mayo-Dallah, Lac Léré and Mayo-Binder) and covers 13 sub-prefectures and 20 cantons.

The duration of the Project is 5 years, including a mid-term evaluation which will aim to assess the relevance of the approach and the effectiveness in achieving the results, and to propose the necessary adjustments for the achievement. optimum for the Project's objectives.

1.4 Structuring of the project

RECONNECT is structured around three components presented below.

Component 1 - Local governance and capacity building.

This component aims to strengthen the commitment and capacities of the various stakeholders for joint, community-based and long-term sustainable management of natural resources. Through this component, the project provides support to the Orientation and Decision-Making Bodies (ILOD) and to the Canton's Development Associations (ADC) with a view to strengthening their institutional, functional and governance capacities. In order to increase the performance of these local structures in the restoration and management of natural resources, operational and technical support is provided to them by the project. This support also benefits the technical services of the MEP.

To strengthen cohesion and cohabitation between the different users of the space (stockbreeders and farmers), the project, as part of its component 1, promotes the commitment of stockbreeders in the long-term, joint and grassroots sustainable management. community of natural resources. This strengthening is done in particular through consultations on the exploitation of natural resources in the relevant areas/blocks of forests and on land occupation issues; awareness-raising activities and the establishment of a participatory early warning system on the mobility of transhumant animals.

Component 2 - Maintaining the ecological continuities of the forest blocks.

This component aims to increase CO₂ sequestration capacities through the sustainable management of forest ecosystems on 21,600 ha. Its implementation is articulated with the monitoring-evaluation system in the sense that it will house the Geographic Information System that will be set up to monitor the vegetation cover in the project area. The data from the GIS will be essential in particular for the evaluation of the carbon sequestration capacity of the forest blocks.

Initially, it will be a question of characterizing the forest blocks in order to identify those that will be supported by the project. The approach recommended for this characterization is based on a participatory approach involving external expertise (national and international), local community organizations and decentralized services of the Ministry of the Environment. It will make it possible to make an evaluation of the blocks of forests, in particular based on the composition, the structure, the integrity, the anthropic uses, the vulnerability, the status of management, etc.).

Under this component, the project will also provide support aimed at increasing the operational and technical performance of grassroots community organizations and technical services of the MEP so that they can be able to implement actions related to the management natural resources. These capacity building actions will be accompanied by the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for the long-term community management of natural resources as well as by the development, implementation and application of management measures in connection with regulation of forest blocks.

Component 3 - Integrated management and increased productivity of natural resources.

Its aim is to guarantee the sustainable use of natural resources, including the development of sustainable income-generating activities and the strengthening of the general resilience of communities to climate change on the one hand and, on the other hand, the increase in production. degraded soils.

The main interventions in terms of supporting IGAs and building community resilience will focus on (i) strengthening sustainable fisheries management systems; (ii) the development and implementation of techniques for the sustainable exploitation of timber and non-timber forest products; (iii) the implementation of measures to prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts; (iv) the development of commercial chains for products based on natural resources.

While actions to improve the productivity of degraded soils will focus on the promotion of (i) agroforestry for the restoration of degraded soils and (ii) sustainable pasture management measures.

Component 4 - Monitoring, Evaluation, Management and Knowledge Sharing.

Its purpose is to ensure project implementation following an approach based on Results-Based Management (RBM) of lessons learned and best practices. To do this, it will ensure that the assessment and strengthening of community resilience to climate change serve as a common thread and guiding principle for the implementation of all project actions.

2. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach combined a retrospective evaluation to identify what worked well or not, and why, and a prospective dimension to identify lessons learned and recommendations that could inform future interventions. The analyzes were conducted on the basis of the exploitation of secondary data through a documentary review and primary data collected directly from the various stakeholders. These data were reviewed and integrated into an analysis matrix, making it possible to classify the results according to the evaluation criteria and questions.

2.1 Reminder of the evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria are inspired by the DAC-OECD analysis framework, supplemented by cross-cutting criteria.

Table 1: Evaluation criteria grid

Criteria	Evaluation Questions
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent does the project contribute to sectoral objectives in terms of environmental management and the reduction of greenhouse gases? - How do the project objectives relate to the aspirations and needs of the target groups? - To what extent are the approaches, mechanisms, tools and actions promoted by the project adapted to the social, economic and environmental conditions of Mayo-Kebbi?
Consistency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent are the project steering and coordination mechanisms adapted to the project's intervention model and its institutional environment? - How do the approaches, mechanisms, tools and actions promoted by the project complement other interventions carried out by the Chadian State and other partners? - What are the adaptations and adjustments necessary for a good operationalization of the results and objectives while ensuring a margin of participation of the stakeholders?
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent were the project objectives successfully achieved? - What perception do the stakeholders have of the quality of the results obtained by the project? - What are the main constraints that have arisen during the implementation and what are the mitigation measures that have been applied?
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How efficiently does the project use their resources from an economic point of view? - Are there more cost effective methods that would achieve the same results?
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent do the project actions generate or could generate positive changes in the living conditions of the target groups and in the natural environment?
Sustainability/ Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the conditions guaranteeing the perpetuation and sustainability of the achievements of the project in the medium and long term?

2.2 Assessment steps

The main key stages of the evaluation are summarized below.

- **The documentary review** carried out by the consultants on the basis of the questions of the evaluation matrix. The documentary review also took into account all the documents made available by the project team.
- **Stakeholder interviews.** In total, the mission met more than 150 people during its stay in Chad from September 2 to 20, 2022. In N'Djamena, the mission was received by the Director General of Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Resources. She held working sessions with the coordinator of RECONNECT and conducted interviews with the Director of the fight against climate change (also a GEF Focal Point), the Director of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Economy, Planning Development and International Cooperation (MEPDCI) and his deputy. The mission also met the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas.
- Interviews were conducted with beneficiaries and stakeholders at the local level in the 20 cantons of the 5 departments of the province of Mayo-Kebbi Ouest. In Pala, the mission was received by the Governor of the province of Mayo-Kebbi Ouest, the Secretary General of the Province and the Prefect of Mayo-Dallah. She had working sessions with delegates from the Ministries of Agricultural Development (MDA), Livestock and Animal Production (MEPA), Environment and Fisheries (MEP) and MEPDCI.
- **Data analysis** collected as part of the documentary review and interviews with stakeholders allowed the triangulation of data related to the different questions of the evaluation through a triangulation matrix that put into perspective the different opinions expressed in the interviews. The in-depth review of all documents, monitoring and evaluation data, facilitated the analysis, comparison, and triangulation of information with other data sources.
- **Return of works.** Preliminary data and information gathered from local stakeholders was consolidated during a provincial workshop held on September 12 in de Pala. This workshop brought together 70 participants from all over the MKO province. At the end of the field mission, a summary meeting bringing together the mission team and the project team took place on September 15, 2022. A feedback meeting chaired by the Director General of the Ministry of the Environment and fisheries, was held on September 17, 2022 in N'Djamena.

3. ANALYZES ACCORDING TO THE EVALUATION CRITERIA

3.1. Assessment of Relevance

The analysis of relevance made it possible to assess the extent to which the project objectives contribute to the sectoral objectives in terms of environmental management and are articulated with the aspirations and needs of the target groups. This analysis also shows how the approaches, mechanisms, tools and actions promoted by the project are adapted to the social, economic and environmental conditions of Mayo-Kebbi.

3.1.1 Relevance to strategies

Contribution to SDG 13 - Combat climate change urges the global community to “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.” This call finds its echo in the actions of the first 3 operational components of RECONNECT. The same applies to the nine targets of SDG 15, which aims to “Preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems, ensuring that they are used sustainably, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse the process of degradation soils and put an end to the loss of biodiversity”.

Relevance to national policies and strategies. The objectives of the project are aligned with the 2030 vision “the Chad we want”, the 5 national voluntary targets of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and the National Strategy for the Fight against Bushfires.

All the actions of the project and in particular those aimed at strengthening the capacities of local communities to govern and manage natural resources, as well as activities allowing to increase the incomes of local populations are included in the 2030 vision.

Land restoration activities make a direct contribution to the 5 LDN targets. The project's actions in the field of land neutrality are fully aligned with the recommendations of the strategy concerning the MKO and the peripheral area of Sena-Oura. These relate to actions that must be taken to stabilize the banks of waterways, undertake reforestation, intensify and improve livestock practices and restore poorly productive soils. As a reminder, the NDT objective for the MKO province is 20,000 ha of degraded land to be recovered by 2030.

The project's approach and actions are in line with the national gender policy, in particular Strategic Direction 4 (Increase equal and equitable access of men and women to decision-making spheres at all levels) and 5 (Promotion of human rights by fighting against gender-based violence, with particular emphasis on the empowerment of women). These two axes of the national gender policy are aligned with Axis 4 of the PND 2017-2021. This policy promotes gender equality and equity with a view to

sustainable development and the improvement of the social and economic conditions of women and other vulnerable social strata.

Compliance with national, regional and international legal and regulatory requirements. The objectives of the project are carried out in compliance with national, regional and international legal and regulatory requirements in terms of environmental protection, in particular Law 14/2018 (under revision), the Conventions on the Fight against Desertification, the Climate Change and Biological Diversity.

Alignment with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is operationalized through the actions of component 2, the specific objective of which is to increase CO₂ sequestration capacities through the sustainable management of forest ecosystems. This convention emphasizes the fact that greenhouse gas emissions are mainly linked to agriculture and land use, as well as changes in land and forest use. The project through its actions contributes to providing a strategic response by promoting best practices in forestry and in agro-sylvo-pastoral systems (including soil restoration) of the MKO to reduce emissions, increase and preserve carbon sinks .

3.1.2 Relevance to the needs of the target groups

Alignment with priority needs of target groups. The province of MKO is faced with a complex environmental problem that involves both natural and anthropogenic factors. The area of areas covered by natural forests has been reduced by 36% in 20 years. That is an annual deforestation rate of 1.8%. Added to this is the exploitation of natural areas for agricultural and pastoral purposes. All of these factors lead to a change in the structure of natural ecosystems and a decrease in biological diversity. Soil degradation, climate change, the degradation of fodder resources lead to a decrease in the productivity of agricultural and pastoral land. The scarcity of these resources generates conflicts of use. To address these constraints, RECONNECT:

- supports the Orientation and Decision-Making Bodies (ILOD) and the Canton's Development Associations (ADC) with a view to strengthening their institutional, functional and local governance capacities;
- supports the commitment and capacities of the various actors for the sustainable management of natural resources so that they can be able to implement actions related to the management of natural resources;
- develops reporting tools and methods for monitoring ecological corridors;
- promotes and popularizes the best agro-sylvo-pastoral practices through micro-projects.

All these actions are aligned with the needs of the population, particularly with regard to reforestation, the installation of stone barriers, the development of organic farming, the fight against bush fires.

Relevance of geo-targeting. The area of intervention covering all 5 departments of the province of MKO makes it possible to reach almost all the protected areas of this province. However, the targeting logic based on the division of administrative units did not make it possible to cover all the ecosystems. However, the local populations believe that certain areas are not sufficiently affected, such as the department of Mayo-Binder where only 8 villages benefited from the first wave of micro-projects supported by RECONNECT. Indeed, the skills and expertise needed to put together financing files constitute a constraint for the promoters of this department.

The mission noted that the project objectives and actions strongly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 vision and national sector strategies. These actions, which are part of several commitments made by the country, comply with national and international legal and regulatory requirements. The objectives pursued meet the priority needs of the target groups and the approaches and tools promoted by the project are already inspiring other interventions in the province of MKO.

Main finding 1:the project objectives contribute to the sectoral objectives in terms of environmental management and are articulated with the aspirations and needs of the target groups. They are aligned with the 2030 vision “the Chad we want” and the 5 national voluntary targets of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) which is to recover 20,000 ha of degraded land in MKO and contribute to SDGs 13 and 15 .

Major observation 2: The project objectives are carried out in compliance with national, regional and international legal and regulatory requirements in terms of environmental protection, in particular Law 14/2018, the Conventions on the Fight against Desertification, Climate Change and Biological Diversity

Major observation 3: The actions are aligned with the needs of the population, particularly with regard to reforestation, the installation of stone barriers, the development of organic farming, the fight against bush fires.

Major observation 4: The approach, approaches and tools promoted by the project are innovative and are intended to inspire the implementation of other interventions at the level of the State and other partners.

Major observation 5: The geographical targeting of the project for coverage of all 5 departments of the province makes it possible to reach almost all the protected areas of the province. However, the targeting logic based on the division of administrative units did not make it possible to cover all the ecosystems by the actions of the project.

Conclusion on the relevance assessment: Overall, the mission considers that the relevance of the project is very satisfactory. The objectives and actions of the project strongly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 vision and

national sector strategies. The fact that the approaches and tools promoted by the project inspire other interventions in the MKO province demonstrates both the relevance of the project and the innovative nature of its intervention.

3.2 Consistency Assessment

The Coherence evaluation made it possible to show the complementarity between the approaches, mechanisms, tools and actions promoted by the project with the other interventions carried out by the State and other partners. The evaluation of this criterion also analyzed the capacity of the steering and coordination mechanisms to adapt to the institutional environment of the project as well as the level of internal articulation of the activities.

3.2.1. Complementarity and synergy with other interventions

Perfect complementarity and synergy between the actions of the project and those of the sectoral delegations (agriculture, environment, livestock). Implementation agreements have been signed with these three delegations. Specifically, the project implemented land restoration and fertilization actions with the agriculture delegation. Through the delegation of livestock, the project supports activities to promote agricultural by-products and fodder crops for livestock feed. Actions relating to the preservation of the environment have been carried out in close collaboration with the environment delegation. The project steering and coordination mechanism is consistent with the institutional mechanism at the sector level.

Good complementarity between the approaches, mechanisms, tools and actions promoted by the project with the interventions of other partners. For example, support for ILODs and CCDs is done jointly with the Project for Strengthening Resilience and Peaceful Coexistence in Chad (PRCPT) and the GIZ's BSB Yamoussa project. Complementarities or even synergies could also be made with the Noé Foundation, particularly around the Binder-Léré protected areas complex (CAPBL) and the "Biosphere and Heritage of Lake Chad" Project (BIOPALT) which intervenes around the PNSO on activities to promote beekeeping, reforestation and market gardening.

However, the overlaps observed in the deployment of certain activities intended for the ILODs of Dari and Goumadji in the PNSO sufficiently prove that consultations must be strengthened to increase synergy between the various stakeholders. The project has initiated a consultation platform bringing together the actors involved in rural development. However, the dynamic did not continue due to a lack of financial means and the weak involvement of other actors. A framework for discussion and consultation has been set up with the Noé Foundation to anticipate duplication that could occur in the CAPBL.

Complementarities with other GEF and IUCN interventions in Chad. RECONNECT is in line with the strategies of the 6 GEF focal areas namely Land Degradation (DT), Climate Change Mitigation (CCA) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as it contributes to the conservation of MKO ecosystems through sustainable management of natural resources. This project is geographically and thematically complementary to other ongoing GEF and IUCN interventions in Chad.

3.2.2 Internal consistency

Quality of the intervention logic. Overall, the project's logical framework enabled the documentation of results in relation to the objectives defined at design. The formulation of indicators respects the principles of results-based management (RBM). However, the large number of indicators does not facilitate the monitoring of results.

The evaluation team has a good appreciation of the project intervention logic presented in the project document. All elements that should be part of the results chain appear in the logical framework. Indeed, this intervention logic clearly presents the transition from activities to results and then to the immediate changes that should lead to the final change sought and integrates the hypotheses. However, she notes an absence of a narrative summary of the theory of change.

Articulation and sequencing of activities. The activities are carried out in accordance with the initial planning of the project and their sequencing in time obeys the logic that was defined during the design of the project. The delay during start-up continues to weigh despite a sustained pace of implementation. This delay gives the beneficiaries the impression that the physical achievements seem not to be visible on the ground. This is the case, for example, with the process of financing micro-projects, which is considered to be very long, and the establishment of community forests, some of which currently do not yet have management rules. Furthermore, the populations consider that the volume of capacity building and awareness raising activities is not sufficient to cover all the needs of the beneficiaries, particularly among farmers, stockbreeders and ILODs.

3.2.3 Quality of project coordination and management

The implementation of project activities is based on a three-level mechanism. At the national level, the ministry in charge of the environment ensures the institutional supervision of the project with the main functions of strategic management in coordination with the other sectoral ministries and the ministry in charge of planning and international cooperation. At the regional level, the project coordination team relies on the sectoral delegations with which implementation agreements have been signed. The subdivisions of these delegations at departmental level ensure the implementation of activities by relying on local structures at cantonal and village level.

The project steering, coordination and implementation mechanism fits very well into the network of decentralized services of the sectoral ministries. The steering of the project in line with the institutional mechanisms within the Ministry of the Environment is based on a national steering committee involving all the sectoral ministries of rural development. However, adjustments are necessary to increase the autonomy of the local coordination units for the management of project actors at the cantonal level.

The implementation mechanism at the local level is based on the territorial network of the three sectoral delegations with the support of grassroots community organizations (ILOD, ACD, etc.). This device allows a good deployment of the activities of the project. However, due to a lack of awareness, part of the population has not yet integrated the approach involving state services, in particular forest services, in the support of beneficiaries. This feeling of distrust of the population towards forest agents is reinforced with the repressive actions of the forest and wildlife guard.

Furthermore, the new administrative division of the province into 5 departments constitutes an additional constraint for the deployment of activities in the field. The initial forecasts being limited to 3 facilitators, it is difficult for the project to cover the new departments, especially since the authorities of these new administrative units are not in favor of the intervention of facilitators from other departments. This constraint also affects the project forecasts concerning the provision of CDAs with equipment.

Main finding 6: The actions of the project are complementary and synergistic with those of the sectoral delegations (agriculture, environment and livestock with which implementation agreements have been signed. There is also good complementarity between the approaches, mechanisms, tools and the actions promoted by the project with the interventions of other partners. However, the overlapping of actions observed at the level of the deployment of certain activities sufficiently prove that consultations should be strengthened to increase synergy.

Main finding 7: The project steering and coordination mechanism is consistent with the institutional mechanism at the sector level. At the local level, the implementation of activities relies on the territorial network of three sectoral delegations with grassroots support from community organizations (ILOD, ACD, etc.).

Main finding 8: The RECONNECT is in line with the strategies of the 6 GEF focus areas namely land degradation (DT), climate change mitigation (CCA) and sustainable forest management (SFM))

Main finding 9: The activities are taking place in accordance with the initial planning of the project and their sequencing in time obeys the logic which was defined during the design of the project despite the delays in the start-up of the activities. However, due to a lack of awareness, part of the population has not yet integrated the approach involving state services in supporting beneficiaries.

Conclusion on the consistency assessment: *The coherence of the project is satisfactory. Indeed, the mechanisms for coordinating and implementing the **project fit very well into the network of decentralized services of sectoral ministries. The steering of the project is in line with the institutional mechanisms within the Ministry of the Environment and is based on a national steering committee involving all the sectoral ministries of rural development. However, adjustments are necessary to increase the autonomy of the local coordination units for the management of project actors at the cantonal level.***

3.3 Assessment of effectiveness

The effectiveness evaluation made it possible to assess the level of achievement and quality of the main results with regard to the satisfaction of beneficiaries and stakeholders. The main constraints that arose during the implementation and as well as the corrective measures were also analysed.

The implementation of project actions since its inception has made it possible to achieve 60% of the expected targets by the end of the project. The project is making good progress in the implementation of activities. Given the delays in project start-up and in view of the progress of activities, the project is not likely to achieve all the expected results within the time allotted to it.

3.3.1 Execution of the results of the Component 1

The actions of component 1 aim at better engagement and capacity building of stakeholders for the management of natural resources in the long term. The results have been achieved up to 71%. This, thanks to the realization of activities of evaluation of the local actors (13 ILOD and 20 ACD), their organization and the reinforcement of their capacities for a good functioning through the regular holding of the annual meetings of governance. But also, by strengthening the restoration and management capacities of 131 grassroots community organizations, of which 657 members have benefited from training in forest restoration and management. In addition, the agents of the deconcentrated services of the MEP have also been trained. The purpose of training technical services and local players was to increase their technical skills in the management of natural resources but also for a good implementation of the mandates entrusted to them within the framework of the restoration of the ecosystem. These actors have also benefited from logistical support, in particular bicycles, motorbikes, solar kits and office equipment to be more operational and efficient in carrying out their role.

Still within the framework of the implementation of the activities of the component, the sensitization campaign and consultation of stockbreeders conducted with the support of the delegation of stockbreeding affected 2,394 transhumant stockbreeders and agropastoralists among whom 38 women were sensitized. These consultations led to

the establishment of an early warning system to monitor the mobility of transhumant herders.

Strengthening the commitment and capacities of the various actors for the sustainable, long-term, joint and community-based management of natural resources is only effective through the improvement of the institutional governance of natural resources with a view to the restoration of forest ecosystems of local structures. Thus, during the year 2021, the RECONNECT project implemented several activities intended to boost this local dynamic of natural resource management and henceforth achieve a more effective involvement of communities in the protection and safeguarding of the biodiversity.

Table 2: Physical execution of component 1

Results	Forecasts	Achievements	Rate Execution
Result 1.1: Better commitment and capacities of the various stakeholders for the long-term sustainable management of natural resources, joint at community base			
1.1.b: Number of organizations (disaggregated category) assessed and with capacity building plans implemented	22	33	150%
1.1.c: Number of people (disaggregated by gender) with better project management skills	198	101	51%
1.1.j: Number of MEP extension services (disaggregated category) trained in natural resource management	30	14	47%
1.1.k: Number of MEP staff (disaggregated by gender and category) trained in natural resource management	60	33	55%
1.1.l: Number of events held to sensitize transhumant/semi-nomadic herders on land occupation and natural resource management	50	48	96%
1.1.m: Number of transhumant/semi-nomadic pastoralists (disaggregated by sex) who participated in awareness-raising events on land occupation and natural resource management through project assistance	1,250	2394	192%
1.1.n: Number of MEP officers (disaggregated by gender) with increased capacity (i.e. skills and knowledge) to engage with transhumant/semi-nomadic pastoralists on land occupation and natural resource management	45	17	38%
Component 1 achievement rate			71%

3.3.2 Implementation of Component 2 results

The implementation of the actions of component 2 records an achievement rate of 68%. These results were obtained through the completion of mapping and evaluation activities of 56 forest blocks. Material and technical resources have been granted to the technical services of the Ministry of the Environment located around 25 forest blocks. Interviews with the beneficiaries show that they are satisfied with the support actions for the sustainable management of community forests.

Pursuing its objective of increasing the carbon sequestration capacity in the project area through sustainable management of forest blocks, a study has made it possible to set up the methodology necessary for monitoring the composition, structure, integrity, human uses, vulnerability and management status of existing forest blocks in the project area. This methodology, which combines the use of GIS data and field data, served as the basis for the implementation of the Geographic Information System in 2020. Thanks to the GIS, the project carries out periodic monitoring of spatial indicators. The result of this monitoring based on 2019 referential data,

The identification of the 56 community forest blocks was carried out according to the principles and standards of the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System and following a participatory approach involving workshops with farmers, breeders, ILODs, CVS, ADCs , groups, technical services. This approach has enabled all users to decide on the well-being of the areas to be put under management rules.

As part of the collaboration and strengthening of decentralized services, environmental services have been provided with office furniture to improve their working conditions. An agreement has been signed with the Provincial Delegation of the Environment to allow the MEP services around the forest blocks to intensify surveillance and patrols in order to limit the damage and contribute to the achievement of the project objective by in ecosystem restoration. A sustainable financing mechanism for community-based natural resource management has been developed and is being tested.

As part of the process of restoring plant cover, the project supported departmental forest inspectorates in the production of forest or fruit plants produced. The seedlings produced were made available to local communities. A total of 9,000 seedlings were planted over an area of 20.5 ha spread over 12 sites including 8 community forests, 3 sacred forests and a reforestation site. Plants were also distributed to schools, health centers, ILODs and individuals.

Table 3: Physical execution of component 2

Results	Forecast s	Achievemen ts	Rate Executi on
Result 2.1: Increased capacity for CO2 sequestration through the sustainable management of forest ecosystems on 21,600 ha			
2.1.h: Number of grassroots community organizations operational on selected forest blocks	151	115	76%
2.1.i: Number of monthly field missions carried out by grassroots community organizations	604	0	0%
2.1.j: Number of MEP extension services operational on selected forest blocks	30	25	83%
2.1.k: Number of monthly field missions conducted by MEP extension services	1080	590	55%
2.1.l: Number of management documents developed, adopted, implemented and applied	51	42	82%
2.1.m: Number of sustainable financing mechanisms tested	20	17	85%
Achievement rate of component 2			68%

3.3.3 Execution of the results of the component 3

Component 3 activities achieved 40% of planned results. This level of achievement was achieved through the development, adoption and implementation of 2 fisheries resource management plans; the implementation of agroforestry promotion activities for the restoration of degraded soils and the promotion of sustainable pasture management measures as well as the financing of 370 IGA micro-projects relating to good practices in agro-sylvo-pastoral matters.

The development and implementation of fisheries management plans follows actions to strengthen sustainable fisheries management systems. The implementation of these actions also involves building the capacity of communities in the rational management of resources but also in the monitoring of areas under management rules. This is how the ILODs were trained and equipped with manual canoes and supported in the organization of patrol/surveillance missions.

In terms of promoting agroforestry, the project popularizes practices in Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), compost, organic amendment, stone bunds thanks to the support of the MKO Agriculture Delegation with which the project signed a partnership agreement. This agreement has enabled the Delegation through the National Agency for Rural Development (ANADER) to supervise 325 pilot producers including 52

women identified in the project area to implement degraded soil restoration techniques. This support shows a strong willingness on the part of producers to implement the techniques proposed by the National Agency for Rural Development (ANADER), which already provides local supervision. In the implementation of certain techniques, 10% of the pilot producers have carried out the construction of anti-erosion strips (stone cordon). As for the system of penning animals in the fields, 5% of the pilot producers supervised have signed a contract with the breeders to park their animals in the fields after the harvest. With regard to Assisted Natural Regeneration, all the supervised producers have undertaken to apply this inexpensive technique in their fields in order to accelerate the restoration of degraded soils.

The financing of micro-projects related to natural resources is based on a sustainable financing mechanism put in place by the project in 2021. On the date of the evaluation, 370 micro-projects benefited from financial support from the project and more than 300 were in the training phase. In addition, to ensure a match between this financing mechanism and local planning, local development plans were revised in 2021 to better integrate the requirements of the sustainable IGA financing mechanism put in place by RECONNECT.

Table 4: Physical execution of component 3

Results	Forecasts	Achievements	Rate Execution
Result 3.1: Sustainable exploitation of natural resources, including the development of sustainable income-generating activities and the strengthening of the general resilience of communities to climate change			
3.1.d: Number of sustainable harvesting guides for the main timber and non-timber forest products developed	5	8	160%
3.1.e: Number of forest blocks where sustainable harvesting guides for the main timber and non-timber forest products are implemented through their management document	36	0	0%
3.1.f: Number of community members using for sustainable harvesting of major timber and non-timber forest products	10%	0	0%
3.1.g: Number of sustainable fisheries management plans developed, adopted, implemented and enforced	2	2	100%
3.1.h: Percentage reduction in conflicts caused by elephants and hippos	50%	0	0%

Results	Forecasts	Achievements	Rate Execution
3.1.i: Number of commercial chains of natural resource products developed	20	1	5%
3.1.j: Percentage increase in income from natural resource products (disaggregated by gender)	15%	0	0%
Result 3.2: Increased production from degraded soils.			
3.2.b: Number of communities where best practices are promoted	36	36	100%
3.2.c: Number of communities where best practices are promoted	36	36	100%
3.2.d: Number of pastoralists engaged in sustainable pasture management practices	100	18	18%
Overall achievement rate			40%

3.3.4 Implementation of Component 4 results

The “monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharing” component recorded an execution rate of 59%. The knowledge sharing and monitoring-evaluation mechanisms have been operational since the start of the project, particularly with the establishment of the monitoring-evaluation system. This makes it possible to design reports, visibility tools and materials as well as technical sheets on good practices which are regularly used for project communication and awareness and information campaigns.

Table 5: Physical execution of component 4

Results	Forecast	Achievement	Rate Execution
Result 4.1: The Project is implemented based on RBM, and lessons learned/best practices documented and disseminated.			
4.1.a: Number of steps of the RAPTA methodology implemented	7	1	14%
4.1.b: Number of communities involved in the RAPTA process	36	0	0%
4.1.c: Number of guides available	5	0	0%
4.1.d: Number of communication tools developed and implemented	27	15	56%

Results	Forecast	Achievement	Rate Execution
4.1.e: Number of annual communication events designed and executed	20	9	45%
4.1.e: Project M&E Plan developed and validated	1	1	100%
4.1.f: Number of annual project activity reports produced	4	3	75%
Number of evaluations conducted	2	1	50%
Overall achievement rate			59%

3.3.5 Implementation of Component 5 results

This component records an execution rate of 91%. The project management team set up is operational and the Local Project Coordination Unit (ULCP) set up is operational in the field. Reports on the progress of the project are regularly produced and submitted to the steering committee.

Table 6: Physical execution of component 5

Results	Forecasts	Achievements	Rate Execution
Result 5.1: The Project is implemented.			
Result 5.1: The Project is implemented.			
5.1.a: Number of Project management units established	1	1	100%
5.1.b: Number of Project coordination units established	1	1	100%
5.1.c: Number of steering committee reports	4	3	75%
Overall achievement rate			91%

Main finding 10: The implementing partners and the coordination on the ground efficiently carried out the actions on the ground despite limited material and human resources in view of the immensity of the project intervention area. For example, the populations would like to have a greater presence of project coordinators and managers in the field.

Main finding 11: From a legal point of view, the absence of a complaint against the project shows a good mastery of the implementation procedures and good practices in the deployment of the project's actions.

Main finding 12: the project has achieved most of the expected mid-term results. The results obtained and the achievements of the project are highly appreciated by the beneficiaries and stakeholders. The main constraints encountered during the implementation relate to the late start of the project and the delays in processing requests for the reimbursement of funds.

Conclusion on the evaluation of effectiveness: The project is making good progress in the implementation of activities. However, given the delays in project start-up and in view of the progress of activities, the project is unlikely to achieve all the expected results within the time allotted to it.

3.4. Efficiency assessment

3.4.1. Quality of financial management

The efficiency analysis looked at the quality of financial management and project implementation, particularly in relation to the use of resources.

Quality of financial management. The total cost of the project is USD 5,366,971 broken down by component as follows: (i) Component 1: USD 573,457; (ii) Component 2: USD 1,798,135; (iii) Component 3: USD 2,068,379; (vi) Component 4: 550,478 and (v) Component 5: USD 435,430.

The analysis of financial execution shows a disbursement rate of 41% compared to the overall budget. This is below the forecasts of expenditure expected at mid-term. This delay is due to the late start of activities and delays in processing appeals for funds submitted by the project.

Recurrent costs (operating, human resources, management costs) represented 6% of the provisional budget allocations defined during the design of the project. According to the financial execution data set at the end of June 2022, recurrent costs represent 10% of the expenditure budget against 90% for investments. That is a slight increase which could be explained by the late implementation of financing for micro-projects.

The investment/operating ratio calculated on the budget execution data at the end of June 2022 is 8.9. This assumes that for 1 Dollars spent in operation, the project has invested for the benefit of the beneficiaries almost 9 Dollars. This ratio, well above the commonly accepted norm of 3, shows good efficiency in the deployment of actions. However, it is slightly lower than the forecast data which relied on 15.7.

3.4.1. Quality of project management and coordination

Project team. Implementation is based on a coordination unit made up of a coordinator, an administrative and financial officer, 3 component heads and support staff. For the deployment of activities in the field, this team relies on animators and

facilitators who are members of the local coordination units. The project team has experienced relative stability since the start of the project. Only two posts experienced changes, namely the monitoring-evaluation manager and the accountant. The evaluation found that the staff are qualified, motivated and experienced. It was able to demonstrate an adaptation and responsiveness that was useful in achieving remarkable results in view of the delays in starting the project. This responsiveness is welcomed by all the partners and especially appreciated by the sectoral ministries involved in the implementation of the project.

However, the evaluation finds that the prevailing salaries in the project are very low compared to the salary level of similar projects. The mission considers that this situation could constitute a risk of instability and demotivation for the personnel who could be tempted by more promising opportunities.

3.4.1. Performance of implementing partners

Deconcentrated services of sectoral ministries. The implementation of the project actions is done mainly with the support of the delegations of the sectoral ministries on the basis of the implementation agreements. The agriculture delegation supports the implementation of land restoration and fertilization actions with the agriculture delegation. Through the delegation of livestock, the project supports activities to promote agricultural by-products and fodder crops for livestock feed. Actions relating to the preservation of the environment were carried out with the support of the environment delegation.

Local project coordination unit (ULCP). Local units are mainly responsible for supporting community structures for the management of natural resources and local governance (ILOD, CCD, etc.). The ULCP, whose members are volunteers, is headed by a president (or the focal point) of each ILOD or ADC/CCD concerned. The UCLP works in close collaboration with the PMU, and is responsible for the implementation of activities at the local / cantonal level. This unit provides an essential link between the PMU, the other resource persons of the project and the various national specialists, the technical services and the local partners involved in the implementation of the various components of the project in the respective cantons.

Local structures (ILOD, CCD). The local structures serve as an interface between the project and the local populations. These structures benefit from subsidies from the PMU in order to provide them with capacity building, organizational support and equipment. The subsidies are based on a performance evaluation which allows the project to better identify the needs of each structure.

The mission noted that the implementing partners and the local coordination units effectively carry out the actions on the ground despite the limited material and human resources given the vastness of the project area.

Main finding 13: The analysis of financial execution shows a disbursement rate of 41% compared to the overall budget. This is below the forecasts of expenditure expected at mid-term. This delay is due to the late start of activities and delays in processing appeals for funds submitted by the project.

Main finding 14: The involvement of sectoral delegations in the implementation system was decisive for the smooth running of activities. This support enables a transfer of skills to local players and strengthens government action. However, the level of collaboration of the institutional actors was marred by many difficulties relating to mobility in positions (changes of delegate, technician, etc.).

Main finding 15: The project staff is highly motivated despite being paid less than other interventions. The same is true for facilitators who are volunteers. The mission considers that there is a risk of loss of motivation over time.

Conclusion on the efficiency assessment: Project activities are implemented very efficiently. Indeed, the investment expenditure and the operating costs are substantially in line with the forecasts defined during the design. Operating expenses at design represented 6% of forecasts against 10% during implementation. The proportion of the budget devoted to investments with an investment/operation ratio of almost 9 is largely advantageous in terms of costs/benefits for the benefit of local populations. For 1 Dollars spent in operation, the project invests almost 9 Dollars.

3.5 Evaluation of Effects and Early Impact

In the absence of the project's theory of change, the project's impact chain was documented and reconstituted retrospectively on the basis of the logical framework and the project's intervention strategy, taking into account the effect indicators and impact of the project and reviewing the activities implemented. This made it possible to show the effects and impact of project actions on the living conditions of local populations and the capacities of institutional actors.

3.5.1 Project scope

Indirectly, the benefits of the project will be able to affect more than 2,000,000 people spread over the 5 departments impacted by the project's actions. These populations constitute the potential beneficiaries who could be positively affected by the effects and impacts of the project. These are approximately 51% women and 49% men and 75% young people whose conditions of access to natural resources will have been sustainably improved.

3.5.2 Early Effects and Impacts

The effects and impacts induced by the project's actions are beginning to be felt on the living conditions of local populations, the sustainable management of natural resources, carbon sequestration and the capacities of institutional actors.

- **Sustainable use of natural resources.**

The training and awareness sessions allow an improvement of the sensitivity and knowledge of the populations vis-à-vis the issues of environmental protection (the use of improved stoves is popularized, agroforestry, the preservation of fruit trees and the practice of soil restoration are progressing; the poisoning of ponds and saltworks is reduced, etc.). By using early burning methods (October - November), sensitized local populations contribute effectively to the fight against bush fires.

- **Improved agricultural productivity.**

Thanks to the actions of the project, the beneficiaries note an improvement in the regeneration of degraded soils through the use of soil restoration techniques (notably composting). These actions made it possible, on a pilot basis, to restore the fertility of 325 ha of cultivable land. In addition, the promotion of knowledge and cultivation techniques acquired during training allows producers to better master soil fertility management techniques. This will result in improved yields and farm incomes. In the restored but partially recovered spaces, a significant increase in agricultural productivity is estimated. A multiplication factor of 5 is expected by the beneficiaries. In other words, they hope to multiply by 5 the agricultural yield on the reclaimed land.

Considering the quality of the plots, the populations are already anticipating an improvement in yields due to the soil restoration and fertilization actions implemented with the support of the project.

- **Increase in the income of the population.**

The project's actions boost the development of income-generating activities, particularly in the areas of agroforestry, beekeeping and sheep fattening. But also, they strengthen the production systems through training in technical itinerary and their implementation. In the short term, this will lead to an increase in the monetary income of the population, particularly among women (priority targets of IGAs).

- **Improving the CO2 sequestration capacity of forests**

Thanks to community forest demarcation activities (monitoring and awareness-raising system, maintenance and security), 34,795 ha of forests and ecological corridors benefit from sustainable management. This results in an improvement in biological diversity (regeneration of herbaceous and woody species and the appearance of small wild animals), but also an increase in the capacity to sequester CO2. Prohibitions and

community forests are increasingly numerous and allow more sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

- **Improved institutional capacities of technical services and local actors.**

As part of the deployment of project activities, allocations of materials (11 decentralized services were supported), vehicles, equipment and various resources were granted to decentralized State services and local structures which also benefited from the support for restructuring and capacity building actions. These various supports induce an improvement of the operational capacities, institutional logistics of the technical services of the State and the local actors (ILOD, CCD). Thanks to these means, the decentralized technical services and the local actors claim that they can now better support the local populations.

Conclusion on the assessment of effects and impacts: The changes induced by the project's actions on the socio-economic and environmental conditions of its area of intervention lead to improvements in forest ecosystems with a greater capacity for carbon sequestration. Even if the conditions for the realization of the impacts are in place, the realization of the improvements in the living conditions of the populations requires time and will most certainly be achieved with an extension of the initial duration of the project..

3.6 Assessment of sustainability/Sustainability.

For this criterion, it is a question of analyzing the conditions of sustainability guaranteeing the sustainability of the achievements of the project. As stated in the project document, the sustainability of RECONNECT was considered from the outset of project preparation, involving key stakeholders in all aspects of project design. This involvement was very useful for the mobilization of these stakeholders in the implementation of actions.

3.6.1 Social viability

The aspects that guarantee the social viability of the project are the following.

The participatory approach adopted. Indeed, "The project in its implementation opts for a participatory approach involving community structures and civil society widely consulted during the preparation phase. Multiple structures bringing together these stakeholders, namely community members and their representatives (traditional chiefdoms) and natural resource governance structures, which include Local Orientation and Decision-making Bodies (ILOD), Cantonal Development Associations (ADC), Management Committees (CG), Village Surveillance Committees (CVS)".

All outputs under Activity 2.2: Establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for long-term community management of natural resources. In this context, two experts,

including an international expert and a national expert, have been hired to support the project in the design of a sustainable financing mechanism for community-based management based on the potential generated by the marketing of products from of natural resources. During this process, it was initially a question of making the situational analysis and the stakes of the financing of the AGR resulting from the natural resources in the zone of intervention of the project; and in a second, to propose a manual for the financing of income-generating activities. The mechanism chosen for the implementation of IGA promotion actions by RECONNECT is based on a tripartite mechanism with shared costs (project-EMF-Beneficiaries). Income-generating activities (IGA) are supported through training, technical and economic support (using a business plan) and productive capital (equipment) for the beneficiaries, so that they can develop a profitable economic activity.

In accordance with the implementation process of the financing mechanism developed by the project, an information and awareness campaign was organised. The objective of this campaign was to inform and sensitize a large section of the communities on the financing mechanism of the project which will have to lead the financing of the micro-projects resulting from good practices of management of natural resources. At the end of this campaign, which took place in the five departments of the project area, community members were informed and made aware of the mechanism for financing micro-projects related to natural resources. A total of 1,299 community members participated in this campaign, including 662 women, representing a participation rate of 51%.

Following a call for proposals issued by the project as part of the implementation of its funding mechanism, around 1,519 proposals for micro-projects were received. Subsequently, the five Departmental Pre-selection Committees proceeded with the evaluation and examination of the registered files, among which 370 micro-projects were selected.

To promote the sustainability and systematic integration of the financing mechanisms developed in the management systems, the project has initiated the revision of nine cantonal development plans that have expired since 2018. These are the development plans of the cantons Dari, Goumadji, Gagal, Kordo, Erdé, Tagobo Foulbé, Bissi-Mafou, Guégou and Binder.

The revision of these development plans is part of the financing of micro-projects resulting from good practices developed by RECONNECT through several studies carried out for the sustainable management of natural resources in its area of intervention. This participatory process is developed to give stakeholders the opportunity to formally adopt the financing mechanisms and integrate them into their LDP.

During 2021, the project supported nine cantons in the province of Mayo Kebbi Ouest in the revision of their Local Development Plans. This participatory process continued until the first quarter. Thus during this same quarter, a total of 8 Local Development Plans (PDL) were validated with the financial and technical support of the project. These are the LDPs of the Dari, Tagobo Foulbé and Erdé cantons in Mayo Dallah, the Gagat, Goumadji and Kordo cantons in the Gagat department, the Bissi Mafou canton in the El-Ouya department and the Guegou canton in the department of Lac-Léré. These validated plans will be distributed during the 2nd quarter in order to allow the communities concerned to seek partners who can support their implementation.

In addition, the RECONNECT project has supported several beneficiaries through income-generating activities. This support is of paramount importance because the beneficiaries will now be financially independent and therefore able to survive the various family responsibilities.

3.6.2 Institutional sustainability

In general, the aspects that guarantee the institutional viability of the project are mainly made up of the achievements of Component 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, Management and Knowledge Sharing. In particular, the following facts can be noted.

The conduct of a study for the implementation of the Framework for Pathways to Resilience and Adaptation and Evaluation of Transformation (RAPTA) in 2019. With regard to this component, a study was carried out with the support of two consultants at the end of which 01 Framework for the Adaptation Pathway and Evaluation of the Transformation (RAPTA) was developed and implemented. Indeed, a series of consultation workshops were carried out by the consultants to achieve this result; the study report was validated in October 2019 during a workshop bringing together the various stakeholders in this study.

Capacity building of ULCP and PMU members. To make the members of the ULCP dynamic, the PMU organized a training session in 2020 for the members of the ULCP on four themes in order to better equip them. These include:

- Animation and communication techniques
- The methodology for the development/revision of the PDL
- Techniques for writing minutes and reports
- Data collection (and processing) techniques

We also note the organization during the same year, of a training workshop for the benefit of the members of the PMU. The objective of this training was to build the capacity of the project management unit on project management tools.

In 2021, another capacity building workshop was held for the benefit of the Project Management Unit. This session was aimed globally at the acquisition or strengthening

of knowledge and practices in the field of project engineering by mastering the tools used in the implementation of the project. This training session allowed members of the PMU to acquire the necessary knowledge to improve the implementation of the project in the days to come.

Endowment of decentralized State structures with adequate and sufficient material resources to carry out their missions. Under this activity, some support was provided by the project to the decentralized technical services of the State during the project implementation period. This is the case, for example, of the Technical Services of the Ministry in charge of the environment, which coordinate their activities in the field well. Indeed, RECONNECT has provided the departmental forest services with means of transport (field motorcycles) and computer equipment. Also, in the same vein, they receive monthly office supplies, communication credits, fuel and incentive allowances.

Also, the project provided support for the supervision of technical services by the central services of the MEP through the organization of regular managerial and technical missions to the project area.

Monitoring and verification of project accounts. The project recruited an audit firm to control and verify project accounts in accordance with the procedures manual. The audit on the financial statements of the project for the year 2019 was carried out in the 1st quarter of the year 2020. The report of the said audit is available and the recommendations resulting from this audit have been implemented by the Management Unit of the project. The review of the accounts of the Project and its Resources covering the period from December 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019 and after assessment of the internal control system in force was deemed sufficient overall.

3.6.3 Technical sustainability

For the local governance component, building the capacities of local actors is one of the main conditions for the sustainability of project achievements. In 2020, the capacities of local actors (ILOD, ADC, MEP, etc.) were permanently strengthened, particularly at the technical and organizational levels. Also, donations of rolling stock (bicycles and motorcycles), solar kits and office automation equipment were granted to them to enable them to better deploy in the field. These measures taken by the project aim to empower local actors in the sustainable management of natural resources in their locality and to transfer skills so that they can then take over as soon as the project is closed. Likewise,

With regard to the “maintenance of ecological continuities of forest blocks” component, a sustainable financing mechanism for the community-based management of natural resources has been put in place and is being tested. In the 1st quarter of 2022, the project acquired equipment for the creation of nurseries and the production of plants with a view to putting in place the operational and technical means to enable the

technical services of the Ministry in charge of the environment to optimal management of natural resources, with a view to restoring and maintaining ecological continuity. In addition, these plants made it possible to improve the reforested areas by improving the plant cover in order to increase the CO₂ sequestration capacity of the project intervention area on the one hand; and to produce fertilizer plants to support agroforestry as a good agricultural practice on the other hand. Also, it can be seen that during the same period, the project accompanied 09 cantons in the revision of their development plan (the only planning tool at the cantonal level) through technical and financial support. These plans, validated and disseminated during the 2nd quarter of 2022, will allow the communities concerned, including the sectors, to seek partners to support their implementation. For the Ministry of Planning, they will serve as a basis for recent information for updating the development strategy at provincial and even national level. it can be seen that during the same period, the project accompanied 09 cantons in the revision of their development plan (the only planning tool at the cantonal level) through technical and financial support. These plans, validated and disseminated during the 2nd quarter of 2022, will allow the communities concerned, including the sectors, to seek partners to support their implementation. For the Ministry of Planning, they will serve as a basis for recent information for updating the development strategy at provincial and even national level. validated and disseminated during the 2nd quarter of 2022 will allow the communities concerned, including the sectors, to seek partners to support their implementation. For the Ministry of Planning, they will serve as a basis for recent information for updating the development strategy at provincial and even national level. validated and disseminated during the 2nd quarter of 2022 will allow the communities concerned, including the sectors, to seek partners to support their implementation. For the Ministry of Planning, they will serve as a basis for recent information for updating the development strategy at provincial and even national level.

Moreover, for some time and especially with the departure of PRODALKA, the local natural resource governance structures have been inactive and have given way to the destructive management of the environment in the province. The RECONNECT project intervened to change this trend. Evaluation studies were carried out with 33 local management structures to determine their performance levels. Following these studies, capacity building plans have been developed and are being implemented.

With regard to integrated management and increasing the productivity of natural resources, the study on the sustainability of fishing systems accompanied by a

management plan for lakes Léré and Tréné on the one hand, and training sessions on conflict prevention and management techniques (Human/Wildlife) carried out in particular in the departments of Binder, Léré and Lagon on the other hand, augurs better relay from local actors and sectors. To achieve sustainable exploitation of natural resources, the project supports beneficiaries through IGAs, strengthens the resilience of communities to climate change, sustainably supports fisheries management systems, develops value chains for products based on natural resources and promotes agroforestry for the restoration of degraded soils and measures for the sustainable management of pastures. In the same vein, the project steering and implementation system relies on the decentralized structures of the technical services while following their respective logic. This further promotes a good relay of the actions initiated by the project.

In general, the mission notes a significant risk of sustainability of project actions due to the lack of means for proper support of local actors involved in the implementation of projects, particularly in local coordination.

To strengthen the sustainability / sustainability of its actions, the project should emphasize capacity building actions for local actors and technical service managers, support for breeders in the development of learned techniques and fodder crops as well as through community awareness actions for better ownership of achievements.

Main findings 16: Train / Sensitize communities and local and administrative authorities for: better ownership of the project; the restoration of cultivable areas through fertilizing elements in the occurrence of compost and the use of fodder crops in the context of livestock farming and the strengthening of the reforestation of areas for fear of seeing the forest disappear,

Main findings 17: For new agreements with local actors, integrate the financial support of facilitators (provide a mechanism for financing by the local actors themselves). This will allow them to continue to be supported even after the project.

Main findings 18: Regulate the transhumance corridors through an official framework and then, draw up and set up a consultation entity for monitoring

Main findings 19: Set up an effective system by associating the technical services of various sectors of activity (legal, environment, wildlife, etc.) to fight against Human / Wildlife conflicts.

3.7 Assessment of cross-cutting criteria

3.7.1 Inclusion of women and young people

The analysis focused on the targeting approaches and mechanisms put in place by the project to ensure the involvement of women and vulnerable groups in order to induce changes in the status of these two groups.

In its programmatic phase, the project did not provide for the position of a gender focal point. This absence of the gender focal point/manager in the project implementation team does not guarantee effective monitoring of gender mainstreaming in all dimensions of project intervention. Although the position of the gender focal point is not provided for in the design of the project, during its implementation, a person could be designated gender officer and this could make it possible to better monitor the specific aspects related to gender in the project's interventions. Nevertheless, despite this void (non-forecast and non-appointment of the gender focal point), considerable efforts are made during the implementation of the project. Through the distribution of community needs identification sheets,

In view of this situation, although the project in its intervention logic ensured that certain gender-related aspects were taken into account, it would be wise for the rest of the action to appoint a gender officer who, in addition to its initial responsibilities will oversee gender aspects. This will effectively improve gender mainstreaming in the RECONNECT project intervention.

Overall, the various actors met positively appreciate the mechanism put in place by the project for targeting beneficiaries. The project promoted a policy of non-discrimination in the beneficiary targeting process. The setting up of an ad hoc committee (made up of members of the CDAs, those of the Local Coordination Unit and the person in charge of Local Governance) to rule on the files of the projects to retain those who are eligible for funding is more reassuring. community and stakeholders in this process. "While not everyone is selected for funding, the selection process was such that, those who are not selected cannot complain of any inequality or discrimination in this process" (testimony of a resource person interviewed). On both sides, this same testimony is given by the various actors involved or informed of the process/work of selecting IGA beneficiaries.

However, if the mechanism for targeting beneficiaries is generally appreciated and achieves consensus, the fact that the criteria for targeting these beneficiaries are identical for men, women and young people has not favored parity between the different social strata. . The absence of specific eligibility criteria for different social strata (men, women, people with disabilities and young people) has hardly promoted equity between social strata. This situation partly explains the high and/or low proportion of certain social strata among the beneficiaries of support from the

RECONNECT project. At the current time of the project, out of the 370 micro-projects financed, there are 98 female promoters (64 groups and 34 individual women); i.e. a female representation of 26.5%. For example, it emerges from the exchanges that there are cantons where out of a number of 07 beneficiaries, there are only 1 or 2 women's organisations/beneficiaries. Similarly, it was noted that people with disabilities are not represented on the list of beneficiaries. Although there are no discriminatory criteria against this last social stratum (disabled person), for various reasons, it is weakly involved (in terms of participation and/or beneficiary of support) in the activities of the project.

Beyond the factors linked to the absence of positive discrimination in favor of women and other vulnerable social strata, their low number on the list of beneficiaries is partly explained by their inability to be able to put together their own projects with regard to the predefined eligibility criteria. It emerges from the exchanges that very few women are able to put together a competitive application. Some of them who have financial means appeal to men to help them in this process. On the other hand, those who are unable to mobilize the financial means to get help in this process were forced to postpone their applications despite having ideas for promising projects.

In view of this situation, in order to guarantee the representativeness of all social corporations among the beneficiaries of project support, it would be wise to promote a policy of positive discrimination in the criteria for targeting these beneficiaries. This could be done through the definition of the quota of micro-projects to be financed for each social stratum (men, women, young people, disabled people and other vulnerable social groups), on the one hand and the definition of specific eligibility criteria for each category of beneficiaries, on the other hand. However, although the project had to build the capacities of the various social actors, for the next phase,

In its logic of intervention, the RECONNECT project has promoted the inclusion of all social corporations in its activities. In this, particular attention is paid to the involvement of women and young people. Firstly, at the level of local decision-making bodies (ILOD, CCD/ADC) supported by the project, there has been a relative improvement in terms of the representation of women in the management team of these organizations. In addition to this female representation in the management team of these bodies, when it comes to meetings, the project scrupulously monitors the presence/participation of women. Underlines one actor of the project: "for all our activities (training, awareness and various meetings), special attention is paid to the representativeness of the various vulnerable social strata, including women and young people in particular". For the various workshops to launch the process of developing the Simple Forest Management Plan, we note a participation rate of women which is 34.6% (Activity Report for the first quarter of 2022). According to the same source, for the workshops to launch the process of revising the LDPs and the participatory diagnosis of the 9 cantons, total female representation was 20.6% and 29.1% respectively.

Painting :Representation of women in the management team of local bodies

institutions	Localities	Nbr office member	Male	Women	Percentage of women
ILOD	BLADE	10	8	2	20%
CCDs	KENNI	6	3	3	50%
ILOD	GIFTED	14	11	2	14%
CCDs	KORDO	13	10	3	23%
ILOD	LOGIN	12	8	4	33%
ILOD LAC LERE	LER	12	8	4	33%
CCDs	TORROCK	6	4	2	33%
CDA	GAGAL	13	10	3	23%
CDA	DARI	12	10	3	25%
ILOD	BINDER	11	9	2	18%
CDA	BINDER	13	9	4	31%
CDC	GUELO	13	8	5	38%
ILOD	TAGOBO FOULBE	9	8	1	11%
CDA	TAGOBO FOULBE	13	8	5	38%
ILOD	DARI	10	8	2	20%
CDA	BLADE	13	9	4	31%
ILOD	SALAMATA	11	10	1	9%
Total		191	141	50	26%

Source :Local Mid-Term Evaluation Workshop, 12-09-2022, Pala.

As can be seen in the table above, according to the realities of each locality, there is a differentiated female representation. In the locality of Kenni, for example, there is currently a 50% parity between men and women in the composition of the CCD management team. At the same time, this female representativeness is not encouraging on the side of the ILOD of Salamata (only 9% of women).

In view of the above, it should be noted that at the institutional level, RECONNECT has influenced the composition of the executive offices of ILODs and CCDs through the promotion of the representation of women in the management team of these institutions. Although these structures have texts that make the representation of women in the management team a requirement, the project came to rely on these basic instruments of these organizations and to ensure their application.

Although there has been a relative improvement in the representation of women in local decision-making bodies (26%), this representation is still low with regard to national law which requires 30% representation of women in nominative and elective positions. (Ordinance No. 0012 of March 5, 2018 and its implementing decree No. 0433 of March 5, 2021). With regard to young people, there is a significant representation of young boys in local authorities. Whether at the level of ILOD, CCD, CVS and others, are represented and actively participate in the functioning of these organizations.

Overall, the RECONNECT project contributes to the achievement of Strategic Objectives 4 and 5 of the National Gender Policy and to Strategic Axis 4 of the PND-2017-2021. However, although the project's action contributes to the achievement of national gender objectives, at the programmatic level (design), there is no clear alignment of the project components/activities on the axes and sub-axes of the instruments. national, sub-regional and international gender to which the action contributes to their achievement. Also, the documentary analysis of the project reveals a very poor analysis of the global and local context of the project intervention. This weak analysis of the local context did not make it possible to take into account certain gender-specific needs (overload of women, exclusion factors, promising IGAs, access to land, etc).

Being the main users of forest resources (firewood, gathering of leaves, fruits, bark, tubers, etc.), women play and should play a more prominent role in the process of environmental protection. To do this, taking into account their environmental and non-environmental needs contributes to the improvement of their socio-economic conditions and stimulates in them a real appropriation of the project's actions through the adoption of responsible behavior vis-à-vis of the environment.

Similarly, the analysis reveals a weak disaggregation of the project indicators. Whether at the level of activities and/or targeting of beneficiaries, the level of disaggregation is essentially limited to the male and female dimension. This weak gender disintegration means that certain social corporations (disabled people and others) are lost sight of in the intervention of the project. In view of this situation, a preliminary analysis could make it possible to better disaggregate the activity indicators and to clearly define the criteria for targeting beneficiaries (the percentage for each social stratum) taking into account the gender sensitivity.

Main finding 20: Although the project's action contributes to the achievement of national gender objectives, there is a weak gender contextual analysis and the non-alignment of project activities with the axes of the gender strategic documents.

Main finding 21: Through the project's action, we note the representation and active participation of women in local decision-making and development bodies. This representation of women in these local bodies contributes to the improvement of their social status.

Main finding 22: In terms of targeting beneficiaries, the mechanism put in place by the project has promoted equal opportunity between applicants. However, in the absence of a strategy of positive discrimination, certain social strata (women and people with disabilities) benefited little from the support (AGR and others) of the project.

Main finding 23: Although the RECONNECT project does not have a gender focal point, considerable effort was made during its implementation to ensure that gender was taken into account in its intervention.

4. LESSONS LEARNED AND PERSPECTIVES

The analysis of the implementation of RECONNECT makes it possible to highlight a number of lessons, particularly in terms of the approaches used, which could be capitalized on for the benefit of the next phases of the project.

4.1 Lessons learned in terms of implementation approach

An implementation mechanism based on existing structures. The implementation based on the network of existing structures and in particular the decentralized services of the state allows both the strengthening of the technical and operational skills of these structures, pledges of the sustainability of the achievements of the project but also strengthens the sovereign presence of the State in the process of supporting the rural sector. In addition, the support approach by the environmental services will improve the image of water and forest agents generally perceived by the population as a force of repression.

Sequential implementation approach. Actions are implemented gradually, initially with feasibility studies conducted with the involvement of all stakeholders. These studies make it possible to better define interventions and better control the sequencing of activities. Pilot phases sanctioned by an evaluation make it possible to enhance the added value of the interventions while learning the lessons necessary for their improvement. The approach, approaches and tools promoted by the project are innovative and are intended to inspire the implementation of other interventions at the level of the State and other partners.

A participatory and holistic intervention approach that mobilizes all actors. The project's interventions cover both actions in favor of the protection and restoration of ecosystems but also the strengthening of the capacities of actors and users for an awareness of environmental issues, sustainable exploitation of resources and restoration. The valuation of ecosystem services is done through the financing mechanism of IGAs in connection with the management of natural resources. This holistic approach allows good mobilization of local and institutional actors around the actions of the project.

4.1 4.2 Lessons learned in terms of specific activities

The sustainable financing mechanism for IGAs linked to natural resources. This mechanism is a first in the project area. In addition to providing populations with financial means for IGAs, the mechanism also offers opportunities for local actors to build their capacity in the development and implementation of micro-projects. Collaboration with microfinance institutions

opens up more financing opportunities for the beneficiaries supported by RECONNECT and extends financial services to new customers, especially in areas that lack them.

The carbon sequestration monitoring system combining GIS data and field data generates data that can be used as a decision-making aid, particularly in terms of planning at the regional level.

4.3 Short and medium term outlook

4.3.1 Short term perspective: Extension of project duration

The realization of the expected impacts of the project, the first changes of which are already perceived by the populations and institutional actors, requires an extension. This will be an extension without additional budget to enable the project to strengthen the results and achievements made since its inception. The mission estimates that an extension of one and a half years may be sufficient to achieve all the initial objectives of the project. However, this will require a readjustment of the initial budget planning, especially since it will be necessary to take into account the revaluation between 20 and 25% of the salary scale of the coordination staff. A draft budget planning taking into account the additional duration of the project is proposed in the appendix to this report. This proposal could be refined.

4.3.1 Medium-term perspective: preparation of RECONNECT's phase 2

As part of the sustainability of the project's results and avoiding discontinuity in the intervention, the mission believes that the government, with the support of the GEF, should anticipate the preparation of the next phase of RECONNECT. Convinced that the project is relevant and has a positive impact on its environment, almost all of the resource persons interviewed by the evaluation team explicitly requested a second phase of the project in order to preserve the achievements and extend them to a wider geographical area.

A concept note appended to this report has been produced to serve as the basis for training for Phase 2 of RECONNECT. This new phase aims globally to consolidate the achievements and extend geographically the results of phase 1 of the project whose area of intervention was limited to the MKO region. Overall, the nature of the project objectives in phase 2 remains unchanged compared to phase 1. What will change is the extent and the temporal and spatial horizon of said objectives. These elements will be defined following consultations between the various project stakeholders as part of a detailed design process.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the project and its partners:

- Increase the tools and awareness of technical services and local actors for a good internalization of the RECONNECT intervention logic in order to facilitate collaboration between them and the local population. This sensitization can be done with the support of local structures and CDAs so that these actors are better prepared to take over and continue actions with the beneficiaries.
- Thanks to the evaluation of the IGA financing mechanism, simplify the process of financing micro-projects in order to have tangible results on the ground more quickly. This will also make it possible to adjust the implementation of IGA support taking into account the agricultural production calendar; take precautions to speed up the disbursement process and put in place incentives to promote women's participation. This evaluation will also, as far as possible, make proposals for simplifying the process of financing micro-projects.
- Build the capacity of members of local structures and technical services on the use of this computer equipment (which has been acquired through the project)
- For new agreements with local actors, find an internal mechanism for financing the activity of facilitators (salary).
- Support the process of reflection for the regulation of transhumance corridors through an official framework that will make it possible to materialize the layout of the corridors and to set up a consultation entity for monitoring.
- Set up an effective system by associating the technical services of various sectors of activity (legal, environment, wildlife, etc.) to fight against Human / Wildlife conflicts.
- Use local structures for sensitization and further strengthen the capacities of beneficiaries in order to cover all localities in the area of intervention.

To the Ministry of the Environment, GEF and IUCN:

- Revise the salary grid and align project staff so as to make them competitive with the standards commonly practiced at the national level. This will be done if necessary on the basis of a comparative study which will make it possible to adjust the revaluation scale by around 20 to 30%.

- Make the necessary arrangements and measures for an extension of an additional year of the duration of the project in order to enable it to achieve the expected results
- Take steps to speed up the processing of calls for funds so that the project can have funds available in time for the execution of activities.
- For future interventions, carry out studies on gender and resilience to take into account other non-environmental needs (overload of women, exclusion factors, promising IGAs, access to land, etc.) which interact on women and limit their participation/ownership of the project action. This study will also make it possible to deepen the analysis of the context of intervention of the project on gender in order to clearly align the project's action with the axes/sub-axes of national, sub-regional and international instruments.

APPENDICES

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation questions (according to the TOR)	Analysis elements	Data collection method	Tools
Relevance	To what extent does the project contribute to sectoral objectives in terms of environmental management and the reduction of greenhouse gases?	Adequacy and causal link of project objectives with sector strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Contextual analysis of the internal and external environment of the project. 	<p>Stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Document review grid</p>
	How do the project objectives relate to the aspirations and needs of the target groups?	Beneficiary satisfaction level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview and Focus Group with associated service providers and users. - Focus Group with a sample of beneficiary populations 	Beneficiary Interview Guide
	To what extent are the approaches, mechanisms, tools and actions promoted by the project adapted to the social, economic and environmental conditions of Mayo-Kebbi?	Adequacy and causal link of the approaches and actions of the project with the socio-economic and environmental conditions of its area of intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews with representatives of state technical services at local level. - Interview and Focus Group with associated service providers and users. - Documentary review: contextual study of the social, economic and environmental conditions of Mayo-Kebbi. 	<p>Stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Interview guide with the project team</p> <p>Document review grid</p>
Consistency	To what extent are the project steering and coordination mechanisms adapted to the project's intervention model and its institutional environment?	Adequacy between the steering and coordination mechanisms of the project and the institutional mechanisms within the supervisory ministry and similar interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Contextual analysis of the internal and external environment of the project. 	<p>Stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Document review grid</p>

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation questions (according to the TOR)	Analysis elements	Data collection method	Tools
	How do the approaches, mechanisms, tools and actions promoted by the project complement other interventions carried out by the Chadian State and other partners?	Adequacy between the steering and coordination mechanisms of the project and the institutional mechanisms within the supervisory ministry and similar interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Contextual analysis of the internal and external environment of the project. 	<p>Stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Document review grid</p>
	What are the adaptations and adjustments necessary for a good operationalization of the results and objectives while ensuring a margin of participation of the stakeholders?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk analysis and hypothesis for the implementation of the project - Analysis of the adaptations made to the implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Contextual analysis of the internal and external environment of the project. 	<p>Stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Interview guide with the project team</p> <p>Document review grid</p>
Effectiveness	To what extent were the project objectives successfully achieved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of achievement of the main indicators - Implementation rate of project activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documentary review/Use of reports: review of results indicators - Focus Group with a sample of beneficiary populations - Beneficiary satisfaction survey 	<p>Beneficiary Interview Guide</p> <p>Document review grid</p>
	What perception do the stakeholders have of the quality of the results obtained by the project?	- Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation and the adaptations made to the implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus Group with a sample of beneficiary populations - Beneficiary satisfaction survey 	<p>Beneficiary Interview Guide</p> <p>Stakeholder interview guide</p>
	What are the main constraints that have arisen during the implementation and what are the mitigation measures that have been applied?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk analysis and hypothesis for the implementation of the project - Analysis of the adaptations made to the implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Contextual analysis of the internal and external environment of the project. 	<p>Stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Interview guide with the project team</p>

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation questions (according to the TOR)	Analysis elements	Data collection method	Tools
Efficiency	How efficiently does the project use their resources from an economic point of view?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of resources: Compliance with the main categories of expenditure Quality of project management: Compliance with contractual provisions in terms of financial management, monitoring of fiduciary risks. - Cost-benefit analysis: (social economic benefits in relation to investments and human resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Exploitation of technical and financial reports of the project 	<p>Stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Interview guide with the project team</p>
	Are there more cost effective methods that would achieve the same results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational comparative advantages of the project implementation approach and method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Exploitation of technical and financial reports of the project 	<p>Document review grid</p> <p>Stakeholder interview guide</p>
	To what extent were human resources used appropriately?	Added value of each project staff member and work distribution versus operational results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documentary review: Exploitation of technical and financial reports of the project - Interview with the project team 	<p>Interview guide with the project team</p> <p>Document review grid</p>
Impact	To what extent do the project actions generate or could generate positive changes in the living conditions of the target groups and in the natural environment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiary satisfaction level - Changes recorded at beneficiary level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiary survey - Focus Group with a sample of beneficiary populations 	Beneficiary Interview Guide
Sustainability	What are the conditions guaranteeing the perpetuation and sustainability of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of stakeholder involvement in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with institutional stakeholders: Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Ministry of 	Stakeholder interview guide

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation questions (according to the TOR)	Analysis elements	Data collection method	Tools
	achievements of the project in the medium and long term?	deployment of project actions - Preconditions for the sustainability of project achievements	Planning and Cooperation; members of the National Committee... - Documentary review: Contextual analysis of the internal and external environment of the project.	Interview guide with the project team Document review grid
Gender and social inclusion	What are the approaches and targeting mechanism put in place by the project to ensure the involvement of women and vulnerable groups in activities so as to induce changes in the status and empowerment of these two target groups?	- Level of satisfaction of stakeholders vis-à-vis the specific measures taken for better participation of women in project activities - Analysis of the participation of women compared to men	- Focus Group with a sample of beneficiary populations - Beneficiary satisfaction survey - Documentary review: Exploitation of technical and financial reports of the project	Beneficiary Interview Guide Document review grid

List of documents used

- Monitoring report of the spatial indicators of the intervention area of the RECONNECT project using GIS, November 2021
- Monitoring report of spatial indicators of the RECONNECT project intervention area using GIS, March 2021
- Annual financial report 2021
- 2020 Annual Financial Report
- 2019 Annual Financial Report
- Annual activity report 2020
- Annual activity report 2021
- Annual activity report 2019
- Project indicator monitoring table
- National bushfire control strategy
- The National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNA)
- National Environmental Policy
- The National Strategy for the Fight Against Climate Change (SNLCCC)
- The National Action Program to Combat Desertification (PAN-LCD)
- The National Development Plan 2017-2021