PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

for the project:

Securing the long-term conservation of Timor-Leste's biodiversity and ecosystem services through the establishment of a functioning National Protected Area System and the improvement of natural resource management in priority catchment corridors - TLSNAP

FY21

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Executing Partners

Project Information

Project Title:	Securing the long-term conservation of Timor-Leste's biodiversity and ecosystem services through the establishment of a functioning National Protected Area System and the improvement of natural resource management in priority catchment corridors

Country(*ies*):	Timor-Leste	**GEF ID**:	9434
GEF Agency(*ies*):	Conservation International	**Duration in Months**:	48
Executing Agency*(ies):*	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Environment (MCIE) Conservation International Timor-Leste	**Actual Implementation Start Date:**	June 1, 2018
GEF Focal Area(*s*):	Multi-focal area	**Expected Project Completion Date:**	June 1, 2022
GEF Grant Amount:	$3,340,367	**Expected Financial Closure Date:**	December 1, 2022
Expected Co-financing:	$12,292,000	**Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting**:	August 12, 2020
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2021:	$10,675,506	**Mid-Term Review-Planned Date**:	May 30, 2020
Date of First Disbursement:	June 1, 2018	**Mid-Term Review-Actual Date**:	January 4, 2021
Cumulative disbursement as of June 30, 2021:	$1,693,511	**Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date**:	April 1, 2022
PIR Prepared by:	Nathan Conaboy	**Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date**:	TBD
CI-GEF Project Manager:	Daniela Carrion	**CI-GEF Finance Lead:**	Susana Escudero

The CI-GEF Project Agency Project Implementation Report (PIR) is composed of six sections:

Section I: **Project Implementation Progress Status Summary**: provides a brief summary of the project as well as the implementation status and rating of the previous and current fiscal years;

Section II: **Project Results Implementation Progress Status and Rating**: describes the progress made towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance, when needed;

Section III: **Project Risks Status and Rating**: describes the progress made towards managing and mitigating project risks, the project risks mitigation rating reassessment as needed, as well as recommendations to improve the management of project risks;

Section IV: **Project Environmental and Social Safeguards Implementation Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards complying with the Environmental & Social Safeguards and the Plans prepared during the PPG phase, the safeguard plans implementation rating, as well as recommendations to improve the project safeguards;

Section V: **Project Implementation Experiences and Lessons Learned**: describes the experiences learned by the project managers and the lessons learned through the process of implementing the project; and

SECTION I: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS SUMMARY

PROJECT SUMMARY
The project is designed to support the Government of Timor-Leste in establishing a functional protected area (PA) system. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and having least developed country (LDC) status, with 70% of the population living in rural areas, local communities are heavily reliant on ecosystem goods and services. Land degradation and deforestation from overexploitation of natural resources have had detrimental ecological impacts and adverse socioeconomic consequences, including decreased productivity of agricultural systems.   There are, however, substantive barriers hindering the realization of a functioning PA system and achieving sustainable natural resource management on a wider landscape scale, beyond the borders of protected areas. Relevant barriers include gaps in knowledge, weak institutional coordination, insufficient financing, legal gaps and weak enforcement, and capacity limitations.   To address these issues the project has the objective to establish Timor-Leste's National Protected Area System and improve the management of forest ecosystems in priority catchment corridors. The scope of work comprises the following three Components: 1) Establishment of a National Protected Area System covering 480,341 ha; 2) Improvement of community-based natural resource management systems in priority catchment corridors through the establishment of 10 community groups managing 31,949 ha of community land and 3) Improvement of forest management and reforestation of degraded lands in priority catchment corridors with the aim to reforest 500 ha and restore 500 ha of degraded land across the two project catchments.

PRIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS FY20

Objective

During FY20, 8,904 trees were planted from the project community nurseries and government nurseries covering an area of approximately 5.3 ha. This activity was interrupted in FY20 by the onset of COVID restrictions and due to seasonal began again in Nov-Jan 20/21.

Component 1: Establishment of a National Protected Area System

1. MoU with the IUCN signed under which, with support from the European Commission's Joint Research Council, a PA Network Plan, and legislative reviews will be complete in FY22.

2. Work began developing Sustainable Financing Models and PA Business Plans to support the PA network

Component 2: Improvement of community-based natural resource management systems in priority catchment corridors

1. All ten community groups have been established and have begun community-based Natural Resource Management planning.

2. 287 households have received benefits in the form of training and production tree saplings in FY20.

Component 3: Improvement of forest management and reforestation of degraded lands in priority catchment corridors

1. Tree planting activities began with the planting of 8,904 native trees.

Risks

New Risk introduced: Risk 8: "The impacts of COVID-19 last well into FY21 and affect the project's ability to hire and deploy suitable consultants needed across the project."

Environmental and Safeguards

Gender Mainstreaming

1.   631 people engaged during FY20, 33% female and 67% male (target 30% female).

2.   417 men and women received benefits from the project. F=29% M=71% (target F=30%).

3.   No gender awareness training in FY20 (overall project target: 100% staff receive gender awareness training).

Stakeholder engagement

1.   21 stakeholder groups were involved in FY20 against an annual target of 25

2.   426 people (F=29: M=71%) were regularly involved in project implementation on an annual basis against a target of 100.

3.   53 project meetings/workshops/consultations took place against a target of 10 meetings.

Involuntary Resettlement

  No people were voluntarily or involuntarily resettled.

CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY21)

During FY21, the project advanced in the field activities and made progress in community engagement activities, specifically tree planting, youth training, and NRM development.

Objective

During FY21, 167,395 trees were planted from the project community nurseries covering an area of approximately 244 ha. Although the project is behind, this planting rate demonstrates that the current team can reach our overall planting target of 450,000 saplings during FY22. In addition to planting activities, the communities have begun considered management of local resources through the development of NRM plans. Finally, the procurement of PA Plan consultancy services at the end of FY21 has ensured progress will be made in the development of the PA management plans.

Component 1: Establishment of a National Protected Area System

1.   Sustainable Finance assessment work is 50% complete, PA management Plan consultants are now onboard and ecosystem services assessment is complete for the PA system plan.

Component 2: Improvement of community-based natural resource management systems in priority catchment corridors

2.   All ten community groups have developed NRM plans covering 31,949 ha, which have been drafted and are due to be completed in the first half of FY22 following further community consultation and review by local municipality staff.

3.   70 of 100 students have received certified NRM training (the remaining 30 are currently being trained) and the project has produced Certificates 1, 2, and 3 of a vocational training course in permaculture design. This is now going through the national accreditation committee, from which point it will be certified in the national vocational curriculum.

Component 3: Improvement of forest management and reforestation of degraded lands in priority catchment corridors

4.   All ten community groups have been involved in planting 167,395 trees, restoring an area of 224 ha of forest.

Risks

Much of the risks remain the same however the risk of COVID further impacting the project has been increased based on the acknowledgement that COVID continue to cause significant disruption and the number of cases within the region are now increasing at their highest rate since the start of the pandemic.

Environmental and Safeguards

Gender Mainstreaming

5.   During FY21, 315 men and 264 women (*n* = 579; M=54% F=46%) attended meetings and workshops, including the PSC meeting, youth training meeting at Tibar training center, community tree planting meetings and NRM meetings. The associated target was at least 30% of participants being women.

6.   568 men and women received benefits (eg. employment, income generating activities, training) from the project. F=46% M=54% (target F=30%).

Stakeholder engagement

7.   23 stakeholder groups were involved in FY21 (target: 25 annually).

8.   579 people (F=46: M=54%) were involved directly in project implementation. Target; 100 annually)

9.   25 project meetings/workshops/consultations took place during FY21 (target: 10 meetings).

Involuntary Resettlement

10.   No people were voluntarily or involuntarily resettled during the project implementation phase in FY21.

SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY20 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY21 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING1	RATING TREND2
OBJECTIVE	MS	MS	Unchanged
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	MS	MS	Unchanged
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	S	S	Unchanged

PROJECT RISK RATING3

RISKS	M	S	Increasing

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1 *Implementation Progress (IP) Rating*: Highly Satisfactory (**HS**), Satisfactory (**S**), Moderately Satisfactory (**MS**), Moderately Unsatisfactory (**MU**), Unsatisfactory (**U**), and Highly Unsatisfactory (**HU**). For more details about IP rating, please see the Appendix I of this report

2 *Rating trend*: Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

3 *Risk Rating*: Low (L), Moderate (M), Substantial (S), High (H)

SECTION II: PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS AND RATING

This section describes the progress made towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation progress rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance. This section is composed four parts:

a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective: this section measures the likelihood of achieving the objective of the project

b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component)

c. Overall Project Results Progress Rating, and

d. Recommendations for improvement

a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective:

This section of the report assesses the progress in achieving the objective of the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	To establish Timor-Leste's National Protected Area System and improve the management of forest ecosystems in priority catchment corridors

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING4	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator a: Area of High Conservation Value forest identified and maintained (SFM-1, Program 2). End of project Target: 58,900 ha assessed.	0 (zero) hectares of forest have been assessed using the High Conservation Value Assessment score.	D	Delayed as an HCV assessment consultant must be hired and able to conduct field activities in Timor-Leste. This was not an option during FY21 due to COVID restrictions. The team will look to hire a consultant as soon as travel is permitted.
Indicator b. Area of sustainably managed forest, stratified by forest management actors (SFM-2, Program 5). End of project Target: 500 ha	TOTAL sustainably managed forest within the NRM plans: **11,837 ha** Coffee and other production forest: 3,197 ha	CA	This is the area of forest mapped and recorded within the NRM plans across all ten sites. The communities have identified preferred recover or other interventions across the 11,837 ha and the project has begun supporting these interventions

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OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING4	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
	Dense/medium mixed forest: 8,184 ha Sparse forest: 456 ha		through tree planting, water management, and agroforestry interventions.
Indicator c. Protected area management effectiveness score (BD-1, Program 1). End of project Target: Mt. Fatumasin 40; Mt. Legumau 40.	Fatumasin: 06 Legumau: 07	IS	This status is based on the current metrics for the PAs. This includes staff capacity, legal status and physical attributes of management (such as physical PA boundary markers) using the METT Assessment framework. The PA Management Plan consultants have reassessed the end of project target and this has been amended to a METT target score of 40 by the end of the project.
Indicator d. Land area under effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices (LD-1, Program 1). ProDoc target: 31,949 ha	Revised End of Project target:16,171 ha	CA	The ProDoc target was overestimated. The target (31,949 ha) was the total area within the administrative boundaries of the villages including rivers and other land cover types being positively impacted by the project activities, directly and indirectly. The total area of land the project will directly impact through interventions such as forest management, restoration/tree planting, water management, etc is 16,171ha. Following conversations with the CI GEF team this target has been revised
Indicator e. Land area under effective management in production systems with improved vegetative cover (LD-1, Program 2). End of project target: 500 ha	224 ha	IS	During FY21 the project worked closely with all ten community groups to plant 167,395 trees. Although the tree locations have not been accurately mapped yet (our GIS Coordinator has been unable to conduct a site visit in FY21 due to COVID restrictions). At an average tree spacing of 4 meters x 4 meters these trees would cover 224 ha of land. All trees have been planted to provide vegetation cover in mixed forest and agro-forest systems.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
MS	A moderately satisfactory rating has been given to objective implementation progress. The project has been working towards the targets. However, delays are seen in some key actions due to COVID-19 restrictions. The MTR was completed and provided some recommendations to improve the project delivery. Also, jointly with CI-GEF, the project team has analyzed the project progress and set adaptive measures to work on during FY22. Most likely this project will need a one year extension to complete the expected deliverables.

b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component).

This part of the report assesses the progress towards achieving the outcomes of the project.

COMPONENT 1	Establishment of a National Protected Area System

Outcome 1.1	National PA system established, and implementation initiated.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING5	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target a: Area of terrestrial ecosystems under enhanced protection.	A comprehensive national PA System Plan (plano nacional) covering 480,341 ha.	0 ha	D	The PA system-wide plan has not been drafted and therefore no area is covered within a system-wide plan yet. The PA System Plan will be compiled using several inputs from the PA management planning, the sustainable finance plans and the ecosystem services valuation, each of which are being carried out by different consultants. Theses consultancy works have been delayed throughout FY21 so this has impacted the PA system Plan development. The Plan will be finished after components of these works are complete. It is expected that a no cost extension will be needed to complete the PA system Plan going into FY23.
Target b: Demarcation of protected areas.	Demarcation completed for two priority PAs (Mount Fatumasin and Mount	Area of PAs updated to 15, 271 ha through ongoing	IS	This is an updated estimate based on the original area (39,976 ha) being incorrectly high. This is still likely to change as government partners have not completed the demarcation process. During FY21 the project has socialized the PA boundary with communities in Comoro and physically walked the boundary of the PA to mark out the border, ensuring it avoids

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING5	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
	Legumau), covering a cumulative area of 39,976 ha.	demarcation process		significant human activity and that it is positioned appropriately in the landscape.
Target c. Protected area management effectiveness.	Mount Fatumasin METT Score: 50 Mt. Legumau METT Score: 50.	Mt Fatumasin: 06 Mt. Legamau: 07	IS	This is a score based on the current status of the PAs. Without management documents or plans in place the score is low. Once the PA plans have been developed along with the financing and system-wide plan under component 1 the score will be reassessed. A formal and detailed reassessment is part of the contract requirement for the PA Management Plan consultants.

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
MU	A moderately unsatisfactory rating has been given to component 1. Enabling conditions were completed and the outcomes have started implementation. However, this has been significant delays due to COVID-19. The work with IUCN continues and it is expected to be finalized in FY22.	**Decreasing**

COMPONENT 2	Improvement of community-based natural resource management systems in priority catchment corridors

Outcome 2.1:	Land degradation drivers halted and/or minimized in key catchment areas

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING6	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target a: Enabling framework for effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices.	10 Suco NRM plans adopted into *suco (village)* regulations and recognized under traditional law.	0 NRM plans adopted into suco regulation, but all 10 plans drafts are in progress.	IS	A framework for the NRM plans has been developed and all ten plans are in draft. One plan for the community of Lihu in Comoro was recently complete at the end of FY21. The NRM plans will be used to update the suco regulations once all draft plans are finalized in FY22.
Target b: Area of land under effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices.	16,171 ha, established and/or strengthened by Conservation Groups.	31,949 ha covered by NRM plans 16,171.87 ha total area of land after analysis is included in the plans	IS	This target (31,949 ha) is the total area within the administrative boundaries of the villages including rivers and other land cover types being positively impacted by the project activities, directly and indirectly. The total area of land the project will directly impact through interventions such as forest management, restoration/tree planting, water management, etc is 16,171.87 ha. The management practices are in the NRM plans and in some cases activities have been implemented. However, the area of this implementation has not been mapped yet. The team will start to map this at the start of FY22.

Outcome 2.2:	Capacity for communities to manage their natural resources substantially increased

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target c. Capacity of youth to manage natural resources.	100 youth, including at least 30% females, trained in NRM management.	Youth Trained = 42 Female = 40%	IS	During FY21 the youth training began with 25 male and 17 female youths attending national vocational training at a registered education center.

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target d. Capacity of community groups to manage their natural resources.	10 community conservation groups, having at least 30% female members, capacitated to lead natural resource management interventions.	10 groups established and active. Of which 47% members are women	CA	289 men and 258 women are registered within the groups across all 10 sites. The groups are engaged in water management training, tree planting activities, fruit and vanilla production, and land restoration activities.
Target e. Number of households benefitting from sustainable use of forest resources.	250 households, including at least 30% women, benefit from participation in sustainable use of forest resources; measured using the sustainable livelihoods framework.	290 households Of which 47% members are women.	CA	This number is currently restricted to the number of households directly benefiting from project activities within the community groups however, the total households benefiting is expected to increase as activities such as water management brings benefit to the wider community who access water from springs further down the catchment area.

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND

	S	A Satisfactory rating has been given to component 2. Despite COVID-19 restrictions and associated impacts to the project work, the PMU has managed to continue working on the NRM plans identifying the management practices in each suco area. Also, the youth program has advanced building capacities for young people and exceeding the initial target of households benefited by the project interventions.	Increasing

COMPONENT 3	Improvement of forest management and reforestation of degraded lands in priority catchment corridors

Outcome 3.1:	Sustainable forest management in priority catchment corridors substantially improved

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING7	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target f. Area of High Conservation Value forest mapped.	High Conservation Value forests classified covering 58,900 ha (includes 24,800 ha in the Comoro catchment and 34,100 ha in the Irabere catchment).	0 ha of HCV forest were mapped in FY21	D	Forest areas for the assessment have been identified and some initial data have been collected, however an HCV consultant needs to be brought onboard to conduct the assessment and collect or compile any further data needed to complete the assessment and generate an index score for the forests at Comoro and Irabere. This will be conducted during FY22.
Target g. Area of sustainably managed forest by community management actors.	At least 500 hectares of forests under community-driven sustainable management.	11,837 ha of forest has been included in the community NRM plans	CA	Although this area is much greater than the targeted 500 ha, the level and type of intervention varies greatly over the 11,837 ha of forest. In some case there are restoration activities planned, such recent landslide areas and in other cases areas are identified as no-take zones where there has traditionally been tree cutting for building and firewood provision, in other cases water management activities are being implemented using permaculture techniques to create water catchment areas (small reservoirs and 'swales' dug into the hillside where there is intense run-off during heavy rains.) These activities have begun in multiple locations but are at

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING7	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
				varying stages of completion. For example, some communities have completed water management landscaping on hillsides and in others some seed disbursal activities have been conducted over small areas. These management areas have not been formalized yet, this will be done when the NRM plans are formally approved and all the activities/interventions have been mapped.

Outcome 3.2:	Priority degraded areas reforested.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target h. Area of priority forest area rehabilitated.	At least 500 ha of degraded land rehabilitated and/or reforested.	224 ha	IS	Priority forest area is being rehabilitated. Approximately 224 ha of trees have been planted by the 10 community groups. The tree saplings were produced in the 25 project nurseries and some additional fruit tree saplings were purchased from other communities to provide additional livelihood options from the planted trees to the communities.
Target i. Nursery capacity for supporting forest rehabilitation.	25 plant nurseries strengthened and/or established.	25 Nurseries built and in operation	CA	The 25 nurseries have produced saplings in varying numbers of 53 native and naturalized tree species. Each tree species is categorized as either a Conservation Tree, Construction Tree, or Fruit Tree. The nurseries have produced 167,395 saplings during FY21.
Target j. Capacity of local conservation groups in rehabilitating priority forests.	10 community-based conservation groups participate in nursery operation and forest rehabilitation	10 completed in FY20	CA	The groups were established and engaged in training in FY20 however, the training continues and has increased throughout the project. In FY21 the teams attended Vanilla training from a successful production community group elsewhere in Timor and have also attended nursery training with another EU funded project 'Quinta Portugal' and at the end of FY21 we just starting a 6-month course in water management and agroforestry training using permaculture techniques.

COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	A satisfactory rating has been given to component 3. The project completed the setup of the nurseries and community work with local conservation groups for forest rehabilitation. Also, progress can be seen in the work with communities to improve management practices and rehabilitation of forest areas.	**Unchanged**.

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLENTATION RATING

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND[8]
MS	A moderately satisfactory rating has been given to overall project results. The project has completed enabling conditions and is working on each component towards the project targets. COVID has had a big impact in the project, especially in the PAs demarcation and identifying the HCV areas. However, progress is seen in Component 2 and 3, where the project has managed to continue working with the suco communities, develop draft NRM plans and define the interventions to improve forests and land management. The project has adopted measures to adapt and get back on track in FY21 with fieldwork and in partnership with local stakeholders and government officials to have a functional protected area system in Timor-Leste. The PMU has created a plan to continue advancing on each component and while adapting to the COVID situation, being able to advance in project activities.	Unchanged

d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Execute the adaptive measures planned in FY22 to advance with component 1 and continue working on component 2 and 3. Create and execute the action plan to address the MTR recommendations.	PMU	December 2021

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8 **Rating trend**: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

SECTION III: PROJECT RISKS STATUS AND RATING

a. Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation Plan

This section describes the activities implemented to manage and reduce high, substantial, modest, and low risks of the project. This section has three parts:

a. Ratings for the progress towards implementing measures to mitigate project risks and a project risks annual reassessment

b. Recommendations for improving project risks management

a. Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation and Plan Project Risks Annual Reassessment

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
Risk 1: Uncertainty due to government shifts in priorities and policy changes.	Approval of the project document will signify government commitment, which will extend to possible new political leaders over the course of the project lifespan. Government stakeholders will have an active role	There have been no new measures taken to mitigate this risk during FY21 beyond those described for FY20. The Project Steering Committee was held during FY21 with the involvement of MAF, MCEA and the vice minister for Environment to continue to generate government support for the project.	IS	There has been a reduction in direct government engagement during FY21 due to COVID restrictions. The PSC meeting was important in bringing senior stakeholders together but after that it has not been possible to regularly engage with government staff. Despite this there have been a few catch up meetings with the GEF PM and the Directors of Environment and forestry. Government engagement will need to be stepped up again in FY22.	M	S	Increased

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10 **Rating trend**: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
	in project implementation, and regular cross-sectoral communication, e.g., during project steering committee meetings, workshops, trainings, site visits, etc.						
Risk 2: Limited coordination and communication between sectoral agencies and/or ministries.	The two key ministries responsible for environmental matters (MAF & MCIE (the State Secretary of Environment)) worked in close coordination on the design of the project, and the implementation arrangements of the project promote collaboration during the implementation phase.	The PSC meeting and another two meetings via video link with consultants provided the only opportunity for joint meetings with CI and MAF and MCEA staff during FY22. This is lower than previous years however it was important to maintain group meetings when possible during both COVID and serious floods that disrupted activities during April and March FY21.	IS	As above, coordination between ministries will be stepped up again during FY22. The Project Manager and team are aware that additional effort will be needed as COVID restrictions are lifted to hold joint meetings and workshops ensure project momentum is maintained.	M	S	Increased

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
	One of the main roles of the project manager will be to ensure there is enough coordination between these ministries, other government agencies, and non-governmental partners. In addition to the annual project steering committee meetings, there will be frequent stakeholder meetings over the course of the implementation phase. The project will also recruit catchment coordinators, who will be an important link between national and subnational						

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
	level stakeholders, thus mitigating the risk of limited coordination in this regard.						
Risk 3: Continued threats to protected areas and terrestrial ecosystems through uncontrolled exploitation.	Substantive project resources are allocated for capacity building, skills training, and awareness campaigns. Empowering local communities with increased knowledge and authority in managing their local natural resources will diminish the risks of continued threats to protected areas and other key conservation areas.	Training for both community and government staff has been implemented and contracted, respectively, during FY21. Community training is designed to develop capacity for sustaining natural resources, such as water management to reduce flood damage and prevent landslides. Government training has been designed to improve capacity to develop PA Plans using the Open Standards framework. Both of these areas have been identified by the stakeholders and project staff as capacity gaps.	IS	This rating remains the same as external factors matched by capacity gaps remain. Even after training the threats to ecosystems remains high and while the capacity to mitigate those risks is being developed by the project it would be premature to assume the risk is reduced solely by the training provided within the project.	S	S	Unchanged
Risk 4: Lack of institutional and individual capacities to	The project strategy is innovative in that it includes a bespoke capacity building approach to address the	In response to the increasing status of this risk the project team included PA management plan training in the ToR for the PA Plan Consultants. During FY21 it became clear to the project team that the PA	IS	This risk has increased not necessarily due to external factors but the project team's understanding of the capacity within the PA department has increased and so there is now a greater understanding of the risk level being greater than 'Substantial'.	S	H	Increased

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
implement policies and provisions of livelihoods to protection of ecosystems and PAs.	specific capacity building needs and circumstances of the relevant stakeholder groups. For example, youth training will emphasize learning by doing, with hands-on field work in the target communities, as well as theoretical instruction. Skills training in alternative livelihood opportunities will be tailored to the relevant options and interests in the local communities. At the government level, CI will take on a mentoring role to ensure that capacity gaps are addressed appropriately. In addition, to	department was insufficiently staffed to implement or develop any PA management plans beyond this project. To mitigate this and support future plans, a cohort of 10 government staff will be trained in PA Plan development using the Open Standards framework.					

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
	ensure and strengthen further linkages to the communities and the different sectors of society, CI will link up with the local tertiary academic institutions, e.g., by taking on student interns to support the implementation of the project and also to explore opportunities to include program work as part of their course of study.						
Risk 5: Lack of enforcement of current and new laws and regulations related to natural resource management and protected areas.	The project is aiming to mitigate this risk by ensuring that relevant laws are socialized at community level. Currently, communities are often unaware of the legislation in place and unaware that	In previous years the project has translated and socialized relevant laws. Through communication with community members, it seems laws on forest protection are generally well understood, however commitment to following these laws is less widespread. This will be the focus of socialization activities during FY22.	IS	The relevant laws are widely understood by community members, however adherence to those laws is frequently undermined. Following regulations put in place will become the focus of outreach regarding this subject going into FY22.	S	M	Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
	certain actions they take may be breaking the law. In addition, most legislation is available only in Portuguese, a challenge also highlighted by government officials, particularly at sub-national levels, who are unable to access and understand the laws due to language barriers. The project will ensure that relevant laws are translated from Portuguese to Tetun and shared with the communities and local officials.

Community involvement is also very important to generate buy-in. Through the development of community NRM | | | | | | |

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
	plans and the uptake of the suco regulation will further strengthen the implementation and enforcement of existing laws and regulations.						
Risk 6: Financial sustainability of the efforts taken in the project limits the longevity of the project's impacts	The project will assess sustainable financing options for the national PA system and develop and support the implementation of business plans for the Mt. Fatumasin and Mt. Legumau PAs. The expected results will provide a framework and replicable models for scaling up across the PA system. In addition, the capacity building component cuts across multiple stakeholders, which will in some cases lead to training	Training in sustainable livelihoods has begun with students learning new horticulture techniques. Many of the training activities are underpinned by livelihood improvements, such as vanilla training and even water management has implications for supporting greater livelihood activities. At a management level the sustainable finance assessment has identified various potential financing streams for the PAs and work on the ecosystem services valuation is designed to help the government leverage more funding to protect valuable ecosystem services by indicating a current monetary value.	IS	This status is unchanged because the financial climate in Timor-Leste is very unpredictable. The project is developing tools to help but the unpredictability means there remains high risk in this area.	S	S	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
	certification, which in turn supports the trainees' ability to support and develop new livelihoods.						
Risk 7: Effects of climate change might have negative impacts on the outcome of project activities, e.g., possibly reducing the survival rates of the revegetation and rehabilitation work due to prolonged period of drought and/or increased intensity of storms. Such effects of	Mitigation of risks associated with the possible impacts of climate change will be integrated throughout the project. Awareness of local communities will be increased through training and targeted campaigns. Climate change aspects will be incorporated into the suco NRM plans, and conservation agricultural and agroforestry practices will be promoted that improve soil and water retention. One of the criteria	Climate change adaptation is at the heart of the decision to work on water management activities using permaculture design techniques. The aim is to reduce the impact of severe storms such as the one in April (which resulted in the worst floods in Timor Since the mid 1970's) through improved landscape management in the water catchment. This has two direct benefits 1) reduced flash flooding and 2) greater water retention in the soil, which improves groundwater sources. These actions are vital in the steep rocky topography of Timor and where also drought affects production for most communities every year.	IS	The risk is Moderate as long as the project can effectively implement the water management and catchment activities effectively as planned.	M	M	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
climate change could also adversely impact the viability of implementing alternative non-timber forest product based alternative livelihood programs.	used for selection of species for rehabilitation activities will be based on climate resilience.						
Risk 8: The impacts of COVID-19 last well into FY21 and affect the project's ability to hire and deploy suitable consultants needed across the project.	This risk has been included given the long-lasting impact of COVID-19 globally.	This Risk is hard to mitigate as much of the global impact is beyond the project's control. There are 2 levels of interventions the project is doing, however. 1) Ensuring staff and stakeholders remain as safe as possible by following government guidelines and best practice regarding COVID. The PM is in regular contact with CI's senior health director to update and stay as informed as possible regarding the situation in general and more specifically when events change in-country. 2) Working with our partners to try to drive activities forward	IS	As the situation in neighboring Indonesia increases and cases are not slowing down in Timor-Leste, this Risk rating has increased as COVID is now having real impacts on the project activities.	S	H	Increasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING9	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY21 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND10
		using alternative methods, such as video calling when possible and working with field staff without having to travel through the country.					

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND[11]
S	A Substantial rating has been given to project risks. The project has been implementing the mitigation measures and risks are being managed. However, COVID-19 continues to be a key risk to consider and that has caused delays. For this, considering project adaptive measures is key to face COVID19- restrictions and implications in the project.	Increasing

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Continue updating and implementing mitigation measures as needed. In particular those related to COVID-19.	PMU	June 2022

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11 **Rating trend**: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

SECTION IV: PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND RATING

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved Environmental and Social Safeguard plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the safeguard plans, when needed. This section is divided in three parts:

a. Progress towards Complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's Environmental & Social Safeguards

b. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating

c. Recommendations

a. Progress towards Complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's Environmental & Social Safeguards

MINIMUM SAFEGUARD INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING12	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM				
1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	0	0	IS	No cases have been reported. The grievance mechanism, CI's code of ethics and the grievance hotline phone number are provided on three large posters in the Dili office so all staff have access to the number and can pass the details on to community members without having to request the details from any other staff (providing a degree of anonymity). The community conservation agreement also includes a section on CI's responsibility to the community members regarding project delivery and working ethics. The project has hired local staff from each community to act as a contact point through which community members can express concerns or any points they wish regarding the project. The local staff then report to regional staff from the same municipality. Those staff also regularly work in the communities, although they do not live there, and act as a second point through which community members can voice any concerns if they do not want to discuss with the locally hired field assistants. The hotline, however, has limitations in terms of likely use by the community members. There would also be a language barrier should community members want to call the hotline. This has been discussed in more detail in the 'lessons learned' section.

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12 **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

2.	Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved	N/A	N/A	N/A	No cases have been reported.
GENDER MAINSTREAMING					
1.	Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)	30% women	M=315 (54%) F=264 (46%) Total = 579	IS	Across all project activities during FY21, 315 men and 264 women attended meetings and workshops, including the PSC meeting, youth training meeting at Tibar training center, community tree planting meetings and NRM meetings.
2.	Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project	30% women	M= 307 (54%) F= 261 (46%) Total = 568	IS	All 544 community group members attended one or more training sessions with multiple stakeholders including Quinta Portugal, who gave training on nursery management, a community cross visit with a vanilla growing community and training with Permatil. Additionally, another 24 people (F= 5, M=19) received income from project employment or short-term contracting and an internship.
3.	Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations (this indicator applies to relevant projects)	17	10	IS	The 10 suco NRM plans involve a process of creating a priority list of actions. This list is derived from a scoring matrix of activities outline by the community. To ensure both men's and women's perspectives are included in the prioritization process the groups are split into male and female groups while scoring the activities against the matrix. This way the project supports activities that have been prioritized by both men and women while aiming to remove bias or influence of one group over another. By the end of the project a further 2 PA Management Plans, 2 PA business Plans, 1 Sustainable Financing Plan and a PA Network Plan will be complete. Totaling 17 after a no cost extension of 1 year.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT					
1.	Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis	25	23	IS	MAF, EMTCI, Land and Property, Sepfope, INDIMO, Tibar training center, CDC Baucau, Permatil, Hafoti, Raebia, Quinta Portugal, Leimia Kraik Vanila farmers, and 10 community conservation groups make up this number.
2.	Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	100	M=315 (54%) F=264 (46%)	IS	The number of community conservation group members varies throughout the project as people's availability changes. In FY21 the number is slightly higher than previous years, however the number of other stakeholders

		Total = 579			regularly involved was reduced because of the restrictions of COVID limiting project activities outside of the communities to just a few events.
3.	Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	10	25	IS	This figure is much lower than FY20, again because of COVID restrictions. Most of these engagements occurred towards the start of FY21 or during occasional relaxing of the restrictions.
4.	Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their views and concerns are taken into account by the project *(responsible party for measuring this indicator is CI-GEF Agency and this will be undertaken by the consultant hired by the CI-GEF Agency to conduct the MTR and Terminal Evaluation)*	90%			
INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT					
1.	Number of persons involved in voluntary resettlement	NA	NA	NA	There are no plans to resettle any community members voluntarily or otherwise
2.	Number of persons compensated for voluntary resettlement	NA	NA	NA	There are no plans to resettle any community members voluntarily or otherwise
3.	Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntary restricted	0	0	IS	The project has not imposed any restrictions to natural resources although this may come about at a later stage if the community wishes to restrict access to tree growing or restored areas. Project benefits sharing has been discussed with the communities and forms a part of all community conservation group agreements. A project-wide benefits presentation has also been developed as a tool to transparently present the benefits introduced to the community. All community group members read, and sign translated community conservation agreements that detail the expected project outcomes, responsibilities of CI towards the community and expected responsibilities of community group members. All aspects of the project that may have a noticeable impact on community members, such as NRM plans, the Protected Areas, local project employment processes, and training opportunities have been socialized in advance of the events and have been advertised or promoted publicly allowing for open access to project benefits. All participants events involving

					community members have been recorded through signed registration sheets, so verification of community attendance is possible.
4.	Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntary restricted	0	0	IS	The project will not support involuntary restrictions on natural resource use.
5.	Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions	0%	0	IS	The project has not imposed any restrictions to natural resources
6.	Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions	0	0	IS	The project has not imposed any restrictions to natural resources
7.	Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions	0	0	IS	The project has not imposed any restrictions to natural resources

b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement

Progress - **25 stakeholder engagement meetings** were held during FY21 across a range of 23 stakeholders, including the project community, local and national government agencies, CSOs, and private sector actors. As a result, communities and other stakeholders have gained knowledge and understanding of the project's objectives and activities, which is instrumental in the negotiations, design, and development of the project and the project has been able to develop possibilities for livelihood options, training, and government support for activities. A key part of these engagements has been with other NGO's and community groups who have provided training to the 10 community groups in the project. The number of meetings, however, has been significantly lower than during FY20 (the previous project year) because of the restrictions on travel due to COVID-19.

Challenges - All stakeholder engagement has been affected by widespread, and at times highly restrictive, COVID-19 measures. These impacts have been managed in an *ad hoc* way depending on the stakeholder and level of project engagement. Component 1 has suffered the broadest delays across all components due to restrictions on stakeholder engagement and the level of external consultant and government collaboration required. The effects of COVID on in-country meeting restrictions and the prevention of consultants entering the country has severely hampered planning and implementation of Component 1. The same restrictions have also impacted the project team's ability to maintain frequent site visits to support the field teams and to maintain much needed frequent communications with community members. This has delayed the development of the NRM plans and the subsequent updating of suco regulations and forestry plans. The team has relied heavily on the local staff and Community Based Field Assistants to keep activities going where possible. This allowed the project to continue working with communities on nursery and tree planting activities.

Outcomes – During FY21 the project was able to distribute and plant 167,395 trees through the local community network of stakeholders supported by the field staff and community-based field assistance. This is a significant effort that equates to approximately 50% of the total land area targeted for reforestation by the project. Being able to achieve this while much of the staff were in lockdown highlights the value of strong community networks and a strong base of local community staff. Early engagement with local NGO Permatil in FY20 also started delivering outputs during FY21 as the community training program began implementation. By the end of FY21 Permatil had begun a 5-month training plan with the communities in Comoro and will begin the same program in Irabere into FY22. Under the same community training package of Component 2, Conservation Group members received training on nursery techniques (such as organic composting) and vanilla production. In some cases, communities have started their own vanilla plots as a result of the training. The team will follow up with this and reengage the vanilla trainer to provide follow up support to those who went on to plant their own vanilla.

c. Provide information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets

Progress - 579 people engaged directly in project activities during FY21, **46% of which were women**. This goes beyond the target of 30% women's engagement in project activities. The community conservation groups comprise **47% women** membership (increased from 29% during Q2/Q3 FY21 following efforts to encourage greater female engagement by project staff) however, this is not evenly distributed across Irabere and Comoro. Among the Irabere community conservation groups 33% of members are women. In Comoro this figure is much higher with 58% women's membership.

Challenges - While the project is meeting some subscribed gender targets from the ProDoc, there are still areas in which the project can improve. In terms of project employment, the gender balance is not as equal with 16% of community-based field assistance in Irabere and 25% in Comoro being women. Most applications for project roles have come from men and is reflective of the wider gender imbalance of the formal labor market in Timor-Leste, especially relating to roles of forestry work. In this sense the project staff have actively sought to balance the gender within the project team and all adverts for project roles indicate encouragement of applications from women. This, however, has not had a noticeable impact on the ratio of applications.

d. Overall Project Safeguard Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

SAFEGUARDSTRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	CURRENT FYXX IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	S	Unchanged
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	HS	Increasing

SUMMARY: PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

SAFEGUARDSTRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	CURRENT FYXX IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	HS	Unchanged
Involuntary Resettlement	S	Unchanged

OVERALL PROJECT SAFEGUARD IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	The AGM continues to be communicated to stakeholders and measures put in place to make it accessible to local communities. The gender targets have been surpassed with gender ratio of almost 1:1. Also, a notable achievement is the substantial increase of women in community conservation groups in some of the catchment areas. The number of stakeholders and engagements continue to be high despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic. No restrictions have been imposed on communities and all aspects of the project that may have a noticeable impact on community members are socialized in advance of engagements.	Unchanged

e. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
None.		

SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED

Required topics

1.   Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in the knowledge management plan approved at CEO endorsement/approval.

The objective of the knowledge management strategy is to raise awareness and facilitate the uptake of the project results into policy and best practices with respect to community-driven natural resource management. Some of the key aspects outlined in the knowledge management strategy include informative knowledge products, enhancing access to the knowledge created, and mainstreaming the knowledge products and services created to garner ownership and to ensure sustainable institutional and financial support following completion of the planned activities. In line with this the project has created outreach platforms for the activities through social media engagement, linking with national news organizations to cover key project events or milestones and by providing stakeholders with update materials through our quarterly bulletin and our case study series 'Voice From The Field'. Examples of these outputs have been displayed below and the QR link gives access to news coverage and online posts via the CI TL Facebook page.

In the FY20 PIR two key lessons learned were documented in relation to the development of knowledge activities/products, these were:

1) Establishing a Project Steering Committee without local village chiefs is not practicable because it ignores local customs and behavior norms. As such the PSC meetings included village chiefs during FY21.

2) A routine of stakeholder engagement, including the development of physical outreach materials should be set from the inception phase and included in the project work plan of activities. The project now continues to produce regular quarterly newsletters to maintain contact with stakeholders and to provide tangible evidence of outreach.

Building on from these observations, further experience has led to new lessons learned regarding knowledge activities in FY21:

3) There are two broad groups of audiences relating to the knowledge activities and making a clear distinction between these groups during the project planning phase would help to clarify resource requirements and planning needs for each. These groups are 1) national interests which relate to training materials, informative posters, local news and national stakeholder outputs. 2) Institutional partners and funders with a view to garner financial support following completion of planned project activities. The reason this has been highlighted is the project team are having to balance the needs of local communities and stakeholders with the needs to communicate externally with other institutions. While this balance would need to be made anyway, it would be easier if it had been established in the initial budget because this would leave less room for confusion or the need to negotiate with these concepts later during the project implementation. The project will develop outreach materials aimed at international and national audiences and define the budget for these given their differing content requirements.

Additional topics (please choose two)

1.   Financial management and co-financing

The co-financing arrangements for the project are set very high. The government partner co-financing from MAF and MCEA are 4,000,000 USD each, totaling 8 million from the government and a further 3,942,000 USD from JICA. In the current financial situation and the scale of funding typically set aside within the national budget for the development of Protected Areas, $4m is an ambitious figure to suggest as co-financing from both MAF and MCEA, even when building costs and HR resources are considered. Attributing value to these figures in actual time and resources spent on the project is a challenge. In the case of JICA, the co-financing amount suggests JICA would be supporting the project in almost equal measure as CI-GEF, which has provided direct funds to support all project salaries, capital equipment, office space and all activity costs. As such the project will struggle to recoup all the agreed co-financing and will need to look to additional co-financing arrangements to aim to meet the total amount agreed. The JICA project related to the CI-GEF project closed, as planned, in 2019 therefore further funds from that specific project will not be recoupable. The project has identified other potential sources of co-financing, but it is unlikely they will meet the original target. In FY22 this will be reviewed and an amendment request will be made if the co-financing cannot be fully met.

2.   Implementation of safeguard policies, including gender mainstreaming, accountability and grievance mechanisms, stakeholder consultations

Under this topic there have been lessons learned relating to two areas:

1.   Gender mainstreaming

The gender targets set in the project are evidence-based and achievable, which enable positive steps to be taken in this area. One point that was identified in the MTR indicates that while some indicators are intersected with gender targets, the outputs and outcomes themselves are not inherently gender focused. It may be useful when developing this project policy further to encourage gender sensitive outputs/outcomes e.g. and output might be to establish 3 women's community groups rather than 3 community groups with 30% female participation.

2.   Accountability and grievance mechanism

The grievance mechanism is both very important and complicated to establish when working in rural communities with multiple languages. Although we present information regarding the project hotline and we actively encourage dialogue with community members, it is very unlikely that community members would call the CI hotline, and if they did there is likely to be language barriers preventing effective communication. This leaves people in local communities with little option other than to

report project grievances to local project staff, but that may not be appropriate as the project staff represent the project with which they have an issue. There is no simple solution to this, and it may be that projects should establish an in-country 3rd party to act as a contact point. This in itself would present many challenges and would need careful consideration.

APPENDIX I: PROJECT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING

Rating		Overdue (O)	Delayed (D)	Not started on schedule (NS)	Under implementation on schedule (IS)	Completed/Achieved (CA)
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	HS	0%			100%	
Satisfactory (S)	S	20%			80%	
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	MS	40%			60%	
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	MU	60%			40%	
Unsatisfactory (U)	U	80%			20%	
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	HU	100%			0%	

1. **Highly Satisfactory**: 100% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project. The project can be presented as an example of "good practice" project,

2. **Satisfactory**: 80% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; except for only 20% that are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,

3. **Moderately Satisfactory**: 60% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 40% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,

4. **Moderately Unsatisfactory**: 40% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 60% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,

5. **Unsatisfactory**: only 20% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 80% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action, and

6. **Highly Unsatisfactory**: 100% of the indicators: a) are overdue, and/or b) delayed in their implementation, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project.

APPENDIX II: RISK RATINGS

Rating	
Low (L)	L
Moderate (M)	M
Substantial (S)	S
High (H)	H

1. **Low Risk (L):** There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

2. **Moderate Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

3. **Substantial Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.

4. **High Risk:** There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

APPENDIX III: PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT EXPECTED OUTPUTS

INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING13	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome 1.1 National PA system established, and implementation initiated				
Output Indicator 1.1.1: *Approved system plan*	1 system plan approved covering 480,321 ha	A PA system plan has not been approved.	NS	This Indicator has not been met because the associated activities have been severely disrupted due to COVID restrictions. Delays in establishing PA planning processes under the current travel restrictions have made establishing a clear ToR and workplan very difficult. Furthermore, supporting materials supplied under MoU with IUCN have also been subject to delays due to partner team member changes which delayed the completion of sub-components (gap analysis and legislative review) of this work during FY21.
Output Indicator 1.1.2: *Sustainable financing assessment endorsed by PSC*	1 Sustainable Finance Assessment endorsed by PSC	Sustainable Finance and PA business plan consultancy is proceeding and has produced half of the contracted deliverables to date.	IS	The sustainable finance assessment is more than 50% complete but has slowed due to travel restrictions (consultants are working remotely with the team and government partners). In addition to the restrictions, major floods in April 2021 shut down government and the CI office for a few weeks and led to a spike in COVID cases which subsequently led to strict lockdown. This paused a planned workshop with government and other stakeholder to review the financing plans. The team are now replanning these activities as a series of smaller meetings; however this is not efficient and is taking a lot of in-country staff resources to proceed.
Output Indicator 1.1.3: *Ministerial diplomas for the two management plans*	2 Management Plan ministerial diplomas complete	Ministerial diplomas are not a suitable indicator for PA management plans as they would not typically be finalized under a Ministerial Diploma. Instead, written confirmation of accepting the PA plans from the PA department will be sought.	IS	The PA management plan consultant team's contract was signed at the end of FY21. The team will begin work in July 2021 to begin FY22. They are expected to complete the work within 11 months.

Output Indicator 1.1.4: *PA management committees functioning with government support*	2 PA management Committees established.	No PA management committees have been established.	D	During FY21 the government had indicated that the PA boundary needs to be finalized and demarcated before the PA committee is established. This demarcation activity was ongoing at the end of FY21 after significant delays during FY21 due to COVID restricting access to the PA sites.
Outcome 2.1 Land degradation drivers halted and/or minimized in key catchment areas				
Output Indicator 2.1.1: *NRM plans endorsed by suco councils*	10 NRM plans endorsed.	10 NRM plans have been drafted.	NS	The community based NRM planning process has been conducted with 10 community conservation groups. These plans are being written up for endorsement by the *suco* councils.
Output Indicator 2.1.2: *Suco regulations*	10 *suco* regulations are reviewed and updated if requested by the communities.	No *suco* regulations were formalized in FY21	IS	The NRM plans have recently been drafted and will be used to update the suco regulations in FY22.
Outcome 2.2 Capacity of communities to manage their natural resources substantially increased				
Output Indicator 2.2.1: *SEPFOPE decision*	100 youth, including at least 30% females, trained in NRM management	40 of 100 youths have completed training at a SEPFOPE registered college.	IS	In the first week of FY22 the next group of 30 students will begin the course. Bringing the total up to 70 students trained. The remaining 30 will start in Q2 FY22.
Output Indicator 2.2.2 *Interventions completed by community conservation groups*	At least 1 intervention/ activity defined in the NRM plan is complete per community.	All ten community groups have completed at least one intervention.	CA	All ten community conservation groups have built at least 2 nurseries and have planted over 163,000 fruit trees, conservation trees, and construction trees. Further interventions will be ongoing throughout the project.
Output Indicator 2.2.3 *Number of sustainable use interventions introduced*	There is no defined numeric target in the ProDoc.	Sustainable resource use management has begun in 4 of 10 communities.	IS	Water management training began at the end of FY21 and will continue with the remaining six communities in early FY22.
Outcome 3.1 Sustainable forest management in priority catchment corridors substantially improved				

Output Indicator 3.1.1: *Classified areas integrated into national GIS system*	High conservation value forests classified within the two priority catchments covering a cumulative area of 58,900 ha.	14,152.4 ha of forest identified for further detailed HCV classification.	NS	Initial identification of potential HCV forest has begun using satellite imagery and data from existing national forest reports. A consultant now needs to be hired to conduct the full assessment. The ToR will be advertised in FY22.
Output Indicator 3.1.2: *Amended NRM plans approved by suco councils*	There is no defined numeric target in the ProDoc.	10 new NRM plans have been drafted.	IS	The NRM plans will be approved by the suco council and after that point no amendments will be required, however the plans remain a 'working document' and can be updated beyond the project time frame if the community wishes.
Outcome 3.2 Priority degraded areas rehabilitated and/or reforested				
Output Indicator 3.2.1: *Rehabilitation plans approved*	There is no defined numeric target in the ProDoc.	No Rehabilitation plans were approved in FY20	IS	The NRM plans contain rehabilitation plans and so these will be approved with the NRM approval.
Output Indicator 3.2.2: *Species grown in nurseries*	There is no defined numeric target in the ProDoc.	The project has produced and planted saplings of 53 native and naturalized tree species.	CA	A catalogue of all 53 project species has been produced. Of these 53 species the project has planted over 163,000 trees.
Output Indicator 3.2.3: Rehabilitation and/or reforestation plans implemented	500 ha of degraded land rehabilitated and/or reforested.	During FY21 224 ha of land had been replanted.	IS	Through the 25 plant nurseries and over 500 people in the community groups the project has supported the planting of approximately 224 ha of land. The challenge for the team going forward is to facilitate high tree survival rate over the coming year in FY22.