

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

FY22

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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:	64	
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:	September 30, 2023	
GEF Grant Amount:	\$3,340,367	Expected Financial Closure Date:	March 31, 2024	
Expected Co-financing:	\$12,292,000	Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:	May 23, 2022	
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2022:	\$15,155,819	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, 2022:	\$2,495,175	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	June 1, 2023	
PIR Prepared by:	Nathan Conaboy	Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:	TBD	
CI-GEF Project Manager:	Daniela Carrion	CI-GEF Finance Lead:	Susana Escudero	

Minor Amendment Categories	Minor Amendment Justification Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5%. Please select the box that is most applicable for FY22 and include an explanation for the minor amendment request.
Results framework	
Components and cost	

Implementation schedule	The project requested a non-cost extension for one year following MTR recommendations and adaptive management response from project team. The new end date is 30 September 2023.
	Project struggled to recruit staff at the beginning and was 9 months delayed by the time the current Project Manager was recruited. The project did not catch up with the original workplan, despite progress in some areas when, a year later in FY20, the global COVID pandemic forced restrictions on movement internationally with significant impacts on Components 1 and 2, which were dependent on international consultants flying to Timor-Leste. National restrictions also prevented the project team reaching the field sites on a regular basis as is needed to drive activities. These disruptions meant the project team had to spend significant time in supporting roles for consultants working remotely and in adapting to new online working modalities, all of which slowed project implementation and work towards deliverables, creating bottlenecks in all three components due to the necessary order of completion of deliverables. These delays were picked up on in the Mid-term Review which suggested a no cost extension for the project.
Risk analysis 🗌	
Co-financing	

MINOR AMENDMENT RESPONSE FROM CI-GEF

A non-cost extension was approved following MTR recommendation and adaptive management measures. The project faced some delays from the beginning given the challenge to find the required capacities for the project work. These delays where deepen with COVID-19 Pandemic and associated restrictions.

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;
- <u>Section II</u>: 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;
- <u>Section IV</u>: 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;
- <u>Section V</u>: 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
- <u>Section VI</u>: Project Geocoding: documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information available in project documentation

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

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. 70of 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.

CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY22)

During FY22, the project advanced to the near completion of Component 2, significant work towards Component 1 and Component 3.

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

During FY22, 187,000 trees were planted from the project community nurseries covering an area of approximately 260 ha. In addition to planting activities, the communities have begun considered management of local resources through the development and implementation of NRM plans. Finally, the PA Management Plans and Sustainable Financing plans are now in their final review stages after having conducted deep learning and training with TL government staff following participatory methods that have resulted in outputs that go beyond the targets set out in the ProDoc for the Financing and PA Management Plans. These outputs are important foundations for establishing a PA system and the knowledge, skills and experiences gained will contribute to the key Components making up the project deliverables towards the wider objective of a functioning PA system.

Component 1: Establishment of a National Protected Area System

5. Sustainable Finance assessment work is complete, two PA management Plans were completed, the final workshop to present the plans on 23 June 2022 and the final project report is being reviewed by project staff.

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

- 6. All ten community groups have developed NRM plans covering 31,949 ha.
- 7. 99 of 100 students have received certified NRM training and the project has produced nationally certified skillset for vocational training in permaculture design. This has now been approved by the national accreditation body, INDMO, and the Training of Trainers is ongoing at the time of writing due for completion on 1 July 2023.

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

 All ten community groups have been involved in planting over 300,000 trees, planting a combined area of 489 ha of forest.

Mid-term Review

At the time of the project Mid-term review, completed at the beginning of FY22, 53% of project outcomes were over ~50% complete, by the time of this PIR that figured is now 93% of all Outcomes are 50% or more in terms of completion. The MTR identified several roadblocks on the project and provided some recommendations, many of which were already being implemented by the project, such as the additional support provided by in country staff to international consultants who were unable to enter the country. Nonetheless, the review provided a benchmark from which to measure achievements during FY22. These recommendations and roadblocks are available in the MTR and will be used as a reference point in the final evaluation.

Risks

Much of the risks remain the same however 4/8 have a lower risk rating than at the start of the project due to changing conditions brought about by the project, this has largely included significant training and engagement with the same group of government staff on a range of planning activities for the PAs, such as the PA Management Plans and the PA Financing Plans. This has led to greater capacity, engagement and communication between government departments, which were the root of several identified risks.

Environmental and Social Safeguards

Gender Mainstreaming

- 9. During FY22, 1,795 (M=1235 68% F = 560 32%) people attended meetings workshops training and socialization events, 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.
- 10. 1,815 men and women received benefits (e.g., employment, income generating activities, training, knowledge sharing) from the project. Of which, M=1251 (69%) F=564 (31%) with a target of 30% women reached.

Stakeholder engagement

- 1. 24 stakeholder groups were involved in FY22 (target: 25 annually).
- 2. 588 people (M=71% F=29%) were involved directly in project implementation on an annual basis. Target; 100 annually
- 27 project meetings/workshops/consultations took place during FY22 (target: 10 meetings).

Involuntary Resettlement

No people were voluntarily or involuntarily resettled during the project implementation phase in FY22.

SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY21 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY22 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING ¹	RATING TREND ²
OBJECTIVE	MS	S	Increasing
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	MS	S	Increasing
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	S	нѕ	Increasing

PROJECT RISK RATING³

RISKS	S	M	Decreasing		

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 since the start of the project 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.	8,184 hectares has been HCV assessed, graded and mapped.	D	The HCV assessment is being done by the projects in house GIS Coordinator having recently developed capacities in HCV assessments. The assessment is expected to be complete by the end of Q1 FY23. This was one of the remaining sticking points of the project due to capacity to complete the assessment in Timor-Leste. As a result of the GIS coordinator took online training and used case studies to develop the skills needed to complete an HCV assessment.
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 Dense/medium mixed forest: 8,184 ha Sparse forest: 456 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 through tree planting, water management, and agroforestry interventions.
Indicator c. Protected area management effectiveness score (BD-1, Program 1).	Fatumasin: 48 Legumau: NOT ASSESSED	IS	Having been formally mapped out and the new boundaries socialized with communities and government, draft management plans being

⁴ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
End of project Target: Mt. Fatumasin 40; Mt. Legumau 40.			developed, resources being allocated to PA communities, and the PA laws having been translated into Tetun as well as signage put in place, Fatumasin PA demonstrated a METT score of 48 on February 23, 2022. Legumau has not yet been assessed but the project plans to conduct the Legumau Assessment in Q1 FY23.
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	16,171 hectares	CA	The ProDoc target was overestimated to include the total area within the community boundaries. 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. The remaining 15,778 ha (totaling 31,949) can be described as indirectly benefiting as community members are reporting improved benefits such as water access.
Indicator e. Land area under effective management in production systems with improved vegetative cover (LD-1, Program 2). End of project target: 500 ha	498 hectares	CA	Through the growth, distribution and planting of approximately 340,000 saplings in the project's 25 nurseries, the project communities have planted an equivalent of 498 hectares of land with trees of 53 species. The survival rate of trees planted is currently 68%, which is high for Timor-Leste because the project encouraged community members to plant on their own land using trees that would provide benefits in different phases over time. For example, fruit trees provide income in just a few years, construction trees 10-15+ years, and conservation trees provide long-term ecosystem benefits. This has encouraged planting on private land which has resulted in relatively high survival rates. This is assessed through the government's Forestry Dept. methods by government forestry staff.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
S	A Satisfactory rating has been given to project objective. Based on objective indicators and targets, the project is advancing towards completing all targets. Three of the targets are completed, one is under implementation, and one is delay but in progress after the project has solved the lack of capacities challenge through capacity building of the team. It is expected that all targets are completed during FY23 and before the end of the project.
	It is noted that for target d, the area has been significantly reduced. This is due to an overestimation of the target during PPG. It has now been corrected counting only the direct area impacted through project interventions.

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 RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target a: Area of terrestrial ecosystems under enhanced protection.	A comprehensive national PA System Plan (plano nacional) covering 480,341 ha.	0 hectares	D	This is one of the remaining work elements justifying the need for a no cost extension. The plan has been delayed following multiple impacts of COVID limiting consultant availability, staff changes among IUCN Biopama who were inputting to the System Plan, and other outputs across the whole of Component 1 being delayed due to project staff time limitations (project staff were required to allocate much of their time to supporting consultants working from their home countries instead of travelling to TL). While the other outputs under component 1 have progressed, the System Plan has been rescheduled for FY23 (last implementation year) to be completed based on the information in the PA Management Plans and the Sustainable Finance Plans.
Target b: Demarcation of protected areas.	Demarcation completed for two priority PAs (Mount Fatumasin and Mount Legumau), covering a	4,973 hectares	IS	The demarcation process is underway, the procurement process for the demarcation posts for Fatumasin is ongoing and will start in FY23 following a thorough and legally required socialization process with the relevant communities inside and adjacent to the Protected Area. This same socialization process is now ongoing for Legumau and so the remaining hectares will be demarcated in FY23. Legumau PA covers an area of 17,882 ha so the total area will be 22,855 ha. The project has increased the area on the map covered by the PAs since project inception however, the

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
	cumulative area of 22,855 ha.			calculation for these two PAs taken when the project was designed was incorrect. The World Database of Protected Areas also has incorrect calculations and so we assume there was an error at the early stages of identifying and mapping the PAs, this data would then have been submitted to the WDPA by the TL government and has not been verified. This project has worked with a team at the European Commission who double checked our area calculation and verified our updated, accurate area calculations. The project has informed the WDPA of the new calculations and is expecting follow-up on how to update the WDPA catalogue.
Target c. Protected area management effectiveness.	Mount Fatumasin METT Score: 40 Mt. Legumau METT Score: 40.	Mount Fatumasin METT Score: 48 Mount Legumau: Not Assessed	IS	Having been formally mapped out and the new boundaries socialized with communities and government, draft management plans being developed, resources being allocated to PA communities, and the PA laws having been translated into Tetun as well as signage put in place, Fatumasin PA demonstrated a METT score of 48 on February 23, 2022. Legumau has not yet been assessed but the project plans to conduct the Legumau Assessment in Q1 FY23.

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING		RATING TREND
MS	A Moderately Satisfactory rating has been given to Component 1. Although project is progressing towards targets, it still has work to do in creating the National PA system plan and complete the demarcation of protected areas. Only one area has completed demarcation and for the other one the process is ongoing. This is key for the project success and one of the main reasons for a non-cost extension of the project. It is expected that these targets will be completed during FY23 as well as an updated METT.	Increasing

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 RATING ⁶	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.	4	0	Of the 10 sucos 4 have aligned and formally acknowledged or referenced the NRM plans in their suco regulations. Six in Irabere are yet to reference the NRM plans in their regulations. This may not be possible for all sucos as some do not have regulations in place. In these cases, the NRM plans will still be recognized through a traditional tara bandu ceremony which, due to the alignment with local laws, will automatically create local legal recognition for the NRM plans. The final process is ongoing in Q1 FY23 with expected completion by Q2 FY23.
Target b: Area of land under effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices.	NRM plans being implemented at 10 sites. The project has implemented activities within the NRM plans at all ten sites comprising 16,171 ha managed by Conservation Groups.	16,171 ha	CA	This is the agricultural area (usually mixed agroforestry and pasture) within the community NRM plans. The activities or management within the NRM plans ranges from setting aside areas where grazing is not permitted (passive) through to replanting tree crops and implementing restoration activities (active).

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 ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target c. Capacity of youth to manage natural resources.	100 youth, including at least 30% females, trained in NRM management.	99 were trained and certified 41% of which were women	CA	During FY22 the remaining student cohort (99 in total after 1 had to leave the course due to family reasons), following the first training cohort in FY21, successfully completed their training and gained a National Vocational Training certificate awarded by the national education authority. The qualification was Horticulture and because it was part of an organized course, the project was able to balance the gender through the application process.

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	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 community groups attended training and conducted natural resource activities as a result of the project, of which 31% were women during FY22.	CA	During FY22 training and activities included socialization of the boundary maps and the PA concept, Project Steering Committee meeting, community grant meetings, Tara Bandu cultural ceremonies to incorporate NRM plans into suco regulations, community tree planting events, and NRM plan review meetings. In total, 678 community members attended these sessions.
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.	293 households Of which 31% members are women.	CA	This number represents the number of households directly benefiting from project activities within the community groups however, the total households benefiting is expected to rise by the time the project closes when activities such as water management brings benefit to the wider community over time who access water from springs further down the catchment area. The gender data includes all women in the households that have participated in one or more project activities relating to sustainable use of forest resources. This usually includes training and or being involved in the sustainable production community grant program as a recipient of grant money.

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	A Satisfactory rating has been given to Component 2. The project team has completed all targets for Outcome 2.2. For Outcome 2.1 is under implementation completing 40% of the target. The remaining target will be completed in FY23. Despite COVID-19 delays, the project team has been able to continue and successfully implement outcomes under Component 2.	Unchanged

COMPONENT 3	Improvement of forest management and reforestation of degraded lands in priority catchment corridors
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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 RATING ⁸	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).	8,184 hectares	D	The HCV assessment is being done by the project in house GIS Coordinator having recently developed capacities in HCV assessments. The assessment is expected to be complete by the end of Q1 FY23. This was one of the remaining sticking points of the project due to capacity to complete the assessment in Timor-Leste. As a result, the GIS coordinator took online training and used case studies to develop the skills needed to complete an HCV assessment. The change in indicator status from FY21 reflects the work done by the project GIS Coordinator in reassessing the activity, learning how to conduct the HCV assessment and now in the process of assessing the project forest areas using the HCV criteria.
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	The level and type of intervention varies 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.)

Outcome 3.2: Priority degraded areas reforested.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target h. Area of priority forest area rehabilitated.	At least 500 ha of degraded land rehabilitated and/or reforested.	498 hectares	CA	Through the growth, distribution, and planting of approximately 340,000 saplings in the project's 25 nurseries, the project communities have planted an equivalent of 498 hectares of land with trees of 53 species, with approximately 10ha of trees still remaining to be assessed. The survival rate of trees planted is currently 65%, which is high for Timor-Leste because the project encouraged community members to plant on their own land using trees that would provide benefits through fruit and timber production as well as long-term benefits through 'conservation' trees.

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Target i. Nursery capacity for supporting forest rehabilitation.	25 plant nurseries strengthened and/or established.	strengthened and in operation the project's tree sapling outputs. While there has be success from one nursery to another, collectively the		As described in Target h. above, the nurseries have produced almost all of the project's tree sapling outputs. While there has been varying degrees of success from one nursery to another, collectively they have achieved the outputs needed to deliver tree planting targets.
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 back in FY20 however, the training continued and has increased throughout the project. In FY22 the groups were largely responsible for the tree sapling outputs described above but have also developed further initiatives through the development of horticulture sites as a direct response to the horticulture training the youths received

COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	A Satisfactory rating has been given to Component 3. Progress for the two Outcomes are good despite the COVID-19 pandemic which partially impacted the FY22. All targets of outcome 3.2 have been completed. For Outcome 3.1 one target was fully completed and another one is delay but under implementation. It is expected to be completed in FY23.	Unchanged

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND ¹⁰
S	A Satisfactory rating has been given to the overall project results. Despite the delays of the project due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the project team has managed to advance in each of the outcomes of the project. Most of the targets are complete and only a few are under implementation but planned to be completed in FY23 which is the last year of project implementation phase after the non-cost extension was approved. In general, there is good progress across the project. The remaining targets are in progress and are key to achieve the project objective.	Increasing

d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Ensure all activities are completed on track as per FY23 workplan. A joint review with CI-GEF should be done in Q2 FY23 to confirm project is on track and ready to complete all project outcomes by May 2023 when programmatic closing is expected.	_	December 2022

 $^{^{\}rm 10}$ 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

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

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ¹¹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹²
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 in project implementation, and regular cross-sectoral communication, e.g., during project steering committee	Government stakeholders have had a much more active role in the project during FY22 than any previous FY. In component 1 a government cohort was established to develop the PA Management Plans meeting regularly throughout the year with project staff and consultants, this included field visits to engage with, and collect data from, communities within the PAs. Separately, a working group from the Department of Protected Areas was also in regular consultation for the Sustainable Finance Plans with CI staff and another	IS	Following decreased government engagement due to COVID restrictions throughout FY21, government engagement was significantly increased during FY22. As mentioned in the mitigation column, the project worked closely and regularly with teams of government staff to produce the PA Management Plans as well as the Sustainable Finance Plans. These measures were taken to extend and deepen government engagement as trainees rather than simply recipients of the plans once complete by the consultants. This measure was in response to the travel bans which prevented consultants working directly on the plans in Timor. Instead, an improved plan was developed to deal with the issue of restrictions which resulted in much more government engagement and has produced stronger results than simply fly-in/fly-out	M	S	Increasing

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¹² **Rating trend**: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

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	workshops, trainings, site visits, etc.	addition to this our field teams worked closely with the forestry department to conduct tree survival rate monitoring. The PSC A PSC meeting was held on May 23, 2022, at which the plans for a no cost extension were voted on as well as project-wide updates delivered.		Government staff have a comprehensive understanding of the plans as well as the experience to develop further plans across the PA network. Having said this, FY23 will be the year of national elections, and this may disrupt project activities by taking up government focus and potentially switching of staff in key roles, such as the Director General of Forestry and the Director General of Environment, the latter of which is also the GEF OFP. Therefore, the risk rating is Significant due to high levels of uncertainty regarding the impacts if new Directors are appointed. The relationships would need to be rebuilt and the ease of this would be dependent on the personalities and agenda of the newly appointed Directors.			
Risk 2: Limited coordination and communication between sectoral agencies and/or ministries.	The two key ministries responsible for environmental matters (MAF & SSE (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	The PSC meeting and several updates directly with the Director Generals of both MAF and SSE were conducted as a matter of providing updates, feedback, and approval for project activities. In addition to these meetings there was regular contact with heads of departments and managers within MAF and SSE during their contributions to the PA Management Plans and Sustainable Finance Plans.	IS	As described above, engagement with government partners was greatly stepped up in FY22 as their staff were directly engaged in the development of management and finance plans for the two PAs. This meant that staff from departments in MAF and SSE worked together every few months throughout the year to develop the plans thereby encouraging and facilitating regular coordination and communications between government staff. As a result, this rating has been reassessed to the rating it had in the ProDoc (Moderate from Significant last year).	M	M	Unchanged

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	implementation phase.						
	One of the main roles of the project manager will be to ensure there is enough coordination between these ministries, other government agencies, and nongovernmental 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 level stakeholders, thus mitigating the risk of limited						

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	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 during FY22. Community training included capacity development 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. Socialization of the PAs and their boundaries was conducted in FY22 with CI, government, and communities to inform and build support for the concept of PAs and to reduce overexploitation and unsustainable activities such as slash and burn agriculture.	IS	This rating remains the same as external factors matched by capacity gaps remain. Even after training the threats to ecosystems remain high and while the capacity to mitigate those risks is being developed by the project there would still be many years of work needed to confidently say the risk has reduced.	S	S	Unchanged
Risk 4: Lack of institutional and	The project strategy is innovative in that it includes a	The project team included PA management plan training in the ToR for the PA Plan Consultants. During	IS	While government capacity is still something to address regarding the development and ongoing management of PAs in Timor-Leste, the	S	M	Decreasing

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individual capacities to implement policies and provisions of livelihoods to protection of ecosystems and PAs.	bespoke capacity building approach to address the 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 ensure and strengthen further	FY22 a cohort of 15 government staff were trained in PA Management Plan development using the Open Standards framework and 10 government staff members in the development of sustainable finance plans.		training of key staff in PA Management Plan development and the delivery of financial tools and staff trained to use them does strengthen the PA department at this early stage of its development, therefore the rating is reduced from Significant to Moderate. There is a risk of senior level Directors (not part of the government trainees) changing during the national elections due in FY23. As described under Risk 2, this brings uncertainty in terms of government and project relations but should not affect the capacity of the individuals and departments to any significant degree as most government staff will remain in place.			

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	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 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 certain actions they take may be breaking the law. In addition, most legislation is available only in	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 has been the focus of socialization activities during FY22 when the PA boundaries were socialized with the communities over a period of 5 weeks.	IS	The project is starting to gain traction with the community members now generally aware of the presence and understanding of a Protected Area and that it comes with some government policy on resource use. This is a change from the project beginning when communities generally appeared unaware of Protected Areas.	S	M	Reduced

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RISKS	1	Socialization included supplying each village with a large A2 PA boundary map in public view with information on comments and complaints about the PA boundaries open to the public as per the PA decree law.	RATING ¹¹		RATING	RATING	TREND ¹²
	of existing laws and regulations.						

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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 certification, which in turn supports the trainees' ability to support and develop new livelihoods.	Training in sustainable livelihoods continued in FY22 with students learning new horticulture techniques. In many cases the horticulture students went back to their communities and have set up horticulture ventures, to support this and continue momentum, the project supported the newly established horticulture ventures with basic equipment, in turn community members invested their own money in materials and have been turning a profit from the sale of fruits and vegetables. Several groups in Comoro have reported profits of 200-300 USD from a single harvest which they have then reinvested in further seeds and materials. This is a good example of activities being financially sustainable and helping to generate support for project activities that do not appear to turn a profit, such as restoration. At a management level the sustainable finance assessment has identified	IS	This status is decreased to Moderate (within the project area) because the project has demonstrated among communities some successes however, the financial climate in Timor-Leste is very unpredictable. The project is developing tools to help but the unpredictability means there remains a Moderate risk in this area.	S	M	Decreasing

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		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.					
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 climate change could also	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 used for selection	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 FY21 (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	IS	The risk is Moderate during the project lifetime however, over a longer period this would be Substantial to High as rainfall patterns change.	M	M	Unchanged

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adversely impact the viability of implementing alternative non-timber forest product based alternative livelihood programs.	of species for rehabilitation activities will be based on climate resilience.	most communities every year.					
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 has implemented, 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 using alternative methods, such as video calling when possible and working with	IS	This has been reduced from High in FY21 back to the original rating of Substantial as regional and national restrictions have lifted.	S	S	Unchanged

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		field staff without having to travel through the country.					

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND ¹³
М	A Moderate rating has been given to the overall project risks. Given this is the last year of project implementation, not major changes in the identified risks are expected. The project has been implementing mitigation measures timely and it is expected this will continue until the end of the project. However, close monitoring to the risks is needed during FY23.	Decreasing

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Monitor mitigation measures results to ensure risks are kept manageable until the end of project implementation	PMU	June 2023

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

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESMF plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESMF plans, when needed. This section is divided into six parts:

- a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's ESMF
- b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement
- c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets
- d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products developed and disseminated
- e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating
- f. Recommendations

a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's ESMF

¹³ Rating trend: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism 1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	0	0	0	IS	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 regional staff also regularly work in the communities, although they do not necessarily 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 was highlighted in the MTR and the team have responded by having non-field staff, in this case the Finance Manager, visit the field sites more frequently to provide an additional reporting line should the community members wish. This has included verbal socialization of the AGM through the customary practices of community meetings, which are attended by village chiefs, community leaders and are always public. These meetings are always delivered in the local language and in some cases, where there is a language specific to the region, the project's community-based staff (at least 1 in each community in which we work) speak the local language/dialect and are therefore able to discuss and receive information in either the national or regional language.

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2.	Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved	N/A	N/A	0	IS	
GENDER 1.	R MAINSTREAMING Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g., meetings, workshops, consultations)	30% women	M=1235 (68%) F = 560 (32%)	Men= 1235 560 or 32% women	IS	This refers to all men and women that participated in all activities during FY22. The data are collected through participant lists handed out at every group activity, meeting, training or workshop.
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=1251 (69%) F=564 (31%)	Men= 1251 564 or 31% women	IS	All 568 community group members attended one or more training sessions with multiple stakeholders including Permatil, who gave training on water management, and equipment for horticulture activities and small community grants. Additionally, another 20 people (F= 4, M=16) received income from project employment or short-term contracting.
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)	16	5	15	IS	During FY22, two PA Management Plans have been completed, 2 Business Plans are in draft, and a Sustainable Finance Plan is complete. This builds on the previous year's 10 suco NRM plans, which involved 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 were included in the prioritization process the groups were 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 PA Network Plan will be complete. Totaling 16 plans. NOTE this was incorrectly calculated as 17 in the previous PIR and GMP. The number of planned deliverables has not changed, it should have been stated as 16 previously.
STAKEL	OLDER ENGAGEMENT					
1.	Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other	25	25	25	IS	MAF, METIC, Dept. for Environmental Education, Dept. Land and Property, SEPFOPE, INDIMO, UNTL, Tibar training center, CDC Baucau, CTC training center, STVJ Gleno training center, Permatil, Hiam Health training center, ESTV Maliana, Quinta

stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis 2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been		588	1,707		Portugal, and 10 community conservation groups make up this number. The cumulative status includes the sum of all agencies that have been engaged over two project years. The number of community conservation group members varies throughout the project as people's availability changes. This
involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	100	M=418 (71%) F=170 (29%)	M=1098 (64%) F=609 (36%)	IS	figure includes 568 Community Conservation Group members (M=71% F=29%), 10 (F=5 M=5) PA Management Plan developers and 10 (M=7 F=3) Finance Plan developers.
3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	10	27	120	IS	This includes meetings in the following topics: Training on PA Management Plans Training on Block II PA Management Plan Module development plan Meeting-IDIMO PA Financing workshop; National Level PA-working group meeting PA Financing workshop with Technical staff METT-4 for PA Fatumasin Finalizing with MAF staff PA Financing workshop (Follow-up Meeting) Culture ceremony Tara Bandu Tree Planting Event Grant Socialization NRM Training
ESS 2: Protection of Natural Habitats and Biodiversity Conservation (delete if not applicable)					
Hectares of natural and/or critical natural habitats lost or degraded	0	0	0	IS	The project has not implemented any actions that lead to habitat loss or land degradation.
ESS 3: Resettlement and Physical and Economic Displacement (delete if not applicable)					Although this ESS was triggered at the PPG phase there are no plans to resettle any community members voluntarily or otherwise, this includes economic displacement. Activities have avoided outright restrictions and have instead focused on adapting or introducing more efficient and sustainable techniques to existing practices, however, this remains an ongoing safeguard to consider and monitor following the Process Framework for Restrictions to Access Natural Resources. The Framework outlines a participatory approach to Natural Resource Planning, identifying those families within the PA (target 127 households) and providing them with additional

					assistance in livelihood development and training. These guidelines have been followed through the Community-based NRM Plans, horticulture training, water management training, plant nursery works and vanilla training activities all of which have included, on a voluntary basis, 193 households from within the PA.
Number of persons involved in voluntary resettlement	0	0	0	IS	N/A
2. Number of persons compensated for voluntary resettlement	0	0	0	IS	N/A
3. Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been voluntary restricted	0	0	0	IS	N/A
4. Number of persons whose access to and use of natural resources have been involuntary restricted	0	0	0	IS	N/A
5. Percentage of persons who gave their consent for voluntary restrictions6. Percentage of persons who have received compensation for voluntary restrictions	0	0	0	IS	N/A
7. Percentage of persons who have received compensation for involuntary restrictions	0	0	0	IS	N/A

ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples (delete if not applicable) 1. Percentage of indigenous/local communities where FPIC have been followed and documented	100	100	100	IS	All community groups being engaged in the project have undergone FPIC processes I. For example, 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.
2. The percentage of communities where project benefit sharing have been agreed upon through the appropriate community governance mechanisms and documented	100	100	100	IS	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.

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

Progress -

Following delays to activities in Component 1 relating to the PA Management Plans and the Sustainable Financing Plans, considerable progress was made on these key outputs in FY22. The PA planning process involved a cohort of trainees from multiple government agencies being trained throughout the year in the Open Standards process for developing PA Management plans. This process, along with training guides, data collection workbooks, training presentations and photos documenting the process are all being made available on a website in both Tetun and English along with the PA Management Plans. This goes far beyond the initial ProDoc to produce two PA plans, and instead leaves a legacy of guidance materials and trained government staff to continue the process of developing future plans for the other protected areas across Timor-Leste. This same deep learning process was used for the sustainable financing plans, and they too leave behind tools (learning materials and cost model templates) for future use by newly trained staff as a result of the TLSNAP project.

Component 2 is now almost complete, all required training has been done and the nationally certified training modules have been accepted by the governing body, INDMO. At the time of writing this report the Training of Trainers for the modules was being conducted with trainers and trainees staying at a local vocational training center for the week to complete the ToT.

In addition to the Management and Finance Plans, the remaining hectares of trees to be planted since FY21 has been met through increased efforts by the team to continue growing saplings at the nurseries during lockdown, and in FY22 considerable efforts in distributing and planting a further 187,000 tree saplings. In FY23, the remaining work to be done in component 3 is restoration activities which have already been planned and mapped by the team.

Challenges -

While COVID remains a risk, the actual impacts of the pandemic have lifted considerably during FY22, there were also no major external events such as flooding (as there was in FY21) and so there were no major external challenges affecting the project in FY22. Government coordination and collaboration between government departments at a senior level remains a challenge. At mid/junior levels this is not the case, however at senior levels it is difficult to make arrangements that are not frequently cancelled or changed when more than one senior officer is due to attend. Last minute changes or cancellations are common, and this makes arranging workshops or large meetings a drain on project staff resources as staff members are frequently altering plans and spending considerable effort in communicating plans with officials. Many government departmental staff do not use email and require formal wet-signed and stamped letters for relatively simple requests. This can make operating at scale with government partners a challenge when human resources and time are both limited.

Outcomes -

Of 13 project outcome indicator targets 8 are complete, a further two are well on the way to completion and of the remaining three only one is yet to be started. FY23 provides a good timeframe in which to complete the remaining targets.

As mentioned above the PA Management and Financing Plans are drafted and now being reviewed for finalization in Component 1, Component 2 is almost entirely complete and of component three the project was able to distribute and plant 187,000 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, building on previous years efforts this brings the total reforested area very close to the 500ha target (489ha). The HCV assessment is yet to be finalized in Component 3 but the Project Management fully expects this to be complete by the end of Q1 FY23.

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

All activities anticipated by the GMP were implemented? Yes/No Why?

Three of the four targets outlined in the Gender Action Plan of the GMP have been met, the fourth Activity was implemented, and the target was met initially but as staff have changed, that target no longer remains complete. The fourth target was to ensure all staff received gender training, they did but most of the project staff now were not in that original group of trainees due to staff changes. 1,795 people engaged directly in project activities during FY22, 31% of which were women. This goes just beyond the target of 30% women's engagement in project activities outlined in the Gender Action Plan. The community conservation groups activities included 29% women participation however, this is not evenly distributed across Irabere and Comoro and it is clear some community customs or norms limit female participation more than others.

Did the project face any challenges to implementing GMP as initially proposed? Please describe the challenges in case there were any.

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, which 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 gender balance 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. The project did successfully try an alternative method of internship, this resulted in a female intern joining the team who was subsequently hired full-time by CI to work on the project. One significant activity identified in the GMP is the training of all project staff on gender awareness. This is currently

not being met because staff turnover has been high. Most of the project staff were not CI staff at the start of the project when a CI gender specialist came to Timor to deliver training. Going into FY23 the project should work with CI's safeguarding team to deliver updated gender awareness training.

As compared to the original GMP, was any adaptive management applied to promote meaningful participation of women and advance towards other gender sensitive targets?

The main adaptation with regards to gender parity in recruitment, the team noticed there were limited applications coming in from women for most project roles. This led the team to develop an internship which would make the recruitment pool potentially larger than that for a specific role requiring experience and therefore favoring the male dominated existing labor force. The internship role was filled by a woman who had only recently graduated, who has since completed the internship and is now employed full-time by CI to work on the project. This is only a single case but has provided the team with a model that can be used across projects aside from the TLSNAP.

Did the project team/stakeholders observe any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) related to gender equality, that are difficult to capture in a quantitative way during this period of time? For example, women are more active in decision-making processes in the project, or public servants are more interested and open to advance gender outcomes, men or women are more reluctant to participate in the project activities, or other similar situations.

A key observation was that women's involvement, although on or close to project targets of 30% overall, varied significantly between communities. In some cases, engagement is mostly by women, in others only a few senior women engage in project activities on a regular basis. This variation is not reflected well in the numbers. It is, however, a representation of the wide range of social norms present in Timor-Leste, some communities are patriarchal and other are matriarchal in their customary laws, for example. Capturing this variation while presenting an accurate and fair representation of community structure and engagement in projects is therefore complex.

Considering all the above, what are the recommendations for next FY to continue advancing towards gender sensitive targets?

As discussed in other sections, proactively engage all project staff in tailored or team specific gender awareness training with specific reference to the project close-out phase.

d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products¹⁵ developed and disseminated

The ESMF and Cl's recently developed ESS framework provide key guiding principles for projects to follow, yet widespread knowledge of these by all project staff, both international assignees and national staff has not yet been fully achieved. It may be necessary for CI-GEF projects to require activities and/or budget allocation to conduct repeated training and awareness of ESMF and safeguarding topics to ensure all staff are informed even if there is project staff turnover during the life of a project. Attendance and uptake of this training may be optimized if the training is given to specific project teams in dedicated sessions for country programs.

The TLSNAP project produces quarterly newsletters in Tetun for local stakeholders including government and communities as well as a series of case studies titled 'Voices from the field' aimed at showcasing positive stories and encouraging information so participants and communities that may otherwise not meet are able to see what is going on across the project. In FY22 the team showcased youths being certified for the horticulture training and the subsequent set-up of horticulture groups in the community, also one of the champion nursery leaders who has produced strong successes from the nursery she manages and has encouraged the youth in her village to set up a horticulture group (linked to the youth training). These case studies are typical of a story in the 'voices from the field' outreach materials. All of these documents are produced in Tetun. The project also invites TV news to events to publicize outputs, for example the recent Training of Trainers week-long training was attended and recorded by national TV news outlet, GMN to ensure project key stories reach as wide an audience as possible in Timor-Leste.

¹⁵ Knowledge Products are those that are both intended to transmit knowledge but at the same time enable action by their audiences. For example, a lessons learned report, compilation of good practices and recommendations, etc.

e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

ESMF PLAN REQUIRED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	CURRENT FY22 IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	HS	Increasing
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	HS	Unchanged
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	HS	Unchanged
ESS 3: Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan/Process Framework	S	Unchanged

OVERALL PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	In addition to what project team had done in previous FY to socialize the AGM, there is evidence in this FY PIR that the has implemented further efforts to socialize the AGM periodically through customary practices or community meetings verbally, also adapting to local languages. Regarding the GMP, although the proportion of women decreased in comparison to FY21, the sex-disaggregated result in terms of percentage is slightly above the target. In addition to this, the team has interesting learnings regarding intersectionality, and how participation varies according to social norms present in a diverse variety of ethnic groups present in project sites. Also, the project has implemented adaptive management strategies, to promote women's participation in staff. Finally, the methodology implemented to guarantee that voices of women and men are well represented in the Suco NRM Plans. It is highly recommended that this methodology and other strategies used to promote gender equality are adequately systematize in the tools that the project is leaving to government officials. For the SEP, the project continues to be above or achieved the targets for the SEP. In the case of the ESS3, no voluntary resettlement neither voluntary restriction to natural resources had taken place. The project team continues to monitor ESS and will do it for the remaining time of project implementation. Finally, the project has implemented FPIC with all communities engaged, even though ESS4 wasn't triggered in the Safeguard screening.	Increasing

f. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
 The project will need to keep implementing strategies for oral socialization of the AGM, and also socialize it in any training activity or event to be implemented during the final stage of the project. The team has developed a good methodology for representing voices of women and men in developing plan priorities. As they are currently working to leave training tools for government officials in a web portal, it is important that they seize the opportunity to systematize this methodology and other strategies implemented by the project to promote gender equality. 	Project Management Unit Project Management Unit	March 2023 March 2023
strategies implemented by the project to promote genuel equality.	Project Management Unit and Cl- GEF Agency	November 2022

•	The project is pending to provide a gender awareness raising session to new staff. It is recommended, thinking in sustainability of project results (which is close to an end) that the team makes the most out of the training by also involving key stakeholders such as government officials. Translation will need to be secured if the trainer does not speak Bahasa.	CI-GEF Agency and Project Management Unit	June 2023	
•	As the project has a wealth of lessons learned and good practices, it would be ideal they could share			
	these with other project teams in the region and even globally. This can be done through a webinar.			

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'.

The key lessons learned for a project of this nature in Timor-Leste are:

- 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 since FY21, despite information given in the ProDoc. The ProDoc had stated that local representatives, other than village chiefs would be included in the Project Steering Committee however excluding the village chiefs was recognized as a decision that went against local custom and was therefore not recognized as a suitable option for village members, this reaction was experienced across all ten sites and so the decision to allow village chiefs into the PSC was made. The PSC is made up of the DG of Forestry, the DG of Environment (OFP for GEF) representatives of the relevant Administration Posts, National University, and community representatives with a consensus needed by all for any decisions made by vote, such as the extension.
- 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. During the extension phase as the project comes to a close, stakeholder engagement will shift towards greater emphasis on linking up stakeholders at the local level, for example nursery groups and newly appointed government forest guards. In addition to this the municipality government will be engaged and guided on how they could best support the forest guards in relation to the project goals. This linking will provide a frame of work to which the newly appointed forest guards and established community nurseries can support each other's work. Through the production of local seedlings and the distribution through government reforestation programs. CI has also committed to continuing the objectives of the project evidenced by recent submission of an IUCN Biopama project application to develop the PA at Mt Fatumasin even further buy building on the foundations and outputs of the GEF-6 TLSNAP project.

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

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 has since develop outreach materials aimed at international and national audiences and allocated budget specifically to these distinct group of outputs.

Additional topics (please choose two)

These points have been carried over from the previous PIR as they remain relevant.

4. 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. target.

5. 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.

Accountability and grievance mechanism

The accessibility of the grievance mechanism was raised in the MTR and the project responded by arranging for a non-field staff member to regularly visit the field sites to provide a relatively neutral or 3rd person through which community members can express any concerns. Although the project presents information regarding the hotline and actively encourages 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 would present many challenges and would need careful consideration.

SECTION VI: PROJECT GEOCODING

This section of the PIR documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information provided in the Project Document. The following information should be contained in this section:

- a. Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year
- b. Project Map and Coordinates from Project Document

Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year (add additional columns as needed)

Geo Location Information	Location No. 1	Location No. 2	Location No. 3
CLASSIFICATION			
Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate			
whether the site is included at CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more			
columns for projects with more than 3 locations.			
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line			
GEO NAME ID		No Geo Name ID	
Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the	1945334	available	
GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of			
placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org .			
LOCATION NAME	Gunung Legumau	Mt Fatumasin PA	
Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a			
GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise,			
the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.			
LATITUDE	-8.56667	-8.6667	
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic			
coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.			
LONGITUDE	126.78389	125.3667	
Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic			
coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.			
LOCATION DESCRIPTION	WDPA description Mount	WDPA description	
(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an	Legumau PA	Mount Fatumasin PA	
activity is taking place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger			
site".			
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	<i>In-situ</i> establishment of PA	In-situ establishment	
(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place	and community Natural	of PA and community	
at the location, for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".	Resource Management	Natural Resource	
		Management	

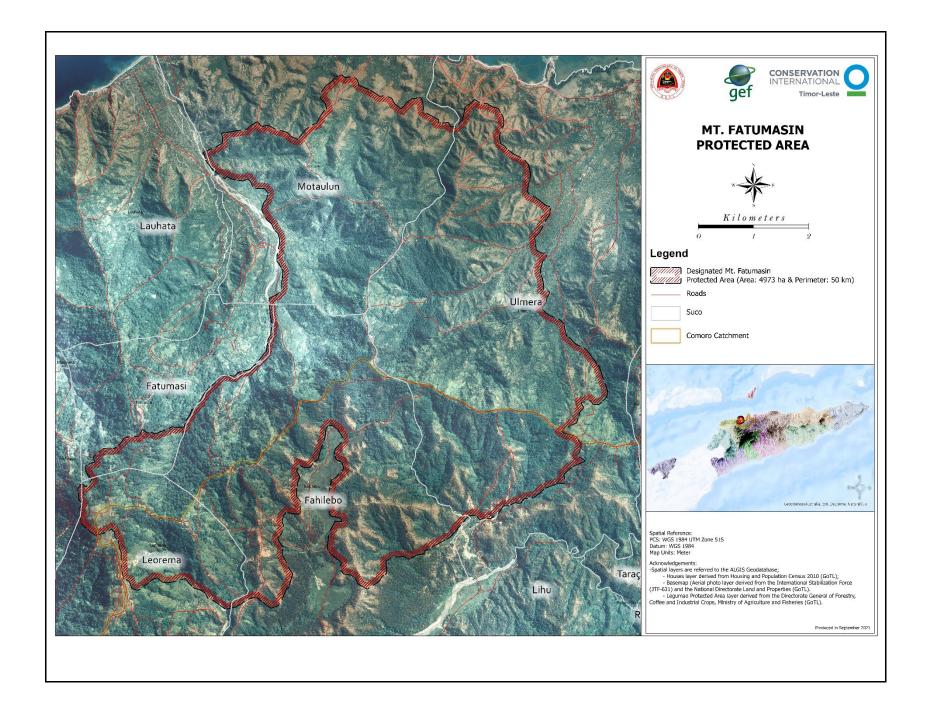
Please provide a justification regarding changes in location during implementation. Justifications should also be provided in the event the geographic location of key project activities cannot be provided at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage.

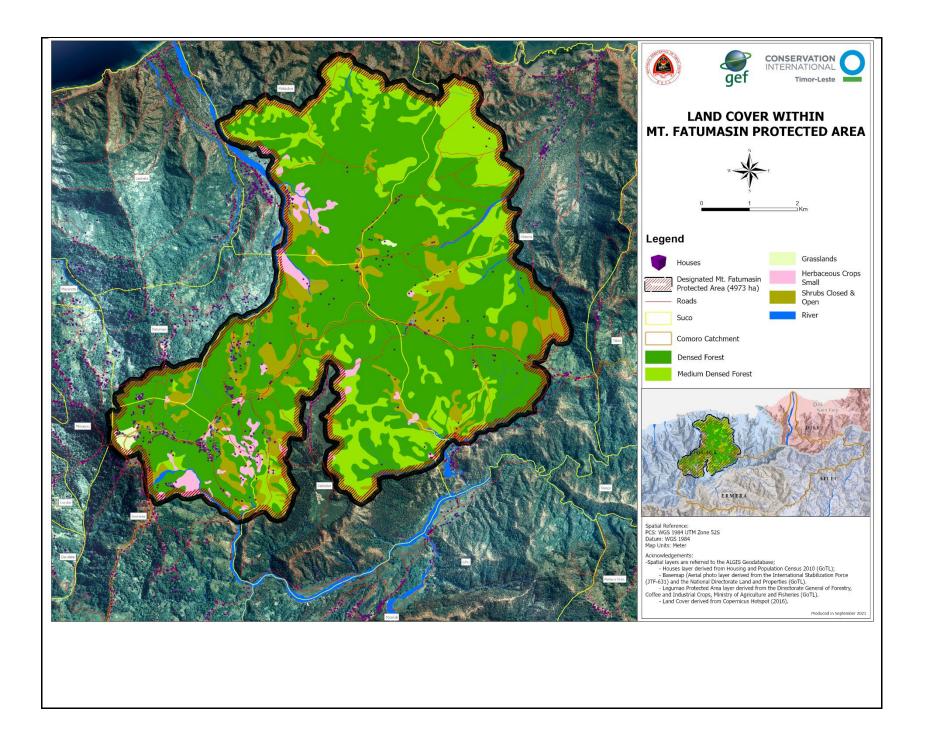
(Geo Name ID: Location Name)		
Justification:		
N/A		

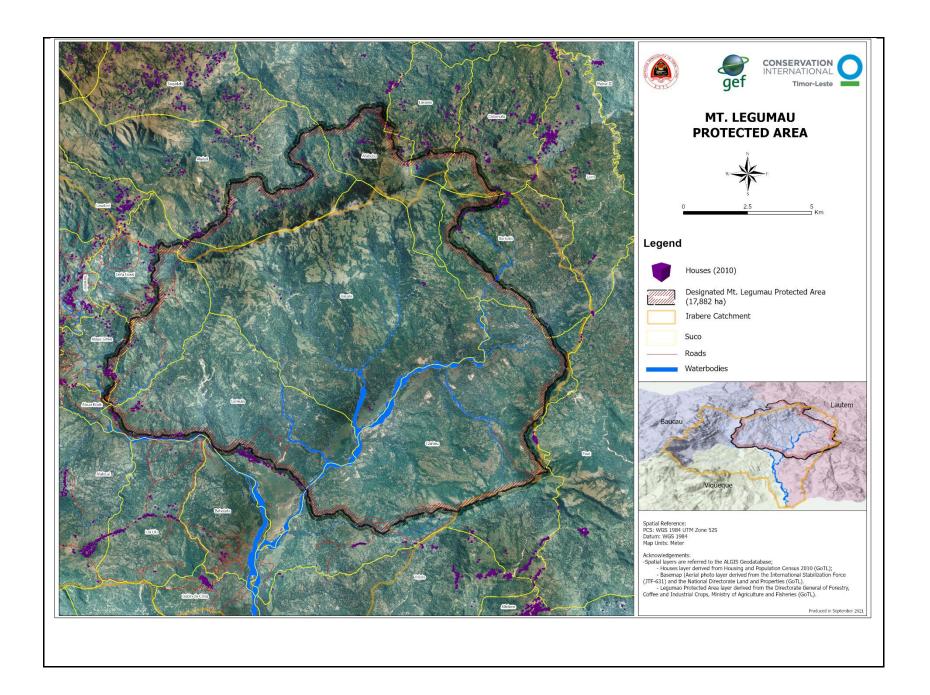
Project Map and Coordinates

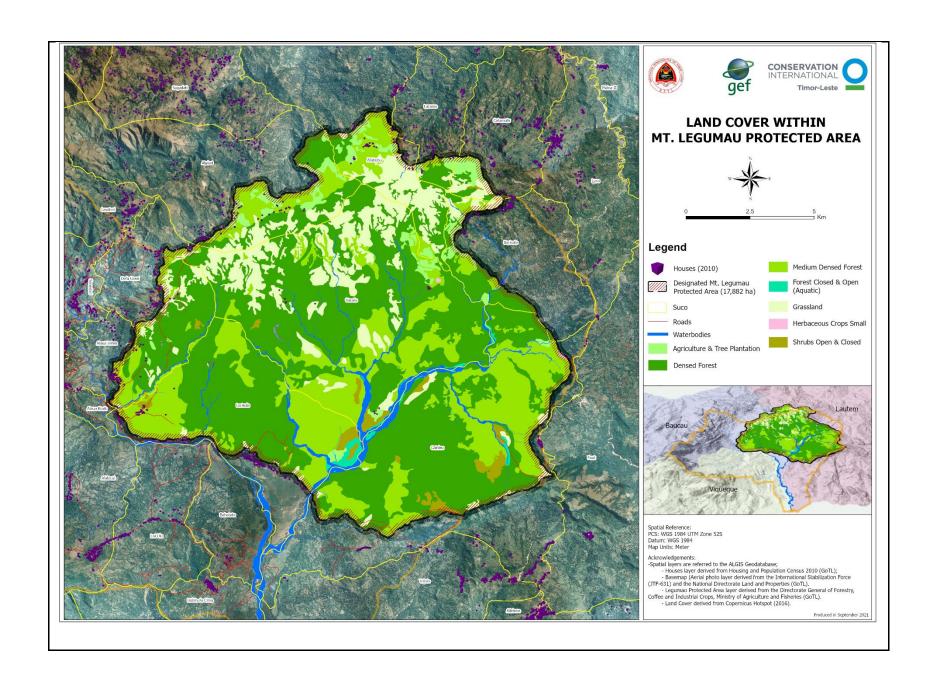
Please provide geo-referenced information and image map where the project interventions took place. If available, please provide attachments as appropriate such as in the case of locations presented along geometric shapes in popular formats like shapefiles, KML and GeoJSON.

appropriate such as in the case of locations presented along geometric shapes in popular formats like shapeliles, Rivic and Geosodic.
(Geo Name ID: Location Name)
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n_Protected_Area.shp _Protected_Area.shp
Мар:
Note each of the PA sites has two maps given below. 1 x PA Boundary and 1 x PA Land Cover for each of the two PAs.
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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%		

- **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,
- 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,
- 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,
- 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,
- **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
- **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)	Н		

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 RATING	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 developed	D	Not yet started other than initial data collection following delays in Component 1 during FY20-FY21. Work on this output will begin once the PA Management and Sustainable Financing Plans are complete. It is expected to be complete by Q3 FY23.			
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 almost complete, all activities are complete and the final project reporting documents are being reviewed.	IS	The sustainable finance assessment is more than 95% complete the final workshop was conducted on 23 June 2023. And the deliverables have been submitted for review.			
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 plans are close to completion, there will be a final review by community groups in Q1 FY23 before the PA Management Plans are complete.			
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	This will be done after final community review of PA Management Plans in FY23.			
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.	CA	All 10 plans were completed in FY21.			
Output Indicator 2.1.2: Suco regulations	10 suco regulations are reviewed and updated if requested by the communities.	4 suco regulations were formalized in FY22	IS	6 regulations are to be updated in FY23.			
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	99 of 100 youths have completed training at a SEPFOPE registered college. 50% of which were female.	CA	This was finalized in 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 ~300,000 fruit trees, conservation trees, and construction trees.
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 all 10 communities.	CA	Water management training began at the end of FY21 and was complete in FY22.
Outcome 3.1 Sustainable fores	t management in priority	catchment corridors substantially	y 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.	Over 8,000 ha of forest has been classified according to HCV classification.	IS	This is now being undertaken by the project's in-house GIS coordinator following training in FY22. It will be complete by the end of Q1 FY23.
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.	CA	All 10 plans have been approved by the suco councils during the completion of the NRM plans in FY22
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.	Rehabilitation plans have been approved by community leaders as part of the NRM approval process.	CA	The NRM plans contain rehabilitation plans and these have bene 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 300,000 trees.
Output Indicator 3.2.3: Rehabilitation and/or reforestation plans implemented	500 ha of degraded land rehabilitated and/or reforested.	By the end of FY22 489 ha of land has been reforested.	CA	This is a conservative calculation of area covered by tree planting and the project has several trees equating to over 20ha still being planted at the time of writing.