



## FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

### 2021– Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

### 1. Basic Project Data

#### General Information

<b>Region:</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>Country (ies):</b>	CUBA
<b>Project Title:</b>	Introduction of new agricultural methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including plant and animal genetic resources, in productive landscapes in selected areas of Cuba (COBIMAS).
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP /CUB/017/GFF
<b>GEF ID:</b>	9435
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), Grupo Empresarial Flora y Fauna (Flora and fauna business group /GEFF), Institute of Fundamental Research on Tropical Agriculture "Alexander Von Humboldt" (INIFAT)
<b>Project Duration:</b>	60 months
<b>Project coordinates:</b> ( <a href="#">Ctrl+Click here</a> )	Ciénaga de Zapata N 22023'57" W 81034'26" Jobo Rosado N 22015'15" W 8179012'38" Tunas de Zaza N 21038'6" W 79033'5" Delta del Cauto 20.5700193, -77.1980398

#### Milestone Dates:

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	October 4th, 2018
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	June 2019
<b>Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	June 2024
<b>Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) <sup>2</sup></b>	N/A
<b>Actual Implementation End Date<sup>3</sup>:</b>	N/A

<sup>1</sup>As per FPMIS

<sup>2</sup>In case of a project extension.

<sup>3</sup> Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

**Funding**

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	2,973,288
<b>Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc<sup>4</sup>:</b>	26,310,000
<b>Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):</b>	499,638
<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021<sup>5</sup></b>	5,373,621

**Review and Evaluation**

<b>Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:</b>	April 2021
<b>Expected Mid-term Review date<sup>6</sup>:</b>	March 2022
<b>Actual Mid-term review date:</b>	N/A
<b>Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)<sup>7</sup>:</b>	Yes
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:</b>	March 2024
<b>Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):</b>	No
<b>Tracking tools/ Core indicators required<sup>8</sup></b>	No

**Ratings**

<b>Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):</b>	S
--	---

<sup>4</sup>This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

<sup>5</sup> Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

<sup>6</sup> The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

<sup>7</sup>Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

<sup>8</sup> Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

<b>Overall implementation progress rating:</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>Overall risk rating:</b>	<b>M</b>

**Status**

<b>Implementation Status</b> <i>(1<sup>st</sup> PIR, 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR
--	---------------------

**Project Contacts**

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Name, Title, Division/Institution</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	Enrique Moret Hernández, Project National Coordinator , FAO Country Office in Cuba (FAOCU)	Enrique. morethernandez@fao.org
<b>Lead Technical Officer</b>	Raixa Elena Llauger Riverón, Agricultural Officer, FAO Subregional Office for Central America (SLM)	raixa.llauger@fao.org
<b>Budget Holder</b>	Marcelo Resende, FAO Representative in Cuba	marcelo.resende@fao.org
<b>GEF Funding Liaison Officer</b>	Valeria González Riggio , Technical Officer, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit (OCB)	valeria.gonzalezriggio@fao.org

## 2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

*(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)*

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) <sup>9</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>10</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
<b>Objective(s): To promote the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in selected areas of Cuba, through the introduction of sustainable agricultural production intensification and the conservation, adaptation and rescue of globally important plant and animal genetic resources.</b>						
<b>Outcome 1: Plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are better known in Cuba.</b>	<b>Indicator 1:</b> Strengthened capacities of research institutes (through hands-on experience)	0		Nineteen (19) national relevant researches institutions enhance its organizational capacities and its technicians and researchers. Around 1500 people will receive special training to held the implementation, systematization and diffusion of experiences, addressed to adopt conservation practices	- 11 (eleven) national entities have improved their institutional capacity through the resources provided by the project: means of transportation, IT equipment, laboratory equipment, written and digital bibliography on Save and Growth and GRFA, and information material.  - Specialized training was provided to 347 technicians and researchers (198 women) from the participating research institutes on recovery and	<b>S</b>

<sup>9</sup> This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

<sup>10</sup> Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

<sup>11</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Marginally Satisfactory (MS)**, **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

				of the genetic resources for agriculture (GRFA) and the Sustainable Crop Production Intensification(SCPI ).	management of the project's GRFA and SCPI.	
	<u>Indicator 2:</u> Conservation and diversity status of target species.	0	Diagnosis and training carried out for management and conservation of species of interest (Initial conditions created for GR conservation)	7 Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) managed and conserved 5 Animal Genetic Resources (AGR) managed and conserved move to a lower threat status	<p>- Management of 4 PGRs improved. Ex situ and in situ conservation actions were carried out: seeds of the endemic <i>Cabezadas</i> melon were catheterized in the laboratory and reproduced; 3900 seedlings of <i>anonaceae</i> were obtained and are ready to be transplanted; a species of the genus <i>Ipomoea</i> (<i>Ipomoea triloba</i> L.) was identified as a melliferous plant with high productive potential, which will be introduced in areas where the melipona bee is being introduced.</p> <p>- Conservation actions were carried out on 5 AGR of the project: specimens were acquired and genetic reserves were established for reproduction of 4 AGR (Cuban hen, Creole goat, Creole pig, Cuban brown rabbit). The melipona bee hives were multiplied in all the implementation areas and their role as a pollinating agent in the production units is being strengthened.</p>	<b>S</b>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approved and validated the operational procedures (technical task and roadmap for the multiplication of individuals) of the creole goat and pig.</li> <li>- First drafts of the operational procedures for the remaining 10 project resources have been prepared and are subject to validation.</li> </ul>	
				-12 Standard Operating Procedures (for each of the genetic resources to be worked with) and evaluation scales.		
<b>Outcome 2: Increased adoption of production systems that integrate biodiversity conservation through the creation of connectivity corridors, bringing together agricultural and natural ecosystems.</b>	Number of hectares of production landscapes that integrate biodiversity (including ABD and CWR) conservation and sustainable use into their management with certification	0	15,000 hectares (10% managed by women) with SCPI at the initial stage	30,000 hectares (20% managed by women) with SCPI approach and certified through PGS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16,373 ha committed to implement the SCPI approach in its initial stage (13% managed by women).</li> <li>- 8,523 ha are already incorporating SCPI approach and the certification process has been initiated (28% of the total foreseen in the Project).</li> </ul>	<b>S</b>
	% of farmers with increased confidence in innovative sustainable practices (higher productivity and sustainable	0	50 % of producers, (of which 20% women) committed to the application of SCPI practices	50% of producers from selected cooperatives (20% of whom are women) with increased confidence in SCPI practices (2715 producers in all).	- 786 new producers from 134 Productive Units committed to SCPI (27% are women). There are 1349 producers committed up to date.	<b>S</b>

	natural resources management are possible).					
	Number of producers who increase their income through a implementation of "Save and Grow" approach (including access to new markets)	0	Conditions created in production systems for implementation of SCPI	800 producers (of whom 20% women) improve their incomes by 30%	- 96 producers in two of the intervention areas (22% women) improved their income by at least 40% (765,170 Cuban pesos -CUP in total) as a result of the introduced conservation actions and SCPI practices.	<b>MS</b>
<b>Outcome 3: Enhanced inter-institutional coordination, closer technical cooperation and regulatory coherence have supported the mainstreaming of agro-biodiversity conservation and use in public policies.</b>	<u>Indicator BD4.9.</u> The degree to which sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations.	Despite the existence of laws on plant and animal genetic resources, their implementation is poor, inter-ministerial institutional frameworks do not secure implementation processes at national and local level and there are no laws on agrobiodiversity.	PGR and AGR regulatory framework survey and study	Decision-making bodies have analytical documents that serve as input to ensure that new plant and animal genetic resource bills incorporate agrobiodiversity conservation principles.  At least two decree laws on the use and conservation of PGRs and AGRs	- Progress in the study of legal gaps (87 documents reviewed to date)  - Two Decree Laws on PGR and AGR are in force and published in the Official Gazette.	<b>HS</b>
<b>Outcome 4: Project implemented, lessons learned and good practices documented and disseminated.</b>	Project results show sustainability		40% of project results achieved	100 % of project results achieved	- About 34% of the project's expected results are completed.  -Gender interventions in the project areas were strengthened. A gender tool (resulting from synergy with an ongoing EU	<b>S</b>

					project) to target and reduce gender gaps in intervention sites identified and applied.	
--	--	--	--	--	---	--

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<p>Outcome 2: Increased adoption of production systems that integrate biodiversity conservation through the creation of connectivity corridors, bringing together agricultural and natural ecosystems.</p>	<p>Results linked to SCPI /Save &amp; Grow were conceived with field training actions involving international consultants which have not been able to materialize due to the pandemic, and therefore results, especially those related to improvements in yields and economic benefits to producers have some delay.</p> <p>An adaptive management strategy is in progress to get the project back on track. According to the worsening of the epidemiological scenario in Cuba this year, Webinars and remote contracting of international consultants are planned for next year, as well as the use of national consultants for the introduction of the new practices in the field.</p>	<p>Project Coordination Unit</p>	<p>Jul 2021-jul 2022</p>



### 3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs (Implementation Progress, IP) (Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as planned in the Annual Work Plan)

Outputs <sup>12</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>13</sup>	Achievements at each PIR <sup>14</sup>					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance <sup>15</sup> or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 <sup>st</sup> PIR	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR	3 <sup>rd</sup> PIR	4 <sup>th</sup> PIR	5 <sup>th</sup> PIR		
Output 1.1.1. Analysis of globally-important plant and animal species living in Cuba, their valuation and ways and means for conservation )	Q4Y5	<p>-Each of the intervention areas were characterized for an initial floristic inventory by which the impacts of the project will be measured. This was carried out in two areas: 1-The productive units located in the buffer zones of , 2- Protected areas.</p> <p>-146 productive units were included in the inventory (25 in Ciénaga de Zapata, 73 in Sancti Spiritus and 48 in Delta de Cauto). Most of them are landowners of the cooperative sector (101 men and 34 women, with a percentage of female</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information exchange among intervention areas and participating research institutions to complete floristic inventories was facilitated. A workshop on "Exchange of activities to update the floristic inventories in the implementation zones" was held.</li> <li>▪ Wild relatives of the target crops of the project have</li> </ul>				45%	<p>The epidemiological situation caused by COVID 19 has not permitted completing all the required field activities as planned.</p> <p>There is poor presence and dispersion of the specimens of Creole Goat and Creole Pig breeds in the project implementation areas. For the establishment of genetic reservoirs</p>

<sup>12</sup>Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

<sup>13</sup>As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

<sup>14</sup> Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

<sup>15</sup>Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

		<p>participation of 25%), the rest are units linked to Flora and Fauna Group and cooperative productive units</p> <p>- In the concerned protected areas the existing families of globally-important plant and animal species /subspecies, were determined.</p> <p>- A field mission was carried out throughout the country to determine the presence of the creole goat. Its presence was confirmed in Granma, Sancti Spíritus, Ciénaga de Zapata and Santiago de Cuba provinces. It was observed that in general there is a high percentage of crossbreeding in the areas visited. However, specimens registered and certified as creole goat breeds were identified and contracts for the acquisition of are signed.</p> <p>-Other species were identified such a: the Cuban Brown Rabbit with a total of 17 males and 75 females (Ciénaga de zapata) to begin their reproduction; 90 beehives of melipona bees, as well as 366 specimens of creole pigs (221 females and 145 males).</p> <p>-In addition, 322 <i>anonaceous</i> plants were initially identified and a road map was established for their multiplication in two propagation sites developed in Flora and Fauna facilities (Jobo Rosado), and 50 stances of each species (anon, chirimoya and guanábana ) have already been transplanted.</p>	<p>been identified in three implementation areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Propagation centers have been strengthened and the production of <i>anonaceae</i> seedlings has been increased. 3900 seedlings ready for transplanting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Anon: 3000</li> <li>✓ Custard apple: 600</li> <li>✓ Soursop: 300</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ A species of the genus <i>Ipomoea</i> (<i>Ipomoea triloba</i> L.) has been identified as a melliferous plant with high productive potential, which will be used in areas where the melipona bee will be promoted.</li> <li>▪ Genetic reserves were established for the reproduction of the four main AGRs targeted by the project in the three areas of implementation. Specimens were acquired in different parts of the country. At the end of June 2021, there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Creole Goat: 419</li> <li>✓ Creole Pig: 20</li> <li>✓ Cubalaya hen: 62</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					<p>and the reproduction of the first specimens it has been necessary to identify and procure sources of genetic material in different regions along the country.</p>
--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--	--

		<p>The Mexican National Center of Genetic Resources (Jalisco, Mexico) was contacted for future analysis, at a molecular level, to determine the authentication of the goat and creole pig breeds.</p>	<p>✓ Creole Brown Rabbit: 120</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Melipona bees have been introduced in all areas where the project is being implemented as a pollinating agent in production units, and there are so far 242 bees hives of melipona inventoried (by the end of June 2021).</li> <li>▪ Working alliances were established in Sancti Spíritus with 3 private producers of melipona bees to exchange experiences with producers associated with the project.</li> </ul>					
Output 1.1.2. A catalogue of globally important plant and animal diversity (focused on wild species).	Q4Y5	-----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A first draft of an indicative baseline catalog has been prepared with the availability of AGGR in the implementation areas, as well as the wild species in PAs.</li> </ul>				15%	
Output 1.1.3. Maps and databases updated	Q4Y5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first PA maps have been prepared, indicating the distribution of resources by productive</li> </ul>				15%	

<p>through geographical information systems (GIS) considering production potential, fragility and importance of targeted ABD species.</p>		<p>-----</p>	<p>units, as well as the database of layers of water resources, soils, vegetation, forests and anthropic intervention (communities and settlements) in the buffer zones.</p>					
<p>Output 1.1.4. Existing plant and animal breeding programs supported for the adaptive trials of advanced lines and production of early generation seeds.</p>	<p>Q4Y5</p>	<p>1 PGR (Melon) is under study. The experimental protocols for seed multiplication and screening tests were designed to evaluate the physiological response of this variety to saline stress.</p> <p>- An agreement was signed with the Poultry Research Institute for the creation of the first genetic reserve for the recovery of the Cubalaya Chicken.</p> <p>- A roadmap was drawn up to establish the genetic reservoirs for the recovery of the creole goat</p> <p>Conditions created for the reproduction of creole pig</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roadmaps and technical guides for the recovery and improvement of the creole goat and creole pig breeds in the genetic reservoirs have been developed.</li> <li>▪ Areas for sowing of pasture species (morera, moringa, among others) have been established to feed the creole goat genetic reserves, as part of the breed recovery plan.</li> <li>▪ Extension points have been established for the production of cubalaya hens in Sancti Spiritus and Delta del Cauto.</li> <li>▪ Ex situ conservation actions and multiplication of melon</li> </ul>				<p>25%</p>	

			<p>seeds (<i>Citrullus lanatus</i>), (collected in November 2019 and April 2020). An exhaustive characterization of the species has been carried out by one of the participating research centers, which will allow for its better conservation and management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A workshop on the establishment of nurseries for forest seedlings was held in Ciénaga de Zapata, where synergy was established with other territorial projects (Zunzun and ECOVALOR), to support the identification of wild relatives of plant species with tolerance to abiotic stress.</li> </ul>					
<p>Output 1.1.5. A knowledge management platform designed for monitoring and analysing factors of agro-</p>	<p>Q4Y5</p>	<p>- A process was carried out aimed at identifying actors in capacity to provide information on sustainable management of plant and animal genetic resources. At the national level the main sources identified are: the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA), the Ministry of Agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge Management Centers (KMCs) are operational in each project implementation zone.</li> <li>▪ A second delivery of technical bibliography</li> </ul>				<p>35%</p>	

<p>biodiversity conservation and use, and alerts for major threats.</p>		<p>(MINAG), the Environment Agency (AMA), the National Group for the Protection of Flora and Fauna, several other research institutes and the universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Project Steering Committee (PSC) has designated MINAG as the leading center that should host the platform where the information will be anchored to facilitate quick and secure public access .</li> <li>- The PSC has also approved the design of the Platform.</li> <li>-Technical and operational capacities are in place at the Ministry of Agriculture for the installation and functioning of the Platform</li> </ul>	<p>was made to strengthen mini-libraries enabled in the KMCS, as well as in the producers' cooperatives benefiting from the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The platform was located at the GEF<sup>16</sup>, providing direct connection between the research entities and the territories.</li> </ul>					
<p>Output 2.1.1. A landscape production strategy agreed by stakeholders, with particular attention to gender and youth, applying the Save and Grow approach.</p>	<p>Q4Y5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An initial diagnosis of the productive units was made (3200 ha). For the establishment of the baseline, 123 farmers were included (74% men and 26% women) and 10 units pertaining to state enterprises and/or private cooperative units. 27% of the farm owners are under 40 years of age and 7% have higher education.</li> <li>- Several agricultural productive units were identified in the buffer zone of the PA Ciénaga de Zapata (1,270 ha), which are in the capacity to implement Save and Grow actions (including the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In progress, the incorporation of the SCPI/Save and Grow approach in 8,523 ha (18% managed by women), distributed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3,200 ha belonging to companies surveyed to be linked to SCPI at the 3 implementation areas.</li> <li>✓ 4,650 ha in buffer zones of PAs in the Zapata Swamp and Sancti Spiritus.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				<p>35 %</p>	

<sup>16</sup>National Flora and Fauna Protection Unit

	<p>production of creole pigs outside limits of the PA). Other areas were also identified in the Flora and Fauna branch of Sancti Spíritus (3,380 ha) with a high potential for the management of <i>anonaceae</i> species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In two of the target areas (Sancti Spíritus and the Cauto Delta), Save &amp; Grow demonstration sites were identified. Sites will be compared and monitored through geo-reference and geographic information systems.</li> <li>- A diagnostic kit was developed to design output indicators, and collect baseline and target data on: soils, crop production and soil limiting factors for Save and Grow actions.</li> <li>-A list of the participating productive units leaders and commitments the project activities has been elaborated. 59% are committed to implementing Save &amp; Grow practices on plant genetic resources, while the remaining 41% are committed to the production and recovery of specific animal genetic resources (threatened breeds), also using Save &amp; Grow procedures. The latter will also take advantage of the potentials of those breeds in terms of tolerance to climate change and abiotic stress.</li> <li>- The initial survey to the productive units has shown that the farmers invited to participate in the project are currently their farm areas as follows: Rice 67.1 ha,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 241 ha in Sancti Spíritus owned by independent producers and cooperatives applied management practices with soil conservation.</li> <li>✓ 332 ha in Delta del Cauto owned by independent producers and cooperatives applied soil conservation management practices, including 123 ha of melon managed with low inputs.</li> <li>✓ 100 ha in Delta del Cauto used for sustainable low-input animal management with native goats, pigs and chickens (including 5 ha of forest planted around the production units and 50 ha for pasture and forage management).</li> <li>▪ Geospatial information on the soils was compiled in the implementation areas.</li> <li>▪ Leading producers were selected for each implementation area.</li> <li>▪ A characterization of the typology of the farms was carried out, covering:</li> </ul>					
--	---	---	--	--	--	--	--

		sweet potato 38.7 ha, corn 70.9 ha, cassava 36.7 ha, peppers 51.4 ha and melon 36.2 ha. In addition, 322 anonaceous plants were declared by the consulted farms.	social and gender factors, management methods and agricultural sustainability.					
Output 2.1.2. Sustainable agricultural intensification practices along the lines of the Save and Grow principles and practices piloted, tested, adapted to the context, and scaled-up including conservation corridors and ecosystem connectivity.	Q4Y5	<p>- A cooperation agreement was signed between the Project Executing Entity (INIFAT) and the Soil Management Directorate of MINAG aimed at monitoring soils in the project intervention sites.</p> <p>- The practices applied in the production units were surveyed. It was possible to estimate that farmers in most cases use more than one type of fertilizer: 26.8% use chemical fertilizers, 8.66% worm humus, 18.9% compost and 22.01% green manure. On the other hand, 67% use harvest residues as an alternative to cover the soil and use it as an alternative of natural fertilization, which at the same time reduce the rate of soil evapotranspiration allowing better water use. Although some Save and Grow management practices are introduced by several producers, they are applied in isolation and without the proper training of the actors involved (farmers and decision-makers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New practices introduced in the production units applying SCPI. Producers incorporated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Natural fertilization</li> <li>✓ Greater use of water (simple drainage, irrigation, watering and rainwater harvesting).</li> <li>✓ Maintenance of permanent soil conservation measures</li> <li>✓ Construction of live and dead barriers</li> <li>✓ Construction of dams in natural collectors, removal of obstacles that limit agricultural production.</li> <li>✓ Application of organic products and deep subsoiling for land preparation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ A breeding site was installed in S. Spiritus for the breeding of sentinel birds (Cubalaya hens) with a capacity of 100 birds. These birds will be located in the public use zone of</li> </ul>			30%	The epidemiological situation caused by COVID 19 has not allowed the completion of all required field activities in a timely manner. Alternatively, virtual trainings have been conducted but there are training actions that must be carried out <i>in situ</i> .	



			<p>the Jobo Rosado Protected Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In Delta del Cauto, sentinel birds were placed in Cayo Carena, Biramas and Leonero as these are vulnerable places due to the large-scale entry of migratory birds.</li> </ul>					
<p>Output 2.1.3. In situ and ex situ conservation actions, in place, including young and women participation.</p>	<p>Q4Y5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The capacities of producers and productive entities for seed conservation have been assessed 63% of surveyed farmers conserve their own seeds from the previous harvest because they consider it to be of the best quality. This includes traditional and local varieties. 20% acquire seeds from a supply company. The last 38% acquire seeds from other producers. Several farmers obtain their seeds through different channels.</li> <li>- An Action Plan was adopted for the establishment of the Creole goat herds.</li> <li>- In the northern zone of Sancti Spíritus intervention area (buffer zone of Jobo Rosado PA), two dissemination sites of anonaceae were built to stimulate the species' reproduction?.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conditions were created for the production of Carnavalea seeds and other leguminous plants to carry out the production of green manure and an adequate crop rotation.</li> <li>▪ A farm was chosen to multiply sunflower seeds (for animal feed), sesame, peanut and cowpea (rotation crops).</li> <li>▪ A bank of sweet potato clones with a relatively shorter cycle and a yield of 40 tons per ha was located and is under study to extend them to the COBIMAS implementation areas.</li> <li>▪ Genetic reservoirs were created for the multiplication and recovery of the genetic resources identified in the</li> </ul>			<p>35%</p>		

			project, with a notable increase in populations during this period.					
Output 2.1.4. Capacity development programme for rural communities, cooperatives and protected areas managers on management, incentives and best practices/technologies, with a gender focus	Q3 Y4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training needs of producers and productive units were identified.</li> <li>- Producers in all implementation areas were surveyed about their interest in acquiring new knowledge. The demand for the application of Save and Grow and agro-ecological food production was of the most interest (considered necessary by 95% of surveyed) . The genetic improvement of the species and the use of artificial insemination was demanded by 55% of the respondents .Soil use, management and conservation with organic fertilizers was also highly-ranked (60% of respondents ) .</li> <li>- Mini-libraries with dedicated bibliography were set up in each project implementation area. They are aimed to facilitate the knowledge-sharing of the Save and Grow approach among farmers and territorial specialists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6 training workshops were held (3 territorial and 3 national) on: "Use of the Soil Conservation and Improvement Program", "Territorial exchange on SCPI", "Establishment of nurseries for forest postures" and on the importance of adopting a gender approach (3 of them were held virtually). 113 people (40 women and 73 men) benefited from the training process. All participants assumed the commitment to multiply the knowledge shared during the teaching-learning spaces.</li> <li>▪ Training seminars were held in the Agricultural Cooperatives, given by the producers who were trained. A total of 367 production actors were trained, 89 of them women. The transfer of knowledge among all the actors is being evaluated as an indicator of the impact of the training</li> </ul>			20%		

			following the "Kirkpatrick" methodology <sup>17</sup>					
Output 2.1.5. Value chains for new products related to agrobiodiversity developed to promote the conservation of agroecosystem in rural production.	Q4Y5	<p>- A baseline survey on how farmers and local businesses enterprises access and place their productions into markets was conducted, which concluded that most farmers use more than one alternative to access markets. 65 % do so through the cooperative facilities, 24% at fairs and 7% sell directly in local markets. There are also 64% who use their production for self-consumption and 57% who use it for animal feed.</p> <p>The strategies for value chain development for goat cheese and Creole pigs ham, <i>anonaceae</i> and melon pulp were drawn up and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) considering possible links with local markets.</p> <p>- The facilities needed for the development of the mini-industries were identified and made available to the project.</p> <p>- The project technical coordinators participated in a workshop on the goat cheese mini-industry (Viñales, Pinar del</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A training and demonstrative center for the production of goat cheese with high quality indexes for commercialization was approved by the National Steering Committee in an agroecological farm. The objective is to train in the production of Creole goat cheese and to strengthen the value and marketing chains for products with designation of origin, certification and traceability.</li> <li>▪ A virtual workshop was held to train on the importance of taking a gender approach to income generation, as a cross-cutting element of the project.</li> </ul>			25%		

1. <sup>17</sup> Kirkpatrick, D. (1979). Techniques for evaluating training programmes. Training and Development Journal, June: 78-92.

		<p>Rio Province), aimed at acquiring knowledge on the production and marketing process of Goat Cheese. With the same purpose two goat cheese producers were visited in Artemisa Province.</p> <p>- A two-day workshop on goat production and a goat cheese mini-industry was held addressed to the project's producers. (Day 1 in a Farm in Viñales, Day 2 in a Farm in Havana)</p>					
<p>Output 3.1.1. A detailed review of the current legal and regulatory frameworks on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture.</p>	Q4Y5	<p>- A participatory working session was held at the Inception Workshop, to survey the knowledge and familiarity of stakeholders with the legal regulatory framework for agrobiodiversity conservation.</p> <p>The agricultural practices in Protected Areas covered under the regulatory PA framework and management plans were identified.</p> <p>- The initial analysis on the legal and regulatory framework in force on agrobiodiversity was concluded. Five laws, 15-Laws- Decree, 11 Decrees, 29 ministerial resolutions, 6 instructions, 3 circulars, 14 national mandatory procedures and two sectorial legally-binding procedures were identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A survey has been prepared and validated ( to be applied to 70% of the project beneficiaries) on the degree of compliance with the laws issued.</li> <li>▪ Two Decree-Laws on PGR and AGR are in force and published in the Official Gazette: Decree-Law No. 387/2019 "On the conservation, genetic improvement and sustainable use of animal genetic resources" and Decree-Law No. 388 "On plant genetic resources for food, agriculture and seeds",</li> <li>▪ A methodology was developed to train producers on the content and scope of the passed Decree-Laws for PGR and PGR.</li> </ul>			70%	
<p>Output 3.1.2. A road-map for legal and</p>		<p>- The analysis of the current regulatory framework has been completed and the first draft report has been prepared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A total of 87 legal documents were reviewed.</li> </ul>			45%	

regulatory coherence within the country (on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture).	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Findings included in a digital library that compiles legislation on agricultural management in PAs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project made a significant contribution to the process of discussion and approval of the Decree-Laws on genetic resources.</li> </ul>					
Output 3.1.3. A manual that illustrates the process of sustainable management of production landscapes to facilitate the scale-up at national level.	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A contract was signed between the Project Executing Entity (INIFAT) and the National Food Hygiene Institute, aimed at assessing the ecosystem health of biological corridors reached by the project.</li> <li>- A cooperation agreement was signed between the Project Executing Entity and the Soil Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, aimed at extending the application of Save and Grow nationally, prioritizing regions with similar ecosystems, so that the project results can be scaled up more efficiently .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information on the conservation status of productive ecosystems in the project areas has been completed.</li> <li>▪ A first draft of the technical manual has been prepared.</li> </ul>				35%	
Output 4.1.1: The project management, monitoring and evaluation system works to provide systematic information on progress made to achieve	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Inception Workshop of the project was held in April 2019</li> <li>- The Inception Report was duly prepared.</li> <li>- A supervision visit by the project team to the implementation areas in the field was duly conducted.</li> <li>- First Project Progress Report (PPR) report was completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The following meetings were held: 2 meetings of the Project Steering Committee, 8 meetings of the Technical Committee and Project Coordinator.</li> <li>▪ 8 meetings of the Technical Committee and Project Coordinator.</li> </ul>				40%	

planned results and objectives			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The PPR report for the third semester was presented.</li> </ul>					
Output 4.1.3: Communication strategy and dissemination of project actions	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A communication strategy was developed and approved.</li> <li>- The project's logo was designed and actions were initiated for its legal registration.</li> <li>- The project was presented in each of the participating institutions and implementation areas. It was also presented at the <i>Tarea Vida</i> Ministerial Meeting September 2019 and at the 12th Convention on Environment and Development, held in Havana (June 2019).</li> <li>- The first newsletter on the project achievements was published in December 2019</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Designed and printed, posters and signage for the knowledge management centers.</li> <li>▪ Two project newsletters were produced.</li> <li>▪ Two master's thesis and one diploma thesis related to genetic resources supported.</li> <li>▪ 48 publications and citations of the project in social networks.</li> </ul>				40%	

#### 4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

**Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):**

Although the critical epidemiological situation in the country, which has caused so far delays in some field activities, it is considered that the project has continued at a satisfactory execution progress rate. Work was carried out on 15 of the 17 Outputs foreseen in its Annual Work Plan, reaching an estimated average progress between 25% and 40% (cumulative) in terms of technical execution, resulting in an execution rate of approximately 34% of the project's total outputs. Financial execution was 85.5% taking into account the Annual Work Plan and the budget disbursed to date (US\$769,562 executed out of US\$900,000 disbursed).

Important progress has been made with the achievement of a considerable number of hectares that are already producing under the SCPI approach and have begun the certification process, together with key actions carried out for the conservation and management of the GRFA targeted by the project (AGRs genetic reservoirs and PGRs propagation centers). In addition, the promulgation of two Decree Laws on GRFA promoted and supported by the project is also relevant.

It is also significant to mention the more comprehensive gender and youth assessment carried out this year with the aim of making the gender gaps in the project's areas/value chains more visible and addressing them more efficiently in the next 3 years.

During the second year, a high level of empowerment of regional and local stakeholders in the different processes carried out by the project has been maintained. Coordination between the national project team and the project coordination team at FAO continues to be excellent, which has allowed the successful implementation of an adaptive management strategy to address the obstacles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?**

The major challenge we are facing continues to be the impact of COVID 19, that has delayed the field activities and missions, as well as face-to-face encounters and meetings , causing a change in the course of the project track, with an impact mainly on the Outputs related to SCPI activities, since these are the ones that involve more *in-situ* training and mobility.

Likewise, the absence of genetic material of AGRs in the project intervention areas, as well as their dispersion throughout the country, have made it very difficult to acquire the genetic material and the number of specimens necessary to establish the genetic reservoirs and enable the reproduction of the first specimens. Nonetheless, a minimum of specimens are already available to fulfill the project goals and it is expected to increase them when epidemiological conditions allow it.



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

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

	<b>FY2021 Development Objective rating<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>FY2021 Implementation Progress rating<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>Comments/reasons<sup>20</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period</b>
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<p>Despite the very difficult epidemiological situation generated by COVID 19, which still persists in the country today, the project is progressing. This is because an adaptive management strategy was successfully implemented, which has allowed continuing with the project's planning without any significant impact. Key to this effort has been the support received from national authorities and the synergies that have been established with other ongoing projects allowing for strategic alliances on key issues, such as training.</p> <p>It is recommended to support the technological capacities of the participating institutions to carry out virtual meetings as part of COVID's recovery and adaptation to the new normality.</p> <p>It is also suggested to evaluate in the next period the relevance of maintaining some budgeted activities that have been postponed by COVID associated with training abroad and travel of international consultants, while funding could support other ongoing priority activities.</p>

<sup>18</sup>**Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** –Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>19</sup>**Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>20</sup>Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

<p><b>Budget Holder</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p>COBIMAS maintains positive execution results in a very complex context at the national level, which has particularly affected mobility to the implementation areas.</p> <p>The project has already contributed to improving the country's perception of genetic resources as a key tool for sustainable and resilient agriculture. This is evidenced by COBIMAS' important contribution to the enactment of two Decree Laws on genetic resources.</p> <p>This project has been recognized by the highest level of the Government, among the initiatives that are supporting the recently approved State Plan for Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Education in Cuba.(Known as Plan SAN)</p>
<p><b>GEF Operational Focal Point</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p>COBIMAS project continues to meet our expectations in terms of expected impacts. Despite the adverse scenario, the project is advancing, while supporting the most urgent priority of our government, which is food production. COBIMAS' contribution to the passing of two important laws on genetic resources is an outstanding result. The synergies that COBIMAS has achieved with other ongoing projects and initiatives in the country are also acknowledged.</p>
<p><b>Lead Technical Officer<sup>21</sup></b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p>During this period, project has significant advances into institutional and legal enabling environment for conservation of genetic resources. Improving capacities of 11 national entities with specialized training and analysis on legal gaps to include mainstream biodiversity in plants and animal genetic resources and enhance inter institutional coordination are relevant actions during this period characterized by pandemic mobility restrictions. Adaptive management to focus into national products, activities, and field products with less intensity due to national and global context was important to have relevant results during this reporting period. It is important to continue finding adaptive measure to work with producers and field actions during this period to achieve project results on time. Some measure such as virtual training for trainers adapted to national context (for example, field activities with less people, use of videos and pen drives to spread the information as well as flyers, and best practices information) should be considered in order to achieve project results.</p>

---

<sup>21</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

<p><b>FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p>Despite the challenging context, the project is on track. The Project Management Unit has been successful in coping with the challenges posed by the pandemic and the national situation. A strengthened adaptive management strategy needs to be developed and implemented in the next fiscal year to address the restrictions affecting the fieldwork (and the reaching out more beneficiaries to achieve the final project targets).</p>
---	-----------------	-----------------	--

## 5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

### Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
<b>ESS 1: Natural Resource Management</b>				
<b>ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats</b>				
<b>ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management</b>				
<b>ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement</b>				
<b>ESS 7: Decent Work</b>				
<b>ESS 8: Gender Equality</b>				
<b>ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage</b>				
<b>New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY</b>				

In case the project did not include an ESM Planat CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Riskclassification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid <sup>22</sup> . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	No. The current risk classification is considered M due to COVID 19 pandemic impacts.

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>
None

## 6.Risks

### Risk ratings

RISK TABLE
<p><i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the <b>Project Document</b> and reflects also <b>any new risks</b> identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The <u>Notes</u> column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, <b>as relevant</b>.</i></p>

---

<sup>22</sup>**Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

	Risk	Risk rating <sup>23</sup>	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions <sup>24</sup>	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	<b>Institutional risk at local and national level:</b> coordination difficulties between participating national institutions, cooperatives, farmers' organizations, local businesses and governments as a result of territorial competences, conflicts of interest, misinformation or changes of officials.	L	<p>The project will establish a permanent mechanism of inter-institutional coordination between participants promoting integration, information exchange and partnership at local and national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- joint drawing up of proposals for sustainable management of agrobiodiversity (local and national)</li> <li>- Operation of multi-stakeholder working spaces to promote communication and partnership.</li> <li>- joint actions for the exchange of experiences and learning (workshops, trips and tours)</li> <li>- strategy of communication and dissemination of project contributions and knowledge gained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical committees for inter-institutional coordination were established</li> <li>- An excellent level of communication is maintained between the national coordination and the regional coordinators.</li> <li>- Interaction between producers in the different areas of intervention has been proactively maintained since the Inception Workshop in April 2019. Joint virtual activities are being conducted.</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Risks due to weather events (which may or may not be as a result of climate change):</b> possibility of occurrence of extreme events such as	M	The recommendations established in the local studies of vulnerability and risk will be followed to face	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No severe weather events have occurred to date.</li> </ul>	

<sup>23</sup>GEF Risk ratings: Low, Medium, Substantial or High

<sup>24</sup>If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social Management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

	<p>droughts and hurricanes that involve significant changes in the project's natural baseline conditions</p>		<p>severe climate events. These studies carried out by experts from the Ministry of Environment and other institutions in each municipality are available in each intervention project area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Infrastructure works for mini-industries, storage and ecology stations will be reinforced in accordance with nationally established guidelines and regulations to face hurricanes and floods.</li> <li>-The Save and Grow approach contains per se several practices which improves the resilience of the agro-ecosystems.</li> <li>- Crop planting activities will be planned observing the behavior of rain patterns and local experience.</li> <li>-special measures for the water storage and its disposal during the dry period will be taken</li> </ul>	<p>-The Ministry of Environment is one of the strategic partners of the project and has been proactively accompanying the project implementation.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p><b>Risks for biodiversity.</b> Possible conflicts between the interests of conservationists and natural resource users.</p>	<p>L</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of agreements and plans between interested parties.</li> <li>- Demonstration of shared benefits and responsibilities. Training and awareness processes with all relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<p>Cooperation agreements have been signed with the main entities in charge of certifying and accompanying the processes related to the GRFA</p>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusion of local experts in each area with capacity to implement a participatory and self-restructuring approach.</li> <li>-Inclusion of community interests in restructuring actions.</li> <li>- Management of agrobiodiversity to promote employment and income sustainably.</li> <li>- Drawing up of lists of permitted species for silvopastoriles systems, excluding those that could behave invasively even when already present in agro-systems and protected areas</li> <li>- Establish strict measures for GRFA in terms of scaling up and conservation.</li> </ul>		
4	<p><b>Social risk:</b> Producers and inhabitants show no interest in agrobiodiversity conservation strategies for fair and sustainable development.</p>	x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of methods of practical and cooperative learning between producers, technicians and officials with new innovative strategies.</li> <li>- Knowledge management platform with participation of all stakeholders.</li> <li>- Strengthening of capacities and infrastructure to reduce obstacles to adoption.</li> <li>- Prioritize women and young people with opportunities for access to</li> </ul>	<p>The support of new sustainable agricultural practices shown by producers is very positive. In the initial surveys conducted, 95% of the producers surveyed reported an interest in introducing SCPI methods</p>	<p>A greater gender analysis was concluded during PY2 and a new gender action plan to better target gender impacts is been developed .</p>



			<p>resources and capacity-building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote strategies to support women and domestic-family activity developed by local stakeholders and the FMC (Cuban Women's Federation) -Promote policy changes to drive sustainable ABD management</li> </ul>		
5	<p><b>New Risk Epidemiological risk:</b> Project activities postponed by quarantine measures established due to the COVID-19</p>	M	<p>1-Implementation of alternatives for face-to-face activities that generate risks of contagion to COVID-19.</p> <p>2- Adjusting of the affected activities in the Work Plan from the with a synergistic approach to avoid affecting those already planned for .</p> <p>3- Identification of measures to support the country's recovery to COVID-19 with a green recovery approach</p>	<p>1- Alternatives of virtual meetings have been implemented most of the Workshops carried out where virtual .</p> <p>2- The field activities of the project are been rescheduled , according to recovery phases conceived by the Cuban government. Planned training activities abroad and those requiring international consultants are still postponed. They, and should be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to the new epidemiological scenario caused by the COVID-.19. No viable alternatives have yet been identified in the short- term.</p> <p>3- The project interventions are included in the contingency plan prepared by the UN Resident Coordinator</p>	

				System in Cuba in support of the post-COVID-19 recovery.	
--	--	--	--	--	--

**Project overall risk rating** (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020rating	FY2021rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	M	New unforeseen epidemiological circumstances are still affecting the implementation of the project during the second semester of 2021 and the first of 2022.

**7. Adjustments to Project Strategy –  
Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)**

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation 4:	

**Adjustments to the project strategy.**

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs	No	
Project Indicators/Targets	No	

**Adjustments to Project Time Frame**

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	Original NTE:                      Revised NTE:  Justification:

## 8.Stakeholders Engagement

*If your project had a stakeholder engagement plan, specify whether any new stakeholders have been identified/engaged:*

No

*If a stakeholder engagement plan was not requested for your project at CEO endorsement stage, please list all stakeholders engaged in the project;*

<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Role in project implementation</b>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture Department of Science and Engineering (MINAG).</b>	Project implementing partner. Co-financier. Member of the Project Steering Committee. Responsible for implementing baseline initiatives and guiding project activities according to sectorial policies at municipal, provincial and national levels. It will act as a link between state organizations involved in the project, carrying out actions for the purpose of meeting the schedule. It will support all project components.
<b>Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA)</b>	Member of the Project Steering Committee. Responsible for implementing baseline initiatives and guiding state environmental policies. Methodological guide for biodiversity conservation.
<b>Ministry of Higher Education (MES)</b>	In charge of Cuban university and postgraduate education. Its structure includes agricultural universities and it also incorporates a group of research institutions and experimental stations. Several of these are of high national and international standing and lend significant support to MINAG's activities.
<b>"Alejandro de Humboldt" Institute of Fundamental Research on Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT)</b>	Leading research centre and technical partner. Member of the Steering Committee. Co-financing party. Responsible for implementing and supervising research and development activities in the three components as well as compiling collected data and enhancing capacity-building activities through the contribution of specialists and researchers. Government-authorized centre responsible for custodianship of plant germplasm.
<b>Research Centre for Tropical Agriculture Animal Improvement (CIMAGT)</b>	Participating research centre and technical partner. Member of the Steering Committee. Co-financing party. Responsible for implementing and supervising research and development tasks in the three components as well as compiling collected data and enhancing capacity-building activities through the contribution of specialists and researchers. Government-authorized centre responsible for custodianship of animal germplasm. Works directly on genetic improvement of goats and rabbits.
<b>National Flora and Fauna Protection Unit (GEFF)</b>	Entity in charge of administering project PAs. In charge of supervising conservation activities (component 1). Member of the Steering Committee. Co-financier. Administers a proportion of production centres in areas of influence (Component 2). Responsible for implementing and supervising research and development activities in the three components as well as compiling collected data and supporting capacity-building activities through the contribution of specialists and researchers.
<b>Grain Research Institute (IIG)</b>	Research activities for developing the management of maize and rice crops to be worked on as part of the project.

<b>Tropical Food Research Institute (INIVIT)</b>	Research activities for developing the management of sweet potato and cassava crops to be worked on as part of the project.
<b>Institute of Research on Tropical Fruit Cultivation</b>	Research activities for developing the management of Anonaceae crops to be worked on as part of the project.
<b>"Liliana Dimitrova" Horticultural Research Institute (IILD).</b>	Research activities for developing the management of the melon ( <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> ) and chilli pepper to be worked on as part of the project.
<b>Bird Research Institute</b>	Research activities for developing hen production (project AGF).
<b>Pig Research Institute</b>	Research activities for developing pig production (project AGF).
<b>Bee Research Centre (CIAPI)</b>	Research activities for developing Melipona bee production (project AGF).
<b>Local government (people's power bodies at community, municipal and provincial level).</b>	In charge of decisions of local scope stemming from the project. Provides spaces for exchange and cooperation between institutional stakeholders. Mediates between possible conflicts of interest between participating stakeholders. Provides certain types of logistical support.
<b>Soil Management Department of the Ministry of Agriculture</b>	Partner for the training in soil related issues and for the monitoring of soil quality in target areas and SCPI impacts.
<b>Food Hygiene Institute, of the Ministry of Food Industry</b>	Partner for assessing the ecosystem health of biological corridors reached by the project
- <b><i>Please indicate if the project works with Civil Society Organizations and/or NGOs</i></b>	
<b>National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) (Municipal, Provincial and National)</b>	<b>NGO. Top non-governmental organization representing the interests of farmers organized into farmers' cooperatives participating in the project. Due to a significant role played in agricultural extension work through its organizations.</b>
<b>Cuban Association of Agricultural and Forestry Engineers (ACTAF) (Municipal, Provincial and National)</b>	NGO. Entity to facilitate capacity-building in the various topics covered by the project (agro ecology, organic certification, extension work, etc.).
<b>Cuban Association for Animal Production</b>	NGO. Entity to facilitate capacity building in topics relating to livestock activity and support native breed expansion actions.

<b>(ACPA) (Municipal, Provincial and National)</b>	<b>Cuban Women's Federation</b>	NGO. To promote a leading role by women in production and marketing activities, linked to project tasks. It will help to ensure that employment sources are distributed fairly between genders.
<p>- <i>Briefly describe stakeholders' engagement events, specifying time, date stakeholders engaged, purpose (information, consultation, participation in decision making, etc.) and outcomes.</i></p>		
<p><b>Inception Workshop:</b> Held in Havana, from April 26 to 28, 2019, with the participation of representatives of all relevant institutions in the country related to agriculture and environmental protection. NGOs and private producers were also present.</p>		
<p>Presentations made and other relevant documents of the Workshop are available at the following links:</p>		
<p><a href="https://unfao.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/faoCU/EgcVks6FpjZCpQOgfUv-pbEBpivMvKDXujOREcUdxJw75g?e=dt1GN">https://unfao.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/faoCU/EgcVks6FpjZCpQOgfUv-pbEBpivMvKDXujOREcUdxJw75g?e=dt1GN</a></p>		
<p><a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RazphJi4TZa2yuRNtP3zi6wHe9pv6cHk?usp=sharing_eip&amp;ts=5d024c3d">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RazphJi4TZa2yuRNtP3zi6wHe9pv6cHk?usp=sharing_eip&amp;ts=5d024c3d</a></p>		
<p>- <i>Please also indicate if the private sector has been involved in your project and provide the nature of the private sector actors, their role in the project and the way they were involved</i></p>		
<p>An important part of the beneficiaries is private producers, which are land owners or cooperatives members.</p>		

## 9. Gender Mainstreaming

<p><b>Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)</b></p>
<p><b>Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.</b></p>
<p>Yes, although the lack of some analyses was acknowledged, and there for a deeper gender and youth analysis was recommended for PY2 to make the eventual gender gaps in the project areas/value chains more visible and tackle them in the next 4 years, as foreseen in the Project Document.</p>
<p>In this regard, an evaluation was carried out this year in the intervention areas based on a methodology designed and validated by an EU-funded project, BASAL (Environmental Basis for Local Food Sustainability) <a href="#">Ficha BASAL (admin.ch)</a> to measure gender gaps and suggest actions/recommendations to reduce the gaps for achieving gender equity in Cuba's agricultural sector. The team in charge of coordinating the Ministry of Agriculture's</p>

Gender Strategy supported this effort. As part of this process, a virtual workshop was held to explain the methodology to the coordinators in the different areas. A report on the results of this process is being prepared.

A baseline survey was carried out and it was identified that around 25% of the actors involved in the production chain are women.

The following actions were preliminarily recommended:

- Greater involvement of women and men in the awareness and dissemination of this issue.
- Involve all stakeholders in the transformation processes they are experiencing; confront social imaginaries and discriminatory behaviour based on skin colour, age, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, territorial origin, among others;
- Raise awareness of the importance of considering that that diversity affects the ways of being, acting and interrelating of men and women; as well as having, knowing and using tools that help to move more effectively toward equality and that these efforts are oriented toward greater protection of the environment and food production.
- Increase actions for social recognition of rural women and those linked to the sector, promoting their leadership and participation through the intentional identification of women as staff positions in state entities, along with their academic and professional preparation.
- Encourage the use of inclusive language by managers.
- Widely disseminate information on gender equity in the sector and encourage an increase in the number of men attending gender activities and workshops which are promoted.
- Encourage strategic alliances between the project and other ongoing projects or initiatives in the agricultural sector aimed at promoting the empowerment of women in rural communities.

**Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender results and impacts?**

The project will review the impact of the results achieved in reaching gender equity through six fundamental tools:

1. Gender Committee: a mechanism to promote and dynamize the gender equity strategy. It will be established at the project's national and technical office.
2. Gender diagnosis: the starting point for advancing towards equality. Conducted on the basis of making the best use of the potential of having women who own more than 25% of the productive units.
3. Gender Action Plan: a route to achieve the results of the Strategy. Ensuring that all reports include information on the role played by women.
4. Budget allocation for gender equality: connections with the Action Plan. Among the proposed workshops, the project will support actions to provide spaces for women and enable them to join the paid workforce that will be promoted by the project based on the results achieved (mini-industries, marketing chains, increased profits from brands with designation of origin, etc.).
5. Strategic alliances aimed at advancing in gender equality commitments: collective leadership of key stakeholders in the Agricultural System. This is something that is widely promoted and is the basis for driving the strategy forward. More than 40% of the managers, specialists and researchers participating directly and indirectly in the project are women.
6. Institutional projects for the promotion of gender equality: guidelines for their formulation and follow-up in line with production and service programs. New projects that support COBIMAS as co-financing are directed by women researchers.

**Does the project staff have gender expertise?**



Yes, as of PY2 the project has a gender specialist appointed by MINAG who will be accompanying the project and coordinating the training plan on gender issues. FAOCU Gender Focal Point has been accompanying these processes since the beginning of the project.

Similarly, at the territorial level, there are experts who supervise gender activities in the localities.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources. X  
*(-Raise awareness of the importance of considering that that diversity affects the ways of being, acting and interrelating of men and women; as well as having, knowing and using tools that help to move more effectively toward equality and that these efforts are oriented toward greater protection of the environment and food production)*

- improving women's participation and decision making; and or X  
*(-Increase actions for social recognition of rural women and those linked to the sector, promoting their leadership and participation through the intentional identification of women as staff positions in state entities, along with their academic and professional preparation.)*

- generating socio-economic benefits or services for women X  
*(-Budget allocation for gender equality: connections with the Action Plan. Among the proposed workshops, the project will support actions to provide spaces for women and enable them to join the paid workforce that will be promoted by the project based on the results achieved (mini-industries, marketing chains, increased profits from brands with designation of origin, etc.).*

## 10. Knowledge Management Activities

- ***Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.***

The project gathered during the first year information on the agricultural practices used by farmers and productions units and its results in the target areas before the project intervention and it is being compared and documented during the second year to estimate the impact of the new SCPI practices introduced. It has been also documented the positive impact that simple SCPI measures, like natural fertilization, construction of live and dead barriers or deep subsoiling for land preparation among others have on the productivity and quality of productions. Based on those findings specific technical guidelines and operational procedures for SCPI practices are been developed for each intervention area.

With regard to AGR during the second year progress it's been reach on the development of a catalogue documented with infographics and data and list plant species and animal breeds of global importance and their wild relatives in each area of intervention, characterizing their importance for the ecosystem and their traditional uses by local inhabitants. The interaction with local producers and residents has been continued this year in order to gather local information and knowledge on species and/or varieties and breeds with genes potentially tolerant to abiotic stress conditions based on the traditional practical knowledge of producers. Field expeditions to confirm the information gathered are designed and planned and are pending on the epidemiological situation to be carried out.

- ***Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.***

The Project Communication Strategy was launched at the Inception Workshop and approved in the first Project Steering Committee.

According to the strategy the main activities carried out during the current period were:

- Designed and printed posters and signage for the knowledge management centres.
- Two project newsletters produced.
- 48 publications and quotations of the project in social networks.

- ***Please share a human interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected global environmental benefits. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.***

Due to the current epidemiological situation in the country caused by COVID 19 pandemic, still was not possible to provide a human story as per requested. However, positive experiences are already identified and will be provided in future reports. One of them is revealed in the current press article <https://cuba.un.org/es/95727-con-los-pies-en-la-tierra-heroes-y-heroinas-de-la-soberania-alimentaria>

- ***Please provide links to publications, leaflets, video materials, related website, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>News</b>	<b>Link</b>
14 de abril	Cubasi	<a href="#">Presentarán proyecto de cooperación Cuba y agencias de ONU</a>	<a href="http://cubasi.cu/cubasi-noticias-cuba-mundo-ultima-hora/item/91747-presentaran-proyecto-de-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-onu">http://cubasi.cu/cubasi-noticias-cuba-mundo-ultima-hora/item/91747-presentaran-proyecto-de-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-onu</a>
14 de abril	Agencia Cubana de Noticias	<a href="#">Presentarán proyecto de cooperación Cuba y agencias de ONU</a>	<a href="http://www.acn.cu/cuba/43852-presentaran-proyecto-de-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-onu">http://www.acn.cu/cuba/43852-presentaran-proyecto-de-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-onu</a>
15 de abril	Radio Habana Cuba	<a href="#">Presentarán Cuba y agencias de la ONU proyectos de cooperación en la agricultura</a>	<a href="http://www.radiohc.cu/noticias/economia/188410-presentaran-cuba-y-agencias-de-la-onu-proyectos-de-cooperacion-en-la-agricultura">http://www.radiohc.cu/noticias/economia/188410-presentaran-cuba-y-agencias-de-la-onu-proyectos-de-cooperacion-en-la-agricultura</a>
15 de abril	Radio Surco	<a href="#">Presentarán proyecto de cooperación Cuba y agencias de ONU</a>	<a href="http://www.radiosurco.icrt.cu/presentaran-proyecto-cooperacion-cuba-agencias-onu/21449/">http://www.radiosurco.icrt.cu/presentaran-proyecto-cooperacion-cuba-agencias-onu/21449/</a>
15 de abril	Radio Reloj	<a href="#">Impulsan cooperación Cuba y Agencias de la ONU</a>	<a href="http://www.radioreloj.cu/es/destacadas/impulsan-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-la-onu/">http://www.radioreloj.cu/es/destacadas/impulsan-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-la-onu/</a>
15 de abril	Radio Sandino	<a href="#">Impulsan cooperación Cuba y Agencias de la ONU</a>	<a href="http://www.radiosandino.icrt.cu/noticias/cooperacion-bilateral-cuba-onu/">http://www.radiosandino.icrt.cu/noticias/cooperacion-bilateral-cuba-onu/</a>
15 de abril	Prensa Latina	<a href="#">Comienza en Cuba un taller de cooperación bajo el auspicio de la FAO</a>	<a href="https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&amp;id=269765&amp;SEO=comienza-en-cuba-un-taller-de-cooperacion-bajo-el-auspicio-de-la-fao">https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&amp;id=269765&amp;SEO=comienza-en-cuba-un-taller-de-cooperacion-bajo-el-auspicio-de-la-fao</a>
15 de abril	Agencia Cubana de Noticias	<a href="#">Cuba sobresale por su seguridad alimentaria, sostiene la FAO</a>	<a href="http://www.acn.cu/cuba/43900-cuba-sobresale-por-su-seguridad-alimentaria-sostiene-la-fao">http://www.acn.cu/cuba/43900-cuba-sobresale-por-su-seguridad-alimentaria-sostiene-la-fao</a>
15 de abril	Prensa Latina	<a href="#">FAO reconoce labor de Cuba por la seguridad alimentaria (+Fotos)</a>	<a href="https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&amp;id=269941&amp;SEO=fao-reconoce-labor-de-cuba-por-la-seguridad-alimentaria-fotos">https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&amp;id=269941&amp;SEO=fao-reconoce-labor-de-cuba-por-la-seguridad-alimentaria-fotos</a>
15 de abril	Juventud Rebelde	<a href="#">Inauguran proyecto para la conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad en Cuba</a>	<a href="http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/cuba/2019-04-15/inauguran-proyecto-para-la-conservacion-y-uso-sostenible-de-la-biodiversidad-en-cuba">http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/cuba/2019-04-15/inauguran-proyecto-para-la-conservacion-y-uso-sostenible-de-la-biodiversidad-en-cuba</a>
15 de abril	Radio Reloj	<a href="#">Inauguran proyecto para mayor seguridad alimentaria y preservación del medio ambiente</a>	<a href="http://www.radioreloj.cu/es/destacadas/inauguran-proyecto-para-mayor-seguridad-alimentaria-y-preservacion-del-medio-ambiente/">http://www.radioreloj.cu/es/destacadas/inauguran-proyecto-para-mayor-seguridad-alimentaria-y-preservacion-del-medio-ambiente/</a>
15 de abril	Granma	<a href="#">Proyecto para la sostenibilidad alimentaria</a>	<a href="http://www.granma.cu/cuba/2019-04-15/proyecto-para-la-sostenibilidad-alimentaria-15-04-2019-20-04-00">http://www.granma.cu/cuba/2019-04-15/proyecto-para-la-sostenibilidad-alimentaria-15-04-2019-20-04-00</a>
15 de abril	Radio Habana Cuba	<a href="#">Establecen en Cuba proyecto de agricultura sostenible</a>	<a href="http://www.radiohc.cu/noticias/ciencias/188469-establecen-en-cuba-proyecto-de-agricultura-sostenible">http://www.radiohc.cu/noticias/ciencias/188469-establecen-en-cuba-proyecto-de-agricultura-sostenible</a>
15 de abril	Radio Rebelde	<a href="#">Presentan proyecto de cooperación entre Cuba y agencias de ONU</a>	<a href="http://www.radiorebelde.cu/boletin/presentan-proyecto-cooperacion-entre-cuba-agencias-onu-20190415/">http://www.radiorebelde.cu/boletin/presentan-proyecto-cooperacion-entre-cuba-agencias-onu-20190415/</a>

15 de abril	Noticiero del Mediodía de la Televisión	<a href="#">Comenzó proyecto COBIMAS de la FAO, el GEF y el MINAG</a>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/CanalCaribeCuba/videos/419350982131623/">https://www.facebook.com/CanalCaribeCuba/videos/419350982131623/</a> (minute 37 )
15 de abril	Noticiero Estelar de la Televisión Cubana	<a href="#">Comenzó proyecto COBIMAS de la FAO, el GEF y el MINAG</a>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/CanalCaribeCuba/videos/2161963300560530/">https://www.facebook.com/CanalCaribeCuba/videos/2161963300560530/</a> (minute: 17: 50)
16 de abril	Radio Cadena Agramonte	<a href="#">Proyecto de cooperación con ONU introducirá en Cuba métodos agrícolas para conservación de la biodiversidad</a>	<a href="http://www.cadenagramonte.cu/articulos/ver/86906:proyecto-de-cooperacion-con-onu-introducira-en-cuba-metodos-agricolas-para-conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad">http://www.cadenagramonte.cu/articulos/ver/86906:proyecto-de-cooperacion-con-onu-introducira-en-cuba-metodos-agricolas-para-conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad</a>
16 de abril	Radio Cadena Agramonte	<a href="#">Reconoce FAO acciones de Cuba a favor de la seguridad alimentaria</a>	<a href="http://www.cadenagramonte.cu/articulos/ver/86925:reconoce-fao-acciones-de-cuba-a-favor-de-la-seguridad-alimentaria">http://www.cadenagramonte.cu/articulos/ver/86925:reconoce-fao-acciones-de-cuba-a-favor-de-la-seguridad-alimentaria</a>
16 de abril	Bohemia	<a href="#">Reconoce FAO esfuerzo cubano por seguridad alimentaria y biodiversidad</a>	<a href="http://bohemia.cu/mundo/2019/04/reconoce-fao-esfuerzo-cubano-por-seguridad-alimentaria-y-biodiversidad/">http://bohemia.cu/mundo/2019/04/reconoce-fao-esfuerzo-cubano-por-seguridad-alimentaria-y-biodiversidad/</a>
1 de junio	Juventud Rebelde	Cobimas: garantía para el futuro	<a href="http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/suplementos/en-red/2019-06-01/cobimas-garantia-para-el-futuro">http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/suplementos/en-red/2019-06-01/cobimas-garantia-para-el-futuro</a>

- *Does the project have a communication and/or knowledge management focal point? If yes, please provide their names and email addresses*

M. Sc. Maria del Carmen Ramón  
Comunicaciones FAO CUBA  
[maria.ramon@fao.org](mailto:maria.ramon@fao.org)

## 11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

**Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.**

**If applies, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities**

N/A

**Do indigenous peoples have an active participation in the project activities? How?**

N/A

## 12. Innovative Approaches

**Please provide a brief description of an innovative<sup>25</sup> approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.**

Technological: Rescue of some species of *anonaceae*, in protected areas and productive sectors  
 In Cuba, *anonaceae* are considered fruit species with not extensive presence. The Soursop (*Annona muricata L.*), Chirimoya (*Annona reticulata L.*) and Anón (*Annona squamosa L.*) are most appreciated varieties, but its crop management it is not extensively known by producers. Its sowing has been limited to courtyards and plots due to the low production of fruits per plant, associated pest and difficulties with post-harvest fruit management. There is not official data about these fruit trees genus and species production due to its current and limited management. The COBIMAS project is helping to rescue and diversify species within areas, and to facilitate the exchange of genetic material between producers in all areas of project implementation, encouraging genus diversification production within country regions and improving genetic reservoir in Cuba and the Caribbean region. Some of these *anonaceae* species are endemic and genus valuable for biodiversity of the Caribbean region, such as *Annona bullata L. case*.

Technological: / Save & Grow approach adjustment to the resources and implementation area of the project.  
 The Save & Grow approach ( <http://www.fao.org/ag/save-and-grow/> ) is being applied in an innovative way in COBIMAS project. The mosaic of soils that the Cuban archipelago represents due to its wide variability are key elements for that. Carrying out tests of varieties in buffer zones, protected areas and landscapes productions are relevant to encourage conservation and combination of genetic resources from both site types. It is also new the implementation of the Save and Grow approach to animal genetic resources relevant for food production, which are creole breeds under certain levels of threat. A guide for the management of these breeds, under a “low supply system”, is a very useful tool for breeding and reproduction. This is also one of the project objectives.

---

<sup>25</sup>Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

### 13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

- **Are the outcomes/outputs still achievable within the project period?**

In principle, they are. The Project Coordination Team considers that if there is a better epidemiological scenario, as expected by the end of 2021 when the national vaccination schedule is accomplished, pending field activities could be completed during the first months of 2022 and it is expected to reach a recovery in the project implementation track.

- **Will the timing of the project MTR or TE be affected/delayed?**

Yes. According to the current scenario, the project has delays in the implementation of field and face to face activities, which is obviously affecting the time planned for some outputs in the MTR. An adaptive management strategy has been implemented that has allowed progress in some of the activities and, as mentioned, a strategy has been conceived to recover time lost when the epidemiological situation improves. A better picture of the real situation could be evaluated by the presentation of the next PPR. As mentioned it will be depending on the epidemiological scenario by the end of 2021

- **What is the impact of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc?**

Important field activities related to training have not been completed. Specifically, those activities implying mobility of personnel from Havana to the implementation areas. In addition, activities that implied bringing international consultants or training producers abroad had to be postponed. Many of the scheduled workshops had to be postponed due to restrictions on movement between provinces and some have been carried out by videoconferencing. Another activity that had to be postponed was the expeditions for the floristic inventories. The main impact being can be resumed in the lack of personnel mobility to and from the areas and limitation in training activities. The pandemic has also had an impact on the purchase of some resources.

- **Are there good practices and lessons learned to be shared?**

Yes. The well-articulated design of virtual training activities, as long as the thematic of the training and the technical conditions/capacities of the site allow it, can be an effective solution to achieve the expected impacts, reducing the costs of the activity, and above all reducing the carbon footprint of the project interventions in terms of reduction of travel, energy and other associated indicators.

### 14.Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing <sup>26</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National government	Ministry of Agriculture	Cash	3,600,000	2,141,802.59		3,600,000
National government	Ministry of Agriculture	In kind	5,000,000	209,520.00		5,000,000
National government	Grupo Empresarial Flora y Fauna [Flora and fauna business group]	Cash	4,000,000	2,431,568.50		4,000,000
National government	Grupo Empresarial Flora y Fauna [Flora and fauna business group]	In kind	5,610,000	590,730.00		5,610,000

<sup>26</sup> Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

National government	National Forestry Department/ Agroforestry Development Fund (FONADEF)	Cash	6,000,000	0.00		6,000,000
National government	National Forestry Department FONADEF	In kind	2,000,000	0.00		2,000,000
Agencia GEF	FAO	Cash	250,000	0.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>26,460,000</b>	<b>5,373,621.09</b>		<b>26 560 000</b>

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

Co-financing commitments are maintained as agreed in the Prodoc. However, there have been delays in the disbursement of co-financing, essentially due to the monetary reorganization (change of currency) that has occurred in the country, especially with respect to the contribution of FONADEF (Agroforestry Development Fund), since during the year 2020 and part of 2021 the transactions of this type of financial mechanism were detained.

On the other hand, the epidemiological situation caused by the pandemic has not allowed confirming in the field some of the in kind co-financing that were reported from the areas.

It is expected that during the course of this year the co-financing can be disbursed as planned and the arrears can be recovered.



## Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

**Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

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

