



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023– Revised Template

Period covered:1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean
Country (ies):	Cuba
Project Title:	<i>Introduction of new farming methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including plant and animal genetic resources, in production landscapes in selected areas of Cuba (Spanish: "Introducción de nuevos métodos agrícolas para la conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad, incluyendo recursos fito y zoo genéticos, en paisajes productivos en áreas seleccionadas de Cuba" (COBIMAS))</i>
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP /CUB/017/GFF
GEF ID:	9435
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
Project Executing Partners:	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)
Initial project duration (years):	5 years
Project coordinates: <i>This section should be completed ONLY by: a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.</i>	

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	03 October, 2018
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	05 June 2019
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	05 September 2024
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	2,973,288
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	26,460,000

¹As per FPMIS

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

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

Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	1,229,206
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	825,209
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	31,288,301.49 CUP

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee(PSC) Meeting:	30 March 2022
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	May 2023
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	July 2023
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date⁷:	March 2024 (Requesting extension for 18 months)
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	<i>[It is mandatory for projects to update the TT or CI before Mid-Term or Terminal Evaluation stage. For projects that have a planned MTR or TE in the next fiscal year, please indicate YES here and provide the updated TT or CI as Annex.]</i>

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	<i>Moderately Satisfactory</i>
Overall implementation progress rating:	<i>Satisfactory</i>
Overall risk rating:	<i>Medium</i>

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Moderate
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Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	4th PIR
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⁴The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

⁶The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

Project Contacts

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2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

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

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹¹
	Outcome 1.1. Plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are better known in Cuba.	Indicator 1: Strengthened capacities of research institutes (through hands-on experience)	0		-Nineteen (19) national relevant research institutions ¹² enhance its organizational capacities and its technicians and researchers around 1500 will receive special training to hold the implementation, systematization and diffusion of experiences, addressed to adopt conservation practices of the GRFA and the SCPI ¹³ (Sustainable Crop Production Intensification).	Two new institutions (Soil and Agroforestry Institutes) were supported through training activities. Specialised training was provided on saline soil management and FAO tools supported by satellite imagery. To date, 15 national institutions have improved their technical capacity. Training activities have continued. A total of 342 new technicians (175 women) have been trained. To date, 959 technicians (447 women) have received specialised training.	MS

⁸This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹Some 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.

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

¹¹Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU). Refer to Annex 1.

¹²**Spanish acronyms of the national relevant Research Institution and Universities that will enhance its capacities through the project implementation:** IES(biodiversity and wild species), INIVIT(eatable roots), INIFAT(exsitu conservation bank PGRFA, soil and basic agriculture researches), CIMAGT(livestock, *ex situ* conservation ZGRFA), IIP(pigs), IIA(poultry), IIG(grains), IILD(vegetables), CIAPI(bees), CENSA (**National Center for animal health**), IIFT (Institute of research in tropical fruit growing), IAGRIC (Agricultural Engineering Institute), INCA(grains), ICA(animal feeding and health), IIPF(animal feeding), EEPF "IndioHatuey" (animal feeding), Matanzas University, Sancti Spiritus University, and Granma University.

¹³ The Sustainable Crop Production Intensification (SCPI) is an approach developed by FAO, usually known as "Save and Grow".

		<p><u>Indicator 2:</u> Conservation and diversity status of target species.</p>	0	<p>Diagnosis and training carried out for management and conservation of species of interest (Initial conditions created for GR conservation)</p>	<p>7 PGR managed and conserved 5 AGR managed and conserved move to a lower threat status</p>	<p>Progress has been made in the diagnosis of the intervention areas. Three field expeditions were carried out, allowing the location and geo referencing of wild relatives, the collection of genetic material (seeds and determination of the flow of varieties in each area), and the gathering of information allowing the first draft of a floristic inventory of wild relatives to be drawn up.</p> <p>AGR: genetic resources improve their conservation status. The number of specimens in genetic reserves has increased compared to the previous cycle.</p> <p>New breeders of Cuban brown rabbits, Cubalayan hen and Melipona beehives have been acquired. Rabbits and pigs have been inseminated, resulting in multiple births.</p> <p>PGR: The number of Annonae species in the propagation centers increased and new seedlings were transplanted. During the period, work was carried</p>	S
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						out on the rescue and introduction of traditional cassava and ipomeas varieties.	
						-12 Standard Operating Procedures (for each of the genetic resources to be worked with) and evaluation scales.	S
						The draft proposals for the 12 operational procedures were updated with the information obtained from the expeditions and the results of in situ conservation. Validation by the competent institutions is still pending.	S
	Outcome 2.1 Increased adoption of production systems that integrate biodiversity conservation through the creation of connectivity corridors, bringing together agricultural and natural ecosystems.	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.	The number of hectares certified increased. During the reporting period, 6,881 new hectares were certified for soil-conserving agricultural practices under the SCPI approach. Of the 16,373 hectares committed to SCPI, 10,972.43 have been certified to date (13% managed by women).	MS
		% of farmers with increased confidence in innovative sustainable practices (higher productivity and sustainable	0	50 % of producers, (of which 20% men) 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).	Three new farms and 55 new producers join SCPI. To date, there are 1907 producers committed to SCPI. This year, the project has benefited producers not directly linked to the project with training and points of sale for the commercialization of	

		natural resources management are possible).				products resulting from SCPI practices, so it is expected that the number of commitments will increase for the next period.	
		Number of producers who increase their income through a implementation of “Save and Grow” approach (including access to new markets)		Conditions created in production systems for implementation of SCPI	800 producers (of whom 20% women) improve their incomes by 30%.	To date, more than 900 producers from the companies and individual farmers continue to improve their incomes (30% women). They have received a total of 15,140,630.47 CUP in payments for environmental services (about 630,859 US\$ at the official exchange rate). This figure represents an increase of about 20% in the average income of the producers.	MS
	Outcome 3.1. Enhanced inter-institutional coordination, closer technical cooperation and regulatory coherence have supported the mainstreaming of agro-biodiversity conservation and use in public policies.	<u>Indicator BD4.9.</u> The degree to which sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity	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	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	A report was prepared with the results of the diagnostic conducted in the implementation areas to assess the level of knowledge of the stakeholders on the legal and regulatory framework related to the project. Work was carried out on new activities related to the conservation of genetic resources within the framework of the new Food Security Law, which was adopted in May 2022, and	S

			on agrobiodiversity			its complementary legislation.	
	Outcome 4.1: Project implemented, lessons learned and good practices documented and disseminated	Project results show sustainability		40% of project results achieved	100 % of project results achieved	- About 60 % of the project's expected results are completed. An adaptive management strategy to face COVID was implemented which allowed to advance in some outcomes , but it could not prevent a deviation from the implementation logic foreseen in the project document , especially the qualitative completion of the expected results. Progress has been made in capacity building, soil certification hectares and increasing the genetic pools of the targeted species.	MS

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

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<u>Outcome 1.1.</u> Plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are better known in Cuba.	Conduct new expeditions to complete the information gathered.	FAO, MINAG, PMU	Q2Y5
<u>Indicator 1:</u> Strengthened capacities of research institutes (through hands-on experience	Plan new specialized training activities: -Sustainable management (ISPA), based on the new machinery acquired. -Goat and pork processing and the value chains of their products.	FAO, MINAG, PMU (Misiones a Chile, España y Argentina)	Q1Y5 Q2Y5
<u>Outcome 1.1.</u> Plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are better known in Cuba. <u>Indicator 2:</u> Conservation and diversity status of target species.	Validation of the 12 planned operational procedures. Prepare maps showing the location of collections, production units and wild relatives.	FAO, MINAG, PMU	Q3Y5
<u>Indicator:</u> Number of hectares of production landscapes that integrate biodiversity (including ABD and CWR) conservation and sustainable use into their management with certification	Continue the certification of areas through sustainable land management.	MINAG	Q3Y5
<u>Outcome 2.1</u> Increased adoption of production systems that integrate biodiversity conservation through the creation of connectivity corridors, bringing together agricultural and natural ecosystems. <u>Indicator:</u> Number of producers who increase their income through the implementation of “Save and Grow” approach (including access to new markets)	Coordinate a training plan for the operation of SCPI machinery	FAO, MINAG	Q1Y5

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs ¹⁴	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹⁵ (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁶ in delivering outputs
<p>Outcome 1.1. Plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are better known in Cuba.</p>	<p><u>Indicator 1:</u> Strengthened capacities of research institutes (through hands-on experience)</p>		<p>-Training was provided on various topics: Methodological bases for the creation of value chains; markets and local products; diagnosis of seed flows and seed exchange among producers; insemination methodology for the Cuban Brown Rabbit; gender ; agroecological policies; soil salinity; use of the insemination kit, management and conservation of wild relatives and on the legal and regulatory framework related to the protected area system.</p> <p>- A collaboration was established with the Dutch organization Salt Doctors, specialized in the diagnosis, recovery and management of saline soils, which allowed the diagnosis of productive soils in Ciénaga de Zapata, as well as a toolbox of good practices to be used for the training of technicians and producers in the management of saline soils.</p>	<p>The outputs related to specialized training on SCPI have suffered a delay due to the recent arrival of agricultural machinery in the country. Therefore, these actions will be reprogrammed for the coming periods.</p>
	<p><u>Indicator 2:</u> Conservation and diversity status of target species.</p>		<p>- Location and geo-referencing of wild relatives in PAs (three expeditions carried out during the period).</p>	<p>Four of the 11 expeditions planned in the WP, affected by the COVID and the</p>

¹⁴Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹⁵Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁶Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of genetic material, information for floristic inventory of wild relatives. - Identified new wild relatives. - Increase in the number of specimens in genetic reserves. -Increase in the number of melipona beehives. 	energy crisis in the country, are still pending. Some of the outputs associated with these results will not be achieved in the planned time frame.
<p>Output 1.1.1 Analysis of globally-important plant and animal species** living in Cuba, their valuation and ways and means for conservation</p>	Number of researchers and technicians trained in the practice of evaluating ABD and facilitating its conservation as well as implementing SCPI.	Q2Y3	<p>342 stakeholders trained (167 men and 175 women, 51% female participation)</p> <p>During the evaluation period, 13 training activities were carried out, covering 11 topics.</p> <p>1-Western Workshop for the Training of Trainers for the territorialization of the State Plan for Food Security (SSAN) and the SSAN Law. 3-Diagnosis of seed flows and seed exchange between producers. 4-Territorial exchange with international experts. 5- Participation of the project stakeholders in the AGROPAT event. 6-Participation of the project actors in the XII International Congress of Agrarian Law. 7-Gender workshop 8-National workshop on the mid-term evaluation of COBIMAS. 9-Theoretical-practical exchange at the Vista Hermosa farm with project stakeholders 10-Consultation on Agroecological Policy 11-Workshops to prepare the wild relatives and floristic inventory.</p>	Specialized training on SCPI postponed to Q4Y5

	Number of research institutions strengthening their organizational capacities.	Q4Y5	Two new institutions were strengthened, the Soil Institute and the Agroforestry Research Institute. - It was agreed to establish a new demonstration farm (for salinity studies) at CCS Antonio Mauri in Ciénaga de Zapata, which will be supported with equipment and supplies.	
	Number of expeditions, collections, samples and field evaluations in intervention areas.	Q2Y3	<p>- Three expeditions were carried out during this period.</p> <p><u>Expedition to Santi Spiritus:</u></p> <p>366 identifications in the PA inventory. Of these, 5 Annonaceae, 7 Ipomeae and 1 Capsicum are targeted by the project.</p> <p>In the different production units (buffer zones), traditional varieties of manioc, maize and Ipomeas were identified (producers exchange seeds). In the municipality of Meneses, S. Spíritus, plantations of 632 individuals were observed, including seedlings and juveniles in development, of anon criollo (local Annonaceae).</p> <p><u>Expedition to the Delta del Cauto</u></p> <p>Five melon collections in 6 farms. Corn collections in 7 farms. Other species were collected (not targeted by the project, but with traditional value and as polyculture and crop rotation, as well as nutrient fixers).</p> <p><u>Cienaga de Zapata</u></p> <p>Annonaceae, Ipomeas and Chili pepper were found in the PAs and in the farmers' yards.</p>	Deferred to Q4Y5 pending expeditions

	<p>Number of population and ecosystem inventories and characterizations.</p>	<p>Q4Y3</p>	<p>Four ecosystems, corresponding to the four PAs of the project, were partially characterized. Characterization of the populations of species and varieties in the production units. Identification of wild relatives of Anonaceae, Ipomoeas and the genus Oryza.</p> <p>A large group of species populations (more than 300) that make up the PA ecosystem were located and georeferenced, along with the wild relatives of the PGRs targeted by the project.</p> <p>The diversity of localized wild relatives, their main habitats and conservation data of species of the genera Annona, Ipomoea, Capsicum and Oryza were characterized as priority groups to be evaluated by the project. In addition, other species of importance as phytogetic food resources of the genera Citrus, Dioscorea, Vigna, Vanilla, Pouteria, Eugenia, Malpighia, Acrocomia, Passiflora and Vitis are documented and will be used for studies and evaluations in future stages.</p> <p>-Among the production units were: rice (435 ha), ipomeas (105 ha), maize (81 ha), cassava (126 ha), chili (19 ha), melon (34 ha). In the case of anonaceae, 3900 seedlings were transplanted.</p> <p>- The genetic reserves for the reproduction of four animal genetic resources used by the project were monitored. Specimens were collected in different parts of the country. At the end of June 2022, there were</p>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creole goats: 430 crossbred and 30 purebred goats were incorporated (APRF-DC and in SSP). - Creole pigs: 32 initial and after 8 farrowing there are more than 100 specimens in CZ. This includes pigs sold by ECOCIEZAP to independent producers for subsequent breeding in their own production units. - Cubalaya: 80 (SSP) and 10 in DC. - Brown Creole rabbits: 130 animals - The first inseminations were performed on 10 specimens of the Cuban Brown genotype (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>), in the Zapata Swamp, 	
<p><u>Output 1.1.2</u> A catalogue of globally important plant and animal diversity (focused on wild species).</p>	Number of catalogues produced	Q4Y3	A georeferenced catalog of the two implementation zones where the floristic inventory was carried out has been prepared. It must be validated	
<p><u>Output 1.1.3.</u> Maps and databases updated through geographical information systems (GIS) considering production potential, fragility and importance of targeted ABD species.</p>	Number of maps containing spatial information on species	Q4Y3	<p>The first 14 map layers have been elaborated.</p> <p><u>PA Ciénaga de Zapata:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location of the Productive Units 2. Plant genetic Resources by producer. 3. Plant genetic Resources per village 4. Animal genetic resources by town 5. Expedition floristic inventory (including wild relatives) 6. Soil maps 7. Geomorphology 8. Land use 9. Vegetation 10. Geology 11. Population Settlements <p><u>PA Jobo Rosado and Refugio de Fauna Tunas de Zaza (Sancti Spiritus):</u></p>	

			<p>12. Location of the farms</p> <p>13. Expedition floristic inventory (including wild relatives)</p> <p><u>Delta del Cauto Wildlife Refuge:</u></p> <p>14. Location of the farms</p>	
<p><u>Output 1.1.4.</u> Existing plant and animal breeding programs supported for the adaptive trials of advanced lines and production of early generation seeds.</p>	<p>Number of improvement programmes linked to varieties and/or breeds identified as bearers of genes potentially tolerant to abiotic stress conditions.</p>	<p>Q4Y5</p>	<p>A strategy for the conservation of the project's RGAA has been agreed upon to contribute to the improvement plans of each:</p> <p>AGR: Creole Pig. The roadmap for the recovery of the Creole dark pig has been established, in accordance with the National Genetic Improvement Plan for this breed.</p> <p>PGR: Cabezada melon. Carried out a collection and reproduction of seeds in INIFAT for its characterization.</p> <p>The production and transplanting of 3,000 anon, 600 cherimoya and 300 soursop plants has been documented. The recovery and repopulation of these species from their state of underutilized species is in place. Identification, geo-referencing and collection of the guanábana cimarrona (anonaceae) as a wild relative that can potentially contribute genes for tolerance to climate change.</p>	
<p><u>Output 1.1.5.</u> A knowledge management platform designed for monitoring and analysing factors of agro-biodiversity conservation and use, and alerts for major threats.</p>	<p>Number of PA agrobiodiversity management programmes, including buffer zones and bridging elements.</p>	<p>Q4Y5</p>	<p>Two so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In the Delta del Cauto PA (Fauna Refuge), the management plan includes the protection of animal and plant species of economic interest that are not protected, although they are present in the communities within the PA and the buffer zone. - A first draft has been prepared for the inclusion of the Creole pig in the Ciénaga de Zapata PA management plan. 	

	Number of national knowledge management centers and monitoring centers	Q4Y5	<p>4 centers established</p> <p>Knowledge Management Centers (4) are operating in each of the project implementation areas, strengthened with new books, magazines, technical manuals and information materials, as well as IT resources.</p> <p>- A new demonstration farm (for salinity studies) has been established at CCS Antonio Mauri in Ciénaga de Zapata, supported with equipment and inputs.</p>	
	National network of agrobiodiversity sponsors	Q4Y5	A platform is being developed that will be anchored in the GEF headquarters along with the website.	
<p>Outcome 2.1</p> <p>Increased adoption of production systems that integrate biodiversity conservation through the creation of connectivity corridors, bringing together agricultural and natural ecosystems.</p>	Number of hectares of production landscapes that integrate biodiversity (including ABD and CWR) conservation and sustainable use into their management with certification		<p>Total certified area (accumulated with territorial endorsements)</p> <p>- Ciénaga de Zapata 148.50 ha</p> <p>- Sancti Spiritus 3,624.73 ha</p> <p>- Granma 7,199.20 ha</p> <p>TOTAL 10,972.43 ha</p> <p>There are 16,373 ha committed to the implementation of the SCPI approach (13% managed by women).</p> <p>Total area under sustainable management: 27345.43 ha</p>	
	% of farmers with increased confidence in innovative sustainable practices (higher productivity and sustainable natural resources management are possible).		<p>Six farms are incorporated, for a total of 15 beneficiary producers.</p> <p>The creation and strengthening of points of sale for the commercialization of products based on the ISPA approach is available.</p> <p>The project has accompanied the productive base in training on value chains, which has helped to create confidence in the new jobs that will result from these points of sale.</p>	Outputs related to specialized training on SCPI are delayed and should be completed in the coming periods.

	Number of producers who increase their income through a implementation of “Save and Grow” approach (including access to new markets)		<p>To date, economic benefits have been linked to payments for environmental services.</p> <p>The expected benefits from value chains and access to new markets are still in the pipeline. These are considered key to the sustainability of the project.</p> <p>The certifications allowed for a total cumulative income from 2019 to 2022 of \$15,140,630.47 CUP. Thus, between the producers of the CCS, the Flora and Fauna companies and other producers in the implementation areas not directly linked to the project, there are more than 900 producers (about 30% of them are women).</p>	Results associated with new products related to agrobiodiversity have been delayed.
<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>	Diagnosis and strategy of productive systems in intervention sites	Q4Y1	The diagnosis and selection of the areas where ISPA machinery will be used has been carried out	
<p>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.</p>	Number of practices proven and implemented in intervention areas.	Q4Y5	<p>17 practices to date. In addition to the 13 practices implemented in previous years, 4 more are being implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainwater harvesting and use. - Composting - Crop rotation - Live barriers 	
	Number of conservation corridors and ecosystem bridges established	Q4Y5	<p>Monitoring Centers Delta del Cauto PA (4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Viramas Biological Station -Lionero Biological Station 	

			<p>-Cauto Sur Biological Station -Biological Station The Basin</p> <p>Birds (Cubalaya) continue to be used as an early warning system.</p>	
<p>Output 2.1.3 <i>In situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation actions, in place, including young and women participation.</p>	Number of community seed banks	Q1Y5	3 seed banks have been established, making it possible to produce Canavalia seed (used as green manure for SCPI) on a self-sufficient basis, and laying the groundwork for it to be extended to other seeds.	
	Number of gene pools on farms.	Q4Y5	<p>So far, there are 3 gene pools in three of the participating institutions. They have not yet been established at the farm level.</p> <p>CIMAGT and GEF: Cubalaya, Creole goat, Creole pig and Cuban brown rabbit semen.</p> <p>INIFAT: corn and melon seeds from the implementation areas.</p>	
	Number of agrobiodiversity and innovation fairs with participation by women (30%)	Q4Y5	<p>2 were held during this period:</p> <p>-A seed fair with producers in the Zapata Swamp, accompanied by a conference on value chains and marketing of agricultural products, given by Prof. Luis Sáez from the University of Santiago de Chile. July , 2022.</p> <p>-Gathering of territorial producers. August 2022</p>	
	Number of productive units dedicated to the <i>in situ</i> conservation of plant and animal genetic resources	Q4Y5	<p>4 production units</p> <p>1.Rancho Querete Unit, SSP: 3900 Annonaceae seedlings were transplanted.</p> <p>2., Jobo Rosado Unit : Conservation of the black and white Cubalaya hen (30 specimens).</p>	

			<p>3. UEB San Isidro, C. Zapata: Conservation of the Creole pig (40 specimens). The unit sells specimens to local producers for reproduction in their respective farms.</p> <p>Guamito, Delta del Cauto: Sheds for the breeding and conservation of Creole goats and Cubalaya hens.</p>	
	Number of Crop Wild Relatives Reserves devoted to <i>in situ</i> conservation in PAs (wild relatives)	Q4Y5	Rancho Querete Unit, SSP: 8 visits were made in different months of the year 2022 to the APRM Jobo Rosado to identify the phenological state of the Guanábana Cimarrona specimens, ripe fruits were collected in the months of October and November and seeds were placed in bags. There are 60 postures of Guanábana Cimarrona, distributed in 2 micro nurseries.	
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.	Number of farmers and extension workers trained in SCPI and ABD conservation.	Q3Y3	<p>Training sessions were held in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Marketing and value chain workshop -Seed flow diagnostics and seed exchange between producers. -Presentations and training of project stakeholders at the AGROPAT event. -Presentations and training of project stakeholders at the XII International Congress of Agricultural Law. -Gender Workshop <p>National mid-term evaluation workshop on project impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Theoretical and practical exchange with project stakeholders at the Vista Hermosa farm. -Consultation room on agroecological policies. <p>Total 287 (138 men and 149 women)</p>	

			Cumulative total 827	
	Percentage of producers including new management practices and conservation technologies based on training received.	Q4Y5	50 new producers were incorporated in 2022/23, 9.4% compared to 2021/22.	
Output 2.1.5. Value chains for new products related to agrobiodiversity developed to promote the conservation of agroecosystem in rural production.	Number of production and marketing chains set up.	Q4Y5	<p>The sites for the mini-industries have already been identified and the feasibility study and technical task for Creole pork are underway. The technical task for the production of Creole goat cheese has already been prepared.</p> <p>Main markets identified: 1-Hotels in the northern keys of SSP (sale contracts in course). Online sales and export are also an important source of marketing. 2- Work has been carried out on the marketing of melons in the municipal and provincial market networks, in addition to contracts with hotels and other tourist centres (Granma). 3- Supplying the Playa Girón Hotel (Ciénaga de Zapata).</p>	
	Number of people in selected production and marketing chains (excluding agricultural producers) who received economic benefits based on their implementation with -an equity focus	Q4Y5	To date, economic benefits have resulted from payments for environmental services.	
Outcome 3.1. Enhanced inter-institutional coordination, closer technical cooperation and	Indicator BD4.9. The degree to which sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity <i>considerations</i> .		The project has achieved a high level of impact in terms of integrating genetic resources and biodiversity conservation approaches into sectoral policies and regulatory frameworks. This has been	

<p>regulatory coherence have supported the mainstreaming of agro-biodiversity conservation and use in public policies.</p>			<p>extended to a State Plan and a new Law on Food and Nutrition Security to be adopted in 2022.</p> <p>During the current period, we have worked on</p> <p>The publication of a multimedia file with the updated legal and regulatory framework of the project.</p> <p>Preparation of a document with the results of the diagnostic carried out in the implementation zones to evaluate the level of knowledge of the stakeholders on the legal and regulatory framework related to the project.</p> <p>Documentation of the contributions of the COBIMAS project to the implementation of Decree Law No. 388 on Plant Genetic Resources for Food, Agriculture and Seeds and Decree Law No. 387 on the Conservation, Genetic Improvement and Sustainable Use of Animal Genetic Resources.</p> <p>Conducted a training workshop on the legal aspects of managing the AGRs and local sustainable production.</p>	
<p>Output 3.1.1. A detailed review of the current legal and regulatory frameworks on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture.</p>	<p>Number of local workshops for coordination with local stakeholders and beneficiaries over the current status of the legal and regulatory framework associated with agrobiodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Q4Y5</p>	<p>Five during the period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Workshop in the Center-East for the training of the trainers for the territorialization of the SSAN plan within the framework of the SSAN Law. -Presentation of papers and training of project stakeholders at the XII International Congress on Agrarian Law. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National mid-term evaluation workshop on the impact of the project - Consultation room on agro-ecological policies. - National workshop on legal and regulatory frameworks related to agrobiodiversity conservation. 	
	Number of documents on the BD regulatory framework in Cuba reviewed	Q4Y5	A total of 91 documents have been reviewed to date. During this period, information from surveys of various stakeholders was processed to assess their level of knowledge on the subject. The results were disseminated through workshops.	
Output 3.1.2. A road-map for legal and regulatory coherence within the country (on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture).	Current regulatory framework diagnosis and evaluation document.	Q4Y5	100% completed	
	Workshops to validate the proposed road map with local stakeholders and beneficiaries.	Q4Y5	A multimedia with the legal baseline related to the project's actions has been prepared. It was presented at the workshop on the subject on March 28 and 29, 2023.	
Output 3.1.3. A manual that illustrates the process of sustainable management of production landscapes to facilitate the scale-up at national level.	Technical Manual	Q4Y5	Progress is being made on the draft of this document.	
Outcome 4.1. Project implemented, lessons learned and good practices documented and disseminated.	Project results show sustainability			Documentation of life experiences could not be completed because of the limitations of COVID 19.

Output 4.1.1: The project management, monitoring and evaluation system works to provide systematic information on progress made to achieve planned results and objectives	Project launch workshop	<u>Q1Y1</u>	Carried out in April 2019	
	Half-yearly progress reports	<u>Q3Y3</u>	4 PPR and 3 PIR	
	Steering Committee meetings	<u>Q3Y3</u>	Meetings held: one in each year. 2019-2022	
Output 4.1.2: Mid-term review and final evaluations carried out, finalized implementation and sustainability strategies tailored to recommendations.	Mid-term review		Mid-term evaluation conducted	
	Final evaluation			
Output 4.1.3: Communication strategy and dissemination of project actions	Project logo	<u>Q1Y1</u>	Validated at the inception workshop	
	Project newsletters	<u>Q1Y3</u>	Preparation of TV spots, public service announcements and other audio-visual materials for the project in the three provinces.	
	Website	<u>Q3Y3</u>	Under construction	
Output 4.1.4: Publication of best practice and lessons learned	Number of annual publications on best practices and lessons learned and other technical publications with gender and intercultural approach.	<u>Q4Y5</u>	Two manuals on post-harvest handling of fruits (anonaceae and melon) are in preparation. More than 30 publications on social networks	

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

The adaptive management strategy implemented as a result of COVID did not paralyze the technical implementation of the project and even allowed it to advance in some objectives, but it could not prevent a deviation from the implementation logic foreseen in the project document and, above all, the qualitative completion of the expected results.

Component 1. Progress has been made in strengthening the project units in terms of equipment and capacity building. Training has been provided on various topics. Information on the biodiversity of wild plants and crops managed in the PAs has been enriched. The expeditions that will allow the validation of operational regulations, the characterization of populations and ecosystems in the intervention areas, and the completion of maps and georeferenced data are still pending. Specialized training on the machinery acquired for the SCPI is also pending.

Component 2. New hectares were certified under SCPI (10,972.43 ha certified). The certifications allowed a total accumulated income of 15,140,630.47 CUP, benefiting more than 900 producers. The herds of the genetic reserves were increased. Sales points for the commercialization of SCPI production were created. Due to irregularities caused by COVID, the technical tasks, permits and licenses and civil infrastructure to be provided by the government have not been completed, which has delayed the importation of technology for the mini-industries, which will require more time than expected to start up.

Component 3. Legislative review completed. A multimedia containing the updated legal and regulatory framework of the project and a document with the results of the diagnostic study of the implementation zones were prepared. Training has been provided on legal issues related to the management of the AGRBD and local sustainable production. Contributions to the new food security law to be approved in 2022 are being prepared.

Component 4: The central strategy of this component was to document the life experiences of the producers from the beginning of the project until its completion. The first audiovisual capsules were completed during this period. More time is needed for the implementation of the project to allow for a follow-up in this regard, including the incentives that the project has yet to provide in terms of training, inputs, mini-industries, etc. The publication of best practices and lessons learned is also outdated.

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.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating¹⁷	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating¹⁸	Comments/reasons¹⁹ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	MS	S	<i>The project continues to progress both quantitatively and qualitatively. Although progress has been made, COBIMAS needs more time to complete the activities that will have the greatest impact on the sustainability of the project. An extension of 18 months is proposed.</i>
Budget Holder	MS	S	<i>The relevance of the results expected in the project design has been demonstrated, especially in the current national context, where both the conservation of agrobiodiversity and a more sustainable management of agriculture are priorities of the Cuban Government, clearly reflected in the recently approved State Plan for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty (SSAN Plan). An extension of 18 months is proposed to allow the project to achieve its milestones.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point²⁰	S	S	<i>The joint coordination of the COBIMAS project by FAO and MINAG has made it possible to make progress in the implementation of the project, despite the exceptional circumstances that the country has been experiencing. COBIMAS is a national reference for the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity, complementing national efforts to integrate biodiversity into development plans. It is also a reference for the design of new projects that we have carried out for GEF 7 and GEF 8.</i>

¹⁷**Development Objectives Rating** –A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸**Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁹Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

²⁰In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

Lead Technical Officer²¹	MS	S	<p><i>Project advances in this reporting period have been successful according to the national context. Adaptive management in order to work with different regions and decentralized technical teams are one important strategy in order to guarantee project implementation. In addition, stress the importance of the institutional support is other important results during this reporting period, including technical training to support national institutions in soil capacities, include ISPA approach, among others. Project extension will help to finalized the implementation strategy according national context. It is important to develop an action plan in order to ensure that the 18 months of extension period will ensure a complete a successfully implementation stage of all the project funds.</i></p>
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	MS	S	<p><i>During the reporting period, institutional and producers capacity building, soil certification hectares and increasing of biodiversity species were relevant advances to mention. Promote project results among producers that not be project beneficiaries are key activities linked to disseminate best practices promote replicability. It is important to work in an exit strategy, systematization and stories of success, including co benefits such as producer's increasing of income using sustainable producing practices, farmer fields school used with beneficiaries and other producers and potential links between agrobiodiversity recovery, slow food and tourism and women's role in these processes. Despite the fact that this project report advances during this reporting period, it is necessary to develop a strategy to speed up fieldwork during the requested extension period with the producers, considering national context with a limited mobility due to lack of fuel in the country. This action plan must include an adequate exit strategy that promotes the replicability of best sustainable production practices and increases the recovery of genetic resources already identified and worked during the implementation period.</i></p>

²¹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

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

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²² . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Moderate

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.

No grievance received to date

²²**Important** :please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan(ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification(please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²³	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Institutional risk at local and national level: 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	y	<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"> - joint drawing up of proposals for sustainable management of agrobiodiversity (local and national) - Operation of multi-stakeholder working spaces to promote communication and partnership. - joint actions for the exchange of experiences and learning (workshops, trips and tours) - strategy of communication and dissemination of project contributions and knowledge gained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Technical committees for inter-institutional coordination were established - An excellent level of communication is maintained between the national coordination and the regional coordinators. - 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 	
2	Risks due to weather events (which may or may not be as a result of climate change): possibility of occurrence of	M	Y	The recommendations established in the local studies of vulnerability and risk will be followed to face severe climate events. These studies carried out by experts from the Ministry of Environment and other institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No severe weather events have occurred to date. -The Ministry of Environment is one of the strategic partners of the project and has been proactively 	

²³ Risk ratings means a rating of accesses the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	extreme events such as droughts and hurricanes that involve significant changes in the project's natural baseline conditions			<p>in each municipality are available in each intervention project area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. -The Save and Grow approach contains per se several practices which improves the resilience of the agro-ecosystems. - Crop planting activities will be planned observing the behavior of rain patterns and local experience. -special measures for the water storage and its disposal during the dry period will be taken 	accompanying the project implementation.	
3	Risks for biodiversity. Possible conflicts between the interests of conservationists and natural resource users.	L	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of agreements and plans between interested parties. - Demonstration of shared benefits and responsibilities. Training and awareness processes with all relevant stakeholders. - Inclusion of local experts in each area with capacity to implement a participatory and self-restructuring approach. -Inclusion of community interests in restructuring actions. - Management of agrobiodiversity to promote employment and income sustainably. - 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 - Establish strict measures for GRFA in terms of scaling up and conservation. 	Cooperation agreements have been signed with the main entities in charge of certifying and accompanying the processes related to the GRFA	
4	Social risk: Producers and inhabitants show no interest in agrobiodiversity conservation	L	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of methods of practical and cooperative learning between producers, 	The support of new sustainable agricultural practices shown by producers is very positive. In the initial surveys conducted, 95% of the	A greater gender analysis was concluded during PY2 and a new gender action plan

	strategies for fair and sustainable development			<p>technicians and officials with new innovative strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge management platform with participation of all stakeholders. - Strengthening of capacities and infrastructure to reduce obstacles to adoption. - Prioritize women and young people with opportunities for access to resources and capacity-building. - 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 	producers surveyed reported an interest in introducing SCPI methods	to better target gender impacts is been developed .
5	<p>New Risk Epidemiological risk: Project activities postponed by quarantine measures established due to the COVID-19</p>	M	N	<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>	

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

FY2022rating	FY2023rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2022and 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 quarter of 2022.

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

During the report period (in May 2023), the Mid-Term Review (MTR) was carried out and will analysed the results obtained by the project up of today.

At the time the PIR is presented, the final reviewed MTR report is under review. the response to the administration is under preparation. The next PIR (July 2024) will present the progress made in the implementation of the action plan to comply with the MTR recommendations.

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	No
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8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²⁴. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

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

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Role in project execution	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government Institutions			
Ministry of Agriculture Department of Science and Engineering (MINAG).	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.	Has remained throughout the execution of the project as the main partner and the most important political actor. It has also been key in carrying out the adaptive management strategy that has been carried out to face the implementation challenges left by the pandemic. Important contributions in terms of co-financing.	
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA)	Member of the Project Steering Committee. Responsible for implementing baseline initiatives and guiding state environmental policies. Methodological guide for biodiversity conservation.	Has continued to accompany the project both methodologically and by establishing important synergies with environmental projects that are being implemented.	
"Alejandro de Humboldt" Institute of Fundamental Research on Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT)	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	Is the hosting institution of the PMU. It has played an important role in the ex situ conservation conducted, both in terms of training and the contribution of its facilities and laboratories. It has contributed significantly to the establishment and operation of the knowledge management centres.	

	custodianship of plant germplasm.		
National Flora and Fauna Protection Unit (GEFF)	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	It has been another pillar in the implementation of the project. Was responsible for the design, establishment and maintenance of the genetic pools and also for identifying and purchasing the AGR specimens for conservation and is in charge of the propagation centres for PGRs. It has made a significant contribution in terms of co-financing.	
Grain Research Institute (IIG)	Research activities for developing the management of maize and rice crops to be worked on as part of the project.	Has supported the training processes	
Institute of Research on Tropical Fruit Cultivation	Research activities for developing the management of Anonaceae crops to be worked on as part of the project	Has supported the training processes	
Liliana Dimitrova ²² Horticultural Research Institute (IILD).	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.	Has supported the training processes	
Local government (people's power bodies at community, municipal and provincial level).	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.	They have been important partners in the strategy of adaptive management to address COVID. They are responsible for keeping the project running in the territories despite the quarantine measures and the fact that no new resources could arrive to support the project's actions during this period.	

Soil Management Department of the Ministry of Agriculture	Partner for the training in soil related issues and for the monitoring of soil quality in target areas and SCPI impacts.	They have accompanied the training processes. Their contribution has been fundamental in the certification of the hectares that today have this category.	
<i>Non-Government organizations (NGOs)</i>			
National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) (Municipal, Provincial and National)	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	Has supported the training processes	
Cuban Association of Agricultural and Forestry Engineers (ACTAF) (Municipal, Provincial and National)	Entity to facilitate capacity-building in the various topics covered by the project (agro ecology, organic certification, extension work, etc.).	Has accompanied the training processes by providing important bibliography and inputs for the knowledge management centres.	Difficulties accompanying some of the project's face-to-face activities due to COVID 19 pandemic
Cuban Association for Animal Production (ACPA) (Municipal, Provincial and National)	Entity to facilitate capacity building in topics relating to livestock activity and support native breed expansion actions.	Has supported the training processes by providing important bibliography and inputs for the knowledge management centres. .	Difficulties accompanying some of the project's face-to-face activities due to COVID 19 pandemic
Cuban Women's Federation	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.	Has accompanied the training processes. It is a key partner in the operationalization of the gender actions planned by the project.	Difficulties accompanying some of the project's face-to-face activities due to COVID 19 pandemic
<i>New stakeholders identified/engaged</i>			
Vista Hermosa Ranch	It is a private farm with a great experience in local organic production of both agriculture and livestock.	They have been an important new partner for training by hosting a reference centre for the training of producers associated with the project and local producers in the production processes of goat cheese.	

10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)during this reporting period.		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Y	As per recommended in PIR 1 a deeper gender and youth analysis was carried out in PY2 aimed at making 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
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Y	An evaluation was carried out in the intervention areas based on a methodology designed and validated by an EU-funded project, BASAL (Environmental Basis for Local Food Sustainability) to measure gender gaps and suggest actions/recommendations to reduce the gaps for achieving gender equity in Cuba's agricultural sector.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Y	<p>It is conceived in all the projects outcomes/outputs and it is reflected in its indicators and assumptions</p> <p>In order to maximize the impact of the project on reducing gender disparities, specific and differentiated actions have been designed. These are mainly training and awareness-raising activities targeted in a differentiated manner at the productive base and the staff of the participating institutions.</p> <p>By the end of the project, it is expected that women in the intervention areas will be better empowered in managing natural resources at the local level, increasing their presence and leadership through their participation in the concrete conservation actions proposed by the project, both those related to genetic resources and more sustainable productions, while improving their income and access to markets, and having new job opportunities in the mini-industries and other initiatives that will be established. It is also expected that the role of women will be better</p>

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		safeguarded in the sectoral policies and programs to which the project will contribute.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Y	The project promotes women leadership. Three of the four regional coordinators are women and 70 % of the PMU and CDN members are also women. Targets on women incorporation of women to the project activities are set.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Y	More than 50% of the producers economically benefited in their personal incomes from the project interventions are women. This percentage should increase
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Y	It is one of the main purposes of gender action plan
Staff with gender expertise	Y	FAO team and PMU have received specialized gender training. FAO Gender Focal point is involve in the follow –up of gender actions. A gender consultancy is foreseen in PY4. The National Coordination Team for the project includes 5 women, representing 80% of its professional members. All component coordinators and three of the four regional coordinators are women.
Any other good practices on gender		

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval during this reporting period.	
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.	<p>The project gathered during the first years 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.</p> <p>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 other 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.</p>
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.	Due to the epidemiological situation in the country caused bay COVID 19 pandemic which remained until the first quarter of 2022, still was not possible to undertake the planned activities
Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	Positive experiences are already identified and will be provided in future reports
Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://cuba.un.org/es/95727-con-los-pies-en-la-tierra-heroes-y-heroinas-de-la-soberania-alimentaria

<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	<p>http://cubasi.cu/cubasi-noticias-cuba-mundo-ultima-hora/item/91747-presentaran-proyecto-de-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-onu</p> <p>http://www.acn.cu/cuba/43852-presentaran-proyecto-de-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-onu</p> <p>http://www.radiohc.cu/noticias/economy/188410-presentaran-cuba-y-agencias-de-la-onu-proyectos-de-cooperacion-en-la-agricultura</p> <p>http://www.radiosurco.icrt.cu/presentaran-proyecto-cooperacion-cuba-agencias-onu/21449/</p> <p>http://www.radioreloj.cu/es/destacadas/impulsan-cooperacion-cuba-y-agencias-de-la-onu/</p> <p>http://www.radiosandino.icrt.cu/noticias/cooperacion-bilateral-cuba-onu/</p> <p>https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&id=269765&SEO=comienza-en-cuba-un-taller-de-cooperacion-bajo-el-auspicio-de-la-fao</p> <p>http://www.acn.cu/cuba/43900-cuba-sobresale-por-su-seguridad-alimentaria-sostiene-la-fao</p> <p>https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&id=269941&SEO=fao-reconoce-labor-de-cuba-por-la-seguridad-alimentaria-fotos</p> <p>http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/cuba/2019-04-15/inauguran-proyecto-para-la-conservacion-y-uso-sostenible-de-la-biodiversidad-en-cuba</p> <p>http://www.radioreloj.cu/es/destacadas/inauguran-proyecto-para-mayor-seguridad-alimentaria-y-preservacion-del-medio-ambiente/</p> <p>http://www.radiohc.cu/noticias/ciencias/188469-establecen-en-cuba-proyecto-de-agricultura-sostenible</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/CanalCaribeCuba/videos/419350982131623/ (minute 37)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/CanalCaribeCuba/videos/2161963300560530/ (minute: 17: 50)</p> <p>http://www.cadenagramonte.cu/articulos/ver/86906:proyecto-de-cooperacion-con-onu-introduciria-en-cuba-metodos-agricolas-para-conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad</p> <p>http://www.cadenagramonte.cu/articulos/ver/86925:reconoce-fao-acciones-de-cuba-a-favor-de-la-seguridad-alimentaria</p> <p>http://bohemia.cu/mundo/2019/04/reconoce-fao-esfuerzo-cubano-por-seguridad-alimentaria-y-biodiversidad/</p>
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	http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/suplementos/en-red/2019-06-01/cobimas-garantia-para-el-futuro
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's Name and contact details	M. Sc. Maria del Carmen Ramón Comunicaciones FAO CUBA maria.ramon@fao.org

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

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

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

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁵	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²⁶	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023 CUB	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	19,329,562.55		3,600,000
		In Kind	5,000,000	521,520.00		5,000,000
	Grupo Empresarial Flora y Fauna [Flora and fauna business group]	Cash	4,000,000	3,495,488.94		4,000,000
		In Kind	5,610,000	7,941,730.00		5,610,000
	National Forestry Department/ Agroforestry Development Fund (FONADEF)	Cash	6,000,000	0.00		6,000,000
		In Kind	2,000,000	0.00		2,000,000
Agencia	FAO	Cash	250,000	0.00		250,000
TOTAL			26,460,000	31,288,301.49		26,460,000

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

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

²⁶Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
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 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. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
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.

Risk rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:

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

Annex 2.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description

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