

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	9772
Project Name:	Landscape Planning and Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services, and Livelihoods, Expand and Effectively Manage Protected Areas
Countr(ies):	Gambia
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Landscape Planning and Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services, and Livelihoods, Expand and Effectively Manage Protected Areas

Country

Gambia

GEF ID

9772

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

National Environment Authority (NEA)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

Objective

Ecosystem services in productive and protected land/seascapes conserved by improved land use and marine spatial planning policies and land/seascape level management in Gambia.

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

3/28/2020

Agency Approval

5/22/2020

Implementation Start

9/4/2020

First Disbursement

9/4/2020

Expected MTR

6/26/2025

MTR Submission

9/12/2025

Actual MTR

7/1/2024

Expected Completion

4/30/2026

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

The project's overall performance at mid-term is rated as satisfactory.

Relevance: The project's relevance is rated as Satisfactory. The project is highly relevant and aligns with the commitments of the Gambian Government, UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (SMT), and the strategic priorities of donors like the GEF. The project directly contributes to the GEF's objectives of maintaining and/or improving agro-ecosystem services, reducing pressure on natural resources, and conserving biodiversity in both marine and terrestrial areas. Furthermore, it aligns with numerous international agreements and conventions (e.g., CITES, UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, CBD, CEDAW, African Convention for Conservation of Nature) and national policies and strategies (e.g., National Park and Wildlife Plan, National Agroforestry Strategy, Forest Act, Biodiversity and Wildlife Act) relevant to environmental protection and sustainable development in The Gambia. The review also notes strong complementarity and synergies with other existing interventions in the country.

Quality of Project Design: The quality of the project's design is rated as Satisfactory. The project formulation was based on thorough background studies, including detailed analyses of protected areas, biodiversity, and identified threats in the Kuntaur Local Government Area (LGA). The design adopted a participatory, inclusive, and integrated approach, involving key stakeholders such as the National Environment Agency (NEA), Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM), Department of Forestry (DoF), UNEP, local communities, NGOs, and women's groups. The project's logical framework clearly formulates a results chain consistent with Results-Based Management (RBM) principles and utilizes a 'Theory of Change' to describe how desired changes are expected to occur. The overall budget of USD 25,641,945 (with GEF contributing USD 5,644,685) is structured to reflect the planned activities, with a significant portion allocated to Component 3 (Integrated Land Use Management Plans and Protected Area Management), which reflects the nature of relevant and planned activities.

Effectiveness of Implementation: The effectiveness of project implementation is rated as Moderately Satisfactory. Despite initial delays in project start-up due to administrative burdens and the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has demonstrated significant progress in delivering certain outputs. Key achievements include approximately 9,600 hectares of terrestrial and marine landscapes now under sustainable land management in the study area, out of 15,000 hectares planned at mid-term. The finalization of the Allahein Marine Protected Area (4,130 ha) and the establishment of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) are underway or completed. A national land-use policy and several regional and community-level declarations on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development have been developed. The project also established a fully equipped Geographic Information System (GIS) Centre at the NEA to enhance geospatial analysis for decision-making. Extensive capacity building and training sessions have reached over 10,023 beneficiaries, with 60% being women, focusing on sustainable natural resource management, tree planting, beekeeping, and mangrove restoration. Additionally, various local and district multi-sectoral committees (e.g., Local Environmental Committees - LECs) have been created to facilitate participatory management, and a curriculum for the Kafuta forest school has been developed and validated. Communication efforts include the launch of the 'Ecoscape Chronicles' review. However, challenges remain, such as the delay in starting activities like improving teacher training curricula in INRM, SLM, BD, developing communication models, and the pending development of a participatory impact monitoring system. Leadership conflicts in Kartong also need resolution to finalize planned investments.

Efficiency of Management The project's efficiency is rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory. This is primarily attributed to delays in the project's start-up, irregular financial flows, and slow procurement procedures. As of June 30, 2024, the overall budget execution rate for GEF funding is 46%. Components 3 (Integrated Land Use Management Plans and Protected Area Management) and 4 (Extension of Public Domain in Ecologically Important Areas) show particularly low consumption rates at 39% and 24%, respectively. Despite these challenges, the Project Management Unit (UGP) has achieved an average execution rate of Annual Work Plans and Budgets (PTBA) of about 65%. The review notes that project management costs exceeded the initial budget by 3 points. Anomalies in financial management and the need to harmonize budget and

technical monitoring were also identified. Consequently, the review recommends extending the project duration by at least one year to complete the remaining activities and address the delays.

Gender Consideration The project has satisfactorily integrated gender considerations. Women are an integral part of project activities, actively participating in reforestation, market gardening (maraîchage), and beekeeping. Their participation in capacity-building initiatives is notably high, with 60% of beneficiaries being women. A specific gender indicator (Indicator 9: Number of women practicing SLM, INRM, or BD in their land-use activities) has been formulated and achieved 100%. The project has also supported national and regional declarations integrating gender into integrated natural resource management.

Sustainability The project demonstrates encouraging prospects for sustainability. This is largely due to the strong ownership by beneficiaries and the active involvement of key implementing agencies such as NEA, DPWM, and DoF. Capacity building, the active participation of local authorities and communities, and the functioning of local environmental committees are considered crucial for long-term impact. The establishment of the geomantic platform and other modern infrastructure are seen as valuable assets for future initiatives, potentially strengthening NEA's capacity to mobilize financial resources through innovative projects. Strong political and institutional support from the Gambian Government for protected area conservation further underpins the project's sustainability. The implementation model, which relies on national execution, helps reinforce appropriation by NEA staff and contributes to the long-term viability of the achievements.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

From its inception, the project adopted a participatory, inclusive, and integrated approach in its preparation and formulation. Key stakeholders mobilized during the project's formulation included the National Environment Agency (NEA), Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM), Department of Forestry (DoF), UNEP, technical advisors, consultants, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local beneficiary communities. The analysis of stakeholders considered both public and private sector actors, including women's associations and service providers, integrating their social interests, roles, and responsibilities. Crucially, the project's design was responsive to the expectations of women's and youth groups, who saw their participation as a means to improve their daily lives, secure work in areas like market gardening, reduce poverty, and protect their environment. Testimonies from populations met during field missions confirmed the effectiveness of this participatory approach in the project's design.

During implementation, stakeholder engagement is integral to the project's governance and activities. A governance mechanism was established, including a Project Steering Committee, a Project Management Unit (UGP), and importantly, local management committees. The Steering Committee, though facing challenges with meeting regularity, is composed of representatives from various ministries, partner institutions, NGOs, and traditional community representatives, intended to guide, control, and supervise the project. The project has actively supported the creation of sustainable land management committees in collaboration with local environmental committees (LECs). These LECs have been established in all five districts of the Kuntaur Local Government Area (LGA) and comprise multi-sectoral actors, including decentralized technical services, local authorities, and women's groups.

Capacity building and training sessions are a cornerstone of stakeholder engagement, reaching a significant number of beneficiaries. A total of 10,023 beneficiaries, with 60% being women (6,002 women), received training in areas such as sustainable natural resource management, tree planting, beekeeping, and mangrove restoration. This training targeted land users for various programs and members of local committees on sustainable land management (SLM), biodiversity (BD), and integrated natural resource management (INRM). All Village Development Committees (VDCs) also received project support for capacity building

and awareness-raising. Furthermore, the project facilitated extensive consultations for the ecological corridor, engaging 40 villages in the Central River Region and 3 in Kartong, with all bordering villages adopting INRM initiatives. The 'Ecoscape Chronicles' review, a communication tool, also includes a section for conversations with stakeholders/community members.

The project has particularly focused on gender integration, which is rated as satisfactory. Women are an integral part of project activities, actively participating in reforestation, market gardening, and beekeeping. Their high participation rate (60%) in capacity building highlights this. The project formulated a specific gender indicator (Indicator 9: Number of women practicing SLM, INRM, or BD in their land-use activities), which achieved 100%. Efforts included sensitizing and informing women against deforestation, bushfires, and hunting, and a national declaration integrating gender into integrated natural resource management was adopted with support from the Minister of Women and Gender and community leaders. The review recommends ensuring equitable access for women to project resources and benefits.

The strong involvement of beneficiaries and local authorities contributes significantly to the project's sustainability. The strategy to ensure the long-term viability of the project's achievements relies on capacity building, information, awareness, and communication to promote continuous stakeholder involvement. The establishment of a participatory governance mechanism for protected areas with local management committees ensures stakeholder participation in the technical, cultural, and budgetary aspects of ICCA management. The project's overall satisfactory performance at mid-term is attributed, in part, to this strong ownership by beneficiaries and the active involvement of implementing agencies.

C. Gender Equality

The project has particularly focused on gender integration, which is rated as satisfactory. Women are an integral part of project activities, actively participating in reforestation, market gardening, and beekeeping. Their high participation rate (60%) in capacity building highlights this. The project formulated a specific gender indicator (Indicator 9: Number of women practicing SLM, INRM, or BD in their land-use activities), which achieved 100%. Efforts included sensitizing and informing women against deforestation, bushfires, and hunting, and a national declaration integrating gender into integrated natural resource management was adopted with support from the Minister of Women and Gender and community leaders. The review recommends ensuring equitable access for women to project resources and benefits.

D. Knowledge Management

Significant strides have been made in capacity building and knowledge transfer, directly impacting the project's knowledge management strategy. A substantial number of individuals, 10,023 beneficiaries in total, including 6,002 women (60%), received training in vital areas such as sustainable natural resource management, tree planting techniques, beekeeping, and mangrove restoration. All Village Development Committees (VDCs) were supported with capacity building and awareness-raising activities related to Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Biodiversity (BD), and Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM). The project also facilitated extensive consultations for the ecological corridor, engaging 40 villages in the Central River Region (CRR) and 3 in Kartong, leading to all bordering villages adopting INRM initiatives, demonstrating effective communication and engagement to share knowledge and garner local support. Targeted communication efforts were also evident in sensitizing and informing women about the dangers of deforestation, bushfires, and hunting. A specific training manual was developed and utilized for sessions on sustainable natural resource management, and the project supported the creation of a curriculum for the Kafuta forestry school, which has since been validated.

The project has successfully developed and disseminated concrete communication products and outreach initiatives. A notable achievement is the launch of the bi-monthly review, 'Ecoscape Chronicles,' in July 2023, which has already produced six issues in both print and electronic formats. This magazine is considered a 'flagship of the UNEP/GEF-6 Project' and serves as a key reference for publications and knowledge on environmental conservation and stewardship in The Gambia. Its content, including editorial messages, articles, interviews, and 'Conversations with stakeholders/community members,' acts as a direct communication channel for diverse audiences. Beyond publications, the project has organized media coverage to raise awareness about conservation and sustainable livelihoods and has supported the development and adoption of community declarations that function as local policies to address issues related to SLM, INRM, and biodiversity conservation.

In terms of information systems and data management, the project has established critical infrastructure to manage and disseminate knowledge. A Geographic Information System (GIS) Center was created at the NEA, fully equipped with necessary hardware and software, with the aim of improving geospatial analysis for informed decision-making in SLM and biodiversity management. This center is actively collecting and storing data from project-funded studies, and this information is intended to feed into a website currently under construction, signifying a clear commitment to systematic data and knowledge management. Furthermore, a monitoring system, complete with an indicator matrix and definition sheets for fifteen performance indicators, has been put in place to systematically track progress and collect relevant data. The development of an operational and accessible geospatial platform is over 70% complete and contains important data on protected areas in The Gambia.

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	10589	10036.37	

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	10000	9447.37	

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
ICCAS		National Park		10,000.00	9,447.37	

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
	589	589	

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
River Gambia National Park		National Park		589.00	589.00		64.00	64.00	

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	18000	4130	

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
	18000	4130	

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Kartein Allahein Marine Park		Others		13,000.00	4,130.00	
Labour Canyon Marine Park		Others		5,000.00	0.00	

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	5600	10300	

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	5,600.00	10,300.00	

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	1000	25160	

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	1,000.00	25,160.00	

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	6,130.00	6,130.00	

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)		2230210	2230210	
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)		2,230,210	2,230,210	
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2020	2020	
Duration of accounting		20	20	

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		40,000	32,000	
Male		52,031	40,214	
Total	0	92,031	72,214	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
Recipient Country Government	National Environment Agency	In-kind		500,000.00	1,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Environment Agency – Environment Fund	Grant		4,000,000.00	4,970,000.00

Recipient Country Government	Department of Forestry, National Forestry Fund (NFF)	Grant		2,000,000.00	700,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Forestry, National Forestry Fund (NFF)	In-kind		400,000.00	150,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters	In-kind		400,000.00	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources	In-kind		2,000,000.00	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters	Grant		1,000,000.00	650,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Community Development, Ministry of Lands and Regional Administration	In-kind		300,000.00	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture (ANR Working Group)	In-kind		200,000.00	140,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture (ANR Working Group)	Grant		1,000,000.00	1,425,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)	In-kind		300,000.00	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	The West Africa Birds Study Association, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	In-kind		100,000.00	150,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Planning Services, Department of Agriculture	In-kind		500,000.00	200,000.00
Donor Agency	Large-scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project (EBa)	In-kind		5,000,000.00	1,500,000.00
Donor Agency	AfDB – FASDEP: Food and Agriculture Development Project (NEA Execute the Monitoring Component of the Project)	Grant		500,000.00	

Recipient Country Government	Kuntaur Area Council	In-kind		500,000.00	230,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Association of Farmers, Educators and Traders (AFET)	In-kind		100,000.00	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	All Gambia Forestry Platform (AGFP)	In-kind		100,000.00	30,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Kombo Foni Forest Association (KOMFFORA)	In-kind		100,000.00	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Agency for Development of Women & Children (ADWAC)	In-kind		100,000.00	70,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Stay Green Foundation	In-kind		97,260.00	50,000.00
Recipient Country Government	FASDEP Project	In-kind		500,000.00	
Civil Society Organization	Tango	In-kind		300,000.00	250,000.00
Recipient Country Government	D Department of Community Development, Ministry of Lands and Regional Administratio	Grant			254,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources	Grant			375,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)	Grant			200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	The West Africa Birds Study Association, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	Grant			100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Planning Services, Department of Agriculture	Grant			400,000.00
Donor Agency	Large-scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project (EBa)	Grant			2,850,000.00

Recipient Country Government	Kuntaur Area Council	Grant			480,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Association of Farmers, Educators and Traders (AFET)	Grant			80,000.00
Civil Society Organization	All Gambia Forestry Platform (AGFP)	Grant			80,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Kombo Foni Forest Association (KOMFFORA)	Grant			50,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Agency for Development of Women & Children (ADWAC)	Grant			150,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Stay Green Foundation	Grant			120,000.00
Recipient Country Government	FASDEP Project	Grant			900,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Tango	Grant			500,000.00
Total Co-financing				19,997,260.00	6,789,000.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Low	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

The project has consistently maintained adherence to these safeguards, ensuring minimal adverse environmental and social impacts.

1. Gender equity is a core principle of our project implementation. We prioritize gender-inclusive approaches in all activities and ensure that benefits and indicators are disaggregated by gender whenever

possible. This practice not only highlights the impacts on both men and women but also ensures that gender-specific needs and contributions are recognized and addressed. Our commitment to gender equity is reflected in our ongoing support for women in establishing food crop gardens, providing training in bee-keeping, and facilitating their involvement in agroforestry and other sustainable land management practices. Additionally, our collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Welfare and the organization of the Women's Forum underscores our dedication to enhancing women's roles in natural resources management.

2. Local and indigenous communities. The project continues to have no identified potential effects on indigenous communities. Throughout the planning and implementation phases, we have ensured that all activities respect and consider the rights and territories of local populations. There have been no conflicts or adverse impacts reported, and we remain vigilant in monitoring this aspect to maintain our commitment to indigenous communities' well-being.

3. Involuntary resettlement. To date, there continues to be no identified risks of involuntary resettlement resulting from the project's activities. We have been diligent in designing and executing our initiatives to avoid any displacement of local populations. Our approach emphasizes community involvement and participation, ensuring that all project actions are aligned with the interests and needs of the local communities. We continue to monitor this aspect closely to prevent any future risks of involuntary resettlement.

4. Economic sustainability. Economic sustainability for local populations remains at the forefront of our project vision. We prioritize activities that support and enhance the livelihoods of local communities. By providing resources and training for sustainable practices such as agroforestry, bee-keeping, and tree planting, we help communities develop resilient and diverse income sources. Additionally, the identification and support of the Ecological Connectivity Corridor and the development of management plans for protected areas contribute to long-term economic benefits through conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Our focus on economic sustainability ensures that the project not only meets its environmental goals but also supports the socio-economic well-being of the communities involved.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
Mid-Term Review_Landseascape Planning and Restoration
_GEFID 9772