

Sustainable Management of Wooded Production Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

9777

Countries

Haiti

Project Name

Sustainable Management of Wooded Production Landscapes for Biodiversity
Conservation

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

5/24/2019

Review completed by PM

4/21/2021

Program Manager

Sarah Wyatt

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

PIF
CEO Endorsement

Project Design and Financing

1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
6/27/2019

Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/26/2019

Yes.

6/27/2019

No. Overall, this project is well designed. In particular, the approach to truly understanding the market for various products along with farmers' motivations and decision making (varying by farm type) is quite excellent and could serve as a model for other GEF projects. There are a few issues that remain:

1. Farmers organizations/coops - It appears that one of the significant barriers is the lack of organization to group and market goods, provide support and technical assistance,

and potentially mentor younger farmers. Will this be covered by other projects in the area?

2. Gender indicators - The gender analysis notes that approximately 50% of households in Haiti are women-led. Yet, the project only sets a target of supporting 20% women-led households. Please provide a justification for the target. When it comes to involvement in decision making processes, it would be good to use a qualitative measure such as a survey of a sample of women to get at deeper issues of voice and engagement than whether they simply attend a meeting. Also, will the project select value chains or activities for support based on women's involvement?

3. Sustainable brand - Has any market research been done on the interest in such branding? Who would manage such a brand after the project end? How will compliance be assured? Will this actually generate higher earnings for farmers? Are there similar initiatives in other countries that this will learn from?

Response to Secretariat comments

7/23/2019

1. Farmers organizations/coops

The project itself includes specific provisions to address these identified barriers. Outputs 1.3.3 and 2.3.1, led by FAO, include actions for strengthening technical and functional capacities of organizations and cooperatives involved in the project, including specific actions for identifying market opportunities and generating revenues (scoping and selection of market options, product branding, presentation and promotion, contract negotiation, administrative procedures for sale and export, alternative options for third-party certification). Output 1.3.3 in particular refers to the promotion of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) which is based on collaboration among farmers, consumers, rural advisors, local authorities in developing participatory value chains.

Under Output 2.3.2, the project will include provision of initial investment, training and advisory support for the establishment and management of small-scale processing facilities. It is envisaged that these facilities will typically be managed by farmers and community organizations, especially women; this builds on an existing baseline of community-level processing facilities such as the juice production plant in the commune of Marmelade, which processes oranges, chadeque and grapefruit produced by local farmers. Also in Marmelade, the Federation of Native Coffee Associations (FACN) has organised to collect fruit from coffee collection centres, paying farmers a fixed price during the whole harvest season, and making special provisions to minimise losses in transport to the factory (paragraph 69).

With regards to the provision of support and technical assistance, this will be addressed directly by the project, and is the specific focus of Outcome 2.1 (Improved service delivery systems for technical assistance) and specifically Output 2.1.1, led by FAO (Mechanisms for the generation and transfer of knowledge on the application of tree-based systems generating multiple environmental benefits). The strategic partnership of the project with the IDB-funded PITAG project will play a vital role in maximising coverage and sustainability of technical assistance. Please see in particular paragraphs 224 and 225: as stated in paragraph 226, ?As a result of these actions, a total of 7,500

farming families throughout the project area will have improved access to reliable sources of technical support for the application of sustainable production systems?.

The Farmer Field School model to be used by the project will be of central importance for ensuring effective transmission and sustained uptake of messages across ages, genders, and producer types: the gender action plan specifically proposes promoting the participation of women, youth, and other vulnerable people in the FFS.

2. 2. Gender indicators

- a. a. Although, as stated in the Gender Analysis, around 50% of families nationally are led by women, in the specific case of cacao- and coffee-based agroforestry systems the gender balance is much more skewed towards men. The results of consultations in the target areas during the PPG phase indicated that only around 25-30% of cacao and coffee farms are managed by women-led households. We therefore consider that 30% would be the maximum value that it would be realistic to give as a target for the percentage of households, with increased levels of household income as a result of the integrated and sustainable management of wooded production landscapes, that are female-led.
- b. We fully agree with the need to combine quantitative measures (which are easier, typically more objective and lend themselves to more frequent measurement) with qualitative measures (which can help to 'triangulate' quantitative measures, provide more depth of understanding on causal relationships and implications, and stimulate debate). Please note that Indicator 1.3, for example, on governance, proposes focus groups as a means of generating quali/quantitative information. On the basis of the observation, we have included the following commitment in the introductory text to Section VII of the Gender Analysis and Strategy, in which the gender indicators are presented: 'For all outputs, focus group or other participatory methods will be used to seek qualitative information on progress in relation to the objectives, regarding the effectiveness and implications of participation by women, youth and other vulnerable people?.'
- c. c. The main focus of the project is on cacao and coffee value chains as 'vehicles' for motivating the retention of biodiverse, sustainable agroforestry systems based on these crops. However, while cacao and coffee production as such is typically dominated by men, these diverse agroforestry systems are capable of generating much greater benefits for women than the alternatives (annual crops or structurally/compositionally simplified plantations): they typically include numerous varieties of marketable fruit trees (which provide gendered benefits given the typically major role played by women in Haiti in fruit value chains), and also numerous staple food crops such as yam, taro, bananas, plantains, thereby serving as 'larders' and reducing women's typical workload in obtaining food. The transition towards this situation, and the resulting implications for both environmental sustainability and social (including gender) benefits) is shown in Figure 8 of the Project Document.

3. 3. Sustainable brand

As explained in paragraph 211 of the ProDoc, studies during the PPG phase show that the price differentials that producers obtain through certification far outweigh the costs of becoming certified, resulting in significant net financial benefits for cooperatives and their members.

As presented in Box 2, there is already significant experience with branding and certification in the country. FECCANO has three forms of certification: Ecocert, Symbole de Producteurs Paysans and Fairtrade. The cost of certification varies in accordance with the number of producers (although the certification is held by

FECCANO itself). The total annual cost to FECCANO of holding these three certifications is USD 18,000, equal to USD 200/t of cacao (the certification covers 4,200 producers in 8 member cooperatives, with a total annual production of 200 t of cacao). Certification allows producers to obtain a price differential of USD 1,500/t, however (USD 4,000/t instead of USD 2,500/t), giving a net benefit of USD 1,410/t (56% on top of non-certified).

Output 1.1.4 focuses specifically on the consolidation of the capacities of producer cooperatives/federations for monitoring the compliance of their member producers with environmental management and traceability standards.

3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/27/2019

Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/27/2019

Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/25/2019

Yes.

6/27/2019

Should the resources from IDB be classified as a loan and as investment mobilized?

Response to Secretariat comments

7/23/2019

Agree. This has been corrected.

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Response to Secretariat comments

7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Response to Secretariat comments

8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/27/2019

Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/27/2019

Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/27/2019

The project describes that a knowledge management plan will be developed.

Response to Secretariat comments

Agency Responses

11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:

GEFSEC

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
6/27/2019

Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

STAP

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
6/27/2019

Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

GEF Council

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/26/2019

Yes.

6/27/2019

Not quite. It would be good to have better clarification of what is meant by regional government and the role for different levels of government.

Response to Secretariat comments
7/23/2019

There are 5 levels of political/administrative units in Haiti: Departments, Arrondissements, Communes, Quarters and Communal Sections.

1. The project will act at the level of Communes (with Mayors) and Communal Sections (principally with CASECs ? Councils for the Administration of Communal Sections), through multi-actor, multi-processes involving Community-Based Organisations (CBO) and other representation structures, as appropriate on a case-by-case basis. At this level MARNDR will be represented through Communal Agricultural Offices (BAC - Bureau Agricole Communal). It should be noted that the Ministry of Environment (MdE) does not as yet have representation at this scale (this is however to be provided for in a new law which to date has been voted on in the Chamber of Deputies but not as yet in the Senate).

2. At Departmental and/or regional level, the Departmental Directions of MARNDR and MdE in particular will play important roles, as deconcentrated structures under delegation by the State/central Government, in facilitating linkages between Government and development operators and initiatives functioning in their respective territories.

Convention Secretariat

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
6/27/2019

NA

Response to Secretariat comments
Recommendation

12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
4/22/2021

Yes, the budget has been amended based on the changes requested.

Nov 19 2020

No, please make the following corrections:

1- Project Information: per Table D, UNDP is the only Implementing Agency. Also FAO is selected as executing Agency so it should be removed from the

Implementing Agency list.

2- Core Indicators: Project results framework and table B include outcome ?30,120 ha prioritized in land use plans (produced through inter-sector processes and accords) across the project area for production systems on the basis of their importance for connectivity?, and since it covers the mechanisms for implementation my recommendation would be to include this full area under sub-indicator 4.1.

3- Co-financing :

? Co-financing from IADB and FAO should be recorded as ?donor Agency? and not GEF Agency since IADB or FAO are not the implementing Agency for this project

? Co-financing letters from FAO and UNDP do not specify the type of co-financing (grant).

4- Please include the maps in the Portal.

5. Please provide justification for the vehicle expenses and/or move these expenses to cofinancing.

Nov 12 2020

No, thank you for the revisions we understand they are the result of significant work. However, please include something about how this project will be COVID responsive and use adaptive management based on the situation.

6/27/2019

No, please address the issues in this review and resubmit.

Taxonomy: Please only select the highest level (most detailed terms) for the taxonomy.

Rio Markers: Please provide a justification for the Adaptation Rio Marker of 1.

Execution arrangements:

FAO: The budget appears that FAO will be undertaking the execution of components of this project, such as an FAO coordinator. Please clarify. We would need a specific letter from the OFP and justification from the agency for any project execution undertaken by FAO.

UNDP: This project lacks the justification for the significant role that UNDP is taking in execution. While we understand that there is a letter from the OFP, it would be good to see a justification for this.

8/19/2019

No, agencies are not meant to take such significant roles in implementation. We suggest that the agency to look to other organizations in country that may be able to provide the services that are outlined here.

1/14/2019

No, the execution arrangements remain challenging to follow. While we understand that given the Haitian context, there may be some need for agency execution, there is still a need for oversight that is difficult when the roles are mixed. One possibility would be for FAO to take on a purely execution role while UNDP remains the implementing agency. A brief discussion with the FAO GEF Coordinator indicated openness to this option to move forward.

Response to Secretariat comments

03/29/2021

Response to the comments provided via email (related to the vehicles removal):

Changes in the ProDoc:

Page 44: Budget ? changes have been made for both changes

Page 47: budget notes - changes have been made for both changes

Annex 6: number of days have increased for the intl consultant responsible for the project mgt

Annex 9: procurement plan / removed 50K for the motorcycle

Changes in CEO-Endorsement

Page 1 ? section B: subtotal outcomes 1 and 3 have been modified to take into account the transfer of the 50k

01/February/2021

1 Corrected in the portal

2 It has been added in Project results framework, page 25 and in Monitoring Plan page 78

3 A. In table C page 5, IADB and FAO are now recorded as ?donor Agency?; B. New letters are now specifying the type of co-financing

4 Corrected in the portal

5 Vehicles expenses are removed from GEF budget and will be covered by FAO co-financing

11/17/2020

Substantive information has been added as follows:

The activities are now considered for a post COVID-19 recovery Compounding this baseline scenario, the impacts of COVID-19, affecting all economic activities in the country for several months, will contribute to accelerate the pressure on the country's natural resources.

Forecasts already show an increase in the level of poverty in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts. This situation will also affect the food security of the country. Taking into account the impact of COVID -19 and given the interrelation between the socio-economic conditions of the populations and the conservation of biodiversity, deepened analysis on sustainable conservation of BD will be developed through this project. Producers equipped with small-scale processing facilities and trained to use them to obtain additional value from agroforestry products and other sustainable economic alternatives related to the protection of the environment for a post COVID-19 recovery developed

A comprehensive M&E strategy during the first months of the implementation phase, to ensure that the project is managed in an informed, adaptive and effective manner considering in the context of the pandemic

Additional Risk mitigation measure identified related to Covid19 and potential lockdown: Establish alternative implementation scenario with local association that might be able to execute the activities with no travel involved through the country.

Improving people's resilience to natural disasters is one of FAO's strategic objectives. As the executing organization for this project, FAO has the expertise and experience in protecting and restoring rural livelihoods in Haiti in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

FAO is already implementing in coordination with the government, several emergency projects in Haiti and has the experience and capacity to rapidly start-up, and effectively implement the activities foreseen in the project ?Sustainable Management of Wooded Production Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation? in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

FAO in cooperation with government partners, UNDP and grassroots organizations in the sector, NGOs and local authorities will:

- 1) Put in place the measures taken by the Government and the United Nations system to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic (distribution of hygienic and protective equipment such as masks, soap, alcohol, social distancing, reduction of number of participants in training and events, etc).
- 2) Support COVID-19 sensitization and awareness through broadcasting of prevention measures in rural radios, training of field development officers and community actors (civil and religious leaders).
- 3) Support training courses for the analysis and application of climate data for impact assessments in the agriculture sector.
- 4) Strengthen the resilience of people's livelihoods by promoting economic development to ensure food security, while combating the virus through social mobilization.
- 5) FAO is engaged in several short- and medium-term evaluations (with national authorities, WFP), World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and others) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on food security, agri-based livelihoods and functioning of agro-food systems. The data will support the Government and partners to develop a multisectoral post-epidemic recovery plan.
- 6) Enhance multi-level cooperation and partnership with national and international climate and agriculture research institutes, as well as with local decision makers and communities.

7/23/2019

Taxonomy:

The correction has been made in the portal

Rio Markers:

The project objective is 'the generation of multiple environmental and social benefits through the integrated and sustainable management of wooded production landscapes in the Massif du Nord with globally significant biodiversity?'. Although the project will not use adaptation funding, its co-benefits will include increased climate change resilience as a result of the productive and structural diversification of production systems, based on agroforestry.

Execution arrangements:

The execution arrangements presented in the Project Document respond directly to requests for support made to both UNDP and FAO by the GEF Operational Focal Point in Haiti. A copy of the request letter from the Ministry of Environment has been uploaded on the portal.

The recent HACT assessment (attached) considers the risk associated with the Government Executing Agency (Mde) to be High, and this has been exacerbated by the recent political instability in the country, one of the effects of which is a lack of continuity in management positions in central Government. Discussions with Government officials have led to the conclusion that more capacity building on procurement and financial procedures is necessary: therefore, both UNDP and FAO will invest in HACT trainings during the next 3 years in order to help the Government move forward a full national execution modality.

In the short term, however, taking into account the results of the HACT assessment, the proposed level of Agency involvement in the execution of this project is recognised by all parties (Agencies and Government) as the most pragmatic option, in order to ensure the effective, efficient and transparent execution of GEF resources and the attainment of the targeted impacts within the project timeframe.

Based on our long experience at global and national levels in the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, and the valorisation of value chains, the government of Haiti through the Ministry of Environment has selected UNDP and FAO to support the execution of this project by combining their efforts on both strategic and specific physical activities in agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable land use and conservation.

We attach the letter from the OFP supporting the roles of FAO and UNDP in the execution of components of the project.

In proposing this arrangement, full consideration has been given to its implications for the sustainability of project impacts. The project will focus in particular on strengthening the capacities of local stakeholders (local Governments, service providers and producer organizations) to carry forward and scale out impacts beyond the period of the project, taking advantage of the recognised strengths of FAO and UNDP in relation to local capacity development: in the context of Haiti, these local institutions are of more central importance for sustainability than central Government institutions, which have very limited presence at local level.

Under these arrangements the central Government will still play a central role in the project at a range of levels. The National Project Director (NPD) will be a representative

of MdE, responsible for orienting and advising the Project Manager on Government policy and priorities. Both MdE and MARNDR will participate in the Project Steering Committee (MdE as Chair), as a further channel for ensuring direct and effective Government oversight of the project.

In addition, the project will strengthen central Government institutions in a number of areas which correspond directly to their specific roles in the overall institutional framework, especially at policy and planning levels. These include decision-making, planning and negotiation (Output 1.1.1), cross-sector coordination of policy support for sustainable production systems (Output 1.3.1), financing mechanisms for sustainable production (Output 2.2.3), and knowledge management, dissemination and scaling up (Output 3.1).

GEF project financing will be entirely dedicated to the timely delivery of project's expected outputs and outcomes. UNDP's and FAO's oversight and supervision functions will be, instead, undertaken by their own staff and funded by the Agency fees in line with the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy.

9/20/2019

|

Reference: CEO ER: paragraph 22; 24; 28; 64 and new paragraph 27

ProDoc: par.198, 200, 220, 239, 278

Figure 18, 19

TBWP

Annex E (TORs)

Annex F (LoA)

Role of Agencies and delegation to other organizations 20 September 2019

Haiti is currently going through a major political crisis with widespread unrest and social upheaval. A HACT micro assessment has been conducted by an independent party. In the assessment of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the institution was evaluated as "high risk" and, by the agency's rules, financial resources can therefore not be transferred to the MoE.

In this context, the Government of Haiti (GOH) has asked FAO and UNDP to provide project execution support. In this regard, a letter from the GEF OFP has been uploaded in the GEF portal as supporting documentation. This will not detract the Government ownership of the project and the GOH will maintain its leading role (and ownership of

resources) as they will lead the Project Steering Committee and their staff will be fully engaged with project activities on a daily basis working closely with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). GOH will establish the Annual Work Plans and Budgets with PIU. FAO and UNDP will strengthen technical capacity of government staff and units in areas such as ecosystem services, farmer field school sustainable production and conservation practices.

During the implementation, FAO and UNDP will build the technical capacity and transfer at least 60% of the project funds (and execution responsibilities) to national NGOs and CSOs during the life of the project. FAO and UNDP will execute a maximum of 40% of the project funds. All costs related to the requested execution services will be part of the project management cost.

UNDP

Outcome 1 - Regarding the operational component of the project on decision support tools to optimise the configuration of landscape features according to spatial aspects of connectivity, biological importance, production potential, vulnerability and flows of ecosystem services, some entities such as FECCANO and RECOCARNO were identified as most relevant. These entities were also identified as most relevant to the Governance aspect of the project, dealing with communication and involvement in planning, governance and environmental management, biodiversity conservation and related ecosystem services.

Outcome 2 - The capacity building component of the project is a component that requires strategic and operational skills to implement. Relevant organization with strong experience in this field such as FECCANO and RECOCARNO will be considered.

Outcome 3 - will be executed by UNDP and covers: Knowledge management and dissemination/scaling up strategy, ESMF development, Monitoring and evaluation strategy. UNDP will ensure the quality of ESMF, M&E and take advantage of our Green Commodities Programme which connects commodity practitioners around the world and provides a safe space for them to share their knowledge and experience. Through this programme, UNDP helps building knowledge across a wide range of online and in-person activities with representation of 12 commodity-producing countries, 30 organizations and 8 different agricultural and marine commodities. The Green Commodities Community works to increase and enhance connectivity among its members, creating a global network of changemakers, and to promote robust multi-stakeholder dialogue for systemic change.

As for UNDP's role as both a GEF Agency and a UN Programme Agency, it is worth mentioning that UNDP is in full alignment with the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy. UNDP's roles and responsibilities with respect to project management has an established firewall between the execution and implementation functions. This is done by securing the segregation of duties associated to internal UNDP roles, namely the

Country Office, Regional Technical Adviser, Office of Evaluation (OED) and UNDP Regional Bureau and Headquarters. The Country office has a long and strong experience in working with the government institutions in area such as environmental governance, biodiversity, ecosystem-based adaptation etc. The country office also has a strong technical programme team that will ensure the project quality oversight and the execution support (field visit, continuity in government engagement, reporting). Related to this, UNDP would like to reiterate that all project grants will be disbursed on the ground for the timely delivery of project outputs, while UNDP is adding US\$ 200,000 to ensure proper supervision and monitoring. The Project Officer is mainly funded by UNDP's core funds.

The UNDP selection process for NGOs and CSOs:

As per UNDP policies, a competitive selection will be applied, which is appropriate for selecting organizations that will provide specific project inputs and/or undertake well-defined project activities in situations where competition is expected to optimize results. The selection will be based on a quality-based fixed budget selection. This is a procurement process where (a) the call for proposals is limited to civil society organizations, (b) the budget is disclosed upfront and (c) UNDP can negotiate with organizations on ways to deliver maximum benefit to beneficiaries. Assessment of best value for money focuses on maximizing the transfer of value to the beneficiary user. The maximum permissible overhead cost may vary depending on the type of assignment, size of the project component to be implemented, and country or security situation among other factors.

FAO

On building technical capacity, FAO will support Haiti's national institutions and national development partners on gaining full ownership and autonomy in the application of web-based technical tools and other technical field approaches to improve government decision-making processes through technical information on the ground. These are being adapted to the context of Haiti in cooperation with the executing agency and applied by the NGOs/CSOs for the implementation of the field activities with FAO's backstopping. FAO will transfer resources to partners through Letter of Agreements (please refer to partner selection below). As the project advances, FAO will take on the pivotal role of monitoring and ensuring quality control of the interventions. The proposed roles for FAO and the NGOs/CSOs should be as follows:

Outcome 1: FAO will lead and apply existing web-based tools such as *Ex-act* and *Collect Earth* in the project areas to strengthen government's decision-making processes based on technical information. In addition, the use of FAO's *Incentive for ecosystem services approach*, that includes packages of public and private measures to support farmers in the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, will benefit the environment and protect long-term food security. These tools and techniques, under the

leadership and guidance of FAO and local NGO partners that execute activities on the ground jointly with national and local government, will build capacity for productive landscapes in Haiti.

Outcome 2: This component will include some FAO approaches such as *Farmer Field School (FFS)* combined with agroforestry techniques. FAO will lead and guide the process to promote and upscale the use of these approaches among the farming communities to strengthen the technical skills required for improving production and productivity at both individual and collective levels. National extension services from the Ministry of Agriculture and NGOs/CSOs will execute FFS in the targeted areas, and gradually adopt the *FFS* approach until they have full autonomy. FAO will lead and guide the methodologies and practices to be used by the NGOs/CSOs and government partners to achieve project results and global environmental benefits.

Outcome 3: UNDP/FAO leading role in component 3 is justified due to the need to leverage international expertise and knowledge through the Green commodities programme. This outcome is key to ensure the achievement of project results; as such, FAO will ensure the proper dissemination of results, best practices and lessons learned at national and global levels.

As for FAO's role as both a GEF Agency and a specialized UN Agency, it is worth mentioning that FAO is in full alignment with the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy. FAO's roles and responsibilities with respect to project management has an established firewall between the execution and implementation functions. This is done by securing the segregation of duties associated to internal FAO roles, namely the Budget Holder (BH), Lead Technical Officers (LTO), Funding Liaison Officer (FLO), Office of Evaluation (OED), and Corporate Units. In connection with it, FAO would like to reiterate that all project grants will be disbursed on the ground for the timely delivery of project outputs, while FAO's oversight and supervision functions will be undertaken by FAO's own staff and funded by the agency's fees.

The FAO selection process for NGOs and CSOs:

FAO uses a competitive selection process for NGOs/CSOs to ensure the technical quality and the best value for money. Government national and local capacity building will be a key responsibility in this process. While FAO will support project execution, it will use instruments such as Letters of Agreement to transfer execution responsibilities to different NGOs. This includes activities under "Contracts", Trainings and workshops and specific purchases for seeds and other planting materials. The FAO will not, under any circumstance, use project funds to pay for FAO staff or cover the travel/supervision costs of such staff.

FAO has working experiences with some of the NGOs/CSOs that are already operational in Haiti and agreed to participate in the selection process for the implementation of field activities (e.g. Action Aid, Solidaridad Internacional, Catholic Relief Services ? CRS, Platform for the Improvement of Artisanal Fisheries and Integrated Development ? PADI, Helvetas, etc.). FAO is also considering engaging, as executing partners, the Faculty of Agriculture and Livestock of Haiti and entities Novella, FECCANO, RECOCANO, based on the expertise and previous work in the project intervention zones.

21/04/2020

We have incorporated your suggestion of having UNDP as implementing agency and FAO as executing agency. In this context, as Implementing entity, UNDP will play an oversight role while FAO will be executing the project in support to the Government of Haiti (GOH). This will not detract the Government ownership of the project and the GOH will maintain its leading role (and ownership of resources) as they will lead the Project Steering Committee and their staff will be fully engaged with project activities on a daily basis working closely with the Project Management Unit (PMU). The Annual Work Plans and Budgets will be established by PMU in close consultation with Ministry staff.

The relevant changes have been made in the Prodoc and the CEO endorsement.

3/9/2020

All mandatory texts from section IV to section XI of the new Prodoc template have been taken into account. The old mandatory texts in the last version of the prodoc have been replaced by those of the new template. However, optional texts have been removed from sections I to IV in order to meet the length requirements for these sections in the new template.

The relevant changes were made in the CEO endorsement.

Review Dates

	Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	6/27/2019	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/14/2020	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/12/2020	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/19/2020	

Additional Review 4/21/2021
(as necessary)

CEO Recommendation

Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations

Context: Haiti is part of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot but suffers from important pressures from Agriculture and grazing, wood for energy. Cocoa and coffee farms represent more than 50% of Haiti remaining forest cover.

Due to a lack of incentives, to the aging of farmers and to the tenure insecurity among others, the tree cover over cocoa and coffee farms tends to diminish. This is an important issue for Biodiversity and sustainable land management as this agricultural associated tree cover is an important part of the remaining tree cover in Haiti.

Project: The project will support the generation of multiple environmental and social benefits through the integrated and sustainable management of wooded production landscapes with globally significant biodiversity in the North and North East Departments of Haiti. It will mainly do so through (i) enabling conditions for application and scaling-up of landscape management models and (ii) supporting the conservation of compatible tree-based production systems as part of sustainable landscape mosaics. The project will work through building capacities of more than 7,500 farming families, using farm schools to demonstrate good practices, and building cross-sectoral governance of targeted landscapes. A particular emphasis will be placed on targeting project messages and technical assistance at younger farmers. In terms of GEBs, it will improve the management of 14,113 ha of landscapes consisting of biodiversity-friendly production systems and biological corridors where particularly high levels of BD benefits will be generated. It will support the restoration of 138 ha and sequester 78,2011 metric tons of CO₂.

Sustainability, scaling-up and innovation: The project will innovate in the Haitian context by using a landscape approach that recognizes corridors in management and promotes tree cover in compatible agricultural practices. In order to sustain the project's results, it will link the conservation of tree cover to demonstrated production systems and develop institutional capacities. This project could be scaled-up in other regions of Haiti such as in the Artibonite region and best practices will be communicated to entities active in other regions.