

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	10465
Project Name:	Promoting integrated metropolitan planning and innovative urban technology investments in Brazil
Countr(ies):	Brazil
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Promoting integrated metropolitan planning and innovative urban technology investments in Brazil

Country

Brazil

GEF ID

10465

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (lead), with co-executing partners: the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO), the Centre for Management and Strategic Studies (CGEE), UNEP

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

Objective

Brazilian metropolitan regions reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve biodiversity and achieve economic, social and environmental co-benefits through an integrated urban planning approach.

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

12/18/2021

Agency Approval

12/23/2022

Implementation Start

12/29/2022

First Disbursement

1/4/2023

Expected MTR

1/31/2025

MTR Submission

8/7/2026

Actual MTR

7/31/2026

Expected Completion

1/31/2027

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

CITinova II remains highly relevant, strategically coherent, and strongly aligned with Brazil's sustainable urban development, climate, and biodiversity agendas. Building on the GEF-6 CITinova I project, CITinova II expanded its scope from the municipal to the metropolitan scale, seeking to strengthen metropolitan governance, climate action, biodiversity conservation, and low-emission urban development across three target metropolitan regions: Florianópolis, Belém, and RIDE Teresina–Timon. (Executive Summary, p. 5)

Project implementation has been significantly affected by delays resulting from the late operational start, recurrent institutional changes, and the complexity of coordinating multiple ministries, implementing partners, municipalities, and metropolitan stakeholders. Although the project has already received an 18-month no-cost extension, many strategic activities remain at an early stage of implementation. (Executive Summary, p. 5)

The project management structure demonstrates strong technical capacity and adaptive management. UNEP is providing highly satisfactory supervision and technical backstopping, while FUNBIO demonstrates strong financial and procurement management capacity. The current alignment between UNEP, MCTI, and FUNBIO is strong. (Executive Summary, p. 5-6)

The MTR identifies the metropolitan scale as the project's main implementation challenge. Metropolitan governance remains institutionally fragile in the targeted regions, and local ownership of strategic outputs is still limited. Several operational challenges remain: heavy reliance on external consultancies with insufficient coordination among outputs, limited strategic alignment between project components and territorial priorities, and challenges related to stakeholder ownership, institutional engagement, and political commitment at the metropolitan level. (Executive Summary, p. 6)

Key ratings: Overall assessment: Moderately Satisfactory; Strategic Relevance – Highly Satisfactory; Quality of Project Design – Satisfactory; Effectiveness – Moderately Satisfactory; Financial Management – Satisfactory; Efficiency – Moderately Unsatisfactory; Monitoring and Reporting – Moderately Satisfactory; Exit Strategy and Sustainability – Moderately Likely; Stakeholder Engagement – Moderately Satisfactory; Gender and Human Rights – Satisfactory. (Section 7, pp. 63-68)

B. Stakeholder Engagement

At the national level, there is strong alignment and stakeholder ownership. The project is well integrated with national urban development and climate agendas, and focal points from MCTI, MCID, and MMA regularly participate in implementation and strategic discussions. (Section 5.8.3, p. 54)

At the metropolitan level, stakeholder engagement is weaker. Focal points from key institutional partners have been designated since early implementation, but many strategic outputs are still at an early stage, contributing to a perception among local actors that they are participating as secondary stakeholders rather than as drivers of the process. Most working groups are either not formally established or continue to operate informally, limiting their capacity to support strategic engagement. (Section 5.8.3, p. 54)

Many coordination mechanisms, including local advisory groups and working groups, remain informal or only partially operational. As a result, stakeholder participation has largely been limited to consultation and information-sharing activities rather than sustained engagement around long-term project outcomes. Strengthening political commitment, local ownership, and strategic coordination will be critical during the remaining implementation period. Under Component 4, UrbanShift activities contributed significantly to institutional articulation, but their timing was somewhat disconnected from the broader project workplan. Rating: Moderately Satisfactory. (Section 5.8.3, p. 54-55)

C. Gender Equality

The project revised its Gender Action Plan in 2024. Although relatively concise, the revised plan includes clear guidelines, proposed methodologies, and indicators intended to guide project implementation in this area. (Section 5.8.4, p. 55)

As most project activities are being implemented through external consultancies, the Terms of Reference include qualitative scoring criteria that favour companies demonstrating gender-balanced teams. Consultancies are also required to explicitly describe how minorities will be engaged throughout project activities, including concrete measures aimed at promoting the inclusion and empowerment of women. (Section 5.8.4, p. 55)

Human rights and inclusiveness approaches are integrated into the project management strategy. Territorial diagnostics under the low-emission zone pilots include socio-economic and vulnerability analyses. Given that most consultancies are still at an early stage, robust monitoring data on gender outcomes is not yet available and the effective outcomes of the Gender Action Plan can only be properly assessed later in the implementation period. Rating: Satisfactory. (Section 5.8.4, p. 55)

D. Knowledge Management

The project's knowledge-sharing and capacity-building agenda remains highly relevant and well aligned with national policy processes. The dissemination of training activities through platforms such as CapaCidades, together with integration into broader national urban development initiatives, enhances the potential for replication and scaling up. However, due to implementation delays, many of the project's most significant lessons learned and practical experiences are expected to emerge only during the second half of implementation. Originally, the project envisioned the System of Innovations and Solutions for Sustainable Urban Development as the central pillar of its knowledge management strategy. This concept has since been incorporated into a broader national platform on sustainable development and climate action, which is still under development. As a result, it remains unclear how the platform will facilitate the sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned among Brazilian city managers. It is also not yet clear how the metropolitan modules being developed in the three target regions will be integrated into this national platform. (Section 5.3.1, Component 1/4)

The project's communication strategy has also been affected by implementation delays and staff turnover. Nevertheless, the project has maintained a strong presence in both traditional media and social networks and is actively documenting experiences and lessons learned that can feed future knowledge products. Communication activities and channels have generally been well targeted to key audiences, supporting information exchange among project partners and other stakeholders. At the metropolitan level, however, there is a need to strengthen stakeholder engagement and to use communication more strategically as a tool to support the metropolitan agenda and promote the benefits of integrated metropolitan governance. (Section: 5.8.7)

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)
	16355.69		

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)

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)
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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)
	16355.69		

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
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Amazon Metropolis Wildlife Refuge (Belém Metropolitan Region)	555576 02	Natural Monument or Feature		6,367.30	0.00		55.00	55.00	
Antonio Danúbio Botanic Garden Municipal Park (Belém Metropolitan Region)	555576 346	Habitat/Species Management Area		3.54	0.00		21.00	21.00	
Belém Metropolitan Region Environmental Protected Area	555600 216	Protected Landscape/Seascape		6,063.90	0.00		46.00	46.00	
Carijós Ecological Region (Florianópolis Metropolitan Region)	10822	Strict Nature Reserve		759.30	0.00		52.00	52.00	
Combú Island Environmental Protected Area (Belém Metropolitan Region)	352212	Protected Landscape/Seascape		1,597.20	0.00		50.00	50.00	
Museum Seringal Park Municipal Area of Relevant Ecological Interest (Belém Metropolitan Region)	351750	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		1.35	0.00		30.00	30.00	

Palmares National Forest (Teresina Metropolitan Region)	351807	Habitat/Species Management Area		170.00	0.00		60.00	60.00	
Utinga State Park (Belém)	478590	National Park		1,393.10	0.00		65.00	65.00	

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)
	1687		

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)

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)
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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)
	1687		

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)
Pirajubaé Marine Extractive Reserve (Florianópolis Metropolitan Region)	67715	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		1,687.00	0.00		54.00	54.00	

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)
	27861		

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)
	27,711.00	0.00	

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)
		0.00	

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)
	150.00	0.00	

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)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		5611683		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)		18937180		

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 CO ₂ e (direct)			0	
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)			0	
Anticipated start year of accounting			2028	
Duration of accounting			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)		5,611,683	0	
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)		18,937,180	0	
Anticipated start year of accounting		2025	2028	
Duration of accounting		20	20	

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)			0	

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)
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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		1,200,000	527	
Male		1,160,000	631	
Total	0	2,360,000	1158	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	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00	109,644.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	20,000,000.00	8,512,648.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Regional Development (MDR)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	29,000,000.00	

Recipient Country Government	Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP)	Loans	Investment mobilized	40,000,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES)	Loans	Investment mobilized	55,000,000.00	
Donor Agency	Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	700,000.00	915,394.00
Civil Society Organization	Center for Management and Strategic Studies (CGEE)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	State Government of Pará	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	12,800,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	State Government of Pará	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	Belém Municipality	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	6,225,285.00	5,376,490.00
Recipient Country Government	Teresina Municipality	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	8,668,666.00	18,130,996.00
Recipient Country Government	Teresina Municipality	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00	60,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Government of Santa Catarina	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,103,459.00	171,413.00
Recipient Country Government	Florianópolis Municipality	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	454,000.00	60,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Florianópolis Municipality	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4,533,000.00	1,944,752.00
Recipient Country Government	Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,854,833.00	
GEF Agency	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00	25,300.00

Total Co-financing		184,789,243.00	25,300.00
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Comments

As of December 2025, current reported co-financing values total USD 35 million from an initial planned perspective of USD 184,789,243 (19% of target). Co-financing remains below the ideal ratio but is expected to grow during project implementation as many complementary initiatives are ongoing at national and local levels. (Section 5.4.2, p. 48)

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Prefix	Title
M and E Document	Mid-term Review (MTR)	CITInova II MTR final
Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	GEF-7 Brazil - SRIF