

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10541
Project Name:	Sustainable management and restoration of the Dry Forest of the Northern Coast of Peru
Countr(ies):	Peru
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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## I. Overview

### A. Description

Project name

Sustainable management and restoration of the Dry Forest of the Northern Coast of Peru

Country

Peru

GEF ID

10541

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/10/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective

To restore and sustainably manage the dry forests of the Northern Coast of Peru, facilitating the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, increasing the resilience of communities and their livelihoods and supporting the achievement of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target.

### B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

8,381,352.00

Cumulative Disbursement

2,687,703.00

### C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

1/11/2022

Agency Approval

1/18/2022

Implementation Start 12/23/2022	First Disbursement 2/29/2024
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 12/22/2027	Actual Completion

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

### A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The Dry Forest Project has strengthened twelve macroregional coordination spaces through accompaniment, technical assistance, training, and the development of tools that enhance their management, such as work plans and management plans. A total of nine planning instruments have been formulated: four environmental action plans, one operational plan for the Tumbes Livestock Technical Board, and four watershed management plans.

The Project has contributed to the management of 114,940 hectares of Protected Areas through the completion of five master plans: (Pomac Historical Sanctuary, Huacrupe – La Calera Regional Conservation Area, Cerros de Amotape National Park, El Angolo Game Reserve, Angostura Faical Regional Conservation Area), one Master Plan currently under development (Salitral Huarmaca RCA), and three Management Plans under preparation (Piedra del Toro ACA, Virrilá Estuary ACA, San Pedro Mangroves RAMSAR Site). Additionally, one Resource Management Plan has been completed for the Laquipampa Wildlife Refuge (RVS).

Coordination has taken place with IUCN and the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) to define the terms of reference for the connectivity service in the Southern Hills Corridor, aimed at preparing the technical dossiers for the creation of three new protected areas covering a total of 50,000 hectares. The Pontifical Catholic University of Peru has developed a Capacity-Building Plan for officials from NPAs, PCAs, OECMs, and park rangers, which is set to be implemented in July. The first training course in Piura is aimed at all staff from the Natural Areas participating in the Dry Forest Project.

Restoration processes are progressing; based on the results of the ROAM methodology, producer organizations are being identified. Currently, 13 restoration sites have been defined, covering 790 hectares: (02) Playa Blanca–Sechura, La Rita / Casaraná - Nacho Távora Peasant Community – Chulucanas, Mangamanguilla – Salitral-Morropón, San Felipe de Cañas Peasant Community – Marcavelica, El Banco Committee – Salas Peasant Community, La Otra Banda – Zaña-Lambayeque. All intervention sites have been selected based on ROAM results, high conservation value forests, and technical input from the UGP team, in order to optimize resources.

In coordination with peasant organizations or communities, the Project continues to assess the identification of restoration sites, field schools, and productive modules.

During the reporting period, 13 field schools have been established with producers.

Eight conservation agreements have been signed, covering 10,760 hectares (16% of the final target); it is estimated that 12 additional agreements will be signed by year-end with already defined forest areas, with meetings scheduled for the signing of these agreements.

A knowledge audit has been carried out, in addition to the establishment of the project's communication strategy. The methodological process to establish the first Dry Forest Community of Practice has already been defined. This component has successfully produced quarterly, semiannual, and annual reports, as well as additional reports requested by the Project's stakeholders.

## **B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities**

Main challenges of the Dry Forest Project:

(01) Continuity of Regional Government Natural Resources Management positions, as these officials are the focal points for coordinating the Dry Forest Project activities. With each change in personnel, the Project must restart the engagement strategy from scratch, which delays scheduled activities with these stakeholders. This was the case during this reporting period in the regions of Piura, Lambayeque, and Tumbes.

(02) Restoration processes within the dry forest ecosystem are inherently challenging, as they require the effective engagement and participation of peasant communities. This is particularly difficult due to producers' mistrust of the restoration process, which calls for sustained awareness-raising and support efforts.

(03) Identifying key individuals with empirical knowledge who are willing to share it within a Community of Practice for publication and dissemination.

(04) Multiple reporting requirements and meetings demanded by the institutions involved in project governance, which consume a significant portion of the Project's resources

## **C. Stakeholder Engagement**

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of Environment	Co-funder	<p>The National Directorate for Biological Diversity of MINAM continues to lead the Project. Weekly follow-up meetings are held, along with daily coordination.</p> <p><b>Progress</b> It chairs the sessions of the Steering Committee and provides technical support to the project in its capacity as the governing body. It maintains fluid communication with other national directorates within MINAM, in order to increase opportunities for multisectoral and multilevel coordination, aimed at achieving the objectives of the project.</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> To maintain the current work dynamic despite changes in project directors, in order to prevent the PBS from being exposed to politically motivated decisions.</p>
Government Institutions	SERNANP - Ministry of Environment	Co-funder	<p>The project coordinates with the heads of the offices in Tumbes, Piura, and Lambayeque</p> <p><b>Progress</b> Coordination on interventions within protected natural areas (PNAs) and their buffer zones.</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> To establish a more fluid working relationship with SERNANP to facilitate the implementation of actions programmed by the project.</p>
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation	Co-funder	<p>Through the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)</p> <p><b>Progress</b> Field experience in seed planting across 40 hectares in Tumbes as a preventive measure in anticipation of the El Niño Phenomenon (ENP). Review of management instruments such as guidelines and protocols, as well as restoration plans.</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> To establish joint intervention mechanisms, especially in the buffer zones of protected natural areas (PNAs). To ensure timely and streamlined review of the deliverables established in the PRODOC that fall under its responsibility.</p>
Government Institutions	Regional Government of Piura	Co-funder	<p><b>Progress</b> Very fluid communication established through the Algarrobo Technical Roundtable. The PBS continues to provide technical assistance for the design of the Goat Farming Development Project and the Restoration Project in the dry forest areas of the province of Sechura. These projects are being developed by the Formulation Unit of the Regional Directorate of Agriculture of Piura.</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> To ensure continuity of joint work in the coming years, despite the potential risk of changes in leadership.</p>
Government Institutions	Regional Government of Piura – Regional Directorate of Agriculture of Piura / Directorate of Agricultural Competitiveness and Directorate of Natural Resources and Environment	Strategic Ally	<p><b>Progress</b> Very fluid communication established through the Algarrobo Technical Roundtable. The PBS continues to provide technical assistance for the design of the Goat Farming Development Project and the Restoration Project in the dry forest areas of the province of Sechura. These projects are being developed by the Formulation Unit of the Regional Directorate of Agriculture of Piura.</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> To ensure continuity of joint work in the coming years, despite the potential risk of changes in leadership.</p>
Government Institutions	Regional Government of Lambayeque	Co-funder	<p><b>Progress</b> Coordination for the organization of training events — Regional Forestry Congress. The relationship is expected to expand to other entities under or attached to the Regional Government, related to dry forest issues.</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> To maintain coordinated work between MINAM and Regional Governments, and integrate other affiliated entities and local governments into the process. To develop an articulated plan that can be monitored by the project and progressively strengthen presence in the region within the intervention area.</p>
Government Institutions	Regional Government of Tumbes	Co-funder	<p>The project and the Regional Government of Tumbes maintain close coordination through the Office of Natural Resources and Environment.</p> <p><b>Progress</b> The work agenda revolves around the Master Plan of the Northwestern Biosphere Reserve (RBNO) and the Angostura Faical Regional Conservation Area (ACR).</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> To sustain coordinated work between MINAM and the Regional Governments, while integrating affiliated institutions and local governments into the process. To develop an articulated plan that the project can monitor and progressively strengthen its presence in the region within the intervention area.</p>

## D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	<p>A progressive and comprehensive strategy is being adopted to close gender gaps in the access to and control of natural resources. One of the main tools guiding these actions is the Gender Action Plan of the Dry Forest Project (GAP-DF), originally formulated in April 2021 as part of the project's strategic management instruments.</p> <p>As of 2025, the Project Management Unit (PMU) is updating and validating the plan with the aim of reviewing and adjusting the gender gaps identified across all project components. This update incorporates both an assessment of progress achieved and the revision of affirmative actions to strengthen the effective participation of women—particularly in rural areas—in the conservation, sustainable use, and governance of the dry forest.</p> <p>In addition to the GAP-DF, the project is finalizing the update of cross-cutting documents addressing gender inequalities, including the Free, Prior and Informed Consent Plan with Peasant Communities, which ensures equitable participation of women and vulnerable groups. The project is also reinforcing instruments such as the Gender-Sensitive Grievance and Redress Mechanism, implementing affirmative actions across project components, and forging partnerships with regional governments to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender approach in territorial management.</p>
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	<p>The project enhances women's participation and decision-making through affirmative actions aimed at ensuring their active involvement. This approach is based on the classification of women as a vulnerable group, as outlined in the 2021 Gender Action Plan and its 2025 update. The plan identifies structural gender gaps and proposes targeted interventions grounded in a human rights and intercultural approach. Examples include the implementation of differentiated and adapted spaces that consider accessible schedules, culturally appropriate language, and participatory methodologies to ensure women's voices are included in project planning and decision-making.</p> <p>The Gender Mapping Work Plan also incorporates the use of interviews, focus groups, and tools such as the Equity Tree, which help to analyze women's roles, responsibilities, and the barriers they face within their communities.</p> <p>Additionally, the project has provided technical assistance and grants to women's organizations in Playa Blanca and Mangamanguilla, strengthening their economic and organizational empowerment. These efforts are further supported through their participation in Farmer Field Schools (FFS), technical workshops, and productive fairs.</p>
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	<p>The Dry Forest Project generates socio-economic benefits for women through their active involvement in productive activities, particularly under Component 3. These initiatives include capacity building, technical assistance, access to resources, improved production practices, and participation in value chains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asociación Mujer Mar y Bosque in Playa Blanca is currently undergoing a diagnostic phase to design an ecotourism proposal and promote marine handicrafts linked to coastal and dry forest resources, emphasizing women's leadership and sustainable use of local resources.</li> <li>• The AMCEBS Association in Salitral promotes sustainable practices related to the conservation and transformation of dry forest products.</li> <li>• Women have participated in regional (e.g., Farmer's Day Fair in Piura on June 22) and national events (e.g., Biodiversity Fair in Pucallpa on May 24–25), increasing their visibility and income through the sale of value-added products derived from sustainable forest-based activities.</li> </ul>
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	<p>The Dry Forest Project has integrated communication strategies adapted with intercultural and gender-sensitive approaches, ensuring equal access to information, horizontal dialogue, and capacity building. Key good practices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of informational materials using accessible language tailored to local contexts;</li> <li>• Use of intergenerational participatory methodologies in restoration activities and social assessments;</li> <li>and • Coordination with public institutions to strengthen local capacities with a gender perspective and to mainstream this approach in territorial planning.</li> </ul>

## E. Knowledge Management

<p>Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.</p>	<p>The project has reached an overall implementation progress of 15% in terms of deliverables, based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support for the establishment of the Dry Forest Community of Practice (CoP): This initiative stems from the identification of stakeholders within peasant communities and associations where the Dry Forest Project (PBS) operates (from March 5, 2025). These stakeholders are expected to play a key role as knowledge brokers, engaging not only within their own communities but also linking with broader knowledge exchange platforms involving the private sector and academia. By the end of the PIR reporting period, the project had conducted seven interventions. The Dry Forest Community of Practice will be established based on recommendations from the Knowledge Audit, which emphasized the importance of facilitating the flow of tacit knowledge generated within communities toward other spaces. Given the central role of local communities and associations, the CoP will require the support of both internal and external actors linked to the PBS beneficiary communities or associations. To date, the project has completed a mapping of key actors relevant to the CoPs in four communities: Tutumo, Salas, Manga Manguilla, and Playa Blanca. The integration of these community stakeholders and territorial agents will be progressive, recognizing that each community will reach readiness for tacit knowledge exchange at its own pace. In parallel, PBS will support the interconnection between these communities and other knowledge management platforms. In this regard, a link will be established between the Community of Practice and the knowledge generation and dissemination spaces associated with the project's three other components.</li> </ol> <p>With regard to the knowledge generated in the aforementioned communities, the PBS will prioritize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Tutumo, knowledge about meliponiculture</li> <li>- In Salas, knowledge about agroforestry</li> <li>- In Manga Manguilla, knowledge about palo santo</li> <li>- In Playa Blanca, knowledge about capriculture</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. In addition, the project has begun a systematization process that will allow for the identification of good practices and lessons learned from programs, projects, and initiatives in the dry forest. In this regard, the project prioritized the selection of these practices based on criteria of relevance, sustainability, innovation, replicability, validity, facilitation of public policy management, and an intercultural, gender, or intergenerational approach.</li> <li>3. The project has undergone a knowledge audit, whose recommendations focus on facilitating the flow of tacit knowledge from the community or association to the outside world. Likewise, from a gender perspective, it recommends knowledge transfer based on the inclusion of teaching and training techniques that favor women's learning and that all staff, including technical assistants, are very aware of the need to create a learning environment where women feel safe to attend, ask questions, and receive support, even when they bring their children.</li> <li>4. Development of a gender-sensitive communication strategy. In implementation. Design completed in September 2024; since October, it has been implemented with adjustments to reflect the reality of the communities involved.</li> <li>5. First macro-regional meeting of institutional representatives of the SIAR and MINAM. The event provided a starting point (baseline) for the situation of SIARs at the regional level and defined a roadmap for closing gaps in public services. The event also featured a presentation on the knowledge management approach as a key factor in adding public value and making better evidence-based decisions at all levels of government.</li> </ol>
<p>If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?</p>	
<p>Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Link knowledge management actions to the Project Advisory Committee as a key space for generating input and feedback on the project. This space also encourages the participation of knowledge-generating institutions. The PBS will share information and planned actions (communication actions, among others) with these institutions, promoting joint work.</li> <li>2. The PBS works with MINAM on the process of strengthening regional and national environmental information systems. In addition, it seeks to ensure that these spaces take ownership of their role as knowledge managers.</li> <li>3. Systematize experiences that provide lessons learned from areas such as the sustainability of the dry forest ecosystem, water resource use, and innovation as a strategy for dry forest sustainability, among others. Systematization seeks to scale up lessons that are useful to decision-makers, while at the same time, together with the governance component, the systematized products can be scaled up through the spaces and platforms strengthened by this component.</li> </ol>
<p>Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.</p>	<p>The project has a gender-focused communication strategy and a communication plan. The strategy also has its own matrix of indicators, timetable, and budget, and responds to the needs of the project team "Sustainable management and restoration of the dry forest of the northern coast of Peru (Dry Forest)" project team to establish a roadmap that proposes and guides communication actions during the project implementation period, as well as to gather existing safeguards and incorporate cross-cutting approaches (gender, intercultural, intergenerational, and intersectional).</p> <p>Successes in the implementation of the Communication Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active participation of strategic partners (mainly regional governments, MINAM, Profonampe, and SERNANP) during the presentation of the communication campaign. They provided relevant feedback with concrete suggestions to improve the focus of the message and its technical or cultural relevance. They showed openness to collaborative work.</li> <li>2. Planning for effective community validation. Community actors show genuine interest in participating in the message and content validation process.</li> <li>3. Alignment with local values and contexts. The final messages respect the local worldview, traditions, and forms of communication. Key symbolic or territorial elements that strengthen the sense of belonging were recognized.</li> <li>4. Strengthening trust among actors. Validation will also be an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the technical team and communities, reinforcing the idea that the communication plan is not external, but rather built with and for the territories.</li> </ol> <p>Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Limited participation of some partners. Some key actors did not attend or did not actively engage.</li> <li>2. Difficulties in convening the community in dispersed or hard-to-reach areas.</li> <li>4. Respecting and integrating the specific characteristics of the four intervention regions into the products planned within the communication plan is a major challenge, which may require some unplanned adjustments or rethinking.</li> </ol>
<p>Human-interest story: 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.</p>	<p>The case of Asociación Mujer, Mar y Bosque in Playa Blanca, Sechura, Piura</p> <p>The Dry Forest Project contributed to the formalization of a women's association in the town of Playa Blanca in Sechura. The support consisted mainly of work to formalize the association and awareness-raising and training workshops for the organization's members. To this end, a methodology was implemented to draw on the knowledge and experience of the members on the issues to be addressed: formalization of an association, vision, mission, and objectives of an organization, minutes of the appointment of the board of directors, and statutes. The association is now registered in the Public Registry.</p> <p>According to reports, the members proposed the following as their organizational mission: Asociación Mujer, Mar y Bosque in Playa Blanca, Sechura, Piura is an organization of women who, through the production and marketing of agro-industrial products, dairy products, marine handicrafts, ecotourism services, and conservation of the forest and its biodiversity, improve the quality of life of their members and families. Likewise, its Vision states the following: Asociación Mujer, Mar y Bosque in Playa Blanca, Sechura, Piura is recognized in the local, regional, and national markets for its quality products and services that promote the sustainable development of Playa Blanca.</p> <p>The association has set the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote the production and marketing of quality products and services.</li> <li>- To train its members</li> <li>- To promote the conservation and promotion of the Playa Blanca forest</li> <li>- To improve the quality of life of its members and their families</li> </ul>

### III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	<p>A new activity will be incorporated: the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Center for Ecosystems and Natural Resources (CMERN), an initiative proposed by the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM). This activity is linked to the following outputs and results: Output 1.2: Strengthened capacities of institutional and local stakeholders for decision-making on land use, territorial planning, and monitoring of deforestation, degradation, and biodiversity loss. Output 1.2 Indicator: “Level of spatial monitoring and tracking capacity of dry forests by local stakeholders (at least 30% women).” Output 1.2.2: Strengthened regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for informed decision-making to improve land management, through effective and innovative dry forest monitoring systems (SIAR, SIAL, Open Foris, Collect Earth, EX-ACT) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) indicators. The Monitoring Center (CMERN) will be part of MINAM’s Geographic Information System (SIGMINAM), which will integrate two technological service platforms: Geoservidor and Geobosques. These platforms include textual, cartographic, and thematic information on territorial and forest characterization, query viewers, and web mapping services, among others. These resources serve as information inputs for the National Environmental Information System (SINIA). Its main objective is to strengthen the capacity to interpret and monitor processes occurring in ecosystems and natural resources across the national territory and in prioritized areas, based on the monitoring of territorial changes. This will be achieved through the generation, availability, and visualization of georeferenced information with maps and indicators that support timely, near-real-time decision-making. The CMERN will feature GIS applications, interactive viewers, and web services integrated with the information from MINAM’s affiliated bodies, projects, and programs, as well as from regional governments.</p>
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 Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

#### IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cascajal–Olmos Lowland Forest with Hilltop Relicts	-5.933356	-79.773826	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Chulucanas–Tambogrande Lowland Forest	-4.927584	-80.340994	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bosque Cañoncillo PCA	-7.38987	-79.426291	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yacila de Zamba PCA	-4.656286	-79.926379	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Northwestern Amotapes–Mangroves Biosphere Reserve	-4.012246	-80.504668	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Coastal Lowland and Lower Piura Forest	-5.964287	-81.083005	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

## V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10541_2025PIR_FAO_Peru