

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10188
Project Name:	BIOREACH: Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecological Land Restoration in Productive Landscapes of Trinidad and Tobago
Countr(ies):	Trinidad and Tobago
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

BIOREACH: Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecological Land Restoration in Productive Landscapes of Trinidad and Tobago

Country

Trinidad and Tobago

GEF ID

10188

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Environmental Management Authority (EMA); National
Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation
(NAMDEVCO)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

8/31/2026

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , 4th PIR

Objective

To promote biodiversity conservation, restore degraded lands, and improve livelihoods of rural communities in targeted productive landscapes.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

4,108,617.00

Cumulative Disbursement

3,248,038.15

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

7/29/2021

Agency Approval

8/17/2021

Implementation Start 3/1/2022	First Disbursement 3/31/2023
Expected MTR 5/11/2025	Actual MTR 5/11/2025
Expected Completion 7/31/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

During the reporting period (July 2025 – June 2026), the BIOREACH project achieved its highest level of implementation progress since inception. The centrepiece achievement was the successful completion of the first 2 Trainer-of-Trainers/Farmer Field School Training Programme (ToT/FFS), which graduated 30 farmers, 16 Technical Officers and 2 Lead Farmers in November 2025, establishing a cohort of trained agroecological practitioners poised to deliver farmer cluster FFS programmes across Trinidad and Tobago in 2026. Complementing this, the UTT Community-based Wildfire Training Programme was completed in October 2025 with 36 community graduands, institutionalising wildfire management capacity across project sites.

In the area of biodiversity and restoration, maintenance of riparian forests at Plum Mitán (Trinidad) and Les Coteaux/Craighall River (Tobago) continued, with a cumulative 18.67 ha of riparian habitat restored and the 68.02 Ha restored by various forest restoration activities (Wildfire and Open Block), this included initiation of the Courland fire burnt hillside restoration (38 Ha total). Species recovery plans for the Trinidad Piping Guan (Pawi) and the White-tailed Sabrewing Hummingbird remain on track, with monitoring data being analysed and Phase 2 activities initiated in Q2 of 2026. Pest management activities expanded significantly: 170 traps were deployed across 760 ha on 64 farms for SAPW/RRD control in coconut, with over 4,300 weevils captured. Six technical manuals and pest management plans were produced by FAO-engaged Agronomist and IPM Specialist consultants. Two (2) LOAs for phase 2 of the cocoa related activities were also initiated in Q2 along with that for the Eco/ Agrotourism output of the Project.

A critical milestone was the approval of an 18-month project extension (February 2026 – July 2027) by the PSC on October 29, 2025, providing the time needed to complete outstanding targets. The main recommendations included redirecting component 1 to more tangible benefits, enlisting a full time communications officer and revising core indicators to more realistic total. A revised budget and Year 4 Work Programme were approved by the TSC (December 2025) and PSC (December 2025 and April 2026). A GEF donor site visit (Canada) was successfully coordinated in February 2026 across project sites in Trinidad and Tobago. In total according to the original targets, only 54% has been achieved but for reasons outlined, these have been revised.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The primary challenge during FY2026 has been the pace of execution by NAMDEVCO, partly attributable to a change in national government following the April 2025 elections, leaving the corporation without a Board of Management until June 2026 and constraining its ability to engage staff and execute contracts. This has delayed the execution of LOAs with the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago and the

Cocoa Research Centre for Phase 2 activities, as well as the rollout of farmer cluster FFS programmes. Another challenge has been the need of a full time master trainer to roll out the lead farmer training as it requires considerable and constant leadership, the Namdevco has now contracted a full time consultant to support. Larger national issues in the shortages of planting materials, declining private agroforestry farmers has delayed execution and attainment of original targets difficult. The largest challenge to the EMA remains the inability to leverage support from the National Reforestation Programme (which has now been discontinued) thereby making the targets originally stated as unattainable.

Component 1 (land use planning) has fallen short of its targets due to the change in government administration in April 2025 and evolving policy priorities resulted in the postponement or reprioritization of several land-use planning and natural resource management initiatives. This slowed decision-making and limited opportunities to advance the formal adoption of community-led land-use planning outputs during the reporting period. Based on MTR findings, a key project constraint is low beneficiary buy-in and recommended redirecting efforts toward interventions offering more tangible community benefits. The PSC approved reallocation of funds, with a decision to explore a rapid land-use plan for one Tobago site through CANARI, subject to feasibility within a 3-month period and budget. However, this was not successful and the decision was made to relocate financing to activities with more direct support to beneficiaries to ensure the effective use of project funds. The activities recommended for support follow the MTR with greater tangible benefits, as such resources have been redirected towards the provision of 300,000 cocoa seedlings, rehabilitation of 40 hectares of farmers and additional pest control; the support of community reforestation projects was also prescribed.

Restoration activities at Plum Mitán, Trinidad experienced losses due to excavation works by the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) within the ESA and community interference (river clearing for fishing and silt dumping). Relevant Ministries have been notified and signage demarcating the restoration area is being installed. The larger issue is the inability of the EMA to meet restoration targets due to the change in government administration (which occurred in April 2025) and evolving policy directions, the reforestation programme (National Reforestation Programme) was paused and under review. As such, reforestation activities no longer supported by the in-kind support via the Reforestation Programme. The consequence is the EMA then having to stand the cost of directly restoring areas but with a limited budget. The strategy employed is to focus on maximising areas under improved practices.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development	Co-financing partner	The Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development has been strategic in providing technical oversight and guidance for all aspects of the project. Under the Technical Director and the Project Management Unit, all activities and stakeholders were well-managed for the delivery of project results. The Permanent Secretary serves as Chair of the Project Steering Committee and the Project Director

			serves as Chair for the Technical Sub-Committee. For the reporting period, two (2) meetings were convened Project Steering Committee and one (1) for the Technical Sub-Committee for approval of all project deliverables and outcomes.
Government Institutions	Environmental Management Authority	Executing Agency	<i>The EMA continued execution towards the delivery of project targets as per OPIM agreement for activities under Outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 4.1 and 4.2. No major challenges were encountered during the reporting period July 2025 to June 2026 with stakeholder engagements.</i> <i>Additionally, the project has strengthened relationships with the in-house Biodiversity Unit towards sustainability of outputs related to restoration and species implementation plans.</i> <i>The Programme Manager and Senior Project Officer serve as member of the Technical Sub-Committee.</i>
Government Institutions	National Marketing and Development Corporation	Executing Agency	<i>The NAMDEVCO has made significant strides in advancing activities towards meeting targets, most notable was the launch of the Lead Farmer Training programme. With the support of the FAO, three (3) consultants were engaged namely Integrated Pest Management Specialist, Value Chain Specialist and Agronomist. NAMDEVCO has made impactful advancements across outputs 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.</i> <i>Some delays were experienced due the lack of a Board of Directors for the most of the reporting period which affected the ability to hire a Communications Officer. However,</i>

			<i>the funds and responsibility to assign the engagement of the consultant through the EMA was approved by the PSC.</i> <i>The Technical Officer serves as a member of the Technical Sub-Committee.</i>
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - Forestry Division	Co-financing partner	<i>Outcome 2.1: Significant progress was made towards activities under Output 2.1.3 via the continued engagement with the Forestry Working Group towards the achievement of results. In May 2026 an Open Block Management training was conducted for the Division and other key stakeholders in Trinidad on the management of these open ranges in a sustainable manner. Several recommendations were made by the FAO Consultant, Dr. Claus-Martin Eckelmann for implementing the trainings as well as a proposal for the development of a best practice guideline. The rehabilitation of degraded forests and frequently burnt areas have been maintained during the reporting period using community labour and the guidance and oversight of the Forestry Division. Outcome 2.2: Progress was made towards activities under Output 2.2.2 via the continued engagement of the Forestry Division and the Forestry Working Group. During the reporting period the project has collaboratively been working with the Division to maintain the restoration sites along the riparian pilot sites in both Trinidad and Tobago. Key supporting Divisions include Research, Forestry, Extensions and Training, Land Management, Lands and Surveys, Agricultural Services, Regional Administration and Planning. The Permanent Secretary serves as a member of the Project Steering Committee. Designated representatives also serves on the</i>

			<i>project's Technical Sub-Committee and the Forestry Working Group providing on the ground support and technical guidance. NOTE MINISTRY NAME CHANGED TO: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES</i>
Government Institutions	Division of Food Security, Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development.	Co-financing partner	<i>The BIOREACH project has received support at both the policy and administrative levels, including the strategic assignment of two Senior Officers from the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (DFSNESD) and the Department of Food Security. Additionally, there is ongoing collaboration with the Division's Communication Unit.</i> <i>Training was conducted in May 2026 in Tobago on Urban Forestry Management where the Division of Forestry and other key stakeholders were trained in the safe and ecology sustainable practices of tree pruning in urban spaces.</i> <i>The primary challenge faced by these departments is the insufficient staffing levels, which hampers full commitment to responsibilities.</i> <i>The Administrator serves as a</i>

			<i>member of the Project Steering Committee.</i>
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - GIS Unit	Co-financing partner	<i>Outcome 2.1: The GIS Unit has remained a valuable stakeholder having developed the online mapping and reporting application for wildfires They have continued to support the implementation of trainings with various conservancies within the Forestry Division and digitisation of historical paper-based reports over the reporting period. Through this collaboration, trainings were funded by the project and on the ground roll-out were conducted by the GIS unit across all conservancies of the Forestry Division. This initiative forms part of the Integrated Wildfire Management System being established and implemented. Furthermore, the GIS Unit has presented the progress to the GEF Delegate during their mission to Trinidad and Tobago in February 2026.</i> <i>A designated representative also serves as a member of the Technical Sub-Committee.</i>

Government Institutions	Division of Food Security, Natural Resources, the Environment and Sustainable Development - Tobago House of Assembly, Department of Natural Resources and Forestry	Co-financing partner	<i>The BIOREACH project has received support at both the policy and administrative levels, including the strategic assignment of two Senior Officers from the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (DFSNESD) and the Department of Food Security. Additionally, there is ongoing collaboration with the Division's Communication Unit. Training was conducted in May 2026 in Tobago on Urban Forestry Management where the Division of Forestry and other key stakeholders were trained in the safe and ecology sustainable practices of tree pruning in urban spaces. The primary challenge faced by these departments is the insufficient staffing levels, which hampers full commitment to responsibilities. The Administrator serves as a member of the Project Steering Committee.</i>
Government Institutions	Land Management Department - Tobago House of Assembly	Co-financing partner	<i>The Land Management Department is one of the steady partners of the project that rendered technical support for Output 1.1 and Output 2.2.1 regarding land use in Tobago. The Department also supports Output 2.1.3 as a member of the Tobago Wildfire Management Committee.</i>
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme	Co-financing partner	<i>Outcome 2.1: The project was able to engage with the NRWRP as a key stakeholder and participant of the Integrated Wildfire Management Training in January 2025 under the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government. However, challenges were encountered when attempting to engage with the NRWRP for the reforestation activities as initially agreed in the ProDoc. Further to the change in government administration in April 2025, the programme was moved to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries where the project made</i>

			<i>several attempts to re-establish engagement via this ministry.</i> <i>The programme has since been discontinued until further notice. This was a critical potential resource which was identified in the PPR and inception phase of the project for supporting labour requirements for restoration activities. This has resulted in a major financial constraint for execution of these activities.</i>
Government Institutions	Department of Natural Resources and Forestry	Co-financing partner	<i>The Division of Information in the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) contributed to the project's progress by providing media content to inform the public about the various activities undertaken in each Component.</i>
Government Institutions	The Department of Information	Co-financing partner	<i>The Division of Information in the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) contributed to the project's progress by providing media content to inform the public about the various activities undertaken in each Component.</i>
NGOs	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute	Implementing Partner	<i>Outcome 1.1 & 1.2: CANARI was engaged over the period July 2025-June 2026 on several occasions to develop the proposed workplan for the execution of phase 2. In Q1 2026, the service provider notified the PMU of their unavailability to continue the activities via a 2nd LOA given that the outputs does not align with their overall objectives as an institution. The project has been able to successfully glean 2 land-use plans for Trinidad and a scoping report for Tobago.</i>

NGOs	The Cropper Foundation	Implementing Partner	<i>TCF was engaged via Letter of Agreement with the FAO to implement phase 2 activities under Outcomes 3.2 and 3.3 namely Output 3.2.2 and 3.3.1. The TCF has been a reliable and strong stakeholder and has met all project targets in a timely manner. TCF was approved by the TSC for another LoA agreement to execute activities under output 3.2.3</i>
NGOs	Corbin Local Wildlife Park	Beneficiary	<i>Corbin Local Wildlife Park played a pivotal role in the success of Output 2.2.1, undertaken by UWI through an FAO/LOA. CLWP provided an essential environment for the biodiversity data survey and organized the Community Biodiversity Day. Additionally, they offered trained guides for both daytime and nighttime trails, along with the necessary facilities and expertise to support UWI experts, schools, and clubs involved in the Citizen Science Programme.</i> <i>A challenge emerged concerning the adjacent 10-acre block designated by UWI for the expert survey. This issue was effectively addressed through prompt intervention by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, who obtained the requisite approval from the Chief Administrator for UWI to utilize the plot.</i>
Government Institutions	Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago	Implementing Partner	<i>Stakeholder relationship remains strong with CDCTTL following the completion of Phase 1 activities undertaken via Letter of Agreement for Outcome 3.1. The FAO has engaged the CDCTTL via an 2nd LoA for phase 2 which commenced in Q1 2026.</i>
Others	The University of the West Indies - Cocoa Research Centre	Implementing Partner	<i>Stakeholder relationship remains strong with CRC following the completion of Phase 1 activities undertaken via Letter of Agreement for Outcome 3.1. The FAO has engaged the CDCTTL via an 2nd LoA for phase 2 which commenced in Q1 2026.</i>

Others	The University of the West Indies - Department of Life Sciences	Implementing Partner	<i>Stakeholder relationship remains strong with the UWI - DLS. Phase 1 of LoA ended in October 2024 for pre-restoration surveillance activities. The PMU has met with the UWI to plan for Phase 2 Citizen Science Training activities. The workplan was approved by the TSC and LoA is currently being reviewed for engagement of the UWI to execute activities in Q3-Q4 2026 under Outcome 2.2</i>
Others	The University of West Indies - National Herbarium	Implementing Partner	<i>UWI- National Herbarium was engaged via Letter of Agreement for activities under Outcome 4.1 and was completed in December 2024. The UWI National Herbarium surpassed expectations and has proved to be a strong stakeholder having met project targets in a timely manner and delivered quality results.</i>
Government Institutions	Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development - Town and Country Planning Division	Co-financing partner	<i>The Project Management Unit has engaged with the TCPD to solicit advice and technical input for land-use plans developed under the project as part of Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2. The TCPD has agreed to review plans and has nominated resources to assist towards the advancement of the deliverables.</i>
Government Institutions	Tobago Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Program	Implementing Partner	<i>TRWRP was engaged in Q1 2026 via a 2nd Letter of Agreement to continue execution of activities under Outcome 2.2 in Tobago for the White-tailed Saberwing Species Implementation Plan. There are no major challenges and the TRWRP has satisfactorily met project targets and delivery.</i> <i>Additionally, the TRWRP has been instrumental in supporting the restoration and rehabilitation on the ground activities in Tobago at the riparian site and fire burnt areas in Courland. They have facilitated site visits to the GEF Delegation Mission in February 2026 and continues to be a key stakeholder to the project.</i>

Others	Community Groups in Plum Mitan and Biche	Beneficiary	<i>Several community groups were engaged via the Village Council of Plum Mitan/Biche to support the activities under Outcomes 2.2 in Plum Mitan. These community groups remain key stakeholders in the execution of on-the-ground activities as they have become invested in the project results over the course of the project as they have come to value the direct impacts that can be gained from both socio-economic and environmental standpoints. These persons have benefitted from employment opportunities and knowledge transfer under the project having played a crucial role in restoration activities. They have also become stewards of their immediate environment, taking initiative to protect the project sites/trees and report any threats/dangers posed by natural occurrences and/or human behaviours eg. fires. The project continues to build these relationships with the community towards sustainability.</i>
Others	Les Coteaux Village Council	Beneficiary	<i>The Les Coteaux Village Council has provided unwavering support for the advancement of Output 2.2.1 by mobilizing community members to engage in the riverbank tree-planting initiative over the reporting period July 2025 to June 2026. The Council will maintain its collaboration with various governmental stakeholders to enhance riverbank restoration activities during the rainy season, specifically from July to November 2026.</i>
NGOs	Council of Presidents of the Environment	Member of Technical Sub-Committee	<i>Technical support on the steering committee by providing review, feedback and approval of project deliverables, workplans, Terms of References etc</i>

Others	Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago	Member of Technical Sub-Committee	<i>The ASTT President was nominated to represent the Farmer Sub-committee which forms part of the Technical Sub-Committee. This relationship has not been present over the reporting period. The PMU has noted the absence of the representative at TSC meetings and other forms of engagement. Their input to the agroecological activities of the project will be valuable especially in the Lead Farmer Training and Farmer Field School outputs. The project will continue to engage this stakeholder to re-establish communication on this front.</i>
Others	Biche Secondary School	Beneficiary	<i>This stakeholder was engaged under citizen science activities in Outcome 2.1. The students and teachers benefited from the programme having received training in data collection and recording of observations on the iNaturalist application. The student body reflect a significant portion of youth beneficiaries under the project.</i>
Others	Mason Hall Secondary School	Beneficiary	<i>This stakeholder was engaged under citizen science activities in Outcome 2.1. The students and teachers benefited from the programme having received training in data collection and recording of observations on the iNaturalist application. The student body reflect a significant portion of youth beneficiaries under the project.</i>
NGOs	Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Programme	Beneficiary	<i>Under Outcome 2.1 the project attempted to engage the FACRP for activities in output 2.1.3 however, the group has been unresponsive. They were invited to attend Phase 3 - Wildfire Management Training as well as a Request for Proposals for the engagement of Consultant to develop and implement a Community-based Wildfire Training programme. A bid was submitted however, they were unsuccessful.</i>

Others	University of Trinidad and Tobago	Implementing Partner	<i>Under outcome 2.1 the UTT was engaged via a contract with the EMA (Executing Agency) for the implementation of a Community-based Wildfire Training Programme which commenced in June 2025. The UTT was able to effectively and successfully deliver the training on schedule and within budget. They further presented an overview of the training and recommendations at the TSC Lessons Learnt session in December 2025. The UTT remains a valuable stakeholder for future community-based training initiatives under the project.</i>
Others	Lead Farmer Curriculum Development Committee	Technical Support	<i>IICA, CARDI, UTT, UWI, CABI and the Research Division under Namdevco was framed as a technical committee to assist in the development of the lead farmer curriculum. They have completed this and remain as an important support to the project</i>
Others	Cocoa alignment sub committee	Technical Support	<i>The Namdevco convened a cocoa alignment committee with the goal of bringing together all the main stakeholders involved in managing the commodity. It includes persons from the MALF/ DFSNRES, CDCTTL, CRC, NAMDEVCO, FAO and the EPPD. The forum firstly served to introduce the project interventions for cocoa and to understand what role each stakeholder is playing and to seek to support/ collaborate. However, due to the first such initiative to bring cocoa stakeholders together nationally, there was a request to continue the forum on a quarterly basis.</i>

Others	Farmers	Beneficiary	<i>95 Farmers over both islands (lead Farmers cocoa and coconut) farmers engaged over the period, they have been very receptive of the interventions made on their holdings especially with the SAPW control. Lead farmers are anxious to start training, main issue faced was some lead farmer applicants felt that they would be getting direct funding from the project.</i>
Others	Cardi	Technical Support	<i>The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) has done extensive research into the SPW and the technical work and farmer network is being upscaled by Namdevco. This important partnership continues to direct work towards managing the red ring disease in coconut palms</i>

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	Gender project site checks were carried out in both Trinidad and Tobago during 21-25 July 2025 by Gender Consultant. Some of these visits were done jointly with the M&E Specialist in Trinidad. During this exercise, project beneficiaries and stakeholders were interviewed by consultants to solicit feedback towards addressing gaps that may be impeding access to resources within the project's purview.

		Additionally, Gender Mainstreaming training was carried out in Tobago on 24th July 2025 which was aimed at building capacity amongst stakeholders in understanding gender roles and how they affect projects. Issues were also highlighted with the project space related to gender which brought about awareness and education entry points regarding gender mainstreaming. Workshop attendees comprised 88% female and 12% male. Component 2 – Outcome 2.1 At least 26% participants were women on Open Block Management Training and 74% male; Outcome 2.2. - At least 50% of casual labour were women for the phase 2 - planting and maintenance activities under riparian restoration, with 1 female lead/supervisor. At least 50% of trainees were women in species recovery planning and ongoing monitoring activities. Component 3 – Outcome 3.1 30 lead farmers trained, to include at least 1 woman; Training curriculum folds in gender issues At least 40% participants are women for Trainer of Trainers and 60% male; At least 25% participants were women for Lead Farmer Training and 75% were male; At least 33% of participants were women and 67% male for Farmer Field School's 1st cohort Outcome 3.2 - At least 200 small producers; 50 per cent of which are women of small producers selling to new markets; At least 20%; half of which are women that are producers whose income has increased through sustainable production; at least 40% of which are women that are involved in business planning
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	The project has identified ways to improve womens' participation and decision-making at certain phases of execution. Component 1 – Outcome 1.1 At least 40% of members of land use mechanisms are women; Gender considerations are folded into land use plans; 30% women participants in community monitoring mechanisms. Activity is no longer being pursued due to lack of tangible benefits to participants. Outcome 2.2 - At least 2 women were placed in lead/decision-making roles for riparian restoration activities. Outcome 3.3 - At least 1 agricultural policy includes agroecological considerations and gender dimensions Component 4 – Outcome 4.2 Project results and gender balance monitored annually; Revised Gender and Youth Action Plan developed and integrated in the project
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Component 2 – Outcome 2.1 10% women involved in expanding diverse agroforestry production; Outcome 2.2 - At least 50% of casual labour were women involved in tree planting activities for riparian restoration. At least 50% of trainees are women in species recovery planning Component 3 – Outcome 3.1 30 lead farmers trained, to include at least 1 woman; Training curriculum folds in gender issues Outcome 3.2 - At least 200 small producers; 50 per cent of which are women of small producers selling to new markets; At least 20%; half of which are women that are producers whose income has increased through sustainable production; at least 40% of which are women that are involved in business planning

Any other good practices on gender	Yes	The PMU in its engagement with the executing partners institutes elements from the gender plan, such as in implementing strategies to be inclusive and sensitive. Gender Mainstreaming training was conducted in July 2025 for key stakeholders in Tobago to solicit feedback on the Gender and Youth Action Plan on-the-ground as well to assess the data collection tools being utilised and adapting to the needs of the project. The Unit has also pursued early consultations with women groups that can benefit or contribute to the project.
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E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
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.	The project has a Knowledge Management and Learning strategy implemented through EMA (communications) and NAMDEVCO (value chain knowledge). Key progress in FY2026: Knowledge products: 8+ materials produced and disseminated including the Digital Native Medicinal Guide (launched May 26, 2025), wildfire brochures and posters, RRD/SAPW brochure (approved by TSC; pending printing), 6 technical manuals by FAO Agronomist and IPM Specialists, and video documentation by Luvo Studios at Plum Mitán and Tobago restoration sites. Knowledge sharing at national level: Findings from ToT/FFS Training shared with MAF for incorporation into county-level extension programmes. Technical manuals to be distributed to NAMDEVCO field officers and MAF county offices. Citizen science data from biodiversity monitoring shared with academic partners (UWI) and EMA. Learning: M&E evaluation of first ToT/FFS cohort initiated to assess adoption of agroecological practices and inform adaptive management. Significantly, a full time Communications and Knowledge Management Officer was hired on the 8th June, 2026
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional	1. Community-based Wildfire Management: The integration of UTT's academic capacity with Forestry Division field expertise and community participation has produced a replicable model for community wildfire management. 36 community members certified with skills transferable to other forest-adjacent communities.

innovations, from the project thus far.	2. ToT/FFS Cascade Training: The Trainer-of-Trainers approach — where extension officers and lead farmers are trained to then deliver FFS to farmer clusters — represents a cost-effective, scalable model for reaching a larger number of farmers beyond the direct project beneficiaries. 3. Integrated Pest Management for Coconut/Cocoa: The SAPW/RRD management programme combining trap deployment, farmer training and technical guides is a practical, farmer-friendly approach with measurable results (4,300+ weevils captured on 64 farms). 4. Species Recovery through Government-Project Synergy: The EMA PSIP co-investment in Pawi monitoring alongside BIOREACH demonstrates an effective model of leveraging government budgetary resources to complement GEF-funded activities, ensuring sustainability beyond the project period.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	Communication successes: Video documentation by Luvo Studios completed for Plum Mitán riparian restoration (Trinidad) and Tobago restoration sites (Les Coteaux and Courland); draft video shared with EMA for review. Video documentaries on the launch of the first Farmer Field School. The Digital Native Medicinal Guide was publicly launched at UWI Inn Conference Centre (May 26, 2025). The ToT/FFS Training Programme launch (July 2025) generated awareness among 48 direct participants who carry the knowledge to their wider farming communities. Community Wildfire Training Curriculum. Onboarding of the Communications and Knowledge Management Officer. Communication challenges: PSC direction to channel all communications through the Ministry of Planning has required additional coordination between EMA and NAMDEVCO communications departments. However, not having a dedicated portal/ page does increase the likelihood of sustainability beyond the project.
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	Cultivating Legacy and Change: The Story of Pauline Mahase, Lead Farmer At dawn, when the fields of Felicity are still quiet, Pauline Mahase begins her day. At 33, she farms with over 15 years of experience and a purpose that runs deeper than yield: to honour the land that sustained her family and to leave it better than she found it. That purpose now has a name — Land Degradation Neutrality — and a project which supports. THE LAND SHE INHERITED Pauline's farming journey began in childhood, learning beside her late father, Paul Mahase, in his vegetable garden. After his passing, she continued his legacy at the family farm in Felicity, expanding it into a diversified operation producing cucumber, sweet peppers, sorrel, pigeon peas, pimentos, and sweet potatoes. But the landscape she farms in is under pressure. According to Global Forest Watch, Trinidad and Tobago lost 24,300 hectares of tree cover between 2001 and 2023, and over 1,000 bushfires were recorded in early 2024 alone. For small farmers

the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	like Pauline, land degradation is not an abstract statistic — it is a daily reality threatening livelihoods and food security. A NEW WAY OF FARMING Pauline's approach changed when she completed the BIOREACH Lead Farmer Training Programme for Agroecological Production Systems, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the GEF-funded BIOREACH Project. The programme — which targets the restoration of 1,500 hectares of degraded land and reaches over 5,500 beneficiaries across Trinidad and Tobago — trained Pauline not only in agroecological methods, but in how to teach pass this knowledge on to other farmers and consumers. Today, she monitors beneficial insects before reaching for a spray, reads her soil rather than following a chemical calendar, and designs her farm around ecological resilience. As a certified Lead Farmer, she also mentors peers in her community through demonstration and peer learning, multiplying the programme's impact farm by farm. MORE THAN A FARMER For Pauline, the programme carried meaning beyond agronomy. Women farmers in Trinidad and Tobago continue to face systemic barriers — limited access to land, credit, and markets — yet remain central to household food security and community resilience. Her graduation as a Lead Farmer is a signal: women do not just participate in sustainable agriculture; they lead it. Looking ahead, Pauline plans to expand into agro-processing and mentor young women entering farming. In this way, her story extends the BIOREACH multiplier effect into the next generation — exactly the kind of community-embedded, self-sustaining change the project is designed to create.
Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://meastt.gov.tt/mea-focal-areas/biodiversity/bioreach_project/ https://tt.linkedin.com/in/ministry-of-planning-economic-affairs-and-development-37105b168 https://www.ema.co.tt/ https://tt.linkedin.com/company/environmental-management-authority https://www.facebook.com/NAMDEVCO/ https://www.facebook.com/emaauthority/videos/ https://www.instagram.com/emaauthority/ https://www.instagram.com/namdevco/ https://tt.linkedin.com/company/canari-caribbean https://canari.org/projects/bioreach/
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets	http://www.news.gov.tt/content/more-biodiversity-and-agriculture-development http://eppd-tt.blogspot.com/2019/10/national-inception-workshops-bioreach.html https://www.ttt.live/planning-ministry-announces-us22m-bioreach-conservation-project/ https://meastt.gov.tt/mea-focal-areas/biodiversity/bioreach_project/

published on the web, if any.	https://www.planning.gov.tt/newsite/ema-invests-in-the-future-of-forests-and-economies-through-open-block-management-training-initiative/ https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10188 https://www.fao.org/in-action/resilient-caribbean-initiative/countries/trinidad-and-tobago/en https://www.ema.co.tt/2023/10/18/media-release-bioreach-training-for-forestry-officers-on-the-rehabilitation-of-degraded-forests/ https://www.ema.co.tt/2025/02/18/media-release-bioreach-project-enhances-wildfire-response-capabilities-in-trinidad-and-tobago/ https://www.ema.co.tt/2025/08/18/media-release-bioreach-launch-of-community-wildfire-programme/ https://www.ema.co.tt/2025/08/25/the-bioreach-project/ https://www.ema.co.tt/2026/03/19/the-environmental-management-authority-invests-in-the-future-of-forests-and-economies-through-open-block-management-training-initiative/ https://trinidadexpress.com/features/local/taming-the-wildfires/article_23e7ab52-0980-11ee-8141-b7a9dd2cc154.html https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/bioreach-training-for-forestry-officers-on-the-rehabilitation-of-degraded-forests-6.2.1828533.a2baf213ab https://newsday.co.tt/2024/12/19/bioreach-project-hosts-workshop-on-bird-banding/ https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/agriculture-ministry-launches-bioreach-project-6.2.2476740.e6a517558e https://newsday.co.tt/2025/05/27/guide-to-native-herbal-plants-to-go-digital/ https://www.ttt.live/namdevco-launches-bioreach-lead-farmer-training-programme-in-tobago/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAcmL24lOlQ https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/news-and-events/news/stakeholders-discuss-the-sustainable-development-of-cocoa-value-chain-in-trinidad-and-tobago/en https://www.fao.org/americas/news/news-detail/FAO-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Hosts-World-Food-Day-Activities/en https://canari.org/projects/bioreach/ https://tobagoreforestation.org/agroforestry/ https://emonewsdm.com/farmer-field-school-lead-farmer-training-programme-launched-in-tobago/ https://drive.google.com/file/d/15N7FAGMeiXGHS7iIYl88jFsklAkhTbfC/view
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.	BIOREACH Communications and Knowledge Management Officer: Ms. Chriselle Charles-Sampson CCharles-Sampson@ema.co.tt EMA: Ms. Khadine Charriandy-Wilson Kcharriandy-Wilson@ema.co.tt; NAMDEVCO: Ms. Rachel John rjohn@namdevco.com; Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development: Mr. Kendal Fontanelle Kendal.Fontanelle@planning.gov.tt

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
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Result Framework	
Components and Cost	Budget reallocation: (1) Component 1 funds reallocated to OPs for priority restoration/value chain activities (residual for Tobago specific); (2) Communications budget reallocated from NAMDEVCO to EMA; . Revised Year 4 budget approved by TSC and PSC.
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	Project extension approved: NTE revised from January 31, 2026 to July 31, 2027 (18 months). PMU staff contracts extended February 2026 – July 2027. Year 4 Work Programme replacing original close-out activities.
Financial Management	Revised budget approved by TSC (December 17, 2025) and PSC (April 28, 2026) reflecting Component 1 reallocation and Year 4 activity costs.
Implementation Schedule	Implementation schedule revised for 18-month extension. Year 4 Work Programme approved replacing original close-out schedule.
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	Shift of Riparian restoration sites given feasibility and sustainability challenges; targets the same
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	Overall risk rating remains at Moderate, however new risks have been identified during and post MTR, analysed and mitigation measures introduced. Done quarterly by the M&E specialist
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	Change in administration to Tobago in Dec, 2021 unfortunately led to shifts in priorities and the projects committed as co-financing were not pursued. The sum of 7 M USD designated as co-financing did not materialise. New projects while relevant are unlikely to meet the initial cofinancing target. However, additional sources from the Ministry of Agriculture and the EMA are being leveraged. Change in government administration (which occurred in April 2025) and evolving policy directions - The reforestation programme (National Reforestation Programme) which was expected to provide casual labour as co-financing support for replanting activities, was paused and under review.
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Valencia	10.645087	-61.096687	
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Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Central Forest Reserve	10.428897	-61.145611	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Victoria/ Mayaro Forest Reserve	10.132955	-61.250346	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Courland Watershed, Tobago	11.227509	-60.731864	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
St. Michael's Reserve	10.662164	-61.357202	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Restoration of fire burnt slopes - Trinidad

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Plum Mitan:	10.463487	-61.071715	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Riparian restoration - Trinidad

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Black Rock, Tobago	11.204917	-60.772317	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Riparian restoration - Tobago

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Debideen Mannick	10.540396	-61.043944	

Location Description:

Farmer Field School Location

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dr. Dane Coombs	10.428564	-61.441911	

Location Description:

2nd possible Farmer Field School

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 1	10.217459	-61.009601	

Location Description:

South American Palm Weevil Control Site - T&T

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 3	10.360554	-61.324211	

Location Description:

South American Palm Weevil Control Site - T&T

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 4	10.226009	-61.349651	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 5	10.461672	-61.393800	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 6	10.461672	-61.393800	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 7	10.461672	-61.399132	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 8	10.04122	-61.38324	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 9	10.15444	-61.22595	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 10	10.461672	-61.3938	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 11	10.0711	-61.30451	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 12	10.408684	-61.127821	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 13	10.317572	-61.418388	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 14	10.360554	-61.324211	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 15	10.13092	-61.34332	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 16	10.099098	-61.583245	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 17	10.187301	-61.438918	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 18	10.23547	-61.25505	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 19	10.2019	-61.20577	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Farm 20	10.639	-61.159	
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Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 21	10.0693696	-61.6212433	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 22	10.217852	-61.010506	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 23	10.1494197	-61.3795344	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 24	10.259727	-61.407318	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 25	10.116488	-61.575546	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 26	10.744	-61.331	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 28	10.06059	-61.2833	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 30	10.08539	-61.30561	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 31	10.221006	-61.316982	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Farm 32	10.181	-61.2351	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
GEFID10188_2026PIR_FAO_Trinidad&Tobago