PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9860
Project Name:	Creation of Additional Biosafety Capacities that Lead to A Full Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Cuba
Countr(ies):	Cuba
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW 3
A. Description 3
B. Ratings and Disbursements 3
C. Key Dates 3
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES 4
A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities 4
B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities 4
C. Stakeholder Engagement 4
D. Gender Equality 5
E. Knowledge Management 5
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS 6
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES 6
V. ANNEX 8

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name
Creation of Additional Biosafety Capacities that Lead to A Full Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Cuba

Country
Cuba

GEF ID	Implementing Agency
9860	UNEP

Executing Entity
National Centre of Biological Safety (CSB)

Trust Fund	Project Type
GET	MSP

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year , PIR Number
9/1/2025	FY 2025 , 5th PIR

Objective
To further complete the process of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) through the creation of additional capacities in the areas of monitoring, detection, liability and redress, and education.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress	Development Objective
Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory

Overall risk
Low Risk

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
2,000,000.00	1,703,072.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval	Agency Approval
7/17/2017	7/17/2017

Implementation Start 4/3/2020	First Disbursement 6/8/2020
Expected MTR 1/16/2024	Actual MTR 1/31/2024
Expected Completion 6/30/2026	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

The period under review was marked by significant progress in the implementation of the technical activities. In April, a 15-month non-cost extension was approved, allowing for the Work Plan to be readjusted. Under, Component 1, the validation report for the qualitative real-time PCR assay, for the detection and identification of the specific event in TC 1507 corn, was submitted to the Scientific Council of both institutions (e.g. CENSA and CICDC) for approval, and the results were presented at the "Lessons Learned" Workshop held in February. The results of the validation of the GTS 40-3-2 soybean event were also presented at international events such as BioCubaAgro2025 and are part of a publication already submitted for review to the Journal of Applied Biotechnology of the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology of Cuba. Both laboratories are currently undergoing the first stage of the accreditation process with the National Accreditation Body of the Republic of Cuba (ONARC).Regarding Component 2, progress was also achieved in the implementation of a monitoring mechanism and surveillance system of adverse effects. For this purpose, the second field monitoring exercise was carried out in August, after the planting of genetically modified hybrid corn, with the aim of conducting ecotoxicological studies and evaluating soil microfauna. A theoretical and practical training activity was carried out in the port of Havana, which included sampling of GM crop seeds or grain storage points.The Second Field Monitoring Workshop was held in September 2024. In February and March 2025, two training sessions were held: one in Cuba, for ORSA specialists from all territories, and another in Mexico, in coordination with the National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA), as well as the Workshop on the Implementation of the Monitoring and Surveillance System.Component 3 showed remarkable progress this year. In November, a delegation from the project team visited the provinces of Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila to deliver donations acquired by the project and discuss the results of studies in both territories, prior to organizing the final workshop to present the results of this component. This workshop was held recently, from June 18 to 21, with excellent participation and interesting discussions.In accordance with the Outputs of Component 4, the Lessons Learned Workshop was one of the activities rescheduled for February 2025, which was described by the participants, as a motivating and highly educational event. All periodic project reports were completed on time, the 2024 annual audit yielded satisfactory results, as did the July-December 2024 Half Yearly Report.Among the most important achievements was the presentation of the results obtained at two international events held in Cuba: the VII International Meeting on Pharmaceutical and Food Sciences. Institute of Pharmacy and Food of the University of Havana (IFAL-UH) and BioCubagro 2025, sponsored by the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB-Cuba).

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The prevailing energy crisis in the country over the last two years, which worsened in the last quarter of 2024, resulted in several activities being postponed until the first half of 2025. Similarly, the significant increase in service prices has led to constant adjustments to the budget prior to each activity.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

One of the strengths of this initiative has been precisely the involvement of national actors from national entities (research centers, universities, national authorities from the Ministry of Agriculture, Foreign Trade, the National Accreditation Body of the Republic of Cuba, the General Customs Office of the Republic, among others), private producers, the pig farm located in one of the localities, and the community in general. Perhaps the most relevant aspect during this period has been the involvement of the project team with key actors in the territories where these genetically modified crops are produced, as the socioeconomic studies carried out and the workshop recently held have allowed us to learn about their experiences, their level of knowledge, and the impacts on their traditional production systems.

D. Gender Equality

Nevertheless, the project team is mostly integrated by women, both within the National Executing Agency and in the entities participating in this initiative with ORSA; hence, both the training activities and the presentation of results in scientific events have a significant participation of women. Moreover, the participants in the workshops held to date, have the representation of women as more than 60 % of the total number of attendees.

E. Knowledge Management

During the period covered by this report, three training sessions were held; the first of these was on monitoring at a port of entry (Haiphon Terminal, Port of Havana) in coordination with specialists from the Plant Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 2025, during the months of February and March, two other training sessions were held, one of them for all specialists from the National Regulatory Authority on Biosafety in the territories, focused on the risk assessment process for the release of genetically modified crops into the environment. Finally, between March 24 and 28, a biosafety training course was held in collaboration with the Directorate of Inputs and New Technologies of SENASICA, Mexico. The delegation was composed of four regulators from the National Competent Authority (ORSA), a specialist from CENATOX, and a representative from the Directorate of Science, Technology, and Innovation of the Ministry of CITMA.

The work entitled ¨Soil monitoring of areas planted with hybrid corn and its refuge in Calimete, Matanzas¨, developed in collaboration between researchers from CENATOX and ORSA, was published in the Iberoamerican Journal Ambiente & Sustentabilidad. ISSN: 2697-3510 I e-ISSN: 2697-3529 I Vol. 7, 2024.

Main learning during the period

Probably one of the most important lessons learned during this period is the capability reached by the project team, with patience and perseverance, to achieve constant progress, despite of the adversities. Although in the

second semester of the year 2024, only small steps were taken, due to the complex situation of the country, the beginning of 2025 allowed for the completion of a number of important activities, such as workshops, trainings, auditing and the presentation of the results of the research in scientific events, obtaining merits and recognition.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	No cost extension until 2027-03-31
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
Office for Environmental Regulation and Safety.	23.11985	-82.42371	

Location Description:

The Office for Environmental Regulation and Safety is located in a residential area.

Activity Description:

Executing Agency

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
National Agricultural Health Center (CENSA)	22.99694	-82.15306	

Location Description:

The National Agricultural Health Centre (CENSA) doesn't have nearby settlements. It is located near the national highway and surrounded by green and cultivation areas.

Activity Description:

Identification and detection of GMO.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Center for Scientific Research for the Civil Defense (CICDC)	22.99833	-82.155	

Location Description:

The Center for Scientific Research for the Civil Defense (CICDC) doesn't have nearby settlements. It is located near the national highway and surrounded by green and cultivation areas.

Activity Description:

Identification and detection of GMO.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
National Toxicology Center (CENATOX)	23.13639	-82.72306	

Location Description:

The National Toxicology Center (CENATOX) is located in a residential area.

Activity Description:

Monitoring and surveillance of possible adverse effects of GMOs.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Enterprise Jesus Sablon Moreno. Calimete. Matanzas province	22.57303	-80.92077	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

GM crop release area

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Placetas, Villa Clara Province	22.1901	-79.3912	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Socioeconomic studies

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Venezuela municipalily, Ciego de Avila	21.4451	-78.4719	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Socioeconomic studies

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sanguily, Ciego de Avila province	21.4557	-78.5217	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Socioeconomic studies

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	9860_PIR_UNEP_2025-Cuba Biosafety