

MID-TERM REVIEW

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

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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

9860

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

National Centre of Biological Safety (CSB)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

MSP

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. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

7/17/2017

Agency Approval

7/17/2017

Implementation Start

4/3/2020

First Disbursement

6/8/2020

Expected MTR

1/16/2024

MTR Submission

8/14/2025

Actual MTR

1/31/2024

Expected Completion

3/31/2025

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

At the mid-term the overall performance of the project at the Mid-Term is rated as ‘Satisfactory’ and the likelihood of impact is ‘Likely’. Drivers to support transition from Outputs to Project Outcomes are partially in place; most assumptions for the change process from Outputs to Project Outcomes seem to hold. Even

though the outcomes to achieve the Intermediate State have not been fully achieved, Likelihood of Impact is affected by the fact that consistent with the project's design, planned outcomes including the principal one for achieving the Intermediate State are not programmed to be fully achieved until the end of the project. A Summary Assessment and Rating can be found in Table 9 in Section V. The success of the project thus far has benefitted from a high level of technical and administrative capacity in the Project Management Unit and in ORSA, complemented by a competent set of specialists in CENSA, CICDC and CENATOX that are fully committed to the project's objectives and desirous of the project's success. Even with all the complexities involved, the project could not have procured and received all the equipment and supplies for the reference laboratories without the support of UNDP Cuba.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was not developed for the project, as such, the project's approach has been to target stakeholders in accordance with those identified in the Project Document, as well as new ones that present opportunities for partnerships that may be useful in supporting project objectives and sustainability of project outcomes. As this is a GEF-6 project, a SEP was not a requirement at the time of design.

C. Gender Equality

Even though no gender analysis was conducted, the project document includes measures to ensure women benefit from project interventions and includes some gender-sensitive indicators in the Project Results Framework, though not to the level required by GEF and UNEP policies. No Gender Action Plan or Gender Marker were prepared for the project. Of note is the fact that two national training activities have been developed on the requirements of the NC ISO / IEC 17025: 2017 Standard in which a total of 29 students, mostly women, received the corresponding certificate. Generally, women are majority participants in project events.

D. Knowledge Management

There are appropriate strategies defined and implemented for communication and dissemination of results and lesson sharing, with gender-sensitive approaches where feasible, and designed to respond to the needs of different types of audiences. This MTR did not come across evidence of a structured communication strategy for the project implemented via mainstream media or social media, and there is no dedicated project website or link.

III. Core Indicators

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			64	
Male			47	
Total	0	0	111	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	National Centre of Biological Safety (CSB)	Grant		1,308,031.00	151,307.00
Recipient Country Government	CICDC	Grant		130,500.00	144,571.00
Recipient Country Government	Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (CENSA)	Grant		459,412.00	169,300.00
Recipient Country Government	Centro Nacional de Toxicología (CENATOX)	Grant		22,500.00	56,608.00
Total Co-financing				1,920,443.00	521,786.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Low	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

The project is being implemented within the framework of the Policy for the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Cuban Agriculture which fully embraces environmental and social safeguards. Decree Law 4/2020 implements this policy with the creation of a National Commission composed of several authorities and chaired by the head of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and the Environment, with the aim of harmonizing the decision-making process for the safe and orderly use of GMOs in the country's agricultural

development programs. To strengthen the decision-making process, capacities have been created and strengthened in two national laboratories, and a system for surveillance and monitoring adverse effects has been designed with capacity for its implementation currently being created by this project. The National Commission is already taking charge of decision-making processes about the safe and orderly use of GMOs in the country's agricultural programs.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title 9860_ Justification for Cofinancing at MTR
Document Category M and E Document	Title Additional information on GEF Core Indicators
Document Category M and E Document	Title TRACKING TOOLS PIR 2025
Document Category M and E Document	Title Cuba - Final Main MTR Report_GEF ID9860 - 16JAN2024