

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10166
Project Name:	Strengthening human and natural systems resilience to climate change through mangrove ecosystems conservation and sustainable use in southern Benin
Countr(ies):	Benin
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Strengthening human and natural systems resilience to climate change through mangrove ecosystems conservation and sustainable use in southern Benin

Country

Benin

GEF ID

10166

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development (MCVDD)

Trust Fund

MTF

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

8/25/2026

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , 2nd PIR

Objective

To increase the resilience of mangrove ecosystems and their dependent agricultural, forestry and fishery communities to climate change and support the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services within the mangrove landscapes of Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

7,835,750.00

Cumulative Disbursement

2,025,279.32

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

10/22/2022

Agency Approval

3/18/2022

Implementation Start 12/1/2023	First Disbursement 12/31/2023
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 2/29/2028	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

The implementation of project activities, covering the period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, has led to significant progress: - the implementation of nine (9) community-based mangrove landscape conservation plans, covering a total area of 245,627 ha, including 3,139.75 ha of mangroves; - the continued implementation of agreements signed with co-management associations; the renewal of agreements with NGOs following satisfactory evaluations; - the increase in the restored area from 43.3 to 47 ha; and the reforestation of...Acacia auriculiformisThe area increased from 25.25 ha to 29 ha; - the reopening of waterways invaded by vegetation progressed from 10.9 km to 12 km; - several study reports were validated and finalized; - documents relating to the development and certification of a carbon project linked to the reduction of wood energy consumption in the Mono and Atlantic mangroves were validated; - equipment was acquired and given to the nine (9) environmental clubs 'Young Ambassadors of the Mangrove' as part of school plantings; two sessions of the National Steering Committee were organized; - two consultation frameworks and a Federation of co-management associations were established; following the study to identify agricultural value chains, - 33 groups and cooperatives were shortlisted and trained in the development of business plans. For the first phase of support for income-generating activities (IGAs), 21 groups were selected and received equipment to increase their production capacities and incomes.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

'- The lack of vehicles hinders the smooth running of field activities. The project covers nine municipalities in southern Benin. Most activities take place in the field and sometimes require the use of boats to reach the beneficiary communities. Unfortunately, the acquisition of vehicles to allow the Project Management Unit (PMU) to work easily was not planned. It is not uncommon for PMU staff to resort to public transportation to achieve their objectives. This constitutes a real obstacle to achieving results. - Lack of a procurement specialist. Purchases made under this partnership with FAO are carried out according to the OPIM approach. This is a management method based on the national procedure that involves the central procurement officer, known as the PRMP. Unfortunately, the Mangrove project does not have a public procurement specialist to liaise with this organization, which causes a significant delay in the project's procurement process.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Name of the stakeholder	Type of partnership	Progress, results and challenges in stakeholder engagement
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government institutions	DGEFC	Key	She oversees the national project and sits on the steering committee. Strategically, she facilitates communication with the FAO and the Project Management Unit. She contributes to the implementation of reforestation activities and the opening of waterways to facilitate navigation, commercial traffic, and fishing. In the face of future challenges, she will need to continue the actions mentioned above.
government institutions	DGEC; ABE; CENAGREF; DPH; DDAEP; CIF	Key	They are members of the project's steering committee and participate in its monitoring and control. They continue to support the project in its activities related to climate change adaptation and the regulation of fishing activities.
NGO	ECO-BENIN; ACTION PLUS; BEES NGO; etc.	Key	These are operational partners of the project who carry out mobilization and social inclusion activities, particularly in the areas of information, education and communication, as well as capacity building. They must contribute to the success of restoration, reforestation, river opening, sanctuary creation, and other projects.
private sector entities	Microfinance structures (AVEC, DAME, CAVECA, Alidé, PADME); private sector companies involved in value chains, etc.	Secondary	The activities for which these structures are needed have not yet begun. Faced with these challenges, the UGP must establish links with these structures to ensure their effective participation.
Others	Universities and research laboratories (LABEF; LEA) etc.	Key	As part of the partnership with universities, five Master's level research agreements were signed with research laboratories in May 2026 with the aim of addressing knowledge gaps regarding mangroves. The research is currently underway.
Others	Community Biodiversity Conservation Area Co-management Associations (CBCAs), Community Environmental Protection Associations (CEPAs), and other relevant community organizations	Primary	Community management associations (ACCB/ACPE) and other community organizations benefit from capacity building and implement forestry activities, while disseminating the acquired concepts to their peers. 'Faced with the challenges, we must adhere to the project guidelines and continue eco-citizen monitoring for the preservation of mangrove ecosystems.'
Others	Town Halls	Primary	They are responsible for implementing management tools, including municipal mangrove conservation plans (PMCMs) developed within the framework of the project. They are members of the project's steering committee and participate in its monitoring.

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe the progress and results achieved during the period under consideration.
a. Reduce gender inequalities in access to	Yes	- Integration of the specific needs of women (access to land, participation in resource management activities, etc.) in the 9 Municipal Plans for the Conservation of Mangrove

and control over global natural resources		Ecosystems (PCCM); - Restructuring of the management bodies of the ACCB/ACPE, increasing the percentage of women to approximately 45%; - Integration of the gender dimension in the update of the management plan of the Sitatunga valley (document in preparation).
b. Improve women's participation and decision-making	Yes	' - Active participation of women in the establishment of consultation frameworks on Ramsar sites, according to the principle of 50% women; - Support for projects of women's groups and cooperatives for the development of business plans; - Organization of awareness sessions in order to strengthen dialogue between women and men within communities.
c. generate socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	- Increased income through women's participation in site and mangrove restoration and reforestation. - Capacity building and support in the form of materials and equipment for fishing/aquaculture, salt production, and market gardening/composting groups and cooperatives to improve their production and income. - Selection of women's groups and cooperatives to benefit from income-generating activities (IGAs).
Other good practices in gender	Yes	- Support for women nursery owners to obtain accreditation, enabling them to fully engage in the activity and increase their income; - Integration of the gender dimension into all project activities (workshops, meetings, validation, consultations, etc.); - The project has ensured increased representation of women in the management bodies of co-management structures and in consultation frameworks; - Integration of the gender dimension into the selection criteria for groups and cooperatives; - Creation of nine (9) environmental clubs "Young Ambassadors of the Mangrove" in the intervention municipalities, composed of 50% girls, in order to promote good environmental practices.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes	
If so, what is the current state of its implementation ? Please describe in your response how the project promotes knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and		<u>The project has a database and a knowledge-sharing platform: - knowledge base: https://mangroves.gouv.bj - database https://mangroves.gouv.bj/tableau de bord/. Each member of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the field team has an account to upload project-related documents to the database. This upload is done monthly. After validation by the coordinator, the communications specialist disseminates the communication materials to the general public via the knowledge-sharing database. The platform is accessible to everyone, while the database centralizes the data produced by the PMU.</u>

international levels.	
Otherwise, how does the project identify, collect, and document good practices?	This project identifies best practices through communication, exchange, and networking activities. Individuals recognized for these best practices are invited to share them with their peers. These practices are also documented through short videos and excerpts shared in the database.
Please list the good practices, including key technical and/or institutional innovations, implemented so far within the project.	- Use of sunlight, black tarpaulins, and seawater for salt production. - Production of compost as a replacement for chemical fertilizers. - Use of legumes to restore soil fertility: the case of mucuna. - Creation and management of environmental clubs of 'young mangrove ambassadors' for training in nurseries and plantations. - Management of mangroves according to indigenous practices of sacred preservation.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the successes and difficulties in communication encountered during this exercise.	- Creation of a network of young mangrove ambassadors for environmental clubs, serving as communication relays at the community level. - Organization of activities on mangrove ecosystem services and the impacts of climate change on five community radio stations (Ahémé FM, Mono FM, Tado FM; Gerdès FM and Radio Kpassè in French and the local language). - Production of modules for environmental clubs on environmentally friendly techniques and on training for women's leadership (children's panel). The difficulties encountered were: - Lack of television in the project communities to support the initiatives; - Lack of vehicles to achieve the set objectives. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x0hExWRDeKNk-PWQYf0-1BS2OJ30sO-2/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pa5TulvkvFRJviJyonro1TkML8H2RqZC/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z4BsrS_3-8e6kGyepT1fbPBXydsVcxA/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hnVoorF76FP5IAcbU6sVoi_JCFQA7Zu3/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z4BsrS_3-8e6kGyepT1fbPBXydsVcxA/view?usp=drive_link
Please provide links to associated websites and social media accounts.	https://mangroves.gouv.bj/ https://mangroves.gouv.bj/tableau de bord/
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, videos,	- Recording of 20 radio broadcasts in the communes on five community radio stations with a large audience on ecosystem services and the impacts of climate change with experts (Tado Fm 106.3 in (French and Xwémè) for the communes of Abomey-Calavi and Sô-Ava; Mono Fm 97.7 in (French and Mina) for the communes of Comè and Grand-Popo; Radio Kpassè 93.8 in (French and Pédah) for the communes of

newsletters or other communication materials published on the Web, if applicable.	Ouidah and Kpomassase; Fm Ahémé 87.7 in (French, Aizo and Wla) for the commune of Bopa; Gerdess Fm 89.5 in (French, Goun and Tofin) for the communes of Aguégues and Sèmè-Podji.
Please provide the name and contact details of the focal point for communication and/or knowledge management.	- Communication focal point: OLLOUDE Mobèrèola Oloufounmilayo; 0195404572; funelleolive@yahoo.fr - Knowledge management focal point: SALAMI Abdou Gafar Agnila; 0197874305; g1salami@yahoo.fr

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
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
Abomey-Calavi	6.4538637	2.3542450	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Aguégués	6.4533468	2.5436440	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kpomasse	6.4450306	2.0137014	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sémè Kpodji	6.3814684	2.6044573	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sô-Ava	6.4969731	2.4005373	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bopa	6.5893347	1.9668937	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Come on	6.4041973	1.8840863	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ouidah	6.3666147	2.0853599	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10166_2026PIR_FAO_Benin