MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	10346
Project Name:	El Salvador Integrated Landscape Management and Restoration
Countr(ies):	El Salvador
Implementing Agency:	World Bank

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name El Salvador Integrated Landscape Management and Restoration	
Country El Salvador	
GEF ID 10346	Implementing Agency World Bank
Executing Entity Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	
Trust Fund GET	Project Type FSP
Objective To promote integrated landscape management and restoration in project areas.	

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 10/28/2021	Agency Approval 12/20/2021
Implementation Start 12/20/2021	First Disbursement 7/14/2022
Expected MTR 10/15/2024	MTR Submission 9/15/2025
Actual MTR 3/10/2025	Expected Completion 8/31/2026

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

Despite ongoing delays, the project is progressing across its main components. Under Component 1, solar panels have been installed at the Santa Rita Protected Area Interpretation Center, equipment for data analysis has been acquired, and the hydrological model consultancy has been completed. Procurement processes are ongoing for water flow and biodiversity monitoring equipment, as well as for the development of the Local Sustainable Restoration Plan. Component 2 has advanced with technical assistance agreements through several NGOs, while staffing adjustments are being made to strengthen field implementation. Pending steps include finalizing agreements to expand restoration activities and acquiring tools for water conservation systems. Under Component 3, as of April 30, 2025, all PIU positions have been filled, providing the institutional structure needed to support implementation, accelerate disbursements, and advance progress toward the project's remaining targets. By 30 June 2025, the Project had disbursed 56.32% percent of the grant proceeds.

The Mid-Term Review highlighted some implementation challenges. Early and recent staffing gaps within the PIU slowed progress, with contract interruptions and persistent vacancies affecting oversight, reporting, and field engagement, though full staffing has now been restored. Design issues also emerged, including unrealistic end targets and limited flexibility in prescribed restoration practices, which constrained adaptation to local conditions. In addition, the anticipated partnership with the sugar cane sector did not materialize due to misaligned objectives and technical shortcomings, leading to the termination of collaboration and the need to revise Subcomponent 2 targets and activities. These challenges have required adjustments to ensure feasible and effective project delivery moving forward. Continued close supervision and timely restructuring will be critical to safeguard results and sustain momentum. The PIU is now working to consolidate lessons learned and strengthen adaptive management for the remainder of the project cycle. The MTR confirmed the need for a project restructuring, including revisions to the results indicators.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Sustainable landscape management practices have been introduced across 16,863 hectares, with 16,031 hectares under improved management for biodiversity and 812 hectares restored, including agricultural land, forest areas, and mangroves. A total of 803 producers, including 327 women, have received support through NGO partnerships, and participation of women in dialogue processes has reached 20 percent. Public sector capacity has been strengthened with 23 officials trained in monitoring restoration, and local communication actions are ongoing. While several targets related to ecosystem service agreements, sugar sector engagement, and greenhouse gas monitoring are pending.

C. Gender Equality

Of the 803 producers supported, 327 are women engaged in restoration and sustainable land management. Women represent 20 percent of participants in strategic dialogue processes and five of the 23 public officials trained in monitoring restoration. In a recent satisfaction survey, 53.7 percent of respondents were women, with over half of those expressing satisfaction identifying as female.

D. Knowledge Management

Implementation of the KM approach is underway. A communication strategy is currently under development, with several activities already initiated, including newsletters, informational meetings, and social media publications to showcase project progress through the partner NGOs.

On the M&E and adaptive management side, the PIU, with support from the Geo-Information Systems & Mobile Data Specialist (GEMS) team, organized workshops on the use of KoBoToolbox to improve data collection and reporting.

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
		National Park							
		National Park							

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2971	1040	597.5	

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	849.00	900.00	550.00	

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
849.00	100.00	47.50	

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,273.00	40.00	0.00	

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1500	52005	16628	

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	51,285.00	16,628.00	

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,500.00	720.00	0.00	

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	429799	444851		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	429,799	444,851	0	
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2020	2021	2021	
Duration of accounting	20	20	20	

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

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	624	560	279	
Male	625	1,305	372	
Total	**1249**	**1,865**	651	**0**

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO($)	Materialized at MTR($)
Donor Agency	Catholic Relief Service / Warren Buffet Foundation	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00
Donor Agency	German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,410,000.00	2,410,000.00
Donor Agency	Fondo de Inversión Ambiental de El Salvador (FIAES)	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
Donor Agency	The Adaptation Fund	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,819,818.00	
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Envrionment and Natural Resources (MARN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00	500,000.00
Donor Agency	United States Agency for International Development	Grant	Investment mobilized	234,432.00	262,047.00
Donor Agency	Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)				7,819,818.00
Total Co-financing				**17,964,250.00**	**8,581,865.00**

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	High or Substantial	High or Substantial	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

(i) The March 2025 MTR highlighted gaps in E&S implementation, including the absence of a PIU E&S specialist, a non-operational GRM, and delayed submission of the July–Dec 2024 E&S report (submitted on March 25). Corrective measures were agreed: recruitment of an E&S specialist, GRM operational by May 2025, preparation of an E&S Action Plan with the World Bank (waste management, OHS, pesticide management, worker code of conduct, GRM), beneficiary training, bi-weekly follow-ups, and a review of the bi-annual reporting.

(ii) While the E&S performance rating was downgraded to Moderately Unsatisfactory due to capacity and compliance gaps, the E&S risk rating remains Substantial as originally assessed at CEO Endorsement. This reflects the project's continued exposure to risks related to institutional capacity, timely implementation of safeguards, and stakeholder engagement. The mitigation measures introduced through the agreed Action Plan and closer Bank supervision are expected to help contain these risks, but the Substantial rating remains appropriate.

(iii) No new or revised assessments were triggered during this period. However, an E&S Action Plan was developed jointly with the World Bank to address identified gaps, particularly in waste management, occupational health and safety, pesticide management, and GRM functionality.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	10346-P170854-2025-PIR-WB-El Salvador