

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	5324
Project Name:	Reversing Desertification Process in Susceptible Areas of Brazil: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation (REDESER)
Countr(ies):	Brazil
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Reversing Desertification Process in Susceptible Areas of Brazil: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation (REDESER)

Country

Brazil

GEF ID

5324

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment - Extractivism and Sustainable Rural Development Secretary - Desertification Combat and Land Degradation Dept. (MMA/SEDR/DCD)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/5/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 7th PIR

Objective

To halt and reverse environmental degradation in areas susceptible to desertification (ASD), ensuring the flow of ecosystem services, promoting the integrated management of natural resources, generating global environmental benefits and contributing to poverty reduction. Development Objective: To increase and improve provision of goods and services from sustainable management and restoration of dryland forest and agroforestry production landscapes, contributing to poverty reduction.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

4,303,520.00

Cumulative Disbursement

3,058,997.78

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 5/9/2016	Agency Approval 6/28/2016
Implementation Start 1/19/2018	First Disbursement 2/19/2018
Expected MTR	Actual MTR 8/28/2023
Expected Completion 12/30/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

As of 30 June 2025, the REDESER project has made significant progress toward its two development objectives. Under Outcome 1, the adoption of Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) exceeded the end-of-project target, covering 1,232,642 ha – 136 % of the planned 904,142 ha – and three best-practice INRM approaches have been fully applied across 100 % of the target areas through 35 Demonstration Units and 14 Sustainable Use Plans for Fundo de Pasto communities. Training reached 967 smallholders (62 % of the 1,567 target), and women now manage, on average, 48.9 % of agricultural units, surpassing the 30 % goal. Under Outcome 2, Sustainable Forest Management was initiated on 32,135 ha (5 % of the target), remaining a key challenge; Outcome 3 achieved the restoration of 3,909 ha of degraded land. For Outcome 4, 527 stakeholders were trained (195 % of the target) and 12 high-quality training materials were produced (218 %), while Outcome 5 secured collaborations with all 10 key initiatives. Currently under execution are two Letters of Agreement, four contracts, and a team of six consultants conducting studies and supporting the project's various components.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

We recognize that the indicators for Components 2 and 3 present a high level of difficulty, as the defined targets require significant advances in the country's environmental policy within a short timeframe. In addition to the need to review and update in-kind co-financing agreements with institutional actors—a task that in itself demands inter-institutional negotiations and validations—we also face the challenge of completing a series of internal FAO procedures before the end of the implementation phase, scheduled for the second half of 2025. These procedures relate to procurements and acquisitions such as the selection of consultancy services, the purchase of inputs, and the contracting of services, all subject to public calls for tenders, deadlines for expressions of interest, proposal evaluations, and internal approvals.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MMA)	Executing Agency	Together with the FAO, the MMA is responsible for coordinating the REDESER Project. The Ministry of the Environment has been fully involved in REDESER's actions.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Farming - MDA	Co-financing partner	Engagement with the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) was initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, but it is imperative to resume inter-ministerial dialogue due to the lack of response and effective support to date. This process also involves collaboration with the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA), whose contributions are essential to addressing certain REDESER challenges, given that the settlements it oversees hold significant forest assets critical for forest management and landscape connectivity.
Government Institutions	Brazilian Forest Service - SFB	Co-financing partner	The Brazilian Forest Service is a co-financier of the REDESER Project and maintains a regional office in the Northeast, covering all of REDESER's priority municipalities. It has played a key role as a technical interlocutor with the project team regarding Caatinga forest management.
Government Institutions	Government of the State of Rio Grande do Norte	Co-financing partner	In Rio Grande do Norte, two State Secretariats develop policies and programs to combat desertification—contributions that will be crucial for the planned interventions in the Seridó Territory, a focal area of the REDESER Project. The State Secretariat of Environment and Water Resources, which serves as the focal point for this domain, maintains close alignment with REDESER through the State Council for Combating Desertification, ensuring a coordinated and efficient approach. We recently held a meeting with the team responsible for implementing a desertification-combat program and updated the co-financing amounts.
NGOs	Articulation with the Semi-Arid - ASA	Co-financing partner	It is a co-financier of the project and serves as the implementing party for a Letter of Agreement.
NGOs	Advisory and Management in Nature Studies, Human Development and Agroecology - AGENDHA	Co-financing partner	It is currently implementing a Letter of Agreement in the Xingó Territory in Alagoas, with the general objective of implementing actions aimed at reducing the degradation of natural resources by livestock farming through the recovery of Legal Reserve areas integrated with sustainable forage production and the sustainable use of natural resources in the area. Under this Letter of Agreement, forage reserves will be created integrated with the recovery and conservation of Legal Reserve areas, and motivation, dissemination and training activities will be developed.
NGOs	Association of Plants of the Northeast - APNE	Co-financing partner	It is one of the project's co-financiers and has already implemented a Letter of Agreement that guided the Terms of Reference for REDESER's implementation strategies.
NGOs	Araripe Foundation	Co-financing partner	The Foundation is one of REDESER's co-financiers and currently holds implementation contracts for the project in two territories. In July 2025, it updated its co-financing amounts.
NGOs	COOPERCUC	Co-financing partner	COOPERCUC is a regional cooperative and one of the co-financiers of the REDESER project.
NGOs	EFASE	Co-financing partner	EFASE is one of the REDESER project's co-financiers and currently holds implementation contracts in two territories.

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	a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources – the project has been responsive to gender issues. Through capacity-building and training processes, there has been an increase in women's participation and involvement in accessing and controlling natural resources. Moreover, this has enabled women to assume leadership roles within their organizations.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Building women's capacities will enhance their participation in decision-making within their communities and in interventions carried out in their territories, as well as foster their transversal inclusion in leadership spaces within their organizations.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Based on the training courses, it will be possible in the future to measure possible socio-economic benefits for the women served by the project.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	Another gender-related good practice has been the implementation of agroforestry systems in the Araripe territory, where women lead over 60% of the areas. Today, these women manage their own projects and actively participate in groups dedicated to mitigating the effects of climate change.

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's knowledge management strategy includes leveraging the WOCAT platform. The platform managers have already been asked to translate the good-practice submission form into Portuguese. Currently, one consultancy is being contracted to map lessons learned and manage knowledge, and another to populate the WOCAT platform with documented good-practice experiences.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	N/A
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	One of the communication strategies was to strengthen coordination with the project's partner and implementing organizations in the territories, from which a diverse array of materials was produced to support the dissemination of best practices. As a result, a significant increase in project mentions was observed on social media channels linked to the intervention areas. These efforts solidified the role of partner organizations as content multipliers and reinforced community trust in the project's implementation process.
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 the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1712828/ https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1712827/ https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1730955/ https://www.fao.org/newsroom/story/three-foes-of-biodiversity-revival-in-latin-america/en https://x.com/FAOBrasil/status/1934959217489637884 https://www.fao.org/brasil/noticias/detail-events/pt/c/1730955/
Please provide links to related website, social media account	FAO Brazil's tweeter account, @FAOBrasil, publishes news of many projects, including REDESER. In addition to the official FAO Brazil account. The partner organizations also publicize the activities carried out under their letters of agreement. Instagram: @agendha @fundacao_ararape @redeasa @diaconia
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web, if any.	N/A
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.	Luiza Olmedo FAO Communications Officer in Brazil luiza.olmedo@fao.org

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
Santa Luzia, Paraíba	-6.913	-36.9	3389560

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sao Mamede, Paraíba	-6.929	-37.09	3388336

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Varzea, Paraíba	-6.785	-37.015	3385483

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Carnauba Dos Dantas; Rio Grande do Norte	-6.553	-36.547	3402795

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Equador, Rio Grande do Norte	-6.884	-36.659	3400815

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Parelhas, Rio Grande do Norte	-6.712	-36.621	3393017

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Santana Do Serido, Rio Grande do Norte	-6.726	-36.769	6318331

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Barbalha, Ceará	-7.376	-39.313	3406442

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Crato, Ceará	-7.213	-39.48	3401545

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jardim, Ceará	-7.598	-39.216	3397572

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Delmiro Gouveia, Alagoas	-9.399	-38.05	3401109

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Olho D'agua Do Casado, Alagoas	-9.436	-37.816	3393588

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Piranhas, Alagoas	-9.525	-37.726	3391965

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Araci, Bahia	-11.222	-39.066	3471854

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Coronel Joao Sa, Bahia	-10.303	-37.945	6316924

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jandaira, Bahia	-11.598	-37.596	3460171

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Serrinha, Bahia	-11.619	-39.001	3447690

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Uaua, Bahia	-9.896	-39.444	3385883

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable productive activities to stop and revert desertification processes

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
GEFID5324_2025PIR_FAO_Brazil