

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	5356
Project Name:	Global Forest Watch 2.0 FW 2.0
Countr(ies):	Global, Georgia, Madagascar
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW3

A. Description3

B. Key Dates3

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES3

A. Main MTR Findings3

B. Stakeholder Engagement4

C. Gender Equality5

D. Knowledge Management5

III. CORE INDICATORS5

IV: CO FINANCING6

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS6

VI. ANNEX7

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Global Forest Watch 2.0 FW 2.0

Country

Global, Georgia, Madagascar

GEF ID

5356

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

World Resources Institute (Leading all GFW2.0 partners),
Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia, Ministry of
Environment and Forests of Madagascar

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

Objective

To Empower Decision-Makers in Government the Private Sector, and Civil Society with Technology and Information Necessary to Reduce Deforestation and Land Degradation, Combat Illegal Activities, and Conserve Biodiversity in Pilot Countries and on a Global Scale.

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

8/31/2015

Agency Approval

8/31/2015

Implementation Start

11/6/2015

First Disbursement

8/1/2016

Expected MTR

9/30/2017

MTR Submission

3/18/2026

Actual MTR

6/30/2018

Expected Completion

9/30/2019

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

The Global Forest Watch (GFW) project has achieved significant global scale, surpassing 1.3 million unique users and expanding its technical capabilities. A major breakthrough was the expansion of GLAD (Global Land Analysis & Discovery) alerts, which provide weekly, 30-meter resolution deforestation data. The project also successfully launched the Forest Watcher mobile app, enabling field practitioners to access and submit data offline, which has been particularly vital for monitors in regions like Madagascar and Sumatra.

In the private sector, the project has made substantial progress through the development of GFW Pro, a platform designed for commodity companies and financial institutions to manage deforestation risks in their supply chains. This initiative has gained endorsements from major global actors, including Cargill and Walmart, the latter of which challenged 500 suppliers to use the tool to report against sustainability commitments. Additionally, the project is advancing research on greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes from forests to support international climate policy and monitoring.

At the pilot country level, Georgia has successfully launched its national forest atlas, known as FLUIDS (Forest and Land-Use Decision System), which now hosts over 100 spatial datasets. The project integrated use cases with local NGOs, such as CENN and NACRES, to monitor hazard hotspots and identify illegal logging. Despite a government merger affecting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the project maintained continuity through technical training and the installation of a local virtual server to host national data.

In Madagascar, progress was marked by the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests (MEEF) to facilitate data sharing. A key achievement was the 'nationalization' of forest data, involving intensive training for Malagasy technicians at the University of Maryland to ensure the UMD dataset reflects national definitions and accuracy. Practical applications of GFW tools were demonstrated in the Menabe region, where fire alerts were used to direct patrols and identify illegal activities within protected areas.

While global targets were often exceeded, the project faced delays in pilot country implementation due to political changes and technical complexities. As a result, a one-year no-cost extension (until September 2019) was approved to ensure the full integration of GFW tools into national workflows and to complete ongoing use cases.

Note: A Mid-Term Review for this project was not conducted due to unforeseen challenges. The UNEP Evaluation Office advised that the attached Project Implementation Report (PIR) be used to capture the team's reflections on the progress made to date. Please find the supporting communication attached.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

The Global Forest Watch project prioritises a broad, multi-sectoral approach to stakeholder engagement, aiming to ignite a 'transparency revolution' in forest management. This engagement spans global and national levels, involving long-term partnerships with government agencies, the private sector, and civil society. The GFW Partnership has grown significantly, increasing from 94 contributing organizations in 2016 to 139 by June 2018, representing 30 countries. In pilot countries like Georgia and Madagascar, engagement is facilitated through inception workshops, national steering committees, and technical meetings with ministries and local NGOs such as CENN, NACRES, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Furthermore, the project actively collaborates with major private sector actors, such as Cargill and Unilever, to develop supply chain monitoring tools like GFW Pro, ensuring the platform meets the decision-making needs of commodity producers and financial institution.

C. Gender Equality

The project ensured open access to data, inclusive participation in trainings and consultations, and engagement of civil society and women professionals across institutions. This was designed to stimulate and enhance the use of GFW technology for improved forest management alongside other stakeholders such as academic and indigenous groups (including women).

D. Knowledge Management

The project’s Knowledge Management (KM) strategy focuses on translating complex geospatial data into actionable information for a global and national audience. A central feature of this approach is the 'how to portal,' which provides users with educational materials, tutorial videos, and FAQs to deepen their engagement with the platform. To ensure the technical findings reach decision-makers, GFW maintains an active blog published in five languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Bahasa Indonesia) and produces peer-reviewed research for high-impact journals. Key communication products include:

- The Georgia Forest Atlas (FLUIDS): Located at <http://geo.forest-atlas.org>, this live portal is a cornerstone of the project’s national engagement. It currently hosts over 100 spatial datasets that have been cleaned, translated, and curated for use by government ministries and civil society.
- Places to Watch (PTW): This initiative identifies urgent deforestation hotspots to catalyze global media attention and local action.

[March 2018 Edition](#): Focused on hotspots in Indonesia, Cameroon, and Brazil.

[June 2018 Edition](#): Highlighted disturbances in Colombia, Brazil, and Indonesian Papua. ([Link](#)).

- Media Outreach and Success Stories: The project maintains a high media profile, resulting in over 700 reports in high-profile outlets like The Guardian and Reuters. It also documents 'user profiles' and success stories from the Small Grants Fund to showcase how local actors use GFW data for conservation and securing land rights.
- Localized Content: In pilot countries, the approach includes journalist training workshops (as seen in Georgia) and national television/radio coverage (as seen in Madagascar) to demonstrate the practical use of tools like the Forest Watcher mobile app.

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		0	0	
Male		0	0	
Total	0	0	0	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	WRI	Grant		6,000,000.00	19,722,793.00
Recipient Country Government	Government (Georgia)	In-kind		2,000,000.00	956,147.00
Recipient Country Government	Government (Madagascar)	In-kind		2,500,000.00	5,257,563.00
Bilateral	GIZ (Georgia)	In-kind		500,000.00	69,812.00
GEF Agency	UNEP/DEPI	In-kind		300,000.00	
Private Sector	ESRI	In-kind		9,494,000.00	11,715,689.00
Civil Society Organization	Transparent World	In-kind		7,100,000.00	8,940,100.00
Total Co-financing				27,894,000.00	20,655,789.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Medium/Moderate	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

The project area is not affected by severe weather events or major environmental stress factors.

The global activities continue without any delay or risk however some risks factors in pilot countries may affect the project results in pilot countries.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Prefix	Title
M and E Document	Mid-term Review (MTR)	MTR_5356_2018_PIR_UNEP_Global GFW
M and E Document	Mid-term Review (MTR)	MTR Termination 5356