TERMINAL EVALUATION

Project ID:	9383
Project Name:	Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation Project in Central and South Benin
Countr(ies):	Benin
Implementing Agency:	AfDB

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW 3
A. Description 3
B. Key Dates 3
C. Disbursements 3
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES 4
A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings 4
B. Stakeholder Engagement 14
C. Gender Equality 14
D. Knowledge Management 15
III. CORE INDICATORS 15
IV: CO FINANCING 18
V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS 18
VI. ANNEX 19

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation Project in Central and South Benin	
Country Benin	
GEF ID 9383	Implementing Agency AfDB
Executing Entity Ministry of Environment Department of Climate Change Management, Reforestation, and Natural Resource and Forest Protection	
Trust Fund GET	Project Type FSP
Objective To promote socially and environmentally sustainable forest management in central and south Benin by improving forest and land management to preserve forest cover, prevent biodiversity loss, and monitor carbon stocks and emissions.	

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 5/19/2020	Agency Approval 12/14/2016
Implementation Start 1/31/2021	First Disbursement 1/18/2021
Expected MTR 12/31/2019	MTR Submission 9/14/2025
Actual MTR	Expected Completion 9/30/2024
Actual Completion 6/30/2025	Actual TE 3/31/2025
TE Submission 9/14/2025	Final Disbursement

C. Disbursements

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
2,876,812.00	2,101,422.28

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings

In its design, the sectoral objective of the project is to ' **contribute to the improvement of food and nutritional security and the reduction of poverty among populations, through the Rational Valorization and Management of Natural Resources** .' The specific objective is to put in place tools and mechanisms for the rational management of natural resources.

This completion report, coupled with a final evaluation of the Project, has the **general objective** of assessing the results obtained on the one hand and, on the other hand, analyzing the causes of these results obtained. The method used is relative to the classic criteria for evaluating development interventions defined and adopted by the DAC/OECD which emphasize **Relevance** , **Effectiveness** , **Efficiency** , **Impacts** and **Sustainability** . The groups of actors approached are the following: (i) Members of the Project Management Unit (PMU), (ii) Beneficiaries of the project in the project intervention area, (iii) representatives of the strategic partners of the project, (iv) Financial Partners and Institutional Partners in the project.

1. <u>Factors that negatively affected implementation</u>

The main factors affecting the implementation of the project are:

ü **The COVID-19 pandemic** is a factor that has negatively impacted project activities. Physical stakeholder engagement sessions have been drastically reduced. This is especially true of the 42-day health cordon that was in place, which limited travel. This also resulted in delays in procurement processes and disbursement rates. This included the interruption of attachments, completion reports, and provisional acceptance missions for completed infrastructure, the suspension of certain ongoing works, and the restriction of access to the SIGFIP room for reserving credits. In total, project execution was slowed by 9 months.

ü The **main difficulties** encountered such as (i) the long delays observed in the processes of awarding and approving public contracts, (ii) technical misunderstandings between the CGP and the partners which caused the delay in the start of the agreements, even the suppression of some activities in the agreements, (iii), (v) the low mobilization of the national counterpart;

ü Lack of a theory of change

As of 12/31/2024 , the project has benefited from more than thirteen (13) support and supervision missions from the AfDB, all led by the project Task Manager at the Bank. For each of these missions, an aide-mémoire presenting the progress reports, the progress made, the constraints to performance and the resolutions is made available. Specific action plans and a roadmap that the PMU are regularly developed and implemented before the next supervision mission. A final monitoring mission is planned for December 2024 to confirm the effective closure of the project on December 31, 2024. The issuance of ANOs by the AfDB is experiencing recurring delays, especially regarding procurements. The mission noted that the project suffered from the instability of the Task Managers with the succession of four (04) people in this position during the life of the project.

The reflex of carrying out an internal self-assessment of the levels of implementation of the recommendations of the supervision missions is a good practice to be continued.

2. Compliance with conformities

Fiduciary compliance, including procurement and financial management, does not show any notable underperformance. The various supervision missions assessed the project's implementation status as moderately satisfactory. PAGEFCOM2 was implemented in accordance with the Bank's and the Government of Benin's rules of procedure, with some shortcomings at times. The project's implementation systems and procedures were generally implemented in accordance with the procurement provisions indicated in the appraisal report and the financing agreement. The project's financial management performance was generally satisfactory, and the fiduciary risk was assessed as moderate.

3. Relevance

Conceptually, the project does not have a clear Theory of Change (ToC) even though it claims to generate impacts at the level of beneficiaries, municipalities, the forestry sector and the national economy. During the project appraisal, a chapter on the ToC was not required in the drafting of the evaluation report, but through the analysis of the logical framework, a ToC can be drawn up through the expected products and effects.

PAGEFCOM 2 focused in its formulation on the forestry realities of tropical countries and also on major socio-economic, agro-ecological and institutional changes such as population growth, climate change, internationalization of markets, changes in demand for forest products, decentralization and the disengagement of the State which are disrupting the context in which various categories of the sector operate. This Project is a relevant response to the real needs of communities and also to the problems/challenges of management and development of the forestry sector in the municipalities.

Furthermore, the project suffered considerably from a considerable absence of a feasibility study. This gap created several technical exchanges between stakeholders that slowed down the process of implementing the mission, or even suspended certain activities due to a lack of a common understanding of the activities. **A feasibility study (including environmental and social assessments of sub-projects) is not just a formality, but a strategic tool that significantly increases the chances of success of a project**. It provides a comprehensive analysis of opportunities, risks and challenges, while proposing suitable solutions. It provides a clear and comprehensive vision of the technical, economic, financial, social and environmental aspects, allowing stakeholders to make informed decisions.

The project's objectives still appear to be entirely relevant and respond to the needs expressed at the outset, but with a conceptual weakness, namely the absence of a feasibility study and a theory of change.

4. Consistency

The coherence of the project is measured in relation to national, regional and international policies and strategies. The objectives set by the project are consistent with national policies, national strategies adopted by Benin in the periods 2011-2015 (Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy), 2016-2021 and 2021-2026

(Government Action Program (PAG)) and other national development strategies. The objectives are in harmony with international options in terms of environmental protection, sustainable management of forests and natural resources. Specifically, the project is part of the priority actions of the National Program for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (PNGDRN), in particular strategic axes i, iii, iv, vii and ix, is consistent with the national policy for the development of the forestry sector. The project is consistent with the intervention strategies of its financial partners, the ADF and the GEF, in particular with their strategic objectives of developing cross-cutting capacities and strengthening national forest resources, as well as supporting poverty reduction. The AfDB's strategic alignments are (DSP, Gender strategy, climate change, etc.). PAGEFCOM II remains for the moment the only community forest project at the level of the MCVT and the AfDB.

Generally speaking, the development objective of the project is and remains relevant to national and international policies (ADB, PDN, PAG, SCRP, Benin forest policy, PEFC, MCVT Vision, DPPD 2022-2024, PNGDRN, SDGs, etc.).

5. Efficiency

ü **Physical execution**

The implementing body is stable and operates under the governance of a functional COS. The CGP team operates perfectly in a participatory, flexible, inclusive and empowering approach for its members.

After 96 months of implementation, PAGEFCOM2 has recorded an overall implementation rate of **90.25%** compared to the set objectives. The cumulative rate of mobilization of financial resources for the benefit of the project from all financial partners is **68.55%** after 96 months of project implementation. This level of mobilization is due to the high disbursement rate of the ADF Loan (73.85%), ADF Grant (54.41%) and GEF Grant (77.66%) and the low mobilization rate of the Beninese counterpart (16.60%). This rate could be around 72.27% by 04/30/2025 (ADF Loan: 77.73%; ADF Grant: 80.17%; GEF Grant: 79.62%; GVT: 19.57%). The project was active in terms of communication and several communication supports were put in place: promotional tools, reports and documentary films, magazines, interviews and press articles.

The procurement process is completed as of 12/31/2024 with an overall completion rate of **78.26%.** The procurement of goods, works and services financed by the Bank was generally carried out in accordance with the procurement provisions indicated in the appraisal report and the Financing Agreement. The procurement documents and decisions are generally of satisfactory quality.

Gender was impacted through an action plan developed and implemented for women):

- 4 beekeeping cooperatives for honey production were supported with 250 members including 42 women.
- 04 Group of women processors of shea butter nuts (130 members including 121 women)
- Women's groups in planting activities (nurseries, transport of plants and staking)
- IEC session focused on overexploitation of forests-fodder parks-straying of livestock in forests for 2,709 people, including 922 women.

The Effectiveness index of 0.9 shows significant effectiveness of the Project.

ü **Results framework and monitoring and evaluation**

Regarding internal monitoring, the Project has a monitoring and evaluation system led by a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. The various progress reports (quarterly, annual) are available. Unfortunately, the monitoring and evaluation manual could not be written in time (Manual validated in 2022). In addition, the project has developed and implemented an operational information and monitoring and evaluation system which has made it possible to assess the project's performance.

Regarding external monitoring, it focuses on the compliance of the project's achievements with the sectoral strategic framework. The structures responsible for this monitoring are in place. These are the COS, the DPAF/MCVT, the DGFD/MEF and the CAGD/MEF. The mission notes that external monitoring is operational. In addition, the project is subject to a quarterly portfolio review organized by the DGFD in collaboration with all key stakeholders, including the CAGD and the CTA-SEP as well as the MCVT.

The Presidential Project Monitoring Unit monitors the project through a monitoring sheet periodically completed by the CGP on the performance achieved and at the end of each quarter, a summary review of priority projects is organized.

The value of the effect indicators as of 31/12/2024 is largely achieved (more than 100%) in its majority (83%). The same is true for the target value of the product indicators in their majority (83%) largely achieved (more than 100%) the expected final target as of 31/12/2024.

The various quarterly and annual reports are produced and provided on time, just as the steering committee meetings are organized each year.

However, the mission noted that the project formulation documents mention a theory of change for the project and present a risk map to mitigate in the event of occurrence and also hypotheses to be tested in order to assess the chains of impacts of the project on its implementation ecosystem. The implementation of the project did not activate these instruments which fit well into the project management engineering in addition to the logical framework. The AfDB also did not make it a requirement whereas without this instrument, the changes projected by the project can never be achieved regardless of the expertise of the PMU. The logical framework is based on the results chain with IOV while the ToC refers to a chain of impacts with progress markers and the development of useful partnerships.

The quarterly and annual reports, of good quality, were submitted to the Bank on time. The Borrower closely monitored the recommendations of the supervision missions, with measures taken. A status of their implementation was always recorded in the various reports and aide-mémoires.

ü **Degree of satisfaction of project beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries appreciate the participatory approach and the attention to their needs developed by project managers prior to the intervention. Almost all beneficiaries are satisfied with the project's interventions, with a nuance in the degree of satisfaction. Thus, 80.95% are satisfied while 19.15% are very satisfied.

All stakeholders are satisfied with the quality of project management and the results achieved. The project's activities have had a significant impact on the project's beneficiaries. The mission noted among the beneficiaries:

· a development of the latter's activity with increased production capacity;

· an increase in the visibility and awareness of beneficiaries;

· an increase in income;

· regularity in production;

· a change observed in the living conditions of beneficiaries, particularly women;

· reducing the state of degradation of natural spaces;

· the associative formalization of certain riverside populations and their commitment to the protection of plantations;

· the production and availability of fish in certain villages;

· The reduction of rural exodus.

ü **AfDB Support and Supervision Mission**

More than thirteen (13) support and supervision missions were regularly organized. Aide-mémoires are available. The reflex of carrying out an internal self-assessment of the levels of implementation of the recommendations of the supervision missions is a good practice to be continued in new projects to come. However, the mission mainly noted a considerable delay in obtaining ANOs from the AfDB in the processing of procurement files.

It is important for the Bank to focus on reducing the processing times for procurement applications. As such, assigning a dedicated person to a country portfolio will help expedite the processing of applications. Monitoring and recording processing times is recommended. Financing agreements generally provide for ex post reviews for small applications, once the first few applications have been approved. Where such a provision exists, the executing agency should not submit no-objection requests to the Bank, except for technical specifications and TORs, which are then the sole responsibility of the sector department. This provision is likely to reduce processing times.

ü **Partnership and synergy of actions**

Synergies with other Bank projects are not evident (i) in progress reports, (ii) or in supervision mission aide-mémoires. A diversified partnership has been developed within the framework of the Project, allowing the various stakeholders to work in synergy. PAGEFCOM2 remains the only community forest project at the AfDB and MCVT level.

In execution of its intervention strategy, the project signed eight (08) agreements with partner structures, notably with an execution rate: Ex-CENATEL (100%), ANM (100%), CENAGREF (43.89%), DGEFC (95.22%), LEA (100%), COFORMO (100%), DPH (82%), ABE (92%). The implementation of these agreements made it possible to involve all stakeholders but generally suffered from technical misunderstandings with the project causing a considerable delay in the start of activities for some partners. This sometimes generated cancellations of activities and under-consumption of dedicated resources.

The overall performance of these partnerships, despite the technical misunderstandings noted, was optimal for the project.

ü **Trust execution**

The loan agreement, which was approved on December 14, 2016 and signed on April 10, 2017, was put into effect with a delay of almost one year. The Coordinator and the RAF were recruited on May 31, 2017. They took up their duties on June 1, 2017. The first disbursement took place on January 18, 2018. The effective start of the project did not take place on January 18. The TEF as of December 31, 2024 is 68.55%: (ADF Loan: 74.01%; ADF Grant: 65.07%; GEF Grant: 79.37%). The commitment rate is 71.88% (ADF Loan: 74.40%, ADF Grant: 86.37%; GEF Grant: 83.72%; Government 21.56%).

The national resource mobilization rate is 16.60% and therefore does not comply with the commitments contained in the Loan Agreement and the Grant Protocol. The national contribution is normally intended for the construction of rural roads and the rehabilitation of management infrastructure. **The financial management of the project is generally satisfactory with a moderate fiduciary risk.**

The mission suggests that states should budget annually for the counterpart resources provided for projects. This issue should be carefully considered during the evaluation. It is preferable to provide parallel funding and target activities that are least detrimental to the overall achievement of outcomes. LBS adjustments can be considered during implementation to address certain shortcomings and limit negative impacts.

ü **Project Implementation Performance Ratios**

After 96 months of implementation, the **average physical execution rate (POR)** is close to 90.25%.

The **average financial execution rate (EFR)** is 68.55%. This rate could reach around 72.27% as of 04/30/2025 (ADF loan: 77.73%; ADF grant: 80.17%; GEF grant: 79.62%; GVT: 19.57%).

The Effectiveness index of 0.9 shows significant effectiveness of the Project.

The average project efficiency index of 1.32 shows **efficient management of project resources** .

6. Efficiency

The efficiency index (EI2) of 1.32 indicates that 1 FCFA spent on the project generates an additional positive added value of +0.32. The resources mobilized for the implementation of the project were used efficiently and rationally. This performance trend must be maintained, consolidated and further improved for future projects in the sector.

7. Impact

Beneficiaries appreciate the participatory approach and the attention to their needs developed by project managers prior to the intervention. Almost all beneficiaries are satisfied with the project's interventions, with a nuance in the degree of satisfaction. Thus, 80.95% are satisfied while 19.15% are very satisfied.

All stakeholders are satisfied with the quality of project management and the results achieved. The project's activities have had a significant impact on the project's beneficiaries. The mission noted among the beneficiaries:

- a development of the latter's activity with increased production capacity;
- an increase in the visibility and awareness of beneficiaries;
- an increase in income;
- regularity in production;
- a change observed in the living conditions of beneficiaries, particularly women;
- reducing the state of degradation of natural spaces;
- the associative formalization of certain riverside populations and their commitment to the protection of plantations;
- the production and availability of fish in certain villages;
- The reduction of rural exodus.

Partnerships with the structures have enabled them to be strengthened technically and financially. This support further strengthens the technical capacities of the structures so that they can effectively carry out daily activities.

The mission noted that the project does not have an exit strategy which should guarantee the sustainability and sustainability of the projects' achievements.

8. Sustainability

The sustainability of the achievements of any development project like PAGEFCOM2 depends on the sustainability mechanisms put in place during the implementation phase, namely (i) Sustainability through a participatory and responsible approach, (ii) Sustainability at the social level, and (iii) Sustainability at the institutional level.

The CGP is fully aware of the issues and challenges of the post-PAGEFCOM2 period and to address this issue, it has carried out awareness-raising activities with a strong emphasis on empowering village communities and beneficiary municipalities to sustainably manage the management and maintenance activities of the plantations carried out. As a result, the municipalities have committed to including budget lines from 2025 to maintain and monitor the achievements. COFORMO also has a system of forest development funds for the maintenance and guarding of communal plantations.

In its implementation, the project benefited from political stability. Its institutional anchoring has not changed, and the current minister has not been replaced despite the change in the name of the supervisory ministry. This suggests continuity in the dynamics driven by the project.

For the majority of stakeholders interviewed (91.49%), the sustainability of the project's actions is assured. Training and equipment donations ensure continuity of activities. In addition, the various training courses on financial resource management within the groups ensure better management of activities by the beneficiaries.

Despite the actions taken by the CGP which fall under a project exit strategy, the mission noted that the project does not have an exit strategy document which should strengthen the sustainability and durability of the projects' achievements.

It is important to develop a project exit strategy at the beginning of the project to hope for a better impact of the project in the years following its closure.

9. Lessons learned from the implementation of the project

The lessons learned from the implementation of PAGEFCOM2 that could be used for other similar projects are as follows:

Lesson 1: Project implementation suffered from technical misunderstandings of project activities, which significantly impacted the start of activities with the contracted structures. The feasibility study is a crucial step in the life cycle of a project, as it allows for its viability to be assessed and opportunities and risks to be anticipated before committing to its implementation. It is therefore important to ensure that the feasibility study is carried out before the start of projects to allow for speedy technical exchanges with stakeholders. This approach effectively contributes to achieving project results within the required timeframe.

Lesson 2: Slow procurement procedures have led to delays in project implementation. It is advisable that at the beginning of a project, the government and the Bank agree on the basic technical elements of project implementation, such as a specialized project management team, the need to strengthen the management team, and the need for technical assistance.

Lesson 4: Projects with a strong infrastructure component are highly dependent on the performance of the companies in charge of the works. Most PAGEFCOM2 projects suffered from the insufficient organizational and financial capacity of the companies despite the anticipatory measures it took and which consist. Faced with this unfortunate experience, it is necessary, at the national level, to: (i) review the texts governing the coercive measures to be taken against companies in the event of delay in order to identify and overcome the burdens in the effective application of the establishment and popularization of the directory of the list of unscrupulous companies with the consequence of the temporary suspension of these from access to public markets; (ii) promote the flourishing of SMEs in charge of the works through, for example, capacity building mechanisms, the reduction of administrative procedures and tax measures. This is with a view to broadening the competitive range.

Lesson 5: The timely provision of counterpart resources in accordance with the amounts provided for in the evaluation contributes to compliance with the schedule and the achievement of indicators. The implementation of PAGEFCOM2 suffered from the low mobilization of counterpart resources. This situation leads to a rethinking of project financing agreements by ensuring the use of counterpart resources on activities with little impact on project performance, such as expenses relating to the installation of the project management unit, supervision and external evaluation missions assigned to the structures of sectoral ministries, etc.

Lesson 6: The involvement of the main stakeholders (Forestry Administration, Ministry of Development, Ministry in charge of the environment, municipalities involved in the project, beneficiary communities, civil society, private sector, TFPs, projects) in the design of the project has strongly contributed to the appropriation of the expected results, the implementation of the actions that contribute to them and the anticipation of those aimed at their sustainability. This support could also have been achieved by the development of a project exit strategy with specific roles and responsibilities at various levels, even if some structures claim to ensure post-project monitoring of achievements.

Lesson 7: Overall, the Government has achieved good results despite the initial delays already discussed in the report, including: (i) delays in starting activities of 06 months after Board approval; (ii) initial delays in processing procurement; and (iii) continued delays in processing internal approvals of Bank-approved contracts. Despite these challenges, the Borrower has been responsive to the Bank's advice and questions, which has helped accelerate project implementation in recent years and achieve almost all of the planned outcomes and outputs.

10. Conclusions of the evaluation

In its design as in its implementation, PAGEFCOM2 in its objectives still appears today globally quite relevant and responding to needs expressed at the grassroots. This project is a relevant response to the real needs of the communities and also to the problems/challenges of management and development of the forestry sector in the municipalities. Within the MCVT and also in the AfDB portfolio for Benin, PAGEFCOM2 is the only project dedicated to communal forest management . Its implementation is very well appreciated by the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project despite the constraints that have arisen. This justifies the strong social mobilization and the full support/participation of the beneficiary communities and the support of the communal and forestry administrations for its implementation. The results of the satisfaction surveys carried out among the project beneficiaries confirmed the relevance of the intervention, and the results of the project. The implementation of the project was carried out in perfect coherence with the national development policies and strategies of Benin and its strategic partners. The overall and specific objectives of the project have not changed and are well aligned with those defined by Benin's national, sectoral and local development strategies and policies. The institutional framework for implementing the project is well defined and has remained stable, and its level of functionality is considered satisfactory despite the difficult context of its implementation. This resulted in (i) the smooth functioning of the various project management bodies, (ii) good national coordination/facilitation of the project provided by the PMU, and (iii) excellent technical support provided by the Bank. Performance in terms of mobilizing financial resources is good, especially from donors. All financial commitments were met over the period, except for resources from the National Budget, the mobilization of which remains insufficient. The project does not have an exit strategy. It will therefore be necessary to take advantage of the grace period to initiate a workshop (3-5 days) which will bring together all stakeholders to establish an exit strategy for the project. It is preferable to request a consultant to support the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager to facilitate discussions during the workshop.

As of 12/31/2024 , progress is visible and attested on the sites/interventions, relayed by the testimony of the beneficiaries **. Some residual activities will be completed by the strategic partners after the closure of the project.** The implementation of the project was negatively impacted by the significant delay in the start of the project (at least 1 year after its entry into force) and in the execution of the agreements, not to mention the Covid 19 pandemic.

11. Recommendations

1. It is therefore important to ensure that **the feasibility study is carried out. including E&S assessments** before project start-up to enable speedy technical exchanges with stakeholders. This approach effectively contributes to achieving project results within a required timeframe.

2. It is desirable that **the government and the Bank can reach an agreement in principle** so as to take a note that gives a certain autonomy to the SPMs on AfDB projects in the procurement process. This is to ensure the speed of activities at the project level. As for the Bank, it must review its mechanism for awarding ANOs so as not to penalize projects in the progress of the implementation of their activities.

3. It is necessary, at the national level, to: (i) **review the texts governing** the coercive measures to be taken against companies in the event of delay in order to identify and overcome the obstacles to the effective application of the establishment and popularization of the directory of the list of unscrupulous companies with the consequence of the temporary suspension of these companies from access to public markets; (ii) **promote the flourishing of SMEs** in charge of works through, for example, capacity building mechanisms, the reduction of administrative procedures and tax measures. This is with a view to broadening the competitive range.

4. need to **be rethought, ensuring that counterpart resources are used for activities** with a low impact on project performance, such as expenditure relating to the installation of the project management unit, external supervision and evaluation missions assigned to sectoral ministry structures, etc. It would also be necessary to examine the possibility of considering the actual disbursement of this state contribution and its transfer to a suspense account for the benefit of the project in the conditions for the implementation of financing agreements.

5. It is **important to plan a do-it-yourself approach with national structures** that provides a certain guarantee in the sustainability of the project's achievements. This allows donors and projects to contribute to the technical strengthening of structures for greater efficiency in their daily intervention.

6. **An exit strategy (or exit plan)** is a planned approach to ending or transferring responsibilities for a project or intervention in an orderly manner, while ensuring that the results achieved are sustainable after the withdrawal of the parties initially involved, such as donors, NGOs, or implementing agencies. It is advisable that a project exit strategy be developed at the beginning of the project to allow stakeholders to acquire their level of responsibility and consider the actions necessary to further ensure the sustainability of the project's actions. **It will therefore be necessary to take advantage of the grace period to initiate a workshop (3-5 days) which will bring together all stakeholders in order to establish an exit strategy for the project. It is preferable to request a consultant to support the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager to facilitate discussions during the workshop** .

B. Stakeholder Engagement

The project focused in its formulation on the forestry realities of tropical countries and also on major socio-economic, agro-ecological and institutional changes such as population growth, climate change, internationalization of markets, changes in demand for forest products, decentralization and the disengagement of the State which are disrupting the context in which various categories of the sector operate.

To achieve this, the project design was carried out using a participatory approach that involved all stakeholders: Forestry Administration, Ministry of Development, Ministry in charge of the environment, municipalities involved in the project, beneficiary communities, civil society, private sector, TFPs, projects, etc. The participatory approach served as the basis for the formulation of the project. It was adopted for discussions and consultations with officials from the relevant ministries, public administrations, local authorities, producer organizations, civil society, the private sector and TFPs. It made it possible to take stock of the situation, take into account lessons learned from previous experiences, integrate the opinions of beneficiaries and partners, and define potential synergies to be developed. The consultation and identification meetings of constraints and needs organized with the beneficiaries (women and young people in particular), representatives of the various socio-professional groups, communities and decentralized technical services (at regional and local levels) allowed for a better understanding of the major issues and the identification of appropriate measures for effective implementation of the actions. This approach made it possible to choose the municipalities, sites and activities during a stakeholder consultation workshop held on October 6, 2016 in Cotonou.

The involvement of the main stakeholders (Forestry Administration, Ministry of Development, Ministry in charge of the environment, municipalities involved in the project, beneficiary communities, civil society, private sector, TFPs, projects) in the design of the project has strongly contributed to the appropriation of the expected results, the implementation of the actions that contribute to them and the anticipation of those that aim for their sustainability. This support could also have been achieved by **the development of a project exit strategy with specific roles and responsibilities at various levels, even if some structures claim to ensure post-project monitoring of achievements.**

C. Gender Equality

Gender was impacted through an action plan developed and implemented for women):

- 4 beekeeping cooperatives for honey production were supported with 250 members including 42 women.
- 04 Group of women processors of shea butter nuts (130 members including 121 women)
- Women's groups in planting activities (nurseries, transport of plants and staking)
- IEC session focused on overexploitation of forests-fodder parks-straying of livestock in forests for 2,709 people, including 922 women.

D. Knowledge Management

Please see document

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)
	350000		

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)
	150000		

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)
Djidja		Others		3,000.00		
Zogbodomey-Savalou	33013	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		147,000.00		

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)
	200000		

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)
Monts Kouffé	6956	Protected Landscape/Seascape		75,000.00			26.00		
Wari Maro	6955	Protected Landscape/Seascape		125,000.00			26.00		

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)
	15800		

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)
		10,800.00		

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)
	5,000.00		

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)

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)
	8000		

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)
	8,000.00		

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)

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
GEF7-BD-TrackingTool-Protected Area Projects_METT Score Wari Maro_ Benin_2020.04.28
GEF7-BD-TrackingTool-Protected Area Projects_METT Score Monts Kouffé_ Benin_2020.04.28
GEF7_Core Indicators_revised_Final_2020.04.22
EXACT_Data_Benin_assumptions_2020.04.22
GEF7-BD-TrackingTool-Protected Area Projects_METT Score Wari Maro_ Benin
GEF7-BD-TrackingTool-Protected Area Projects_METT Score Monts Kouffé_ Benin
EX-ACT Tool Assumptions sheets
EX-ACT Tool
Core Indicators Worksheet

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)		9230355		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)		7977268		

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)		9,230,355		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)		7,977,268		
Anticipated start year of accounting		2020		
Duration of accounting		24		

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		2,700		
Male		3,300		
Total	**0**	**6,000**	0	**0**

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO($)	Materialized at MTR($)	Materialized at TE($)
GEF Agency	AfDB	Loan		6,966,900.00		
Recipient Country Government	Govt. Benin	Grant		1,000,000.00		
GEF Agency	AfDB	Grant		880,515.00		
Total Co-financing				**8,847,415.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

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

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	PCR Benin Project 9383