PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	5057
Project Name:	Iyanola - Natural Resource Management of the NE Coast
Countr(ies):	St. Lucia, Regional
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name
Iyanola - Natural Resource Management of the NE Coast

Country
St. Lucia, Regional

GEF ID	Implementing Agency
5057	UNEP

Executing Entity
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology - Sustainable Development and Environment Division

Trust Fund	Project Type
GET	FSP

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year , PIR Number
9/2/2025	FY 2025 , 10th PIR

Objective
Increased management effectiveness and sustainable use of the North East Coast's natural resource base to generate multiple global environmental benefits.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress	Development Objective
Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory

Overall risk
High Risk

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
2,565,000.00	1,998,020.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval	Agency Approval
12/4/2014	12/4/2014

Implementation Start 3/31/2015	First Disbursement 4/27/2015
Expected MTR 3/30/2019	Actual MTR 3/30/2019
Expected Completion 9/30/2026	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

Component One: Enhanced Land Use Planning and Regulatory Framework: In this reporting cycle, the status in terms of advancing overall management effectiveness within the Iyanola region remained relatively unchanged. As the project enters the final stages of implementation, it is unlikely that there may be large tracts of lands that will change designation to formal protected area status. The project is still working with at least one large landholding within the Iyanola region (Dauphin Estate) to formulate a voluntary protection agreement (VPA) that will form a potential good practice for replication nationally for private lands that have exceptional conservation importance. Expected progress with this has been slower than anticipated related to completion of critical input documentation for the following reasons: (1) delays in receiving the English translation of an archaeological inventory of the Dauphin Estate from the original Spanish text, (2) Inventory of fauna & flora was delayed due to budgetary allocations for the new financial year. This has now been rectified and the field data collection has since been completed and analysed; (3) delay in mobilizing a cultural heritage study; due to delayed consultant procurement process.The Iyanola project is still working on executing the directive from the Development Control Authority (DCA) of the Ministry of Planning that broadly calls for an implementation plan (and supporting documentation) to support the 'operationalization' of the land use plan that was prepared in the initial stages of project implementation. This is a requirement where lands are to be 'specially declared' under the Planning legislation for consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers. With regard to the onward transmission of the Land Use Plan to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval, the DCA requested the preparation of the following documents as an addendum to the Land Use Plan: -1. Implementation Strategy2. Communication/Publicity Strategy3. Sustainable Financing Strategy (with clarification of any financial implications)4. Legislative Gap Analysis (with clarification of any regulatory implications)5. Management Mechanism/Strategy This will constitute a final but important step toward formalization and adoption of this major output of the project and additional services are being solicited. In this regard TORs for engagement of a consulting team to draft the afrementioned strategy papers has been prepared and discussed with the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM). Expected progress with this has been slower than anticipated because of challenges with the collaboration between the Department of Sustainable Development and the Forestry Department in seeking the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to proceed with the sustainable land management strategy for the North East Coast Iyanola Region.The Forestry Department continued maintenance of restoration work in the north eastern area of the Iyanola Region. Some farmholdings are being considered for inclusion in the Public Private Partnership agrement which will be assesed by the PISLM when undertaking the said consultancy. The NEC-IR Project responded to an invitation to participate in activities in observance of GIS Day during November, 2024. The Department of Physical Planning organized a week-long public awareness campaign celebrating geographic information systems (GIS) based technologies. GIS Week comprised visits to secondary schools around the island, targeting Geography students to build awareness of the potential of GIS and showcase the integral role it plays in everyday life. The Iyanola Project Team featured the use of GIS

in the Boundary Demarcation of Grande Anse Marine Reserve and in this way took advantage of yet another opportunity for public outreach and communication of the project's aims and objectives.The consultancy for the six-part video documentary titled "Exploring the East Coast of Saint Lucia" produced a first draft of all six episodes by October, 2024 which were submitted for review by the Project Steering Committee. The Consultant is awaiting feedback from the Project Steering Committees of the GEF-5 North East Coast Project and GEF-6 South East Coast Project (jointly collaborating) to use as guidance for the required editing of the episodes. Component Two: Enhanced sustainable land management and carbon benefits in deciduous seasonal and low montane rainforest zones During this reporting cycle, the status of restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and on forest lands had relatively limited progress. A key remaining output, the Integrated Sustainable Forestry Management (ISFM) Plan remained incomplete due to ongoing discussions to chart the way forward. This ISFM Plan development was inititaited by a consulting group, but stalled due to illness of the principal and the process entered into a protracted negotiation with the management of the Dept of Sustainabale Development to resume the work under new contratual arrangements. The option for incorporating the remaining deliverables under the stalled consultancy into the terms of reference (land use implementation plan under Comp 1) for PISLM is under consideration.Upon completion of the Small Business Management Training, the Iyanola Project Management Team began planning for full nursery operationalization. The land on which the Fond d'Or Nursery rests is Crown / Government Land. The project is in the process of formalizing the assignment/vesting of the nursery facility (and lands) via the Commissioner of Crown Lands to the Department of Forestry and Land Resources within the Ministry of Agriculture since this is the agency with the mandate to absorb the operations of the nursery into its work programme after the Iyanola Project has closed out. The Iyanola Project has advanced preparations for the installation of the Irrigation System at the Fond d'Or Nursery. The Project Team has elaborated the requirements for the irrigation system to the prospective contractor along with further details on other specifications, including the proposed deadline for the completion of works. No restoration work was undertaken during the reporting cycle due to insufficient project funds while awaiting the approval of a no-cost extension to the project. Component 3: Iyanola Conservation Signage for the marine reserve areas at Grande Anse following the delineation and assessment exercise of the mangroves have been discussed and agreed upon in terms of number, content and location for installation. It is anticipated that the Department of Forestry will provide assistance with the installation by the fourth quarter of 2025.During the reporting period, monitoring and evaluation continued for three (3) restoration sites namely Marquis, Morne Citron, and Grande Anse where farmers were given plants for reafforestation/restoration along riverbanks.. The farmers at Marquis for the most part have taken ownership of the plants but there has been theft in some instances. The Project Team still awaits receiving the reports on mortality/survivorship of the plants over the specified restoration area (in hectares) from the Department of Forestry. Likewise, a detailed report on the type of assistance provided with respect to planting material, the exact number of plants and area/distance of land covered is yet to be submitted by the Forestry Department.Several activities were undertaken during the reporting period, as part of efforts to heighten visibility of the project and increase engagement of various stakeholder groups, including students, community groups, residents and the general public. These included a three-week long summer programme in collaboration with the Castries Central Library in July 2024 under the theme: "Protecting Our Environment and Natural Resources". The summer camp saw the registration of approximately 115 students from primary and secondary schools covering the length and breadth of the island. The Camp afforded students an opportunity to learn key principles of natural resources management in an immersive, fun and interactive setting. The thematic areas of focus were land use management and biodiversity conservation. Several places of ecological significance were the highlight of the summer camp with field trips to the Marquis Mangroves, Desbarras, Grande Anse Beach and the Fond La Ti Sab Creole Park in Babonneau. The Department of Forestry, the Solid Waste Management Authority, the Red Cross Society, Department of Forestry, the Saint Lucia National Trust and the Fisheries Division are some of the collaborating agencies for the Summer Camp. The NEC-IR Project Team took advantage of another opportunity for public outreach, communication and advocacy by sponsoring prizes for the 2023 World Oceans Day Art Competition. The North East Coast - Iyanola Region Project aims to promote greater appreciation for the environment among Saint Lucian citizens, particularly the youth, through various events

and activities which encourage youth involvement and engagement. The Iyanola Project was particularly interested in submissions which focused on topics of turtle nesting, turtle poaching, and plastic pollution along the coast, which are issues of concern along Grande Anse Beach. Component 4: Enhanced capacity for the production of biodiversity friendly goods and services in inland forest and coastal communities (National with emphasis on the NE Coast)During the reporting cycle, activities geared toward encouraging producers to adopt best practices for the production of biodiversity friendly goods and services were mainly focused on cultural initiatives. A scheduled review and validation of the outcomes of the Cultural Heritage Initiative of the NEC-IR Project, specifically the Community Consultation and Cultural Production approaches to elicit expanded community engagement and livelihood opportunity expansion, was facilitated at an extraordinary meeting of the PSC held on August 22, 2024. The review and validation considered the Project's efforts toward the popularization of our cultural heritage through engagement of community groups and their on-stage, environmentally-themed cultural performances in theatre arts (including music, song and dance), all of which represent the production of biodiversity friendly services for the NEC-IR Project.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Due to challenges with the establishment of a voluntary protection agreement (VPA) for the lands at Grand Anse Estate and Louvet Mangroves, efforts toward the development of a site-specific management plan for the area was shifted to an alternative location, specifically Dauphin Estate, which has similar ecological characteristics to Grand Anse Estate and is also known for its historical significance. Dauphin Estate's landowner has indicated affirmative interest for entering into a VPA-Public Private Partnership (PPP) to conserve part of the lands, while also undertaking low-level development, in a manner that would ensure the integrity of the location is well maintained. The VPA first drafted for the Grand Anse Estate in 2022 will be used as a template to build and improve on the new draft VPA for Dauphin Estate, by offering incentives to the landowners. This process has however been proceeding more slowly than anticipated due to sensitivity in the negotiation process and procuring the means to generate the additional technical inputs in supporting background studies in development of the VPA for this land holding. Work on development of an ISFM Plan for the Iyanola Project region had stalled due to the extended illness of the lead consultant of the consulting consortium (since December 2023) where there have been challenges negotiating the continuation of activities for the consultancy. A meeting with the Iyanola Project Steering Committee resulted in a decision being taken to include the remainder of the ISFMP deliverables in the TORs for the Consultancy to Draft the Management and Implementation Strategy which will be undertaken by PISLM as a suitable way forward; this as a strategy to bundle multiple final works under the project in an efficient manner. The Latanye expansion initiative under the sustainable livlihood support work of the project is not moving at a steady pace at this latter stage of the project. Some farmers have discontinued collaborating with the support initiative as the Latanye has a long turn over period before plants mature and can be used for broom making. The project has adapted accordingly where supply of Latanye plants were supplemented with citruses, cocoa and cashew. It should be noted that planting material supplied at the Grande Anse site and Morne Citron are thriving but there is need for maintenance (weeding) as some of the plots have been overtaken by wild grasses and undergrowth.Also under the sustainable livlihood support work, the supply of honey to the island's lone supermarket chain encountered several setbacks. The Ministry of Agriculture has ownership of the facility where honey production was intended to take place. The project team was unable to reach an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to utilise the facility for honey production. Additionally, key members of the honey producing group parted ways and left to pursue other livelihood interests. The lack of human capacity to sustain honey production has led to the overall discontinued supply of honey to participating supermarkets.During the report cycle project implementation was hampered to some extent pending a cash replenishment and request for a no-cost extension of the project. There still remains project management administrative challenges within the Department of Sustainable Development that have impacted timely financial reporting manifested in tardy submission of the audit report and quarterly expenditure reports; the cash disbursement (released in Q2 2025)

was held until reporting compliance was met. The project entered a period of seeking a no-cost extension and activities were suspended while awaiting approval; by extension the services of the Chief Technical Advisor was put on hold during this time. Submission of the NCE and supporting documentation to UNEP by the DSD was delayed/protracted impacting all of the above.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

As the project transitions into its winddown phase, engagement with farmers and small producer groups within the target area has remained active, particularly in support of ongoing landscape restoration efforts. Progress also continued on the establishment of a seedling nursery at Lumiere, Dennery, which is intended to serve farmers and communities in the southern region of the project area. This nursery will play a vital role in providing planting materials to sustain long-term conservation initiatives.

In preparation for a two-week entrepreneurship training workshop, a planning meeting was held in mid-September 2024 with personnel from the Fond d'Or nursery. The workshop itself took place during the last week of September and the first week of October 2024, focusing on capacity-building for local stakeholders.

A key component of stakeholder engagement has centered on the development of a Voluntary Protection Agreement (VPA) for one of the larger landholdings in the Iyanola region. This initiative involves collaboration with the landowner, supported by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), and is being advanced through the GEF6 Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean project in partnership with relevant agencies. Two virtual meetings were convened with representatives from ICCF, the Department of Forests and Land Resources, the landowner, and the Iyanola Project Management Team to chart the path forward for drafting the VPA. A critical input to the VPA is a comprehensive management plan, which includes a Cultural Study of the landscape in the designated area. The Department of Forestry is leading this process in accordance with its legislative mandate.

D. Gender Equality

Gender mainstreaming remains a priority and as such, the project continued to ensure that gender considerations were factored into all activities. The livelihood components continue to see equitable participation without a significant differentiation of roles between males and females in terms of livelihood access and benefits to be derived from the project's investments. There is however a general tendency for women to be more involved in small-scale agribusiness development and food preparation-type enterprises (restaurants and eating establishments for example) where produce grown in the local area is utilized. In farming, men tend to be more engaged in intensive land preparation operations compared to women, but generally, there is an even split in terms of roles in farming operations.

With respect to training for the Dennery Nursery personnel in September 2024, 90% of participants were women. Under the apiculture initiative, an equitable representation of male and female participants remained engaged in the maintenance of the beehives. Consideration for gender is also incorporated in the cultural heritage initiative which recorded a participation of as many as 70% females in the various training sessions undertaken. In summary, females outnumbered males in all the training sessions offered.

Restoration exercises undertaken from July 2024 to June 2025, actively targeted both male and female workers. Traditionally, tree planting exercises have been seen as a male's job, however, approximately 40% of the workers engaged in the restoration work were females.

During this reporting cycle the project has impacted an estimated 238 persons (community members, support organizations, school children) benefiting or interacting directly with the project, with a gender split that tending toward a slight dominance of females over males in an approximate 45 to 55 male to female ratio.

Likewise, the Children's Summer Camp held in July 2024 recorded the registration of 115 child participants with a total of 48 males and 67 females (by age group, children between the ages of 5 - 10 years: 21 males and 34 females while adolescents ages of 11 - 16 years: 37 males and 23 females).

E. Knowledge Management

Fond d'Or Nursery Operators benefited from a ten (10) day Small Business Management Training from September 23 to October 04, 2024. This training was to compliment prior training conducted in February 2023 and supported the enhancement of the capacities of the Plant Nursery and its participants, to develop and maintain a full-fledged viable and sustainable cooperative business model. The training culminated with a tour to Barthe Nursery and Rabot (cocoa) Estate where necessary workers were able to participate in grafting and planting of citrus trees and medicinal plants.

A three-week long summer programme in collaboration with the Castries Central Library was held from July 8 to 26, 2024 under the theme: "Protecting Our Environment and Natural Resources". The summer camp saw the registration of approximately 115 students from primary and secondary schools covering the length and breadth of the island. The Camp afforded students an opportunity to learn key principles of natural resources management in an immersive, fun and interactive setting.

Main learning during the period

The components of the nursery operators training informed participants on the key business management areas, the inputs required and outputs to be achieved throughout each phase and the connectivity to each element in achieving business success. Additionally, techniques and tools to plan, budget, develop effective strategies, manage stakeholders, achieve tasks on a deadline and master efficient management of time which are all central to business management were provided. The importance of working as a team, communication and identifying the right mode and medium to be used with stakeholders throughout each process was also emphasized.

The following are the key training areas covered during the workshop

- Team Dynamics
- Decision Making and Problem Solving
- Introduction to Entrepreneurship
- Forms of Business
- Business Planning (Developing a successful business Plan)
- Introduction to Marketing and Marketing for Micro Agricultural Enterprises
- Introduction to Financial Management (Financial Statements, Budgeting/Forecasting.
- Costing and Pricing

• Importance of Record Keeping
• FIELD TRIP – Visit to Barthe Nursery and Rabot Estate (Cocoa Seedlings Production)

The Children's Summer Programme included the thematic areas of focus on sustainable land use management and biodiversity conservation. Several places of ecological significance were the highlight of the summer camp with field trips to the Marquis Mangroves, Desbarras, Grande Anse Beach and the Fond La Ti Sab Creole Park in Babonneau where participants got a guided tour of biodiversity hot spots and the ecosystem services they provide.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	No-cost extensions to facilitate operational delays. Minor changes at activity level: Multiple activities related to the development and implementation of Participatory based Site Specific Management Plans are being merged/consolidated with the project wind-down. Management plan implementation for threatened terrestrial and marine species in the Louvet Mangroves is deemed no longer warranted.
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
Basil, Dennery	13.911825	-60.936246	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.Planting of tree crops and forests species.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Basil, Dennery	13.911086	-60.93544	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Basil, Dennery	13.912741	-60.934954	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
La Perle, Dennery	13.93883	-60.90541	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
La Perle, Dennery	13.93846	-60.9056	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
La Perle, Dennery	13.93803	-60.90516	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
La Perle, Dennery	13.93563	-60.90478	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Aux Lyon	13.95769	-60.90618	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Louvet	13.95805	-60.90521	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Louvet	13.9586	-60.90525	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Louvet	13.95883	-60.906	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Louvet	13.95824	-60.90657	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Louvet	13.9581	-60.90621	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Grand Ravine	13.96372	-60.91873	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mardi Gras, Dennery	13.9637	-60.91908	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mardi Gras, Dennery	13.96373	-60.91991	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mardi Gras, Dennery	13.96255	-60.92035	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mardi Gras, Dennery	13.96243	-60.9197	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mardi Gras, Dennery	13.96312	-60.91941	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gadette	13.95368	-60.91748	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gadette	13.95334	-60.91789	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gadette	13.95316	-60.91763	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gadette	13.95343	-60.91713	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bosque d'Or	13.96196	-60.92052	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bosque d'Or	13.96085	-60.92063	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bosque d'Or	13.96078	-60.92014	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mardi Gras, Dennery	13.95679	-60.92108	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mardi Gras, Dennery	13.95758	-60.92084	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID

Marquis	14.029	-60.910148	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Babonneau Estate	14.00855	-60.91997	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Grand Anse	13.9999	-60.90523	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Mixture of forests species.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Grand Anse	14.00316	-60.90752	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Marquis	14.00953	-60.91982	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Marquis	14.01872	-60.91584	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Marquis	14.01465	-60.91447	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Morne Citon	14.03458	-60.91356	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Mixture of Forests species.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Des barras	13.99367	-60.90787	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agro-forestry activity.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Marquis	14.0296	-60.90732	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	5057-PIR-UNEP-2025-St