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
9/14/2026	FY 2026 , Final 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 Satisfactory

Overall risk
Substantial

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
2,565,000.00	2,179,824.00

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 9/14/2026

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: The project is unlikely to achieve formal statutory protection for the Iyanola Region within its lifetime. Instead, it is pursuing a phased approach guided by the Development Control Authority (DCA). During the reporting period, the project advanced its exit strategy by developing a Management and Implementation Strategy to support future protected-area designation based on Cabinet consideration of the Land Use Plan. A draft strategy has been submitted for review, and consultations will continue through project closure. Saint Lucia is also pursuing UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation for the landscape as a potential alternative to formal protected-area status. Progress was also achieved under the Voluntary Protection Agreement (VPA) initiative for Dauphin Estate. Supporting studies, including archaeological, biodiversity, and cultural heritage assessments, were completed, and a stakeholder workshop was held in March 2026 to present final draft VPA . The initiative seeks to establish a collaborative framework for the conservation of private lands with significant ecological and cultural value. The project team is awaiting the final VPA document from ICCF. The Forestry Department continued maintenance activities within the northeastern Iyanola Region, while selected farm holdings are being assessed for possible inclusion in future Public-Private Partnership arrangements. The six-part documentary series, Exploring the East Coast of Saint Lucia, experienced continued administrative delays. However, five additional episodes were received in August 2026, with efforts ongoing to secure completion of the last episode by the end of the month. Overall, while progress toward formal protected area designation has been slower than anticipated, important milestones have been achieved. The project remains focused on finalizing the implementation framework, receiving the final Dauphin Estate VPA, and securing Cabinet buy-in for the approval for the Iyanola Land Use Plan. Component Two: Enhanced sustainable land management and carbon benefits in deciduous seasonal and low montane rainforest zones During this reporting period, progress under Component 2 focused on completing the Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) Plan and advancing nursery operationalization at Fond d'Or. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) reviewed the draft ISFM Plan and assessed it as approximately 55% complete. Progress had previously stalled due to the illness of the original consultant; however, the remaining work is being carried forward under another contracting partner to finalize the ISFM Plan for presentation ahead of the close of the project. This will be an augment to the regional land use plan. A revised draft covering a 20-year management period (2025–2045), with four-year review cycles, has been submitted and is currently under review. Finalization is expected within the coming weeks. The project is conducting an end-project Ecosystem Restoration Assessment to independently evaluate achievements against the project's restoration targets, including forest rehabilitation, seedling planting, and riverbank stabilization; this is to include estimates of the carbon stock. Preliminary findings indicate that the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score increased from 264 at project inception to 328, representing a 24% improvement in management effectiveness. Progress toward the full operationalization of the Fond d'Or/Lumiere Community Nursery has been slower than anticipated due to outstanding land administration matters requiring continued

stakeholder consultation and coordination among relevant parties. As a result, implementation of the fencing and irrigation infrastructure has experienced some delays. To support the long-term establishment and operation of the nursery, the project team completed a cadastral survey of the site and successfully secured Cabinet approval (Cabinet Conclusion No. 562 of 2026) granting managerial rights over the property. This represents a significant milestone toward strengthening the institutional framework for the nursery's management and sustainability. During the reporting period, the project team continued engagement with stakeholders and relevant government agencies to facilitate the resolution of outstanding matters and create the conditions necessary for implementation of the remaining infrastructure works in the plant nursery. The project is also pursuing the formal transfer of management responsibility for the nursery to the Department of Forestry and Land Resources, ensuring the facility's long-term sustainability beyond project closure. Once the remaining administrative matters are finalized, the project will be well positioned to complete the outstanding works and fully operationalize the nursery facility. Component Three: Iyanola Conservation During this reporting period, the project's focus shifted from implementing restoration activities to evaluating the effectiveness, sustainability, and long-term management of completed interventions as the project approaches closure. No additional restoration planting was undertaken; instead, emphasis was placed on monitoring outcomes, strengthening management frameworks, and supporting the institutional arrangements required to sustain project achievements. The Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO continued collaborating with the Project Management Team on the proposal to designate the North East Coast Iyanola Region as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Discussions were held with senior government officials, and stakeholders regarding the development of a draft Cabinet Memorandum, and work is ongoing to finalize the application and secure the necessary approvals. Significant progress was achieved for the Grande Anse Marine Reserve. The boundary demarcation and hydrological assessment consultancy is substantially complete, with the final report, including validated maps and GPS coordinates, approved by both the Project Steering Committee and the Department of Sustainable Development. The remaining activity involves the installation of interpretive signage at two approved locations. Artwork has been finalized, and installation is expected following completion of the printing process. The project is finalizing two participatory, site-specific management plans for priority areas in the Iyanola Region and reassessing the biodiversity monitoring and species assessment framework. This work will establish the end-of-project status of key indicator species, including the Saint Lucia Iguana, Saint Lucia Thrasher, and Leatherback Turtle, as well as the ecological integrity of their habitats. The monitoring framework is intended to support long-term community participation and integration into existing institutional management systems. Monitoring and evaluation activities continued at restoration sites in Marquis, Morne Citron, and Grande Anse, where reforestation and riverbank stabilization interventions were previously implemented. Community participation and stewardship of restoration plantings have generally been encouraging. The project is awaiting updated information on plant survival rates, restoration performance, and the extent of areas rehabilitated to support final reporting and impact assessment before project closure in September. Component four: Enhanced capacity for the production of biodiversity friendly goods and services in inland forest and coastal communities (National with emphasis on the NE Coast)The Project Management Team (PMT) engaged the Forestry Division and Jahnus Inc. to develop a Community Based Co-Managed Nursery document. The production focus of the nursery is firstly on heirloom planting stock of economic value including seasoning peppers, mushrooms, limes and other crops, due to their shorter harvest cycles and greater genetic diversity. The women trained and selected as nursery operators were kept informed throughout the planning process prior to the site's operationalization and were made aware of the livelihood opportunities associated with the initiative.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

As the project enters its close-out phase work is concentrated on finalizing outstanding deliverables, strengthening sustainability measures, and ensure all project outputs are fully documented and evaluated. During the reporting period, project implementation was however affected by human resource

constraints arising from departmental restructuring within the Department of Sustainable Development following its transition to the Ministry of Agriculture. There are a few key issues of note below that will likely need attention post-project and be considered in a project exit strategy. As reported since last PIR, finalization of the Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (ISFM) Plan for the Iyanola Project region was subject to very prolonged delays following the lead consultant's illness, which necessitated the transfer of the assignment to a new consultant. The subsequent engagement process required several months of negotiation and was further affected by management changes within the Ministry. The full operationalization of the nursery was hampered by lengthy administrative and legal procedures to secure managerial rights for the community. This had to be channeled through senior policy and ministerial approvals through to Cabinet. This is being resolved with the engagement of the relevant agencies. Farmer participation under the project's sustainable livelihoods programme related to the Latanye production for broom-making has declined in some of the project areas over recent years. In response, the project adapted its approach by supplementing Latanye plant distribution with alternative livelihood crops, including citrus, cocoa, and cashew. While planting material established at the Grande Anse and Morne Citron sites is generally thriving, inadequate maintenance—particularly weeding—has become a challenge in some of the project intervention areas, as several plots have been overtaken by wild grasses and undergrowth, potentially affecting plant growth and long-term survival. The Forestry Department will need to continue to assess the situation post-project and prioritize support to farmers and landowners within available resources to assure plantings can reach release toward maturity. Honey production from some of the supported stakeholders in the Iyanola region has been curtailed due to challenges in securing access to a production facility and the loss of key members of the honey-producing group, resulting in insufficient capacity to sustain operations. In response, the Project Management Team partnered with the Department of Social Transformation to strengthen community engagement within regional apiculture groups.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

As the project moves into its final stages and winddown phase, stakeholder engagement across the Iyanola region has continued to build on relationships and processes established over the life of the project. Engagement with farmers and small producer groups within the target area has remained active, throughout the reporting period, particularly in support of ongoing landscape restoration efforts in both the southern and northern Iyanola region, sustaining a body of relationships with local producers that the project has cultivated over multiple years.

A cumulative outcome of this sustained engagement has been continued progress on the establishment of a seedling nursery at Lumiere, Dennery, intended to serve farmers and communities in the southern region of the project area. Once operational, the nursery will represent a lasting, tangible legacy of the project's engagement work, providing planting materials to sustain conservation initiatives well beyond project closure.

A significant 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. A final in person stakeholder workshop was convened at the Habour club hotel on March 26, 2026 to present the final VPA document. This initiative involves the ongoing collaboration with the land owner, supported by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF). The Department of Forestry is leading this process in accordance with its legislative mandate.

In addition, the Iyanola Project team convened several key stakeholder meetings during the reporting period. The Iyanola project team communicated with PSC members in May 2026, to provide feedback on

the inception report and work plan received from a consultant to Develop a Management and Implementation Strategy for the Proposed Land Use Plan for the North East Coast Iyanola Region (NEC-IR) as part of the project exit strategy. The evaluation and validation occurred during this same month.

A notable challenge is that as the project approaches closure, there is a recognized need to reinvigorate interest and engagement among the women of this community, to help ensure the momentum and buy-in built over the project's lifespan carries through to the nursery's eventual completion and handover.

D. Gender Equality

Gender mainstreaming remained a priority throughout the reporting period, with gender considerations factored into all project activities. Livelihood components saw broadly equitable participation, though women tended to be more engaged in small-scale agribusiness and food preparation enterprises, while men were more involved in intensive land preparation with an even split overall in farming roles.

Training activities consistently drew strong female participation: 95% of Dennery Nursery personnel trained to date are women.

Restoration exercises actively engaged both sexes, with women still making up approximately 40% of workers in an activity traditionally seen as male-dominated. During this cycle women dominated in the maintenance of plants in the southern part of Iyanola.

During this reporting cycle the project has impacted an estimated 300 persons (community members, support organizations, school children, farmers) benefiting or interacting directly with the project, split roughly 45: 55 male to female.

E. Knowledge Management

During the reporting period, efforts concentrated on capturing lessons learned, consolidating technical outputs and reports, and ensuring that information was accessible to stakeholders. Lessons learned are being documented and shared with national institutions to inform policy development, ongoing and future projects.

A community Based Co-Managed Nursery Model was developed to expand access to affordable germplasm while strengthening community participation and shared benefits. The model also provides operational guidelines to complement the expertise of well-trained plant operators.

The nursery operational guidelines and consultancy outputs are also being disseminated to governmental and non-governmental entities.

Main learning during the period

Knowledge Capture and Accessibility: Systematic documentation of lessons learned, and consolidation of technical outputs proved essential for strengthening institutional memory and ensuring stakeholder access to information.

Community-Based Co-Managed Nursery Model: Developing and piloting this model highlighted the value of shared governance in nursery operations. It seeks to increase access to affordable germplasm while fostering community participation and equitable benefit-sharing.

Operational Guidance and Capacity: The model's inclusion of nursery operational guidelines reinforced the skills of trained plant operators, ensuring consistency and sustainability in nursery management.

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
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
Babonneau Estate	14.00855	-60.91997	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	5057_PIR_UNEP_2026_St Lucia Iyanola