



2021

## Project Implementation Report (PIR)



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

### **GEF 6: Mountain landscapes**

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## A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5761
GEF ID	9424
Title	Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous Areas
Country(ies)	Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic
UNDP-NCE Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Management Arrangements	CO Support to NIM
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	2nd PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY21
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

Project Description
<p>13. The project will promote a landscape approach to the conservation of threatened ecosystems that will benefit all the mountain ranges of the country. It will specifically promote field interventions in 3 landscapes although the final sites will be confirmed during the PPG phase: (I) South side of the Sierra de Neyba; (II) Corridors that connect Valle Nuevo NP, La Humeadora NP, Barbacoa Reserve; and (III) Mid-watershed of Ozama River. These areas have been identified as containing particularly high levels of biodiversity of global importance, generating environmental goods and services of national importance, and being vulnerable to a number of threats of both anthropic and natural origin. Each of these areas contains a wide diversity of ecosystems, stretching from the coast up to the summits of the country's most important mountain ranges. These areas are also of major importance for cocoa and coffee production, which constitute the mainstay of the local economy.</p>

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Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

**B. Overall Ratings**

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	moderate

## C. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

Description					
Objective					
Mainstream the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in public policies and practices to effectively buffer current and future threats across productive mountain landscapes					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2020	Cumulative progress since project start
Mandatory Indicator 1: # of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste at national and/or sub-national level	0	4 established to promote the project's model:  1 National  3 Local (1 in each pilot)	4 functioning to promote the project's model:  1 National  3 Local (1 in each pilot)	<p>During this first year of implementation, relevant progress has been made to identify, establish synergies and develop a work plan to boost sustainable land management both at the national and local levels.</p> <p>These alliances have been established informally and a collaborative work is under implementation. However, in order to formalize these alliances (considering the electoral process that is taking part during 2020), a decision has been made to establish formal agreements.</p> <p>Inter-institutional cooperation agreements for alliances between the project have been defined and developed.</p> <p>-Ministerio de Industria y Comercio y Mipymes (Agreement draft in Annex 1a).</p>	<p>In this year four alliances at national level have been formalized and a working group was established to catalyze sustainable financing mechanisms.</p> <p>Additionally, two collaboration Agreements between the Ministry of Environment and Other Ministries are in process of being formalized. In the meanwhile, technical collaboration is ongoing.</p> <p>At the sub-national level, collaboration Agreements have been established with ten local governments.</p> <p>An economic valuation study will support the definition of the financial</p>

				<p>-Dirección General de Ordenamiento y Desarrollo Territorial (DGODT). (Workplan in annex 1b).</p> <p>-Ministerio de Agricultura (Agreement draft in Annex 1c).</p> <p>-Ministerio de Economía Planificación y Desarrollo (MEPYD), (Agreement draft in Annex 1d).</p> <p>-Proyecto Cocoa Life, (Workplan 1e)</p> <p>- Instituto Dominicano del Café (INDOCAFE), (Agreement draft in Annex 1f)</p> <p>Currently in formalization process and a workplan already in progress..</p> <p>-A Collaboration agreement and joint implementation of the project have been established with the Asociación para el Desarrollo de San José de Ocoa (ADESJO), at the pilot site at San José de Ocoa (Job offer draft in Annex 1g)</p> <p>Most of this project’s alliances so far, have settled as Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), according to the Dominican government’s matching funding commitment, both in nature and in kind (coffee and cocoa plants production, technical assistance, infrastructures, services, etc.). In cases of FEDOMU and Cocoa Life project, the alliances consist of a joint venture, in which the</p>	<p>mechanisms beyond PSA. These decisions will be discussed and agreed in the context of the a working group that was formed to evaluate innovative alternatives for potential financial mechanisms to be developed by the project (working table record of meeting in annex 9)</p> <p>The alliances in place are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inter-institutional collaboration agreement between the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente and the Instituto Dominicano del café (INDOCAFÉ) (Press coverage in annex 1 and agreement in annex 2).</li> <li>2. Joint action agreement and work plan with the project “Fondo de desarrollo verde para la región SICA-REDD+LANDSCAPE” from the Agencia Alemana para la Cooperación Internacional (GIZ), due to the programmatic and territorial coincidences (Agreement in annex 4 and work plan in annex 5).</li> <li>3. Commitment letter from the Viceministerio de Recursos Forestales of Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (commitment letter in annex 6). This includes coordination with the “Programa de la Unidad Técnica Ejecutora de Proyectos de Desarrollo Agroforestal de la Presidencia (UTEFDA)”, which has been transferred from the Presidencia de la</li> </ol>
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				<p>parties benefit from each other. Currently, only for the alliance with ADESJO, financial support from the project is being considered as a grant agreement according to UNDP Procedures. This is done in order to guarantee the expected results, achieving in a sustainable way in Ocoa.</p> <p>At this moment, the project is working to establish alliances with the most recognized cocoa and coffee private businesses, Risek and INDUBAN. These alliances will address the private sector support (funding, technology, and capacity building, etc.) to improve local production for them to guarantee the raw materials and qualified products for their business.</p>	<p>República to the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (Decree in annex 7). The corresponding Work Plan was prepared (annex 8).</p> <p>4. Coordination with Federación Dominicana de Municipios (FEDOMU) has been established to support the municipal planning processes.</p> <p>In process of formalization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inter-institutional collaboration agreement between the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente and Ministerio de Agricultura (Draft agreement in annex 3).</li> <li>2. Alliance with the Viceministerio de Ordenamiento Territorial y Desarrollo Regional (Previous DGODT) from the Ministerio de Economía Planificación y Desarrollo (MEPYD).</li> </ol> <p>Additionally, a Grant Agreement is ready to be signed with a local NGO that will be engaged to speed the work in the field in the pilot sites: Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (CIEPO) in La Descubierta (USD 150,000). Two other Grants are in process of being defined in the other pilot sites.</p> <p>Three of the most important trading</p>
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					<p>and export commodity companies (RISEK and CONACADO -cocoa- and INDUBAN -coffee-) have been engaged through the National Cocoa Commission and INDOCAFE. Their involvement in the financial mechanism to be established is being evaluated in the context of the sustainable financing working group.</p> <p>Several synergies have been established with different UNDP CO/leaded initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cocoa Life Project (financed by Mondelez with partnerships with the cocoa value chain, aiming to empower cocoa farmers and promote sustainable cocoa communities).</li> <li>• Localization of SDG Agenda (financed by AACID and UNDP, with the objective to support the development of territorial multilevel and multi-stakeholder platforms to localize SDG)</li> <li>• COVID-19 impact assessments and analysis and recovery guidance to be mainstreamed within the project has been provided by the CO.</li> </ul>
Mandatory Indicator 2: # of additional people benefitting from livelihoods strengthened through	0	6000 -4,800 men	6000 -4,800 men	Based on defined criteria, beneficiaries are being identified and prioritized in the pilot areas,	During this period, an estimated of 1,310 persons have been benefited indirectly from the project - relatives of



solutions for management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste (disaggregated by sex)		-1,200 women	-1,200 women	<p>strategically whose farms are located in areas with the potential for landscape connectivity and ecosystem services to maintain.</p> <p>The georeferencing of farms is being worked on together with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Presidential Agroforestry Unit, based on the cartographic baseline developed in the project and the national forest inventory. Expressions of interest by producers are also being established. It is coordinating with representatives of the Quisqueya Verde National Plan for planting and reforestation.</p>	<p>the direct trainees who participate actively in the project implementation-, for a total of:</p> <p>-786 men (16% from the goal)</p> <p>-524 women (43.6% from the goal).</p> <p>These benefits come from the implementation of plans and strategies such as monitoring system with criteria of BD, LD and Land Use, elaboration of Municipal Development Plans.</p> <p>The expected multiplier effect of the project's trainings and the scope of the direct capacity building activities in the field has been limited due to the lock down measures developed since March 2020 to the present as a consequence of the impact of COVID-19. Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the project has continued to advance this target.</p>
Mandatory Indicator 3: # direct project beneficiaries	0	<p>1500 producers trained</p> <p>-1200 men</p> <p>-300 women</p> <p>350 people trained in Institutions (MA, MAgri, local governments, extension agents)</p>	<p>1500 producers trained</p> <p>-1200 men</p> <p>-300 women</p> <p>350 people trained in Institutions</p>	<p>People trained</p> <p>462 people</p> <p>- 342 men</p> <p>- 120 women</p> <p>(Attaches training matrix 2a)</p> <p>The project has made 4 general trainings through the project start workshops (One in Santo Domingo and one in each pilot sites).</p>	<p>262 producers have been trained in Y2:</p> <p>- 216 men</p> <p>- 46 women</p> <p>This implies a total of 724 producers during the project life (558 men and 166 women).</p> <p>Additionally, during this year 119 people were trained in different</p>

				<p>8 workshops have been given for the socialization of the biosphere reserve proposal Madre De Las Aguas.</p> <p>(Workshop participants list Annex 2b)</p> <p>In addition, the project has developed training modules of entrepreneurship, empowerment”, completed the following products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Module I: Empowerment for the integration and participation in the decision making, participant manual (final product in annex 2c)</li> <li>-Module I: Empowerment for the integration and the participation in the decision making, Instructor Manual (final product in annex 2d)</li> <li>-Modulo II: Skills to operate and develop micro-businesses, participant manual (final product in annex 2e)</li> <li>-Modulo II: Skills to operate and develop micro-businesses instructor manual (final product in annex 2f)</li> </ul> <p>*The workshops will be implemented in august 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Institutions (80 men and 39 women). (Matrix of people trained in annex 11 and participation lists in annex 12).</p> <p>The expected multiplier effect of the project's trainings and the scope of the direct capacity building activities in the field has been limited due to the lockdown measures developed since March 2020 to the present as a consequence of the impact of COVID-19. The impossibility (during the worst moments of the pandemic) and the strong traveling and meeting restrictions to the field have affected the progress of this target.</p>
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				<p>The project carried out a baseline to measure the impact of these trainings on the target population, through the application of surveys.</p> <p>In addition to carrying out these surveys, the project is evaluating the feasibility of designing an instrument with which changes can be measured in real time.</p>	
Indicator 4: Total area of productive mountain landscapes covered by improved planning and governance frameworks	0 hectares	58,000 hectares	58,000 hectares	<p>Some progress made for this indicator are:</p> <p>The project has advanced in technical coordination with the Federación Dominicana de Municipios (FEDOMU) and Ministerio de Economía Planificación y Desarrollo (MEPYD), for the methodological definition and support in the elaboration of the Municipal Development Plans for the municipalities that are in the intervention areas of the project, for which the existing guides have been revised.</p> <p>For this, the project has approached the new elected municipal authorities, who have shown interest and willingness to work with the project. Furthermore, the CO UNDP is establishing alliances with local governments, the Dominican Municipal League and MEPYD, to</p>	<p>At present, draft Municipal Development Plans (MDP) of 6 municipalities have been developed and are in the final validation &amp; approval stage, covering 109,731 hectares (annexes 13, 14, 14, 16, 17, y 18).</p> <p>The MDP of 3 additional Municipalities are in process, (it is expected to have them completed before the end of 2021).</p> <p>The MDP process is starting in 1 municipality (Yamasá). It is expected to have it completed before the end of 2021.</p> <p>These tools cover a territorial extension of 239,431 hectares (Territorial extension 10 municipalities, annex 19).</p> <p>It is important to highlight the effective inter-institutional coordination</p>

				<p>expand the scope of work with the municipalities, beyond what is established in the project.</p>	<p>to strengthen local governance with FEDOMU, MEPyD and local governments.</p> <p>Likewise, support was provided to the Dirección de Incendios Forestales from the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente in updating the National Fire Strategy, which includes the target areas.</p> <p>The BD, LD and Land Use Monitoring System has also been designed, for the target areas.</p> <p>These figures will be precised as part of the update of the project TT, required for the MTR.</p>
<p>Indicator 5: Level of capacity to sustainably manage productive mountain landscapes (as measured by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard</p>	<p>Total: 28</p> <p>I3: 2</p> <p>I4: 1</p> <p>I5: 2</p> <p>I9: 2</p> <p>I10: 2</p> <p>I11: 2</p>	<p>Total: tbd (5% increase)</p> <p>At least a 5% increase in ratings in target institutions</p>	<p>Total: tbd (71%)</p> <p>At least 10% increase in ratings in target institutions</p>	<p>Different processes of socialization and training have been started for technicians and extension agents from Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, such as socialization of the proposal for the biosphere reserve "Madre de las Aguas", empowerment and entrepreneurship, and creation of field schools.</p> <p>Technical support teams have been given based on work themes.</p>	<p>Total: 37.6, presenting a general increase of 21.2% and observing an increase in all the project's incidence indicators.</p> <p>Final result of each indicator:</p> <p>I3: 2.76</p> <p>I4: 2.83</p> <p>I5: 2.59</p> <p>I9: 2.5</p> <p>I10: 2.59</p> <p>I11: 2.6</p>

				<p>The project has strengthened the technical and institutional capacity through the donation of technological equipment (4 computers) to the Ministry of the Environment. Likewise, training for the use of GPS and Drones is planned for the technical personnel linked to the project.</p> <p>The project has worked for the establishment of an alliance between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, which deserves to continue working for an efficient operation.</p> <p>The project has encouraged technicians from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture to work together towards the project's achievements at the field work level.</p>	<p>(Scorecard tabulation table in annex 20)</p> <p>The capacity development measurement tool was applied to key stakeholders, using the project scorecard. The institutions target were MA, MAgri, INDOCAFÉ, CONACADO, CIEPO, UTEPDA, ADESJO and the local governments of the target areas, with a total of 18 interviews applied (Scorecard analysis in annex 21 and interviews evidence in annex 22).</p>
<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>On track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	<b>YES</b>				
<b>Outcome 1</b>					
<b>Component 1: Systemic landscape management framework</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target</b>	<b>End of project</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project</b>

		level	target level		start
<p>Indicator 6: # of decision making tools for planning and enforcement strengthened to ensure landscape sustainability [i.e. ensure that infrastructure, productive/ extractive activities and forest clearance are not located in ecologically sensitive areas]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for threatened mountain landscapes</li> <li>2. Gender strategy for productive landscape management</li> <li>3. # Province-level gender-sensitive environmental agendas that consider BD, SFM, and LD in pilot areas</li> <li>4. # Municipal Development Plans (MDP) mainstream BD, SFM, and LD considerations, as well as gender sensitivity</li> <li>5. # Municipal Land Use Plans (LUP) consider BD, SFM, and LD and formulated by consensus between local and national stakeholders.</li> <li>6. # of special categories of land use that guarantee sustainable use of BD</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 0 SESA for threatened mountain landscapes</li> <li>2. 0% - MA has a gender strategy but not with respect to productive landscapes</li> <li>3. 0 – Provincial Environmental Agendas are not implemented in the pilot areas</li> <li>4. 0 Municipal Devt. Plans</li> <li>5. 0 Municipal LUP</li> <li>6. 0</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 SESA for threatened mountain landscapes: Year 1: criteria defined Mid Term: SESA used to guide policy and planning decisions (especially the below PEA, LUP and MDP)</li> <li>2. 50% - Gender Strategy for Sustainable Productive Landscape Management formulated</li> <li>3. 4 Provincial Environmental Agendas formulated</li> <li>4. 4 Municipal Devt. Plans formulated in the pilot zones</li> <li>5. 5 municipal LUP formulated</li> <li>6. 5</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. 100% - Gender Strategy implemented with MA and MAgri technicians in HQ and Provincial offices</li> <li>3. 4 Provincial Environmental Agendas published and adopted</li> <li>4. 10 Municipal Development Plans formulated in pilot zones and at least 4 published/ adopted and under implementation</li> <li>5. 10 LUP formulated in pilot zones and at least 3 implemented</li> <li>6. 10 (categories of sustainable land use established by LUP) -private conservation areas -MAB Program in Madre de las Aguas</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 80% progress has been made. To date, the following result is available: -Analysis of the legal and institutional framework related to threatened mountain landscapes in the Dominican Republic (Document in annex 3a). -Work-plan (Document in annex 3b).  The current legal schemes affecting BD, SFM, LD and LUP regarding the approach of the project and its implementation are analyzed. It contemplates gaps in regulations, but with a vision for the implementation strategy, not for the modification of the legal framework, since the latter does not depend on the project. Legal gaps in the mechanisms and capacities currently existing in the country are identified, which would have to be taken into account by the project. The project will play an important role to demonstrate the need to work on these gaps towards necessary changes to be assumed.  100% will be completed in August 2020.</li> <li>2. The CO UNDP Gender Unit is</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for threatened mountain landscapes has been developed and is now being implemented by the project and de local governments of the pilot areas (SESA en anexo 23).</li> <li>2. A draft Gender strategy for productive landscape management, with the major components, has been designed. A capacity building and validation process is taking place at the local level, and it is planned to include representatives from the key institutional partners (Gender Diagnostic as a product 1 of the technical assistance in annex 24). It is expected to complete and finish the validation of the gender strategy in November 2021, depending on the evolution of covid-19 restrictions in the country.</li> <li>3. At least 2 Provincial Agendas will be completed by the end of 2021. The new provincial directors of the M. Environment for the project pilot sites and the new representatives of the Social Participation Direction of this institution have been involved in the process from the planning stage and have been empowered to participate throughout the process, in order to be fully aware and empowered to implement them (List of participation in</li> </ol>

				<p>advising the project to ensure mainstreaming in implementation.</p> <p>3. Not planned for Y1. At present ToR have been drafted and the strategy to advance with them has been designed.</p> <p>4. 10% - In this year the electoral process for the municipal authorities was scheduled for February 2020 and was postponed for March 2020. This implied that the new authorities assumed their functions at the end of April, coinciding with the confinement stage by covid-19. The project made contact with the new mayors. No municipality has advanced with the MDP yet as the results of the presidential elections were expected.</p> <p>Despite this, we have advanced with the identification and prioritization of sites that require the preparation of a municipal development plan and those that only require the updating of a pre-existing plan. Municipal development plans will be drawn up in the municipalities of La Descubierta, Rancho Arriba and Yamasá. In Neiba, a pre-existing Plan will be updated.</p> <p>(Document of TdR for consultancy in</p>	<p>annex 25).</p> <p>4 y 5. Based on the institutional priority of the new local and national authorities regarding strategic and land use planning to advance with the planning processes at the municipal level, it was considered strategic to prioritize the preparation of the 10 MDP, with Land Use criteria and based on this result, and postpone the design of the 10 LUPs for the next period. The 10 MDP are in the formulation process (more details in MI4). At present, there are 9 Municipal Development Councils created (Resolutions of formation of Municipal Development Councils CMD in annex 26).</p> <p>It is important to highlight that the government authorities who started their mandate in August 2020 have prioritized a decentralized approach in their public policies and are in process of designing new planning tools and strategies to connect national sectorial planning with budget allocation. UNDP CO is supporting government in the design-validation of these tools and aligning with SDG targets. The municipalities located in the project sites have been prioritized by the national government and the Ministerio de Ambiente as pilot sites for these new framework.</p> <p>6. The technical proposal for the establishment of Madre de las Aguas</p>
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				<p>annex 4)</p> <p>5. 10%-Current planning tools have been evaluated and it has been concluded that those related to the land planning, fulfills with the needs regarding BD, SFM and LD integration.</p> <p>Once the updating and / or preparation of the municipal development plans has been completed, this information will be used to prepare the LUP.</p> <p>6. 80% -The consultancy for the update of the biosphere reserve proposal "Madre De Las Aguas "was developed. The following products were received and reviewed.</p> <p>-Institutional Technical Monitoring Team of Ministry of Environment was established to update and socialize the biosphere reserve proposal Madre De Las Aguas. (Confirmation letter in annex 5a)</p> <p>-Technical document of the biosphere reserve proposal Madre De Las Aguas creation (technical documentation annex 5b).</p> <p>Socialized proposal with 8 workshops</p>	<p>Biosphere Reserve was completed and presented to the Dominican MaB committee, for endorsement by the members. This as a previous step to the presentation of the proposal to the UNESCO MaB Committee, by the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (MaB committee meeting minutes in annex 28, including document endorsed, photographs and attendance list). This process is expected to be completed before the end of 2021.</p>
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				<p>development: 271 people trained (Workshop participants list annex 2b).</p> <p>In August 2020 will be updated the biosphere reserve proposal Madre De Las Aguas of Dominican Republic with the community consultations process performed.</p> <p>Annex 5 is a draft of the proposal. It is expected to have a final version endorsed by all participants, to be presented to the MAAB Committee in August 2020. After that, it is expecting to do lobby efforts until the Biosphere Reserve Madre De Las Agua be approved by UNESCO.</p>	
<p>Indicator 7: Establishment of interinstitutional coordination platform for improved governance, monitoring and enforcement, involving Government institutions at the central, local and private sector levels, as well as community-based organizations.</p> <p>1. % interconnection of GIS</p> <p>2. % implementation productive landscapes monitoring system including BD, SFM and LD criteria</p> <p>3. % implementation SDG Monitoring System established by project</p>	<p>1. 0% - State of the art GIS capabilities exist in MA, but no interinstitutional coordination.</p> <p>2. BD monitoring guidelines exist but no integrated BD-LD-SFM system for Productive Landscapes</p> <p>3. 0 – Dominican Republic has established the indicators to be monitored</p> <p>4. 0% Linea Verde designed but not</p>	<p>1. 50% - Maps and database updated and integrated in an inter-institutional GIS to include biological importance, fragility and productive potential of the target areas.</p> <p>2. Year 1: System established</p> <p>Mid Term: Productive Landscapes Monitoring System functioning and</p>	<p>1. 100% - GIS operating in MA offices in pilot zones and interconnected with MAgri and local governments [eventually Regional Offices of the Planning ministry (MEPYD) could be interconnected as well]</p> <p>2. 100% Productive Landscapes Monitoring System functioning and</p>	<p>2. In process hiring expert support to update and make operational the BD biodiversity monitoring system integrating LD-SFM (TdR in annex 6)</p> <p>3. The National SDG Secretariat is in process of defining the national strategy to localize and monitor SDG at the local level. With the support of the CO, it has been established technical coordination in order to advance in a coordinated way.</p> <p>4. The Ministry of Environment is in process of redefining the strategy to</p>	<p>1. 75% of the maps required for the cartographic database are ready.</p> <p>A methodology was developed for the application of geoprocessing tools to obtain a digital cartographic series on tree cover, climate data, topographic variables, vegetation index, among others, to estimate Indices or metrics of ecosystem services at the landscape level such as: Water balance, soil erosion, infiltration, landscape fragmentation, forest carbon and biological connectivity, all of this applied to the pilot sites of the project (maps in annex 29). This effort was developed in coordination with the Green Development Fund project</p>

<p>4. % registration of infractions denounced via Linea Verde hotline and documented in MA Provincial HQ Registry of Infractions</p> <p>5. % implementation of National Early Warning System (EWS) for fires</p>	<p>implemented</p> <p>5. Early warning system exists but the flow of information is deficient, slow and intermittent; a proposal has been elaborated</p>	<p>providing annual data</p> <p>3. Year 1: SDG Monitoring System established with protocol defined for implementation in 4 target municipalities</p> <p>Mid Term: SDG Monitoring System functioning and providing annual data</p> <p>4. 100%: "Linea Verde" operating in 3 pilot sites and Registry improved in 4 provincial HQ.</p> <p>5. Year 1: Proposal for strengthening EWS updated and adopted</p> <p>Mid Term: Early Warning System functioning</p>	<p>providing data</p> <p>3. 100% SDG Monitoring System functioning and providing data</p> <p>4. 100%: "Linea Verde" operating in 3 pilot sites and Registry improved in 4 provincial HQ.</p> <p>5. 100%: EWS for fires functioning in pilot sites.</p> <p>30%: EWS for fires functioning at national level.</p>	<p>detect and address environmental violations. The project will proceed as soon as this new strategy is confirmed.</p> <p>5. The UNDP-FAO Interagency agreement has not been signed yet, which has affected the progress of this activity.</p>	<p>for the SICA- REDD + LANDSCAPE "Restoring Landscapes" GIZ. Geo spatial data base was shared with the UNDP initiative Mapping of Nature for the planet and people and inputs and criteria developed by the project are being used in the process of identifying critical ecosystems for supporting life in DR,</p> <p>2. The monitoring system was designed with BD, SFM and LD criteria (Annex 30), with defined implementation protocols (Annex 31). It is expected to start the operation in Y3.</p> <p>3. As a pilot of local SDG monitoring, 4,116 surveys were applied (using socioeconomic information from the database of the Unique System of Beneficiaries of the Presidency of the Dominican Republic) in 4 municipalities within the project intervention area to identify the impacts of covid-19 and the strategies of recovery, livelihoods and territorialization of the sustainable development goals (SDG). A draft report was prepared including the analysis of the information collected for 3 municipalities (Analysis of SDG surveys in annex 32). The analysis will be completed in July 2021. Likewise, a digital dashboard was designed to monitor and support decision-making</p>
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					<p>for the municipalities. In collaboration with the platform RED ACTUA RD initiative of UNDP. This information will be also used as baseline information for prioritizing sustainable livelihood initiatives, in order to ensure that these solutions consider the additional challenges caused by COVID-19 that are affecting vulnerable people from the pilot sites.</p> <p>4. The reporting and complaints system (Línea Verde) is being reviewed by the new authorities of the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente. The project is currently supporting the Direction of Social Participation and the Direction of Planning to define the pertinent actions needed to the restructuring and redefinition of the system.</p> <p>5. The delay on signing the agreement with FAO has been caused by differences in formats and financial structures applied by UNDP and FAO. These situations have been resolved and the agreement is to be signed before the end of Q3 2021.</p> <p>In the meanwhile, a work plan was developed to support the Fire Control and Management Program from the Viceministerio de Recursos Forestales del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (Work plan in annex 33) and the</p>
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					planning of all related activities has been advanced in order to move forward as soon as the agreement is signed.
<p>Indicator 8: Availability of financial mechanisms for sustainable management of production:</p> <p>1. # sectorial credit mechanisms for sustainable management of production landscapes (coffee/cocoa production , under agroforestry or analogous forest schemes, including associated sustainable livelihoods)</p> <p>2. # financial mechanisms associated with ecosystem services</p>	<p>1. Banco Agrícola and FEDA offer specialized funds for conventional productive systems, but no sustainability criteria</p> <p>2. 0 - Current initiatives are too resource-specific and/or geographically limited for general application and overall Ecosystem Service consideration</p>	<p>1. 3 Agreements for credit mechanisms for sustainable productive activities</p> <p>2. 1 financial mechanism designed and management/ implementation arrangements agreed upon</p>	<p>1. 3 Credit mechanisms functioning (1 per pilot)</p> <p>2. At least 1 financial mechanism for ecosystem services functioning in the pilot sites</p>	Not planned for Y1	<p>1 y 2. This indicator has a significant progress. An economic &amp; financial analysis was required prior to signing credit agreements and designing financial mechanisms. This assessment, currently under implementation, was delayed because of COVID-19. The definition of mechanisms and agreements will continue once the results of the financial &amp; economic analysis are available.</p> <p>With the technical guidance of the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor of the Green Commodities Programme, a multisectoral workgroup has been established to support the analysis and engage later in the operationalization /strengthening of the prioritized mechanisms in 2022 (ToR in annex 34).</p>
<p>Indicator 9: Local participation mechanisms for land use planning:</p> <p>1. # municipal development councils operating in pilot zone municipalities with stakeholder involvement at different levels</p> <p>2. # of watershed mechanisms</p>	<p>1. 0</p> <p>2. 1 Commission for the rehabilitation and development of the Ozama and Isabela river basins was established by presidential decree, involving MA and</p>	<p>1. 4 established (Neyba, La Descubierta, Yamasa, Rancho Arriba) 2. 1 watershed mechanism operating as a dialog and</p>	<p>1. 4 municipalities actively engaged in planning processes through municipal development councils</p> <p>2. 3 watershed mechanisms operating as dialog</p>	<p>1. These Committees are in process of renovation after the Municipal elections. they will be strengthened throughout the process of update/prepare Municipal Development Plans.</p>	<p>1. Nine out of ten Municipal Development Councils have been established and are functioning in the target municipalities (Neiba, La Descubierta, Postrer Rio, Galván, Villa Jaragua, Los Rios, San José de Ocoa, Rancho Arriba and Sabana Larga) (CMD training resolutions in annex 26). At present, Yamasá municipality</p>

<p>established and operating</p>	<p>different public, private and community stakeholders.</p>	<p>coordination platform in the Nizao pilot zone.  Local producers supported by the project in the Yamasá pilot zone actively participating in the Ozama-Isabela Presidential Commission.</p>	<p>and coordination platforms in the Nizao, Sierra de Neyba, and Ozama (Yamasá) pilot zones.</p>	<p>2. Not planned for Y1.</p>	<p>is beginning this process and it is expected that by the end of 2021 this last Council will be established.</p> <p>2. The rehabilitation, sanitation, preservation and sustainable use of the Ozama and Isabela River basins continue to be a priority for the new national authorities, who have published a Decree endorsing the leadership of the Ozama-Isabela Presidential Commission to Ministerio de Ambiente. Complementary, the government launched a Comprehensive Management Plan for Priority Watersheds (Press release in annex 35). The 15 prioritized watersheds include the Ozama-Isabela and Nizao basins, which are located in Yamasá and San José de Ocoa, areas of influence, respectively. The Ministerio de Medio Ambiente is the entity responsible for the implementation of this plan and the actions in both pilot zones will be coordinated through the project.</p>
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<p>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</p>	<p><b>On track</b></p>
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<p>Evidence uploaded:</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
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**Outcome 2**  
**Component 2: Conservation compatible production systems in threatened mountain ecosystems and conservation corridors**

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2020	Cumulative progress since project start
<p>Indicator 10: Total area with coverage that guarantees ecosystemic services as well as restoration and connectivity:</p> <p>1. # hectares forest resources restored/ sustainably managed in the landscape</p> <p>2. # hectares dedicated to sustainable production systems</p> <p>3. # hectares applying soil conservation practices that reduce soil erosion rate</p>	<p>1. 1000 Hectares</p> <p>2. 7500 ha of cocoa with organic production methods (no certified organic coffee in pilot sites)</p> <p>3. 0 ha. reduce erosion</p>	<p>1. 2000 Hectares maintained or increased</p> <p>2. 9,200</p> <p>3. 800 ha</p>	<p>1. 3000 Hectares maintained or increased</p> <p>2. 10,200</p> <p>Additional ha.</p> <p>1,800 Coffee</p> <p>900 Cocoa</p> <p>3. 1,200 ha</p>	<p>With the results of the updated cartography and the engagement with key stakeholders working in the pilot zones, reforestation needs/sites have been identified.</p> <p>In pilot zone Ocoa:</p> <p>-40.04 hectares of forest trees planted to restore degraded areas.</p> <p>- 10.71 hectares planted with Coffee trees</p> <p>- 3.358 hectares in soil conservation practices</p> <p>(Summary document of plantation progress in annex 7a)</p> <p>Plantation photographs in annex 7b</p> <p>It has been identified that in Sierra de Neiba zone, there are no needs to reforest with forest trees due to the work done by the Presidency.</p> <p>Areas to be recovered with coffee have already been identified.</p> <p>In Yamasá farmers and organizations working with cocoa plantations have been contacted and there are agreements in process to establish synergies that contribute to maintain</p>	<p>In Y2, the area directly and indirectly restored/sustainable managed with coverage that guarantees ecosystem services, restoration and connectivity was:</p> <p>1. 1,286.70 hectares of forest.</p> <p>2. 100.99 hectares of coffee/cocoa agroforestry systems</p> <p>3. 3.35 hectares applying soil conservation practices.</p> <p>Additionally, 700.10 hectares have been identified and are programmed to be improved through the establishment/rehabilitation of sustainable agroforestry systems in Sierra de Neiba and San José de Ocoa (annex 36, 37, 38). These areas have been selected based on a geospatial analysis of critical areas for ensuring connectivity and restoration (Plantation's progress report in annex 39, plantation progress sheet by pilot areas in annex 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44).</p> <p>This target was affected by COVID-19, because of the restriction of presence-based work within the forest brigades and the labor in the nurseries. The CRNA (COVID Response Needs Assessment) carried out by the UN System, IADB, WB and the EU in</p>

				<p>existing vegetal cover.</p>	<p>coordination with the Dominican Government documented this impact not only in the project areas but nationwide.</p> <p>The provision of native and endemic forest trees is guaranteed by the Ministry of Environment. Cocoa high quality clons will be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the cocoa related NGOs. However, to address the risk of potential unavailability of coffee and cocoa plants identified this year (due to the need of different initiatives to recover from the lack of activity during the past period because of COVID-19 restrictions) the project has started the rehabilitation of nurseries and establishment of alliances with the cocoa private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The nursery of the Ministry of the Environment of Rancho Arriba (San José de Ocoa) was rehabilitated, to produce 200,000 coffee plants/year and 350,000 forest trees/year (Nursery rehabilitation report in annex 44).</li> <li>- The nursery of Sabana Larga is being rehabilitated, to produce additional 450,000 coffee plants/year.</li> </ul> <p>Through this initiative, the project operationalized the alliance between INDOCAFÉ and Ministerio de Medio Ambiente. INDOCAFÉ provides technical assistance to produce coffee plants and supervise the quality of the plants. The Ministry of Environment</p>
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					<p>provides the nursery staff, 2 forestry brigades and the techniques to produce forest plants. This synergy constitutes a benchmark inter-institutional alliance that should be fostered to guarantee the management of sustainable production systems and influence public policies.</p> <p>It is important to highlight that the agroforestry systems promoted through the project include the BD friendly practices included in the technological packages and a combination of native/endemic forest trees, fruit trees, coffee/cocoa and other plants as vegetables, among other. These arrangements are part of the recommendations provided by the technicians from the institutions and organizations involved in the project.</p>
<p>Indicator 11: Capacity of MA and target communities to apply integrated fire management (prevention, mitigation, control, and restoration of landscapes):</p> <p>1. # of ha affected by forest fires in the three pilot zones</p> <p>2. # Brigades for fire control established with Infrastructure/Towers, equipment, manual, etc.</p>	<p>1. In Nizao pilot zone due to slash &amp; burn agriculture</p> <p>725.9 ha in 2015</p> <p>114.8ha in 2016</p> <p>No data available in the other pilot zones.</p> <p>2. 1 Brigade in San José de Ocoa</p>	<p>1. Data registration will be improved in the three pilot areas.</p> <p>Registers show a reduction in affected number of ha.</p> <p>Data to be completed in the first year of implementation.</p> <p>2. 5 (1 Yamasá, 1 Rancho Arriba, 2 in</p>	<p>1. Data registration shows a significant reduction in the areas affected.</p> <p>Data to be completed in the first year of implementation.</p> <p>2. 7 (1 Yamasá, 2 Rancho Arriba, 3 in Neyba) + 1 existing in San José de Ocoa</p>	<p>Pending inter-agency agreement between UNDP and FAO, which has taken more time than it was expected.</p> <p>FAO's internal process for assessing this Inter-Agency Agreement with UNDP has taken longer than expected. The fire management work on the project will be carried out through FAO, by the agency's specialization in this area. The technical and financial implementation of these work is subject to the agreement between</p>	<p>The project team, in close coordination with the Viceministerio de Recursos Forestales, has advanced initial actions regarding this indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of potential candidates for the training of forest fire brigades in the three pilot sites (Annex 45).</li> <li>• Identification of needs for equipment and tools, to support the management, handling, and control of forest fires (Annex 46).</li> <li>• Preparation of the ToR for the</li> </ul>



		Neyba) + 1 existing in San José de Ocoa		FAO and UNDP to make it possible to enable work to be carried out from FAO. We have recently received information from FAO that headquarters has completed its internal approval process for this agreement, which will be signed in the coming weeks. Immediately after, the corresponding jobs will be started and the actions rescheduled with the intention of overcoming delays.	fire baseline (Draft ToR in annex 47). • A work plan (prepared with the National Forest Fire Program (Work Plan in annex 33) (approval letter in Annex 6). As soon as the UNDP - FAO Agreement is in place during Q3 2021 (see MI 7.5), the implementation rate will speed significantly as it includes a strategy to accelerate the progress.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	<b>Off track</b>				
Evidence uploaded:	<b>YES</b>				
<b>Outcome 3</b>					
<b>Component 3: Sustainable livelihoods mainstream BD-friendly practices</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
Indicator 12: # of tools/instruments to promote BD friendly livelihoods	1 (Cocoa & coffee organic certification)	1 (organic certification) 3 BD friendly technological packages adding value to coffee and cocoa production designed and agreed upon in pilot	1 (organic certification) 3 BD friendly technological packages adding value to coffee and cocoa production incorporated in model farms in pilot	The Dominican Republic is one of the main world's producers of organic cocoa, where most of the producers are certified. This project will work on improving production towards sustainability. Also, small coffee producers work for organic production and many are certified. The project seeks to promote higher productivity to generate higher income and a	As part of the instruments to promote BD friendly production, best practices have been identified and included within the technological package & capacity building strategy currently in implementation within the cocoa and coffee value chain.  7 BD friendly technological packages have been designed (currently under final revision of the Min. Agriculture).

		<p>zones.</p> <p>Design of 3 credit lines (1 per pilot site) with BD friendly production requirements.</p>	<p>sites.</p> <p>3 credit lines implemented (1 per pilot site) with BD friendly production requirements.</p>	<p>better connection in the value chain.</p> <p>In process of hiring an expert team to design and implement a training program and field schools for sustainable production systems with coffee and cocoa in three pilot sites in the Dominican Republic (TdR, in annex 8).</p> <p>The project involves the design of training modules for facilitators, trainees and extensionists, in the topics of entrepreneurship, empowerment, accounting, finance and market. For this the project has hired experts and /or specialized academic entities, such as ISA University, Mipymes Centers of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. It is hoped that credit institutions in the areas can also be involved in these processes.</p> <p>In order to be able to measure the impact of these trainings, a baseline survey is being carried out to measure the level of knowledge of the target population before training. Subsequently, another survey is conducted on the target population to measure the level of knowledge. The data from both surveys is processed, analyzed and compared. This information is part of the monitoring and evaluation management of the</p>	<p>These packages are going to be implemented in the 12 farmer field schools (FFS) that are in process of being established (4 in each pilot site, with the technical assistance of CATIE). This process includes technical support to farmers in planting and harvesting techniques. Integrated training modules and implementation strategies are already in place for technicians, extension agents, training for trainers and extension for farmers (in annex 48).</p> <p>This process involves the training of 30 facilitators, 30 technicians and 300 producers. The FFS will be completed in March 2022 (as they need to be developed during a whole production cycle, and depending on the restrictions due to COVID-19).</p> <p>Cocoa farms have organic certification (DR is the biggest exporter of organic certified cocoa. Sustainable &amp; environment friendly coffee production is the approach prioritized, after updating coffee market trends in the country.</p> <p>TSA will provide complementary inputs to refine the good practices promoted in the context of the project. The credit lines will be defined based on the results of the TSA.</p>
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				<p>project. Currently, this information is being generated for the entrepreneurship and empowerment training being provided in the project.</p> <p>The private sector has participated in these trainings, and has provided the facilities of infrastructure and logistics to be able to carry out the workshops in the communities, respecting the distance, hygiene and safety protocols of COVID-19.</p>	
Indicator 13: # of viable business plans for sustainable economic activities developed and implemented.	0	<p>Year 1: consolidate associations</p> <p>Mid-term: 3 designed and approved (1 per theme per pilot zone)</p>	3 implemented (1 per theme and per pilot zone)	<p>Not planned for Y1. The project team will be starting to work on designing business plans and strengthening associations in Y2.</p>	<p>The consolidation of producer associations is being approached through a strengthening strategy that consists of 2 stages: a producer associations capacities diagnostic and strengthening plan according to the identified needs found in the diagnostic. These processes are aimed at building capacities for self-management, environmentally friendly production and supporting organizational development.</p> <p>This effort is coordinated with the Green Development Fund project for the SICA- REDD + LANDSCAPE “Restoring Landscapes” GIZ, and INDOCAFÉ, focused on coffee producer associations from La Descubierta and Rancho Arriba (General guidelines for the actions to develop processes to strengthen the capacities of producer organizations in</p>

					<p>the intervention areas, in annex 49). It is expected to conclude in December 2021 (schedule in annex 50).</p> <p>On the other hand, as a basis for defining the business plans of potential and / or existing ventures, the following activities were carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the livelihoods and resources of the communities of Apolinar Perdomo, Los Bolos y el Maniel, in Bahoruco and Independencia provinces, through the collaboration of the master student of the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) (annex 51).</li> <li>• Preliminary evaluation of the ecotourism potential in Yamasá and San José de Ocoa (Annex 52 and 53). This report was carried out by the Ecotourism Manager of the Viceministerio de Áreas Protegidas y Biodiversidad of the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente.</li> </ul> <p>It is expected to have 3 business plans for May 2022. The “Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples de Sabana Real” (a local service provider cooperative) has been identified as partner with the possibility of supporting the development of sustainable enterprises. In San José de Ocoa, the company “Productora de Café Samir” has been identified, which works with small producers in the</p>
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					<p>area, to carry out a feasibility study and create an international coffee brand to guaranteeing the market and increasing the number of producers who can access this mechanism.</p> <p>It is important to highlight that the TSA currently in process will assess the profitability of technological packages, which will be fundamental inputs for developing the business plans.</p>
<p>Indicator 14: Credit Access Package facilitates the adoption of sustainable production and livelihoods:</p> <p>1. # Credit mechanisms for sustainable livelihoods</p> <p>2. % producers with access to credit</p>	<p>1. Commercial Banks have a “green credit line” but do not finance small agricultural producers, due to risks associated with the activities.</p> <p>2 financial institutions support micro-enterprises, 1 of which specializes in microcredits for women.</p> <p>2. 0% support for producers to transition from conventional to sustainable production</p>	<p>1. Year 2: Credit Access Package elaborated</p> <p>Mid-term: 3 credit mechanisms established with local institutions (1 per pilot)</p> <p>2. 70 % Producers in the pilot sites aware of financing options for sustainable productive activities.</p>	<p>1. 3 local entities (1 per pilot) with a financing mechanism functioning for microenterprises dedicated to productive activities, including agro-ecotourism</p> <p>2. 50% Producers in the pilot sites accessing financing options for sustainable productive activities</p>	<p>Not planned for Y1, however, on Y2 The project team is going to work on designing/implantation of potential financial mechanisms for the project, to be implemented in Y3.</p> <p>Among the main actions that are being considered to be carried out to evaluate the sustainability and profitability of the models (production and demand costs of the project), the following are mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of livelihood in each pilot area.</li> <li>• Establishment of partnerships with the private sector for the production, processing, intermediation or purchase of cocoa and coffee, development of feasibility studies for production and market, as well as identification/creation of sustainable business models (incentives, knowledge transfer, adoption of new</li> </ul>	<p>For both coffee and cocoa production, the new government of the Dominican Republic has presented the 2021-2025 Cocoa Action Plan with a credit program of 2,300 million Dominican pesos (Annex 54) and the Recovery Plan for Dominican Coffee Production (press release in annex 55) which announces a credit program for producers of 1000 million Dominican pesos. The Project supported the development of these action plans.</p> <p>Both initiatives promote production based on financing mechanisms for producers. Given this, the project has agreed with INDOCAFÉ and the Comisión Nacional de Cacao, among other actions, to support the increase of the capacities of small and medium producers in the pilot areas, so that they have access to these financing mechanisms.</p>

				technologies, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and/or creation of financial mechanisms for sustainable production.</li> <li>• Strengthening capacities for market access, branding, and international certifications.</li> <li>• Creation and/or improvement of value chains.</li> <li>• Improvement of planting techniques and production of quality plants.</li> </ul>	
Indicator 15: # of micro enterprises adopting BD friendly production systems	0	6 micro-entrepreneurial initiatives developing in pilot zones	6 micro-entrepreneurial initiatives functioning in pilot zones	Not planned for Y1	Not planned for Y2  Notwithstanding, as part of the work reported under MI 13, these micro-entrepreneurial initiatives have already been mapped and initial coordination is in place.
<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>On track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	<b>YES</b>				
<b>Outcome 4</b>					
<b>Component 4: Knowledge Management and M&amp;E</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
Indicator 16: Knowledge management methods, processes	0	1 KM strategy designed and	1 KM strategy designed and	Monitoring and follow-up system in the design process with the following	A Communication and KM Strategies are in place, including:

and tools mainstreamed throughout project implementation		<p>implemented in pilot zones.</p> <p>Annual planning incorporates systematization activities.</p>	<p>implemented in pilot zones.</p> <p>Annual planning incorporates systematization activities.</p>	<p>tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual planning and Annual Presentation of Results.</li> <li>- Systematization of activities: Matrix of activities (document in annex 9a)</li> <li>Training Matrix (document in annex 9b)</li> <li>Matrix of project beneficiaries (document in annex 9c)</li> <li>Producer matrix in zone 1 (document in annex 9d).</li> <li>Producer matrix in zone 2 (document in annex 9e).</li> <li>-Weekly progress reports from pilot sites (Report template en annex 9f)</li> <li>-Weekly progress reports from pilot sites (Template en annexes 9g, 9h, 9i)</li> <li>-In process of preparing the Annual Monitoring Plan 2020-2021.</li> <li>-Quarterly and annual monitoring reports delivered to UNDP (annexes 9j, 9k y 9l)</li> </ul> <p>Regarding to the shift to high-leverage on-line technology-based KM options as a result of the impact of COVID-19 the project could analyze the impacts of the pandemic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication guidelines, project identity graphic lines, identification of milestones and storis to be shared, photo repository, social network strategy.</li> <li>- A Project Implementation Strategy (Annual Operational Plan POA-2021 (annex 56), strategic measures for the implementation of the project (annex 57), and monitoring tools for the implementation of the POA regarding the goals of the year 2021 (annex 58).</li> <li>- An alliance roadmap with key stakeholders</li> <li>- A training plan for the project team and the closest partners technicians (those directly involved in the project implementation) (annex 59), based on an analysis of the training needs and priorities identified in the team (annex 60).</li> <li>- Annual systematizing and documentation of lessons learned and use of them to update the project implementation strategy.</li> <li>- A Monitoring strategy, based on the monitoring plan established in the project document including Advisory Committee meetings (Record of meeting, attendance record and photographs in annexes 61, 62, and 63, respectively), weekly progress reports from pilot sites (Template in annexes 64), monthly reports on the</li> </ul>
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				<p>on micro and small sized enterprises (operations, supply chain, employees, etc.) using a digital data collection tool to identify the best strategies that contribute to the reactivation and recovery of the local economy .</p> <p>In the meanwhile, the creation of a platform/portal for training, monitoring, evaluation, and accompaniment in organizational development for producers is an alternative that is being evaluated in the project, both its economic and functional feasibility and its acceptance by local communities, including strategy for behavioral change.</p>	<p>progress of the project components prepared by specialists, minutes of meetings and reports of workshops and field visits, quarterly and annual monitoring reports delivered to UNDP (annexes 65, 66 and 67).</p> <p>- Periodic meetings (at least 1/month) between UNDP and the project team to discuss progress, challenges and agree strategies to move forward.</p>
<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>On track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	<b>YES</b>				

### Action plan

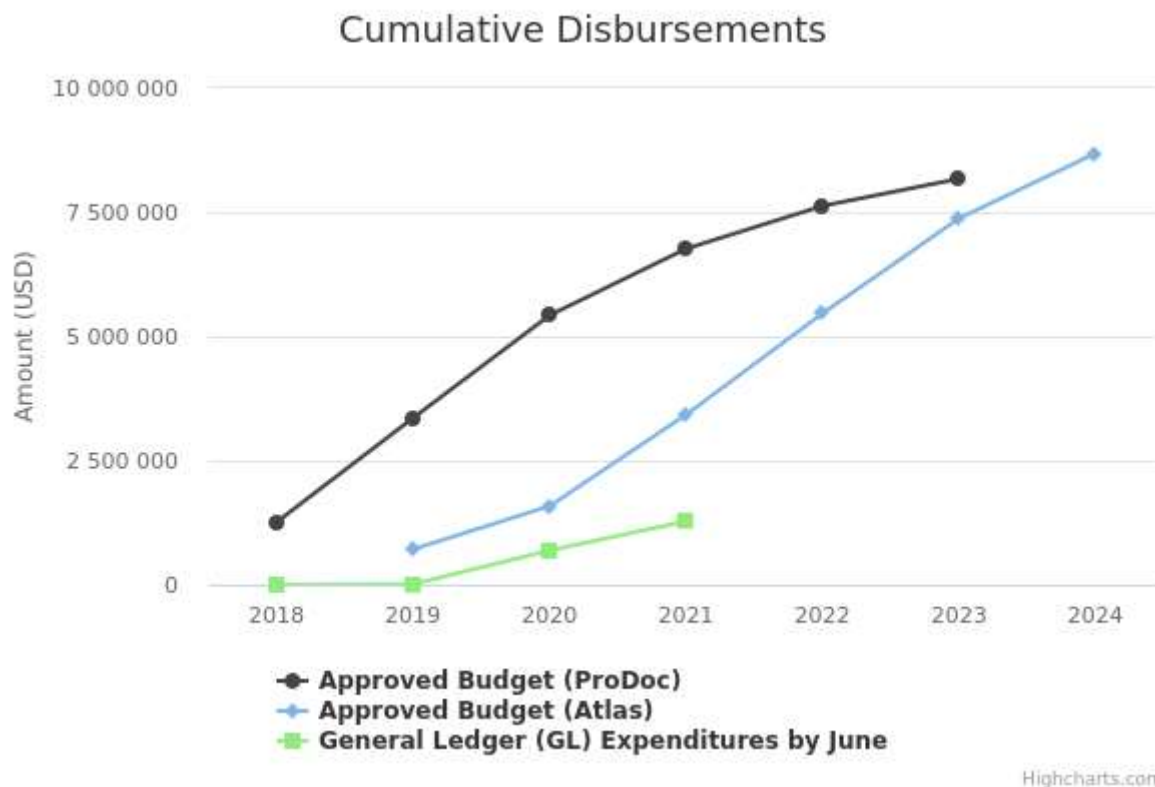
<b>Off-track objective/outcome</b>	<b>Action(s) to be taken</b>	<b>Responsible party/ies</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Outcome 2	Outcome 2. Indicator 10. Accelerate the completion of a strategy to ensure plants/trees supply. I.e., assess trees needs (types/number), including cocoa and coffee, vis-a-vis production capacity, and ensure adequate investment in nursery production. This action	CO's Program Officer, PM Unit, IP/FAO.	Oct 15, 2021



	<p>is a top priority since it will take time for nurseries to meet the Project's demand for seedlings. Where possible, place advanced seedlings/tree purchasing orders.</p> <p>outcome 2, Indicator 11. The process to sign the agreement with FAO is complete. Sign the agreement and start implementation, following COVID safety protocols.</p> <p>Additional action to improve the overall Project's performance include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accelerate the signature and operationalization of the collaboration and co-financing agreement with FAO to accelerate field work.</li> <li>2. To advance farmers' access to credit, in partnership with the private sector and local governments, develop a step-by-step path to formulate business plans based on supply and demand criteria, with realistic costing, income projections, and livelihood impact; and assess the viability of establishing guarantees schemes for farmers. Connect with the new World Bank's FOLUR Global Knowledge Platform. This work will also strengthen Outcome 4, KM.</li> <li>3. Support business plans and business enterprises by completing and operationalizing monitoring and reporting protocols to measure productivity consistency (quantity and quality) and tracking producers' sales and income in partnership with the private sector commodity buyers.</li> <li>4. Connect the Project's KM strategy with regional and global commodity dialogue and learning platforms,</li> </ol>		
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	<p>including the indicated WB's FOLUR platform.</p> <p>5. Prepare, by September 30, an ad hoc budget plan, listing key steps, i.e., mainly field activities, to expedite budget disbursements to meet the 2021 target by the end of December (currently below 20% for the 2021 AWP).</p> <p>6. Maintain coordination with different teams from the UNDP CO to support the Project in the design of digital tools and assessment of impacts of COVID-19 in the pilot sites, and development of action plans.</p>		
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## D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	15.63%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	18.88%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June:	1,277,711

<b>Key Financing Amounts</b>	
PPG Amount	180,000
GEF Grant Amount	8,176,165
Co-financing	54,007,377

<b>Key Project Dates</b>	
PIF Approval Date	Jun 9, 2016
CEO Endorsement Date	Oct 18, 2018
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Dec 12, 2018
Date of Inception Workshop	Aug 13, 2019
First Disbursement Date	Mar 6, 2019
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Dec 12, 2021

Actual Date of Mid-term Review	(not set or not applicable)
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Sep 12, 2024
Original Planned Closing Date	Dec 12, 2024
Revised Planned Closing Date	(not set or not applicable)

**Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2020 to 1 July 2021)**

2021-04-27

**Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.**

The unexpected and surprising crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the implementation of the project, especially in the planning and scheduling of activities. Since the Dominican Republic began the national lockdown in March 2020, there was a total stoppage of activities in all sectors and at all economic and social levels, which lasted approximately a little over 4 months.

The situation generated presented a great challenge to the project, both due to the delay produced in the planning of its execution and in the strategic redefinition for its implementation aimed at achieving the expected results. The impact of the pandemic on the project has been mainly reflected in:

- a) Redefinition of implementation strategies, aligned with post-pandemic national priorities, aimed at achieving the expected results.
- b) Changes in work methodologies. Limiting the number of people gathered at one time, even though this implies more work, time, and effort. Reduction of the number of people for planting and reforestation brigades, which involves rescheduling field management and changes in planning in the short and medium term.
- c) Limitations for field missions. Exhaustive preparation and planning of trips, with extreme security measures. Any mission is authorized only if the exposure is minimal and the visit is strictly necessary, and the person expresses their willingness to make the trip.
- d) Compliance with safety protocols, social distancing and hygiene care has meant a challenging behavior change, not so much for the project's team, but for those linked to the project, the communities, and the beneficiaries at the local level.
- e) Reprogramming of processes and consultancies, regarding schedule, activities and products, since in many cases the consultants cannot assume the risk of going to the field.
- f) Prolonged absenteeism from work in the project due to cases of infection of personnel, partners, and key actors (by the personnel or by relatives and related parties), psychological effects due to the loss of loved ones, colleagues, or relatives, which embraced the entire work environment. Also, the temporary closure of units and related entities due to infection.

g) Limitation of matching contributions and responsibilities of the government and other actors since attention and efforts are focused on the rapid recovery of the economy (tourism and job creation).

Currently, the country is in a process of gradual opening for economic reactivation, along with a massive vaccination program for the population, but there is still uncertainty about the effectiveness of the efforts made and the control over the pandemic. This indicates that these and other impacts may persist into the project's third year.

However, this project could represent a priority alternative in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery. The post-COVID-19 perspective indicates the need to work on the sustainability of agricultural and forest production systems. These have a significant impact not only on the environmental conservation but in ensuring the production, forest management, and promote sustainable livelihoods for local families.

**CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance**

Three main factors affected the implementation performance:

1. Impact of the lock down due to COVID-19, that has affected since March, 2020 all the activities in the field and also the operational capacity of the project team.
2. The change of authorities after both national and municipal elections delayed the formalization of alliances and agreements required to coordinate actions, mobilize co financing and implement the work plan. As part of this changes, new government priorities were established and new tools /strategies / mechanisms to implement government priorities are in process of being developed.
3. Weakened partners (mainly at the local level), with reduced capacities to operate (this has also been extended to an important contract that had to be canceled because the products weren't delivered).

In order to speed implementation performance different measures have been agreed:

- UNDP RR and DRR met with Senior authorities in the Ministry of Environment (Ministry, Vice-ministries, GEF OFF) and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development during the transition period in order to introduce the project at the political level and facilitate coordination and appropriation. Technical level meetings have also occurred as a follow up of these agreements.
- Periodic meetings (at least 1/month) between the project team and the UNDP CO in order to understand challenges and identify solutions to move forward in this complex context.
- A revised work plan and a strategy to accelerate implementation in the field, including a capacity building plan at different levels to contribute with the development of capacities and recovery.

- Involvement of the RTA to provide strategic guidance in the approach of some project critical components (sustainable financing).

- Involvement of different teams from the UNDP CO to support the project in the design of digital tools and assessment of impacts of COVID-19 in the pilot sites, provision of information and analysis useful for decision making, guidance and synergy for local planning and SDG localization, coordination and synergy with partners in the work currently related with the cocoa value chain, gender-related guidance.

- The project team has accessed to the guidance and support that is being provided by the UN System and the CO to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and protect the personnel.

As a result of these measures, today the project goals have been fully appropriated by the government and some of the expected results have been included as part of the institutional strategic plans and the work in the sites are being considered as pilots for SDG localization and local planning/financing. It is expected that the nature-based solutions to be developed by the project can be part of the recovery measures prioritized in DR.

It is expected that the project can reach the budget delivery target by the end of 2021, if the measured identified to speed implementation are properly developed.

**NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.**

During the PIR, the RTA provided a detailed list of comments to each of the DO and outcome indicators (sixteen indicators in total) and discussed it with the Project team on the level of progress. The PM team addressed the comments, and the progress with each indicator is more consistent. The comments to the indicators are available in a separate file.

The reported progress is significant considering the overall impact of COVID, since March 2020, and the delays due to negotiations with the new Governmental authorities in the IP (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and local governments.) The negotiations are complete, and there is ownership by the new authorities.

The CO is implementing an ad hoc strategy to address political and health challenges, lead by the UNDP Program Officer and supported by the PM team. However, the evolving restriction and delays caused by COVID impacted the implementation of several activities. COVID also affected the delivery capacity of ground-level partners. This situation is more visible in activities under Outcome 2 (Component 2). The Project makes periodic strategic adjustments to respond to COVID restrictions and strengthen local partners' capacity to meet the challenges of the post-COVID economic reconstruction in the targeted area. However, it is urgent that the Project prepares, by September 30, an ad hoc budget plan, listing key steps, i.e., mainly field activities, to expedite budget disbursements to meet the 2021 target by the end of December.

The Project rate is Moderately Satisfactory (MS). As mentioned, the Project made tangible progress to its mid-term goals, for example:

DO:

- The Project established four major national-level alliances and ten collaboration agreements at the local level to support the Project's implementation.
- Increased the number of targeted beneficiaries and set the foundations to increase the numbers as soon as COVID restrictions ease. This progress includes producers and institutional partners.
- Municipal development plans include over 109K hectares where sustainable agricultural practices are applied.
- Partner institution increased their capacity to manage sustainable productive landscapes surpassing the mid-term target.

#### Outcome 1:

- The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment tool is completed, including gender considerations.
- A renewed interinstitutional coordination system led to 75% of maps completed, advanced BD and SDG monitoring systems, including 4,116 surveys completed.
- A critical and comprehensive economic valuation analysis is taking place. Its results will support the definition of farmers' financial mechanisms, business models, and financial and credit packages.
- Improved LUP in 10 municipalities.

#### Outcome 2:

- Progress (although limited) in increasing the area with functional ecosystems services, restoration, and connectivity.
- The foundations (institutional arrangements) to accelerate the management of integrated fire management in 2022 are ready.

#### Outcome 3:

- The Project advanced BD management tools, e.g., seven BD-friendly technological packages completed and under revision by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Supported the completion of action plans —coffee and cocoa, including credit schemes.

#### Outcome 4:

- The Project advanced KM tools: communications strategy, M&E tools, institutional alliances, lessons systematization, and practice experience sharing mechanisms.

Despite the above-indicated progress, the Project needs to address shortcomings in all the Project's components. Thus, the following actions are in order:

1. Accelerate the signature and operationalization of the collaboration and co-financing agreement with FAO to accelerate field work.
2. To advance farmers' access to credit, in partnership with the private sector and local governments, develop a step-by-step path to formulate business

plans based on supply and demand criteria, with realistic costing, income projections, and livelihood impact; and assess the viability of establishing guarantees schemes for farmers. A connection with the new World Bank's FOLUR Global Knowledge Platform could be instrumental for this purpose. This work will also strengthen Outcome 4, KM.

3. Support business plans and business enterprises by completing and operationalizing monitoring and reporting protocols to measure productivity consistency (quantity and quality) and tracking producers' sales and income in partnership with the private sector commodity buyers.

4. Connect the Project's KM strategy with regional and global commodity dialogue and learning platforms, including the indicated WB's FOLUR platform.

5. Prepare, by September 30, an ad hoc budget plan, listing key steps, i.e., mainly field activities, to expedite budget disbursements to meet the 2021 target by the end of December (currently below 20% for the 2021 AWP).

6. Maintain coordination with different teams from the UNDP CO to support the Project in the design of digital tools and assessment of impacts of COVID-19 in the pilot sites, and development of action plans.



## E. Project Governance

**Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.**

2021-04-27

## F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2021 Development Objective Progress Rating	2021 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory

Role	2021 Overall Assessment
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	<p>The reported progress is significant considering the overall impact of COVID, since March 2020, and the delays due to negotiations with the new Governmental authorities in the IP (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and local governments.) The negotiations are complete, and there is ownership by the new authorities.</p> <p>The CO is implementing an ad hoc strategy to address institutional (new authorities in office) and health challenges, lead by the UNDP Program Officer and supported by the PM team. However, the evolving restriction and delays caused by COVID impacted the implementation of several activities. COVID also affected the delivery capacity of ground-level partners. However no major changes were undertaken by the Project, excepting the developing of an online operational mode including virtual meetings and trainings; and support the implementation of biosafety protocols at central and field level.</p> <p>As indicated in the Ip Ratings section, the impact of COVID is more visible in activities under Outcome 2 (Component 2). The Project makes periodic strategic adjustments to respond to COVID restrictions and strengthen local partners' capacity to meet the challenges of the post-COVID economic reconstruction in the targeted area. However, it is urgent that the Project prepares, by September 30, an ad hoc budget plan, listing key steps, i.e., mainly field activities, to expedite budget disbursements to meet the 2021 target by the end of December.</p> <p>The Project rate is Moderately Satisfactory (MS). As mentioned, the Project made tangible progress to its mid-term goals. An overview of the progress is provided in the IP Ratings Section.</p> <p>Despite the current critical challenges, as reported by the Country Programme Officer and the PM, the Project has advanced critical elements that set the foundations for achieving better results in the following implementation period and beyond. For example, the strategic partnerships, SESA; 9 municipal development plans; strategies to alleviate the impact of COVID; establish municipal councils; introducing data geo-processing methodology; created a working group on economic valuation and financial mechanisms and launched the TSA analysis. Further, the Project managed to advance the Mother of Waters Biosphere Reserve Proposal to UNESCO; and set the articulation between the Ministry of Environment and INDOCAFE to introduce sustainable agroforestry systems.</p>

Despite the above-indicated progress, the Project needs to address shortcomings in all the Project's components. Thus, the following actions are in order:

1. Accelerate the signature and operationalization of the collaboration and co-financing agreement with FAO to accelerate field work.
2. To advance farmers' access to credit, in partnership with the private sector and local governments, develop a step-by-step path to formulate business plans based on supply and demand criteria, with realistic costing, income projections, and livelihood impact; and assess the viability of establishing guarantees schemes for farmers. A connection with the new World Bank's FOLUR Global Knowledge Platform could be instrumental for this purpose. This work will also strengthen Outcome 4, KM.
3. Support business plans and business enterprises by completing and operationalizing monitoring and reporting protocols to measure productivity consistency (quality and quality) and tracking producers' sales and income in partnership with the private sector commodity buyers.
4. Connect the Project's KM strategy with regional and global commodity dialogue and learning platforms, including the indicated WB's FOLUR platform.
5. Prepare, by September 30, an ad hoc budget plan, listing key steps, i.e., mainly field activities, to expedite budget disbursements to meet the 2021 target by the end of December (currently below 20% for the 2021 AWP).
6. Maintain coordination with different teams from the UNDP CO to support the Project in the design of digital tools and assessment of impacts of COVID-19 in the pilot sites, and development of action plans.

**UNDP Country Office Programme Officer**

The project is advancing towards the objectives.

After two major challenges occurred during the reporting period (government transition and the persisting impact of COVID-19), the project goals continue to be highly relevant in the Dominican context. Moreover, the project is addressing national priorities strongly connected with the implementing of the National SDG Agenda, and the national strategies for decentralization and mainstreaming of environmental sustainability currently identified in the M. of Environment Strategic Plan and the National Planning Guidelines for the Public Sector. Several of the project activities and the work in the pilot sites are, at present, pilots to test and implement the national environmental and decentralization agenda.

The new authorities (Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, local governments and private sector stakeholders) are following the work done, and there is a good expectation to deliver nature-based good practices and solutions with a strong potential for scaling-up.

COVID-19 affected the project team and continues to affect the work in the field, because of mobility restrictions and long periods of lock down that have impacted the implementation rhythm.

The measures taken during this period, (assessments to understand the socioeconomic impacts among the project beneficiaries in the field, design of

	<p>digital tools to gather information and analysis despite restriction limitations, support to engage with the new government authorities across institutions and private sector partners, development of capacities within the project team and partners, strong guidance and support from the RTA to develop some project components), and the plan and follow up to accelerate the implementation already in progress are critical elements to ensure strong appropriation and engagement among the project partners, and provide creative strategies to move forward successfully.</p> <p>UNDP CO is committed with the success of this initiative and has worked in close coordination with the project team and the Ministry of Environment new focal points, from the first Senior Management meetings to introduce the project and facilitate the flow of information, to the technical work, to address challenges. Different CO teams are providing guidance and technical support (socio-economic recovery, analysis, innovation, SDG localization, commodities, gender), in order contribute to strengthen the work.</p> <p>During the next year several outputs will be in place, and it is expected that a momentum will be achieved.</p>
<b>Project Manager/Coordinator</b>	<p>In its second year of implementation, the project has made significant progress that transcends the barriers imposed by global and local events in this period, getting a strategic redefinition of actions to face new realities and current national priorities. The formalization of corporate-governmental alliances, the implementation of work plans and coordination of activities with key actors and other international cooperation projects, are setting benchmarks for effective synergies that cause entities to recognize the importance and potential of these dynamics that extrapolate the positive impacts on sustainable production, in this case. It could be said that the project puts the Ministry of the Environment at the center among the different partner institutions.</p> <p>Within the current socio-economic and environmental pandemic crisis, the official authorities have recognized the relevance of the advances, contributions and expected results of this project, including them within the presidential goals agenda of new government, specifically those related to the work of strengthening the municipal planning and management for local governance, the establishment of sustainable agroforestry systems, reforestation, and actions for post-COVID-19 economic recovery focused on promoting entrepreneurship from an environmental perspective.</p> <p>Although it must be recognized that due to the impacts of the pandemic, the government's interests are focused exclusively on economic recovery based on the reactivation of tourism and the creation of jobs, for the moment, without a keen emphasis on the sustainability of the actions. However, the project must generate sustainable livelihoods where there is natural capital that must be conserved.</p> <p>Despite the limitations for the implementation of the project's field activities, due to restrictive measures and safety protocols of COVID-19, important technical assistances were developed for to move forward, and gradually it was possible to return to field work, increasing in the best possible way the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project.</p>

	<p>Among the most important achievements made this year in the project, are: 1.) the SESA implementation and its usefulness in defining strategies and decision-making; 2.) preparation of 9 municipal development plans; 3.) conducting surveys at the local level within the framework of UNDP-SEIA for the measurement of the impact of COVID-19 and post-pandemic recovery strategies from the project; 4.) the creation of a data measurement board at the service of municipalities as the basis of the SDG platform that is built under the parameters of CO/UNDP; as well as 5.) the application of a data geoprocessing methodology towards the construction of potential connectivity maps in the areas of intervention; 6.) the creation of the working group on financial mechanisms through which the processes for the design of the mechanism to be implemented by the project in the medium term will be defined; 7.) the endorsement by the Dominican MaB committee of the Mother of Waters Biosphere Reserve Proposal to be submitted to UNESCO; and 8) the articulation between the Ministry of Environment and INDOCAFE for the establishment of sustainable agroforestry systems.</p> <p>Despite it has been a difficult year, with many barriers at all levels (political, social, economic, and environmental), it has been possible to find niches and opportunities to continue working. There are many challenges, of course, but in a general sense the project is penetrating an important space in the national agenda for sustainable production and is taking the necessary steps to serve as a reference for production and conservation policies.</p> <p>In addition to overcoming the delays generated in the project's work program, one of the main challenges for the upcoming year's project will be to align its implementation strategies with the national post-pandemic recovery strategies, and at the same time to promote the continuous recognition of the potential of the project. Another great challenge is fostering effective coordination and continuous dialogue, both outside and inside of the Ministry of Environment, to achieve the expected results in the project.</p>
<b>GEF Operational Focal point</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Project Implementing Partner</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Other Partners</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

## G. Gender

### Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

<p><b>1) Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.</b></p>
<p><a href="#">Annex 24. Diagnostico Genero.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Atlas Gender Marker Rating</b></p>
<p><b>GEN2:</b> gender equality as significant objective</p>
<p><b>2) Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):</b></p>
<p>Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No</p>
<p>Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes</p>
<p>Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes</p>
<p>Not applicable: No</p>
<p><b>3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</b></p>
<p><b>Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.</b></p>
<p>As an effort to incorporate the gender perspective in the project, it has worked to have greater participation and involvement of women in the different activities carried out (Matrix and graph of participation of the activities in annex 11).</p> <p>In Yamasá, the project has supported the process of creating home gardens led by a group of 11 women, leading the preparation of land, the creation of production quarries and short-cycle products planting (Report in annex 69).</p>
<p><b>4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.</b></p>
<p>It is expected to have the gender strategy for the implementation of the project in November 2021</p>

## H. Risk Management

### A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

<p><b>NCE RTA:</b></p> <p>Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in Risk Register and risks included in the project's risk tab in PIMS+ ) undertaken in the reporting period and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project's risk tab in PIMS+.</p>
<p>During the 2021 PIR period (second year of implementation), the Project has been impacted by the challenges of establishing coordination with the new administration (following the election process), COVID, and the increasing impact of climate change. Nevertheless, the Project continued to make progress in its components. However, implementation is slow, and consequently, disbursements are low. Therefore, it is rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS); the risk remains as moderate.</p> <p>The Project is coordinating the highest possible level to speed up coordination with the government. The Project implements a transition strategy to engage the new authorities at the national, provincial, and municipal levels. In the following month, implementation will catch speed as government support increases and the COVID crisis is better managed (vaccination is advancing).</p> <p>The Project alliances are vital to increasing quality implementation rates. i.e., alliances with the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, the Cocoa Department, INDOCAFE, and the Presidential Agroforestry Unit. The Project is also advancing alliances with major commodity buyers (coffee and cocoa). These alliances are critical to advance Outcomes 2 and 3. Besides, virtual means support field-level implementation e.g., virtual training on nursery construction and planting—limited on-site work such as planting, following strict safety protocols. The RTA does not foresee increasing risks that could prevent achieving the project goals if the CO and the Project Team continues to apply adaptive management to implement work plans; and the recommendations of this PIR. Additional direct technical assistance is supporting technical areas such as economic validation and financial mechanisms.</p>

### B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

<p><b>1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</b></p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.</b></p>
<p>As part of the process done during a Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment to identify and develop criteria and policy guidelines to facilitate the sustainable management of threatened mountain landscapes in policy and planning decisions, some previously unidentified risks were detected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistance of producers to change or improve traditional livelihoods to more sustainable ones.</li> <li>• Lack of generational renewal and gender equity in productive activities.</li> <li>• Ineffective and non-inclusive participatory process.</li> <li>• Institutional weakening of producer's associations.</li> </ul>

**2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks become more severe and/or has the project's SESP categorization changed during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.**

Yes

**If any existing social and/or environmental risks have become more severe and/or if the project's SESP categorization has changed during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.**

A change was found in the categorization risk 6: Duty bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project.

This risk increased from low to moderate, according to the SESA evaluation, approached from two aspects: weakness of political and institutional support and low awareness, education, and technical support from state institutions to producers.

- Weakness of political and institutional support at the local level.

Description: This risk has increased from low to moderate, identifying the lack of application of public policies (for example, the increasing number of environmental crimes), and support to establish intersectoral integration between ministries and decentralized management at the local level, including compliance with existing mitigation policies. In addition, the lack of local capacities for constructing environmental statistics was also identified. As a result of a stakeholders consultation, it was highlighted the need of building a robust information system to support decision-making regarding public-environmental nature at the local level (Ministerio de Ambiente).

Responses- The following mitigation measures have been defined:

- a. To create/strengthen local mechanisms for the effective application of current regulations on environmental crimes, with local and national participation (in process of being addressed through the formalization and capacity building of the new Municipal Development Committees).
- b. To establish/strengthen control mechanisms for the accountability processes.
- c. To strengthen the mechanism for complaints of environmental crimes at local and national level, including the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, the Ministerio de Agricultura and local governments (in process of being addressed through the support for establishing the "Línea Verde" environmental violation report system in the pilot sites).
- d. To develop awareness training programs about the legal and institutional framework associated with the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (planned as part of the capacity building strategy).
- e. To prepare/update local land use plans, as an instrument of accurate land use at local level (in process, planned to be completed in 2021).

- Low awareness, education and technical support from state institutions to producers at the local level.

Description: In general, at local level there is a lack of technical support from government, which may affect the project. For example, risk 1.6 related with reforestation actions and the establishment of sustainable livelihoods, due to a lack of extension and support in the supply of vegetative material (plants, seeds).

Responses- The following mitigation measures have been defined:



<p>a. To establish synergies between public authorities and the private sector, supported in the framework of Law 47-20 public-private alliances.</p> <p>b. To improve community nurseries conditions and strengthen public sector plants production nurseries (Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and INDOCAFÉ)</p> <p>c. Encourage women associativity in productive activities</p> <p>d. To design and implement financial and technical support programs for sustainable community production and ventures.</p>
<p><b>3) Have any social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared or updated, and/or has the SESP been updated in the reporting period, as required? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.</b></p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>If yes, please upload the document(s) above using the FILE LIBRARY button. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.</b></p>
<p>Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA) of the project in annex 23.</p>
<p><b>4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential ) during the reporting period?</b></p>
<p>No</p>
<p><b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.</b></p>
<p>No complains have been received regarding the project implementation strategy and workplans.</p> <p>However, as a context related risk, it has been identified a conflict between the Barrick company (gold-silver mine) and the Yamasá community, due to Barrick's plan of building a tailing dam in this municipality. There are different positions about this. The situation could affect the project activity planning at local level (Press release in annex 70).</p>
<p><b>5) Is the preparation and./or implementation of the project's safeguards management plan(s) on track, including monitoring?</b></p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>If no, please explain:</b></p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>

## I. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

<p><b>1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.</b></p>
<p>The project has a communication strategy that can be found in annex 72, logo (in annex 74) and user manual (in annex 73).</p>
<p><b>2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)</b></p>
<p>In this 2nd year of the project, the visibility of the project has manifested itself through the achievements of inter-institutional agreements and the prioritization of the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales in the activities supported by the project. On the other hand, the use of visibility elements such as banners and t-shirts has been noted in the different workshops, as part of the communication strategy (Annex 72 and 73).</p> <p>National press</p> <p>Gobierno lanza Plan de Manejo Integral de Cuencas Hidrográficas Prioritarias que producirá 8,900 empleos verdes este año (June 21, 2021). <a href="https://ambiente.gob.do/gobierno-lanza-plan-de-manejo-integral-de-cuencas-hidrograficas-prioritarias-que-producira-8900-empleos-verdes-este-ano/">https://ambiente.gob.do/gobierno-lanza-plan-de-manejo-integral-de-cuencas-hidrograficas-prioritarias-que-producira-8900-empleos-verdes-este-ano/</a></p> <p>A modernizar el sistema de seguimiento de los planes de desarrollo de los gobiernos locales (May 07, 2021). <a href="https://acento.com.do/actualidad/a-modernizar-el-sistema-de-seguimiento-de-los-planes-de-desarrollo-de-los-gobiernos-locales-8941734.html">https://acento.com.do/actualidad/a-modernizar-el-sistema-de-seguimiento-de-los-planes-de-desarrollo-de-los-gobiernos-locales-8941734.html</a></p> <p>Bomberos forestales de Medio Ambiente mantienen activo plan para prevenir y contrarrestar incendios (April 30, 2021). <a href="https://ambiente.gob.do/bomberos-forestales-de-medio-ambiente-mantienen-activo-plan-para-prevenir-y-contrarrestar-incendios/">https://ambiente.gob.do/bomberos-forestales-de-medio-ambiente-mantienen-activo-plan-para-prevenir-y-contrarrestar-incendios/</a></p> <p>Plan Regional de Ordenamiento y Desarrollo Territorial (March 13, 2021). <a href="https://www.diariolibre.com/opinion/en-directo/plan-regional-de-ordenamiento-y-desarrollo-territorial-IG24991108">https://www.diariolibre.com/opinion/en-directo/plan-regional-de-ordenamiento-y-desarrollo-territorial-IG24991108</a></p> <p>INDOCAFÉ y Medio Ambiente firman alianza para evitar amenazas en paisajes productivos de montaña (February 24, 2021). <a href="https://canal4rd.com/indocafe-y-medio-ambiente-firman-alianza-para-evitar-amenazas-en-paisajes-productivos-de-montana/general/">https://canal4rd.com/indocafe-y-medio-ambiente-firman-alianza-para-evitar-amenazas-en-paisajes-productivos-de-montana/general/</a></p>

INDOCAFÉ y Medio Ambiente buscan evitar amenazas en paisajes productivos de montaña (February 24, 2021). <https://eldia.com.do/indocafe-y-medio-ambiente-buscan-evitar-amenazas-en-paisajes-productivos-de-montana/>

Autoridades firman alianza para evitar amenazas en paisajes productivos de montaña. <https://aguajero.com/autoridades-firman-alianza-para-evitar-amenazas-en-paisajes-productivos-de-montana>

Indocafé y Medio Ambiente firman alianza para evitar amenazas en paisajes productivos de montaña (February 24, 2021). <https://www.elcaribe.com.do/destacado/indocafe-y-medio-ambiente-firman-alianza-para-evitar-amenazas-en-paisajes-productivos-de-montana/>

INDOCAFE y Medio Ambiente firman acuerdo de colaboración Interinstitucional. <http://indocafe.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/460-indocafe-y-medio-ambiente-firman-acuerdo-de-colaboracion-interinstitucional> (february 25, 2021). <http://indocafe.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/460-indocafe-y-medio-ambiente-firman-acuerdo-de-colaboracion-interinstitucional>

In Year 1 of this project, and it is early to communicate impacts. However the project activities have been present in media and public opinion, mainly with the promotion at the national level of the launch of the project and an informative campaign that was developed after this moment.

#### - Launching of the Project

- Initiation workshop
- Introduction of the Project to the communities
- Technical committee meeting
- Introduction of the Project to the Minister of Environment (Annex 11).
- Introduction of the Project to the Ministerio de Agricultura
- Introduction of the Project to the Programa Agroforestal

The presence of the project in the public opinion so far has been through the media, with the promotion at the national level of the launch of the project and the informative dissemination of the project.

#### National Press

#### Launch of the project

MMA and UNDP implement project sustainable management productive landscapes, Your Republic (February 14, 2019) <https://turepublica.com/noticias/mma-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-manejo->

sostenible-paisajes-productivos/

MMA and UNDP implement project for sustainable management of productive landscapes, La Batalla (February 14)

<https://labatallainformativa.com/2019/02/14/mma-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-para-manejo-sostenible-de-paisajes-productivos/>

A project is implemented for the sustainable management of productive landscapes, Newspaper Hoy (February 15, 2019)

<https://hoy.com.do/implementan-proyecto-para-manejo-sostenible-de-paisajes-productivos/>

MA and UNDP execute project sustainable management productive landscapes, Proceso.com (February 14, 2019)

<https://proceso.com.do/2019/02/14/ma-y-UNDP-ejecutan-proyecto-manejo-sostenible-paisajes-productivos/>

Ministry of the Environment and UNDP implement a project for the sustainable management of productive landscapes, Descifrandolanoticia.com (February 14, 2019)

<http://descifrandolanoticia.com/ministerio-medio-ambiente-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-para-manejo-sostenible-de-paisajes-productivos>

Ministry of the Environment and UNDP implement a project for the sustainable management of productive landscapes, Actualidad.com (February 14, 2019).

<https://actualidad.com.do/ministerio-medio-ambiente-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-para-manejo-sostenible-de-paisajes-productivos/>

Environment and UNDP implement project for sustainable management of landscapes, Notiassin.com (February 15, 2019)

<https://notiassin.com/ambiente-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-para-manejo-sostenible-de-paisajes/>

Authorities implement project for sustainable management of productive landscapes, El Nuevo Diario.com (February 14, 2019)

<https://elnuevodiario.com.do/autoridades-implementan-proyecto-para-manejo-sostenible-de-paisajes-productivos/>

Authorities implement project for the sustainable management of productive landscapes, Reporterosonlineard.com (February 14, 2019)

<http://www.reporterosonlineard.com/2019/02/autoridades-implementan-proyecto-para-manejo->

sostenible-de-paisajes-productivos/

Local press

Neiba:

<https://ggnoticias.com/desarrollaran-proyecto-conservacion-efectiva-de-bienes-y-servicios-ecosistemas-de-montanas-sierra-de-neiba/>

<https://elnuevodiario.com.do/UNDP-y-medio-ambiente-socializan-con-actores-proyecto-de-conservacion-se-implementara-en-sierra-de-neiba/>

San José de Ocoa:

<https://ocoainformativa.net/ocoa-medio-ambiente-y-UNDP-dan-a-conocer-proyecto-conservacion-efectiva-de-bienes-y-servicios-ecosistemas-en-paisajes-de-montanas-amenazados/>

On the same manner, a section was also created on the websites of the Ministry of Environment and UNDP to publish information on the project. Below are the main reference links.

The description of the project can be found on the official website of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources

<https://ambiente.gob.do/proyectos/>

Publicacions of the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=265461551066218>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ambienterd/status/1096048301521154048>

Página Oficial: <https://ambiente.gob.do/ministerio-medio-ambiente-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-para-manejo-sostenible-de-paisajes-productivos/>

UNDP Project presentation web page:

Oficial site:

[https://www.do.undp.org/content/dominican\\_republic/es/home/presscenter/articles/2019/ministerio-medio-ambiente-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-para-manej.html](https://www.do.undp.org/content/dominican_republic/es/home/presscenter/articles/2019/ministerio-medio-ambiente-y-UNDP-implementan-proyecto-para-manej.html)

**3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.**

[Annex 72. Estrategia de comunicación y visibilidad BPP.pdf](#)

[Annex 73. Manual de uso BPP.pdf](#)

[Annex 74. LOGOTIPO BIODIVERSIDAD EN PAISAJES PRODUCTIVOS.pdf](#)

[Annex 75. Fact sheet\\_Ficha Paisaje Productivo\\_1 sept.pdf](#)

[Annex 76. Branding Stationery Mock BPP.jpg](#)

[Annex 77. CAMISETA.jpg](#)

## J. Stakeholder Engagement

**(A) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.**

**(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.**

**(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.**

(A) It has been a great challenge to get the different institutions to assume the commitment towards the project, considering the process of governmental change and structure within the governmental institutions in this reporting period, however, good progress has been made that is manifested through inter-institutional agreements and expression of interest towards the project activities. (B) The stakeholder engagement report is found in annex 71.

## K. Annex - Ratings Definitions

### Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

### Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.