



FUNDING PROPOSAL TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Ouémé Basin Climate-Resilience Initiative (OCRI) Benin

ANNEX 11 Monitoring and evaluation plan

2021

Republic of Bénin

Monitoring			
Data/Source	Collection Tool	Frequency	Indicator
Project administration and annual reporting	<i>Public expenditure reporting</i>	<i>Annual</i>	
Data on changes in people's resilience to CC	<i>Survey/questionnaire</i>	<i>Baseline, Midline, Endline</i>	<i>Number of males and females benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options (including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.)</i>
Data on land restoration	<i>GIS data</i>	<i>Baseline, Midline, Endline</i>	<i>Coverage/scale of ecosystems protected and strengthened in response to climate variability and change</i>
Data on new regulatory systems supporting adaptation	<i>Document review</i>	<i>Midline, endline</i>	<i>Institutional and regulatory systems that improve incentives for climate resilience and their effective implementation</i>
Data on changes in adaptive capacities	<i>Survey/questionnaire</i>	<i>Baseline, Midline, endline</i>	<i>Use by vulnerable households, communities, businesses and public-sector services of Fund-supported tools instruments, strategies and activities to respond to climate change and variability</i>
Data on climate change awareness	<i>Survey/questionnaire</i>	<i>Baseline Midline, endline</i>	<i>Number of males and females made aware of climate threats and related appropriate responses</i>
Monitoring Specialist			

The project monitoring will be conducted by the Monitoring Specialist of the Project Management Unit; he will be hired for 72 months, at a total cost of USD 129,600.

Evaluation			
Type	Timing	Independent/Self-evaluation	Indicative Budget (US\$)
<i>Process</i>	Biodiversity baseline, during inception of the project (to inform reforestation) + SHARP analysis (for climate change vulnerability)	Independent	150,000+ 50,000 = 200,000
<i>Process</i>	Mid-term evaluation	Self-Assessment	124,800
<i>Process</i>	Terminal evaluation	Independent	218,890
<i>Impact</i>	Impact assessment study	Independent	350,000
<i>Total</i>			898,690

Brief description of the OCRI-Benin Monitoring and Evaluation System

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with FAO policies. FAO will ensure the existence of a well-designed, operational and effective impact monitoring and measurement system to analyse and quantify the causal and attributable change, the contribution and the overall causal results of the project. This will include the implementation of a monitoring system to understand efficacy, targeting and verifying the assumptions that the program is making, as well as implementing a learning plan so elements emerging from the monitoring systems can feed back into the project implementation and planning Outcomes.

A dedicated project Unit, which will include a National Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, the Project Coordinator, thematic specialists and project field staff, will be responsible to implement the M&E system, which will be designed under Component 3 of the project.

Project components will be monitored separately as well as in relation to the achievement of higher level project results and overall GCF goals. For field-level monitoring, the project will make use of a software package that combines (1) individual farm planning through farm surveys and FarmTree App (in which farmers can fill in their plot cover plan and review projected production and revenues from value chains) (2) landscape / project level reporting (in which farmers' plot plans, geodata, a smallholder farm model and machine learning estimate project impact on livelihoods, finances, and environment such as carbon, soil conservation, etc.). (3) During the foreseen participatory capacity development activities (farmers field schools, business schools) participants will be taught how to use a mobile app to plan climate-resilient farming, and that communicates to a commune or project M&E unit about achievements, and feedback. Such a data stream is complementary to more classical data collection methods such as surveys and focus group discussions, expert interviews, etc. that provide more qualitative data. The project places particular attention on ensuring the monitoring of differential impacts by sex, age and vulnerability, especially monitoring project components relevant to women and more vulnerable populations; for example by including tree/crop species particularly important for women's and vulnerable groups' access to livelihoods products or value chains; and following women to assess if they indeed increase their resilience through these.

FAO will complete an initial baseline assessment using SHARPE tool, carried out during the project inception phase, as well as the mid-line and end-line surveys. At the baseline, a certain

number of reference plots will be identified that will be followed during the project period for plot cover. Mid-line and end-line surveys will be inputs for the preparation of semiannual reports as well as for the mid-term and the final evaluation.

Other reporting informed by the project monitoring system will include monthly reports, the Annual Operational Plan, the semiannual and annual progress reports for the government, cooperation agency and FAO. Both during the M&E process, and during the feedback meetings on project results, both national and municipal authorities and farmers representatives will be involved.

Within the monitoring system, detailed articulation will be ensured between the Project workplan and the action plans for gender, indigenous people, biodiversity and the social and environmental framework to safeguard and ensure a comprehensive and holistic monitoring system, besides the quantitative (resilience, business) impact monitoring.

The day-to-day project monitoring and implementation responsibility rests with a national recruited Coordinator who will lead the PMU. S/he will be supported by a monitoring and evaluation specialist, who will lead the PMU's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. The M&E Specialist will coordinate the annual work plans to ensure the efficient implementation of the project. The Coordinator will inform FAO Country Office of any delays or difficulties during implementation, including M&E plan, so that appropriate and corrective measures can be adopted. The National Coordinator will ensure that all project staff maintain a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in monitoring and reporting project results. FAO will support the National Coordinator as needed, including through annual monitoring missions. Additional M&E and implementation quality assurance and troubleshooting support will be provided by FAO as needed. The Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC), project beneficiaries and stakeholders will be involved as much as possible in project-level M&E; both through quantitative reporting through the app, and through face-to-face interviews.

A project inception workshop will be implemented in order to: a) orient project stakeholders to the project strategy and discuss any change in the overall context that might influence implementation; b) discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting and communication lines; c) review the results framework and discussion, present in detail the Theory of Change of the project, reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities, and to finalize the M&E plans; d) review financial reporting requirements; and e) planning and scheduling of M&E meetings; and f) finalize the first year work plan. The workshop will generate an inception report that will be presented and approved by FAO.

The National Coordinator and FAO will provide inputs to the Annual Report for each year of implementation. The National Coordinator and the M&E Specialist will ensure that the indicators in the results framework are monitored annually through the online tools and other procedures. The annual performance reports will be due at GCF 60 days after the end of each calendar year. The final project annual report and the terminal evaluation report will serve as the final project report package.

Evaluation Process

In accordance with the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) between FAO and GCF, the FAO Office of Evaluation will be responsible for the independent interim and final evaluations. The

evaluations will be conducted using (a) data on expected and realized changes in land use and agriculture practices (b) derived impact in climate resilience of livelihoods of the target groups (according to a agro-ecological and socio-economic farm model) (c) working back through the Theory of Change why farmers adopt changes using a question-driven approach, and may include assessments of project activities against the criteria of relevance, effectiveness and sustainability, among others. The interim evaluation will be instrumental in contributing – through operational and strategic recommendations – to improving implementation, setting out any necessary corrective measures for the remaining period of the project in order to achieve the results. The final evaluation will assess the relevance of the intervention, its overall performance, as well as sustainability and scalability of results, differential impacts and lessons learned. The evaluation should also assess the extent to which the intervention has contributed to the Fund's higher-level goal of achieving a paradigm shift in adaptation to climate change in Benin; particularly the market-driven development of resilience approach. The evaluation will draw on mixed-methods, using quantitative approaches (self-implemented farm surveys) and qualitative methods (e.g. participatory rural appraisal) in combination with counterfactual analysis, with the help of reliable control group data from the project's baseline and endline surveys. In addition to primary data collected by participating farmers and the evaluators and secondary national data, both interim and final evaluations will draw on the monitoring reports and activities prepared by project staff. Attention will focus on assessing how the project developed capacities within the three dimensions: enabling environment, organizations and individuals. This will be important to ensure the sustainability, scalability and replicability of the project over time.

The interim evaluation will be undertaken when delivery reaches 50% of the initial total budget or mid-point of scheduled project duration. The independent Final Evaluation will be launched within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE) of the project.

Methodologies for monitoring and reporting of the key outcomes of the project

An overview of the methodologies for monitoring and reporting on the key outcomes of the project will be elaborated in a detailed Monitoring Plan that will be included as part of the Project Inception Report. The project foresees the use of innovative software solutions to link project achievements with impact as per GCF (or more general: Sustainable Development Goal) indicators. The first activity will be to verify and update the baseline information included in this proposal (section E of the FP). Monitoring activities will be overseen by the PMU's M&E Specialist. Monitoring of impacts and results will be guided by the Logical Framework, which will be the basis for a Performance Management Framework. Monitoring of results will take place on a quarterly basis, with the TOUs providing input to the M&E Specialist.

Monitoring the progress toward the project outcomes will be supported through a series of studies to be undertaken during the project. A combination of on-farm 'continuous' (sex-disaggregated) surveying with digital tool, geodata tracking, and field-level interviews and surveys will be implemented to assess changes in climate change vulnerability and uptake of project-supported interventions. Monitoring of the implementation of farm plans by beneficiary farmers (sex-disaggregated) will enable the tracking of uptake of climate resilient agricultural practices within agroforestry systems. The farm plans will include clear and precise indicators for soil quality, water availability, production quality and quantity, number of trees planted. Project M&E staff gather this

information once a month with the assistance of farmers and community extension agents. In-depth analysis will be done through geodata analysis of reference plots, and extrapolation to the rest of the project target area. It is even possible to track changes beyond the project target areas that may be implemented as a result of trickle-down, or by other projects / initiatives. Such information will be consolidated in the mid-term review of the project. It will also allow the visualization of the impact of extreme weather events on treated and non-treated areas, both in maintenance of crop yields, and in improvements in water regulation in production landscapes; uptake of rainwater harvesting activities, and improvements in water quality. To corroborate the information, measurements will be made on the farms to verify the information collected in the plans.

Changes in regulatory frameworks will be monitored by tracking and assessing efficiency of new or updated policy instruments and decision-making mechanisms

Also, the following points of interest are to be considered as part of the M&E:

- i) The monitoring and evaluation will focus on the measurement of the results attributable to the project as a consequence of the implementation of measures and practices for adaptation to climate change, as well as, the impact on the harmonization of policies at territorial level.
- ii) Based on farm plans and adaptation practices outside farms, the lines of action for monitoring and evaluation will be established to collect qualitative and quantitative information and evaluate the effect of actions in the process of adaptation to climate change. In this process, the project will directly involve the beneficiary producers as key actors in the execution, monitoring and evaluation process.
- iii) The project will have monitoring and evaluation specialists who will be responsible for the preparation of the means of verification (surveys and analysis) and internal and external coordination (stakeholders). The results of the monitoring process will serve as a basis for the evaluation processes of the project and the decision making for the incidence in public policy.

At the end of the project, an external evaluation of the impact of the project is expected. With this evaluation, the magnitude of the impacts and the determination of the causal factors underlying the impacts will be identified and quantified.