Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



E&S Safeguards in GCF Funding Proposals

Challenges, Good Practices & Lessons Learned during Implementation

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FAO-GCF Partnership: USD 2 billion

31 FAO-led Funding Proposals (FP)

Region	# projects
AFR	10
APAC	6
EECM	5
LAC	10

Cross-cutting 52%

Armenia, Benin, Cuba, El Salvador, Fiji, the Gambia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, Serbia, Sudan, SURAGGWA multi-country Prog.

Adaptation 26%

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Jordan, Pakistan, Saint Lucia, Somalia

Mitigation 22%

Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Papua New Guinea, Uganda

FP: USD 1.8 billion

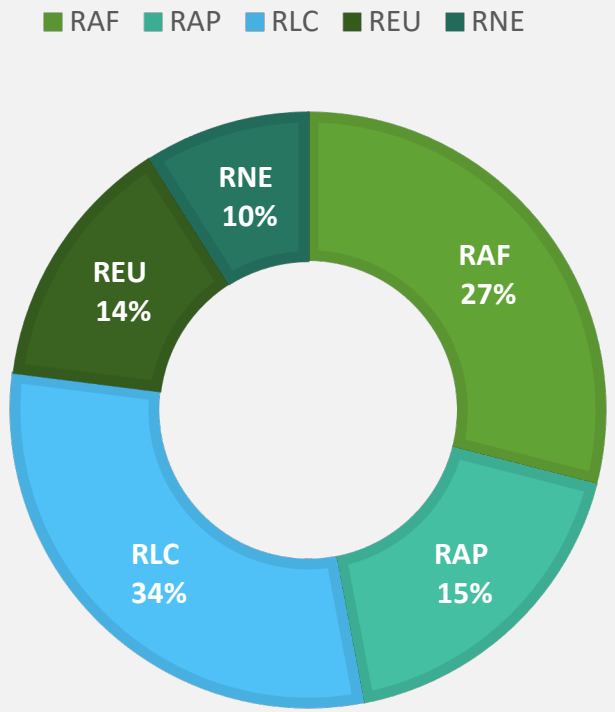
9 projects as an Executing Entity

(led by other AEs)

- Central America (6 countries)
- Ecuador
- Mozambique
- Palestine
- Paraguay
- South Sudan
- Tajikistan
- Timor-Leste
- Zambia

USD 89 M

117 Readiness grants



Readiness: USD 103 M

GCF Portfolio: Climate action in numbers



Beneficiaries | 63 million



Tonnes of emissions avoided | 67 million



Hectares of land restored | 3.8 million



Investments in Least Developed Countries | USD 509 million



REDD+ Results-based payment projects | USD 268 million



Investments in Small Island Developing States | USD 303 million

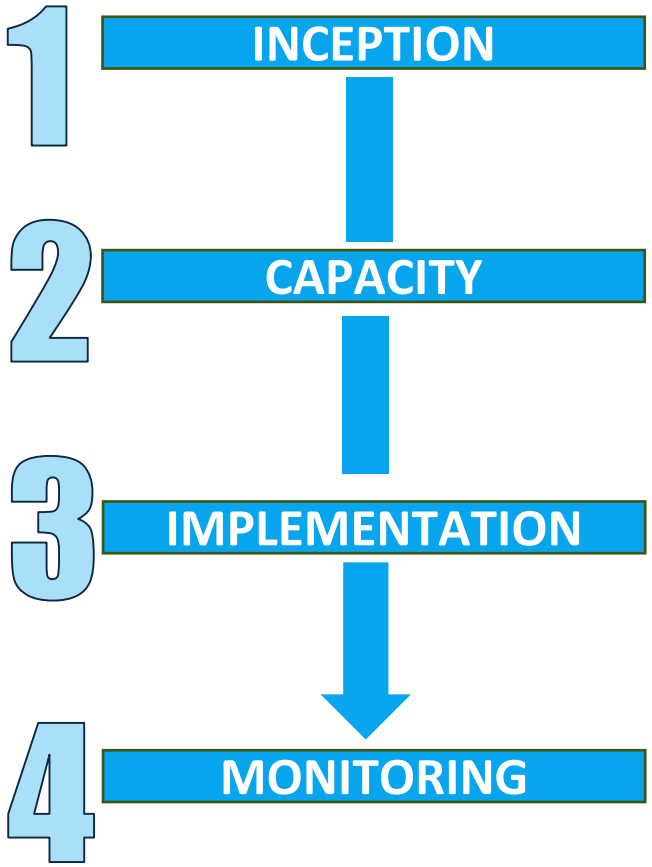
Common ESS Challenges

Institutional Readiness	Operationalization
Clarity on FAA related clauses	Lengthy preparation of ESS instruments
Implementation readiness (planning, dedicated staff, procurement, budget)	Misalignment between requirements and field needs (site-specific ESMPs/clearance)

Monitoring & Adaptive Management	Stakeholder Accountability
Compliance-focused monitoring Limited baseline data & outcome indicators	GRM awareness and formal submissions Disclosure and documentation gaps
Inadequate templates and tracking tools limiting AM	IP engagement complexity

Procurement & Contracts	Adequate ESS dedicated resources
Integration of ESS requirements into procurement contracts & agreements	Limited resource planning for ESS

Good Practices that Support ESS Performance



Early ESS Operationalization

- ESS Roadmap agreed during inception
- Integration of ESS into AWPBs and implementation planning

Capacity Building and Support

- Tailored and regular training for PMU, implementing partners and communities (including GRM & engagements logs)
- Safeguards support missions & establish tech platform with ESS specialists

Strengthening ESS Management

- Adopt improved templates and intervention-specific ESMPs (living management tools)
- Clear procedures for data collection, reporting and integration in contracts

Digitalization and Local Ownership

- Digital and georeferenced monitoring tools
- Beneficiary registries and digital tracking systems
- Indigenous community promoters supporting engagement
- Farmer Field Schools as safeguards dissemination platforms

Successful ESS Implementation

LEADERSHIP

→Strong PMU commitment and ownership

→ Early coordination among AE, EEs and Government counterparts

SUPPORT

→ Continuous ESS technical support

→ Tailored ESS instruments and tools

→ Integration of safeguards within routine project activities

SYSTEMS

→ Community-based approaches for outreach and engagement

→ Digital tools supporting monitoring and reporting

→ Flexibility to adjust safeguards measures as implementation evolved

Key Lessons Learned

- **Strong inception is critical** to implementation success.
- **Tailor ESS instruments** to enable continuous updates and adaptive management.
- **Combine compliance and outcome indicators**, supported by robust baseline data.
- **Resource ESS from the outset**, with dedicated expertise and clearly defined budgets.
- **Document ESS value beyond compliance**, including broader environmental and social outcomes.
- **Engage IPs flexibly**, using context-specific approaches.

ESS are most effective when embedded in project planning, implementation & decision-making processes, rather than treated as a standalone compliance requirement

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Thank you!

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