FP026

Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar

Madagascar

April 2022

Interim Evaluation Report

This report presents the Interim Evaluation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded project “Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar”. The evaluation was independently commissioned by the Accredited Entity (AE), Conservation International, and submitted to GCF. GCF assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report.

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ACRONYMS

AE	**Accredited Entity**
APR	Annual Progress Report
BNCC	Bureau National des Changements Climatiques
BNGRC	National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (by its initials in French)
CAZ	Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor
CCTF	Climate Change Trust Fund
CI	Conservation International
COFAV	Ambositra Vondrozo Forest Corridor
Covid-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DRAEPs	Regional Directorate of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (by its initials in French)
DREDD	Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development (by its initials in French)
DRES	Director of Environmental Regulation and Safety (by its initials in French)
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EIB	European Investment Bank
FAA	Funded Activity Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FOLUR	Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration
FP	Funding Proposal
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases

GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Development Agency (by its initials in German)
GoM	Government of Madagascar
IIE	Interim Independent Evaluation
IT	Information Technology
LORTA	Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MATSF	Ministry of Land Use Planning and Land Services (by its initials in French)
MEDD	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (by its initials in French)
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
Mt CO2	Metric tons of carbon dioxide
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NCE	No-Cost Extension
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PMC	Project Management Cost
PMF	Performance Management Framework
PMU	Project Management Unit
PrAda	Project Adaptation of Agricultural Value Chains to Climate Change
PRF	Project Results Framework
PSC	Project Steering Committee
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RMF	Result Management Framework

SLEM	Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
TF	Trust Fund
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
USD	United States Dollar



Executive Summary

The purpose of this Interim Independent Evaluation is to assess the relevance, effectiveness, impact, efficiency and sustainability of the project "Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar" (GCF FP026) during its first three and a half years of implementation (May 2018–December 2021). The evaluation seeks to promote accountability and transparency and facilitate learning and adaptive management. The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), overseen by the Accredited Entity, Conservation International (CI-GCF), and executed by Conservation International Madagascar in coordination with the Bureau National de Coordination des Changements Climatiques, du Carbone et de la REDD+ of the Government of Madagascar. The project aims to implement sustainable landscape measures to improve the resilience of climate-vulnerable smallholder farmers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation. The evaluation was conducted between November 2021 and March 2022. It used a mixed-methods approach, combining a document review, interviews and field missions to collect qualitative and quantitative data. A summary of the findings is provided below:

Relevance

The project remains relevant and aligned with Madagascar's national and subnational priorities. Its design combined landscape and national action, adaptation and mitigation, and public- and private-sector mechanisms, but the logical framework was overly detailed, and some indicators did not adequately capture intermediate outcomes. EIB's withdrawal removed the energy and private-finance components, reducing the project's national-level impact, scalability and financial sustainability while leaving the core landscape rationale intact. Coordination with other initiatives is effective, gender analysis has supported broadly equal participation, and the project's M&E system and LORTA support strengthen the evidence base beyond the formal results framework.

Effectiveness

The project has made significant progress, meeting three of four outcome-level targets and 19 of 25 assessable output-level targets (76%), with strongest performance in A8, followed by A7 and M9; A5 lags. Output quality is good, and positive results were achieved despite remoteness, insecurity, COVID-19, climatic shocks, limited national ownership and weak law enforcement, supported by strong policy alignment and engagement from regional authorities and communities.

Impact

The project is on target for all six assessable fund-level impact indicators and is contributing to the expected paradigm shift, although evidence on causal pathways remains incomplete. Its lead-farmer, communication and drone-based approaches are innovative, and the conservation agreement model and promoted practices have replication potential. However, EIB's withdrawal and slow progress on the CCTF constrain broader scale-up and national-level impact.

Efficiency

By 31 December 2021, the project had used 33% of its revised budget after 73% of the planned implementation period, while mobilising 113% of planned co-financing. Project management costs represented 23% of expenditure, above the planned 14%, largely because COVID-19 reduced field spending while management costs continued. Governance, supervision, risk management, adaptive management, grievance handling and M&E are generally effective, particularly at regional and local levels; national-level coordination and expenditure management require improvement.

Sustainability

Landscape-level sustainability is likely because of strong local ownership, integration into local planning, adoption of climate-smart practices, diversified production and improving market links. Risks remain in remote and insecure areas and where access to finance and markets is weak. National-level sustainability is less certain because EIB's withdrawal removed key financial mechanisms, the CCTF is not fully established, and national stakeholder ownership is limited, although knowledge-management efforts should support continued learning.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions above, the evaluation has the following recommendations.

Table 1: Summary of recommendations and responsible parties

No	Recommendation	Responsible party
1	Develop and submit a no-cost extension proposal	CI-GCF
2	Revise the logical framework and results framework	CI-GCF, CI Madagascar
3	Strengthen communication with the National Designated Authority and the MEDD	CI Madagascar and BNCCREDD+
4	Adjust the financial management of the funds related to A5.1 and A5.2	CI Madagascar and BNCCREDD+
5	Clarify and develop the Climate Change Trust Fund	GCF, GoM, CI-GCF and CI Madagascar
6	Strengthen the involvement of national level stakeholders	CI Madagascar, DRES and MATSF
7	Strengthen tailored technical guidance on crops and agricultural practices	CI Madagascar and Ministry of Agriculture

1. Introduction

1.1 Evaluation Mandate

Evaluation objectives and scope

This report presents the findings of the Interim Independent Evaluation (IIE) of the project "Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar", which is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and overseen by the Accredited Entity Conservation International (CI). The IIE was commissioned by CI and conducted by Baastel, an independent consultancy firm, between November 2021 and March 2022. In particular, the IIE was conducted by an international consultant, acting as lead evaluator (Jon Garcia), and a national evaluator (Alivony Ravelomanantsoa). CI provided key documentation, assisted in connecting with relevant stakeholders and assured the quality of the report, providing feedback to all the deliverables.

The IIE aims to promote accountability and transparency and to identify lessons and recommendations that can improve future performance. CI will use it primarily as a monitoring and adaptive management tool to identify challenges and corrective actions needed to achieve the project's objectives by its completion date (May 2025, if the no-cost extension proposal to be submitted in May 2022 is approved). CI will share the report with the National Designated Authority (NDA) of the Government of Madagascar (GoM), the project team, partners and other relevant stakeholders. The project will also prepare a French factsheet for partners and stakeholders and share it during the Project Steering Committee meeting in Q2 2022. The findings and recommendations will inform adaptive management and annual strategic and operational planning, including the proposed no-cost extension and restructuring proposal. The GCF Secretariat will use the report for portfolio monitoring, while the GCF Independent Evaluation Unit may use it to identify recurring issues across the GCF portfolio.

This evaluation assesses the relevance, effectiveness, impact and efficiency of the project and the sustainability of its results, following the guidance of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC)[1]. As explained below, an evaluation matrix (Annex 1) was developed as a guiding tool for this IIE, which identifies the specific dimensions and questions to be addressed under each evaluation criterion.

[1] The Terms of References (ToR) refer to eight evaluation criteria (i.e., relevance, coherence, gender equity, country ownership, innovativeness, replication and scalability, monitoring and evaluation and unexpected results) and 57 evaluation questions. In order to make the evaluation more effective these eight criteria were reorganised into the five mentioned evaluation criteria. This reorganisation was discussed and approved in the inception phase. Transition from eight to five criteria is explained in Figure 2: Theory of change as in the funding proposal in Annex 2: Restructuring of the evaluation matrix.

Methodology

The evaluation followed a structured process of data collection and analysis, taking into account the guidelines and procedures established in the *draft GCF Evaluation Policy*, the *GCF guidance on conflicts of interest in evaluation* and the *UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluations*. It adopted a participatory approach to consult a broad range of stakeholders and capture the perspectives of people and institutions relevant to the project. This broad coverage, together with the systematic data collection and analysis set out in the evaluation matrix, helped mitigate bias throughout the evaluation.

Inception phase

To prepare the inception report, the evaluation team conducted a preliminary review of project documents and held remote interviews with staff from CI Madagascar and CI-GCF on 17 and 18 November 2021, respectively. These activities informed the updated Theory of Change (ToC) and the evaluation matrix (Annex 1), which sets out the evaluation questions, relevant qualitative and quantitative indicators, information sources and data-collection methods for each criterion. The Accredited and Executing Entities validated these inputs during a remote inception workshop on 29 November 2021. The team then prepared the inception report, incorporating feedback from the workshop.

Data collection and analysis

Data collection took place from 13 December 2021 to 4 February 2022. The evaluation team conducted an in-depth desk review of documents provided at inception, additional information supplied by the Project Management Unit (PMU), and relevant policy documents. Annex 3 contains the full list of documents reviewed. In parallel, the team conducted semi-structured interviews with 32 project stakeholders, individually or in groups as appropriate, using the questionnaires in the Inception Report as a guide. Interviewees included the GCF National Designated Authority in Madagascar, the Accredited Entity, the Executing Entity, the PMU, and selected national- and local-level stakeholders (see Annex 3). Interviews were conducted in Malagasy, French or English via Zoom, Teams, telephone or in person, depending on stakeholders' access to communication technologies. In coordination with the team leader, the national consultant conducted field missions to the Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor (CAZ) from 12 to 16 December 2021 and to the Ambositra Vondrozo Forest Corridor (COFAV) from 11 to 15 January 2022. These missions included key-informant interviews and focus-group discussions with regional, municipal and community stakeholders, including mayors, regional coordinators and local beneficiaries. Throughout data collection, particularly during field interviews and focus groups, the team integrated gender considerations, sought adequate representation of women and ensured that women had

opportunities to share their views. The team maintained regular communication with the PMU to schedule interviews and clarify the information provided.

The data collected were then systematized and matched with the evaluation questions included in the evaluation matrix. For each question, data from different sources were triangulated to ensure that evaluation findings are grounded in evidence and reflect the perspectives of different stakeholders. Based on the findings thus obtained, project results were assessed against the project's results framework and against the ToC, which was used as a reference to assess progress toward impacts and the relevance of the intervention model. On February 11, 2022, preliminary findings were presented to CI GCF and CI Madagascar.

Reporting

This report was prepared considering the feedback received at the presentation of preliminary findings. The report includes a short overview of the project (Section 2.1), the updated ToC of the project (Section 2.2), strategic evaluation findings for each of the evaluation criteria (Section 3), as well as conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations (Section 4).

Limitations of the IIE

The evaluation is largely qualitative. Quantitative information was used mainly to assess the project’s financial performance and progress against the project results framework (PRF), where relevant. This is appropriate given the project’s focus and the interim nature of the evaluation. All targeted stakeholder groups were reached, and the evidence was triangulated across sources.

1.2 Project Overview

The Green Climate Fund project FP026 "**Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar**" is overseen by the accredited entity Conservation International. The European Investment Bank (EIB) was initially proposed as co-accredited entity but was not able to develop a Funding Activity Agreement (FAA) and formally withdrew in June 2020. CI Madagascar serves as the executing entity, in coordination with the Bureau National de Coordination des Changements Climatiques, du Carbone et de la REDD+ (BNCCREDD+) of the Government of Madagascar. Althelia Climate Fund GP Sarl (Althelia) was initially included as a third executing partner, but with the withdrawal of the EIB they no longer have a role in the project. The FAA between CI and GCF became active in May 2018, and the first disbursement was received in July 2018.

The project aims to implement sustainable landscape measures to improve the resilience of climate-vulnerable smallholder farming families, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and leverage private-sector climate investment. The five outcomes originally planned for the project were:

1. Strengthening the adaptive capacity of smallholders and reduced exposure to climate risks
2. Strengthening awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes
3. Strengthening institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development
4. Increased number of low-emission power suppliers
5. Improved management of land and forest contributing to emissions reduction

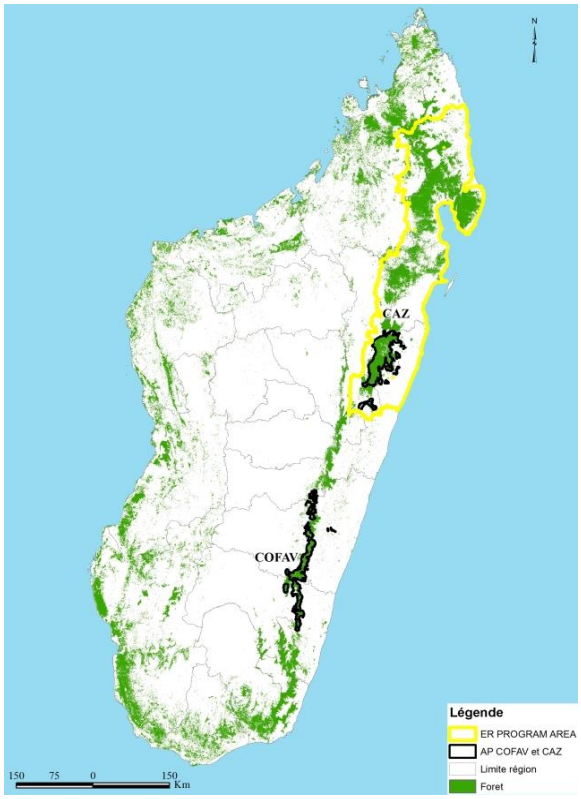
EIB's withdrawal removed activities related to Outcome 4 on low-emission energy production and, more importantly, the mobilisation of large-scale private-sector finance. Consequently, the project shifted from a mixed public-private model to a grant-funded public-sector model. Its overall objective—to increase the climate resilience of vulnerable populations and reduce emissions in Madagascar—remained unchanged, but targets for direct beneficiaries and emissions reductions were lowered because several activities were no longer implemented. GCF resources were reduced from USD 40.7 million to USD 18.5 million. The effect on the implementation of CI's components was expected to be limited and addressed through minor adjustments, although the withdrawal substantially reduced the project's national financing, replication and sustainability mechanisms.

The project is implemented in the landscapes of the Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor (CAZ) and the Ambositra Vondrozo Forest Corridor (COFAV), both located in Eastern Madagascar (see Figure 1).[2] The original geographical scope included surrounding semi-urban and urban communities, yet due to the withdrawal of the EIB the geographical scope is now limited to the CAZ and COFAV corridors. These corridors were selected as they have large populations of highly vulnerable smallholder farmers and experience extreme weather events that are projected to get worse. Moreover, they

[2] Ministry of Environment, Ecology and forests and Conservation International, Road Map - The contribution of the Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar Project (GCF FP026) to Madagascar's National REDD+ implementation arrangements, 2018.

contain some of the last remaining intact primary forest areas in the country and host local communities who depend heavily on natural forests for income generation, building materials and other services. Lastly, they both contain agricultural systems and landscapes which offer significant potential for the broad-scale adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and the concurrent increases in adaptive capacity, mitigation, and improved agricultural production. Indeed, these landscapes were identified in Madagascar's National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as priority areas for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Figure 1: Madagascar with CAZ and COFAV corridors



The project operates at several levels. At community level, it works directly with vulnerable smallholder farmers, providing tools and inputs, such as seeds and training, to support the adoption of sustainable and climate-smart agricultural techniques through a gender-sensitive, participatory approach. It also raises awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes and promotes improved land and forest management to counter deforestation. This includes strengthening local rights to use forest resources, reforestation, forest monitoring and patrols. The project works with fokontany chiefs and mayors at local level and with regional institutions on climate-responsive planning and development. At national level, it supports the establishment of a Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF) to receive and coordinate bilateral, multilateral and private donor support for government-prioritised climate adaptation and mitigation measures, including the identification of long-term funding sources.

The original estimated completion date of the project is May 2028, yet the lifespan duration was reduced from ten to seven years following EIB's withdrawal, meaning the project will end in May 2025, if the proposed No Cost Extension to address COVID-related implementation delays is approved.

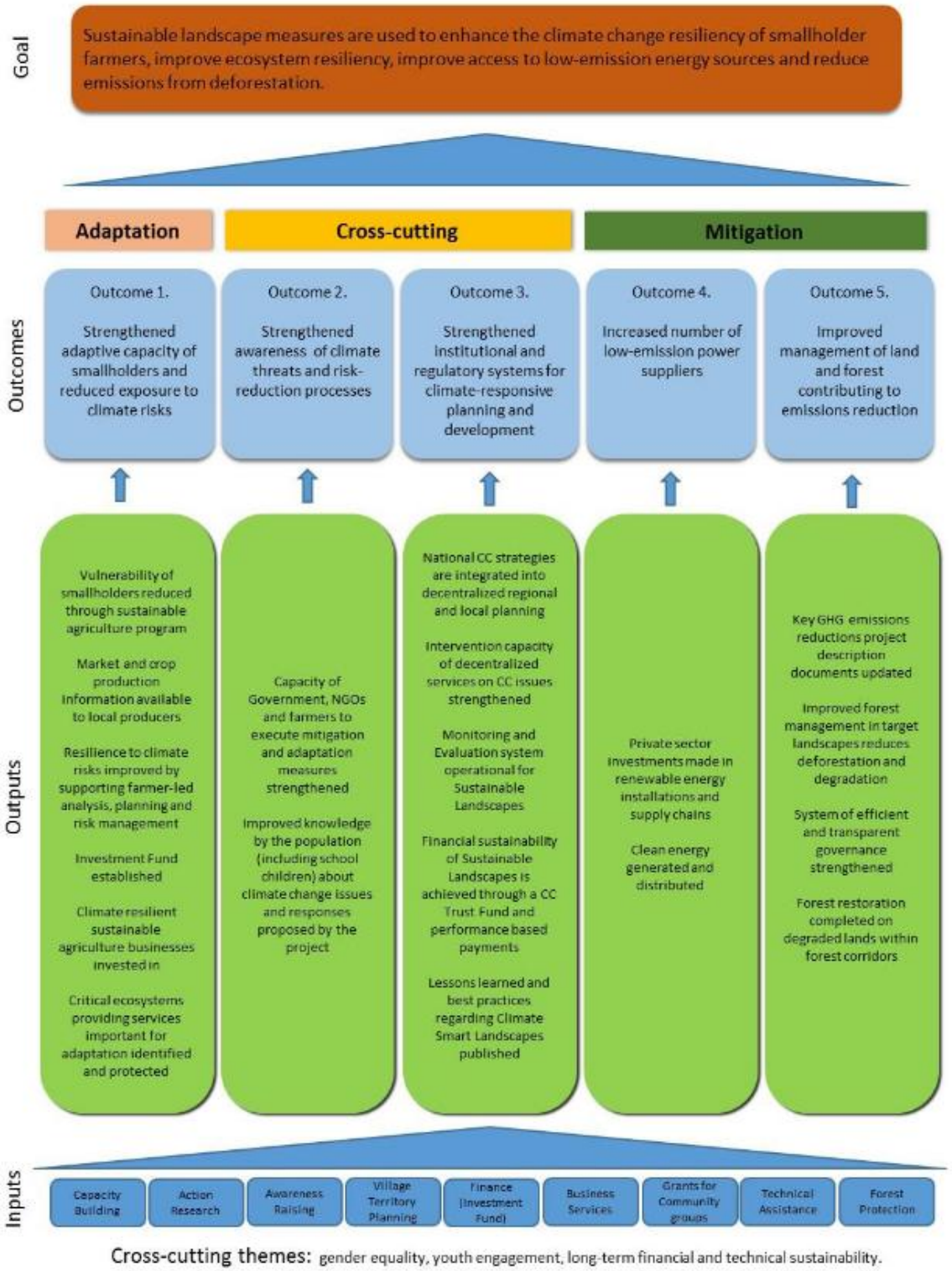
Updated Theory of Change

The Theory of Change as presented in the funding proposal (FP) of project FP026 (see Figure 2) presents the projected results chain from the inputs, the outputs and outcomes to the final objective. Nine inputs were identified, namely capacity building, action research, awareness raising, village territory planning, finance (investment fund), business services, grants for community groups, technical assistance and forest protection. However, several of the inputs, such as action research, awareness raising and village territory planning, are rather outputs as they are what the activities carried out by using the inputs will deliver. Moreover, some of the inputs will not be provided as the EIB withdrew from the project.
The following phase is depicted by listing nineteen outputs which feed into five outcomes, either belonging to the adaptation, mitigation or cross-cutting categorization. Again several outputs and outcomes will not be pursued due to the withdrawal of the EIB, as explained in the previous chapter. Some outputs are also rather described as outcomes such as 'vulnerability of smallholders reduced through sustainable agriculture programme'. Other outputs are duplicated such as the ones relating to the strengthening of governance present in outcomes 2 and 5. Eventually all five initially planned outcomes served the final objective, which is:

> "*Sustainable landscape measures are used to enhance the climate change resiliency of smallholder farmers, improve ecosystem resiliency, improve access to low-emission energy sources and reduce emissions from deforestation.*"

Taking into account EIB's withdrawal and the limitations noted above, the evaluation team reconstructed the Theory of Change to show the pathway from planned interventions to outcomes and then to the short- and longer-term objectives (see Figure 3). Elements shown in white, either as text or within frames, represent activities and results that will no longer be pursued following EIB's withdrawal.
The reconstructed Theory of Change combines the original inputs and outputs into 11 interventions designed to address four barriers and contribute to five outcomes. After EIB's withdrawal, nine interventions remain, addressing two barriers and contributing to four outcomes. The original barriers were: (1) lack of access to energy; (2) an unfavourable investment climate; (3) limited information on climate-change adaptation; and (4) limited local institutional capacity. The project will no longer address the first two barriers.

Figure 2: Theory of change as in the funding proposal



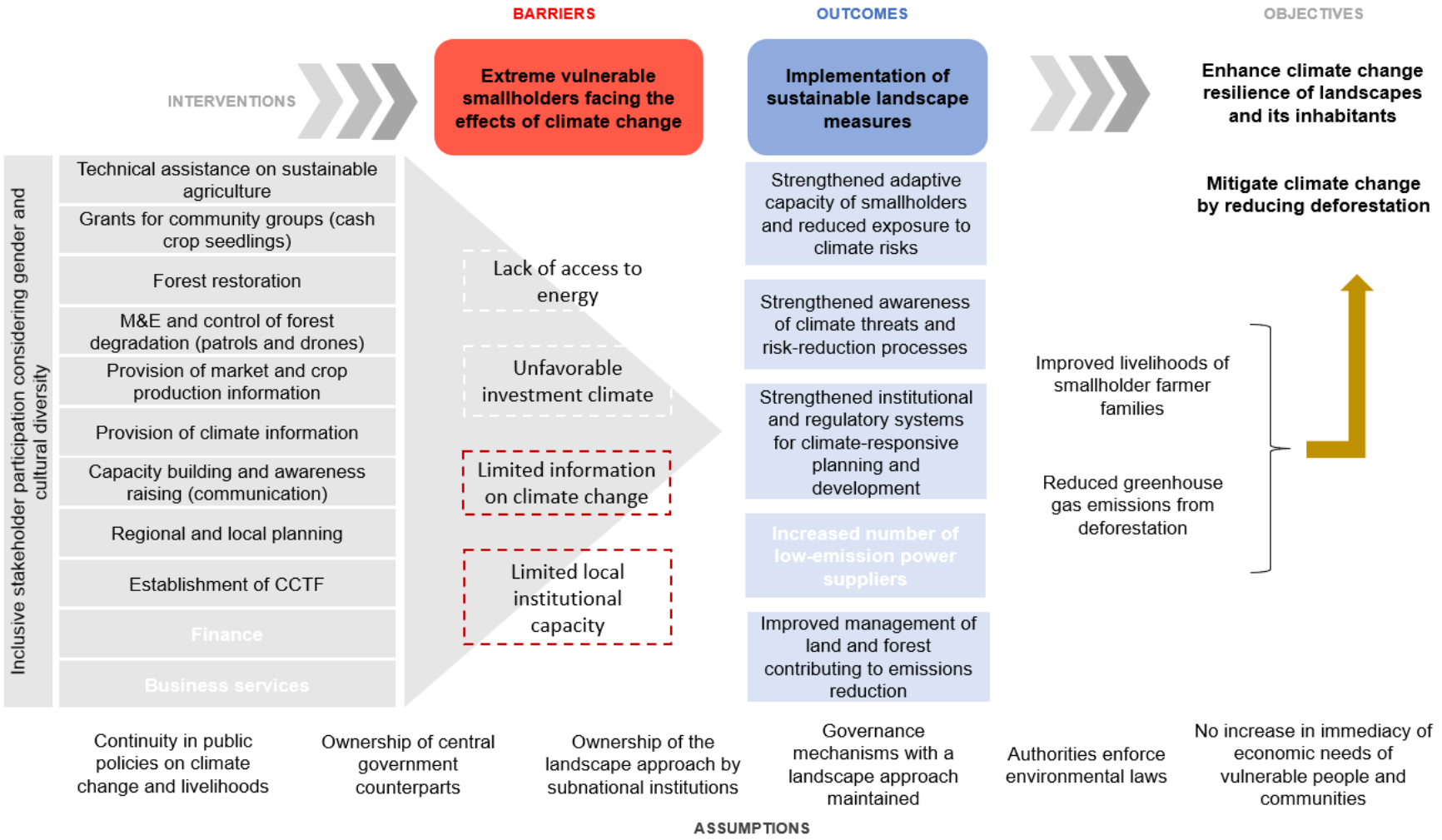
The nine remaining interventions comprise technical assistance on sustainable and climate-smart agriculture; grants for community groups, including cash-crop seedlings; forest restoration; monitoring, evaluation and control of forest degradation through patrols and drones; provision of market, crop-production and climate information; capacity-building and awareness-raising; regional and local planning; and establishment of the CCTF. These interventions address limited climate-change information and local institutional capacity in the CAZ and COFAV corridors and contribute to four outcomes: stronger adaptive capacity among smallholders; greater awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes; stronger institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development; and improved forest and land management.

Achieving the four outcomes should strengthen the livelihoods of smallholder farming families through ecosystem-based adaptation, including conservation agriculture, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation. Together, these results contribute to two overarching objectives:

“Enhance climate change resilience of the CAZ and COFAV landscapes and its inhabitants”, and
“Mitigate climate change by reducing deforestation“

The whole result chain is grounded on six assumptions which, despite not being fully under the direct control of the project, are crucial if the project is to achieve its objective. The project assumes that to progress from outcomes to impact, both central government counterparts and subnational institutions will take ownership of the landscape approach. Moreover, governance mechanisms with a landscape approach and continuity in public policies on climate change and rural livelihoods have to be maintained. In addition, the ToC assumes that the authorities enforce the environmental laws, as this is needed for forest protection to take place in an effective and efficient manner. Finally, the ToC assumes that the immediacy of the economic needs of the most vulnerable project beneficiaries does not prevent them from participating in the project.

Figure 3: Reconstructed theory of change



2. Strategic Findings

2.1 Relevance

2.1.1 Relevance of the project in relation with the problem it addresses

Level of clarity and specificity of the context and problem analysis during project initiation and the development of FAA amendment

The Funding Proposal analyses the context and problems in a clear and specific way. At the landscape level, the project seeks to reduce poverty and vulnerability to climate change of extremely vulnerable households, as well as protect and restore ecosystems, which were being degraded. The project document explains the vicious circle of inefficient and unsustainable agricultural practices, food insecurity, forest degradation, vulnerability to climate change and poverty. At the regional level, the project considers the needs of regional and local governments, addressing technical, material and financial constraints. At the national level, the project focuses on the regulatory framework, institutional and technical capacity and financial needs, promoting the creation of a CCTF and the mobilisation of private sector financing. All these needs are clearly presented. The FAA amendment did not modify the overall problem analysis, nor the general approach, as it was developed solely to correct errors in the original logical framework and update baselines and targets, given the long time between FP development and the start of implementation.

Extent to which project (outputs/outcomes) are aligned with national and subnational policies, strategies and plans

The project is in tune with national policies, strategies and plans. The project is aligned with the constitution of Madagascar, which recognizes the importance of the preservation of Madagascar's unique natural richness and the right of every Malagasy to live a life in human dignity.[3] The project is consistent with the country's environmental policies, strategies and plans. The project is in harmony with the country's Nationally Determined Contribution, both regarding its mitigation and adaptation objectives. On the mitigation side, the projects forest conservation activities and introduction of conservation agriculture and climate-smart agriculture techniques are projected to reduce 5 million tons (t) CO2e emissions, including baseline emissions reductions. The adaptation-oriented activities such

[3] Preamble and article of Malagasy Constitution.

as the integration of climate change in key reference documents, awareness raising campaigns on the damaging effects of climate change and environmental degradation, development of climate-smart agricultural pilot initiatives, promotion of improved agricultural production techniques and restoration of natural forest all contribute to the two Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets of improved food security and restoration of primary forests.

The project is also in line with the National Policy for Action on Climate Change (NAPA). It contributes to its five strategic priorities:

- Reinforcing adaptation measures taking account of the real needs of the country (with an emphasis on agriculture, public health, water resources, forestry/biodiversity and coastal zones);
- Implementing mitigation actions that benefit the country, including pursuing opportunities through voluntary carbon markets and the development of a Reducing Emissions from Deforestation of forest degradation (REDD) strategy;
- Raising awareness of climate change and integrating it at all levels of decision making;
- Development of sustainable financing solutions including the creation of National Climate Change Fund; and,
- The promotion of research, development and transfer of technologies and adaptive management.

While the project does not participate directly in the development of the NAP, the project activities align well with the draft NAP's strategic Axes 1 and 2. Axis 1 of the NAP is devoted to strengthening the adaptation capacity (BNCCCREDD+), which is addressed in the project outcome on strengthening institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development, in particular, through the development of guidelines, training, monitoring and alignment with the REDD+ strategy. Regarding axis 2, on the implementation of action plans for priority sectors, the project is especially in line with the agriculture and forestry priority sectors as the project introduces resilient agricultural techniques and approaches (NAP - agriculture strategic priority 1) and preserves forests and introduces re- and afforestation (NAP – forestry strategic priority 1).

The project is also in tune with the national strategy on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation of forest Degradation and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), as the CAZ and COFAV corridors are the laboratory for REDD+ pilot activities in the country aiming at decreasing deforestation in order to maintain or even increase the carbon absorption capacity of these corridors. The activities of the project such as forest patrolling and reforestation fit completely in this larger strategy.

Furthermore, the project is consistent with the climate strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, through the development of climate-smart agriculture pilot initiatives and promotion of improved rice production techniques, both serving the objective of increased food security.

Besides the climate change and environment, the project is aligned with Madagascar socio-economic policies. The project is in line with the National Development Policy, by contributing to increase livelihoods of communities living in (extreme) poverty and therefore reduce poverty in the country. Similarly, the project contributes to the National Plan for the Promotion of Gender through the emphasis on gender equality in project activities and attention for the promotion of women's rights.

Lastly, the project is in tune with Communal Development Plans, an alignment that will be strengthened as the project supports the integration of climate change and environmental aspects in these plans.

Extent of stakeholder participation during project design

Stakeholder participation during project design was ensured by the organization of meetings at both the national and local levels. These meetings were organized between November 2015 and March 2016. At the national level these meetings targeted the BNCCREDD+ and other relevant ministries (Ministries of Water, Agriculture, Population, Education, Health, Energy, Decentralization) and were held in the presence of CI, EIB, Althelia, and GCF on some occasions. These meetings ensured that the project design was aligned with the national policies and plans and complied with various requirements and investment criteria, both from the GCF's and Madagascar's side. Moreover, the back and forth between BNCCREDD+ and the implementing partners allowed us to refine the project design regarding the work plan, staffing needs and the budget.

Four regional meetings were held at the CAZ and COFAV corridors with the objective to present the project concept and logical framework and to provide an opportunity for the stakeholders to participate in the project design. The stakeholders present at the meetings included regional and municipal authorities, representatives from local communities, women's groups, decentralized government technical services related to agriculture and forestry, local NGOs and civil society groups. In total 188 persons of which 32% women participated in these regional meetings. Besides dedicated moments in these four meetings to provide comments and discuss, the project was also presented (in Malagasy) in each municipality office together with a book to collect suggestions and comments. A total of 2,101 comments were received from 857 persons of which 20% were women. These comments were all analyzed and addressed during project design.

Most local beneficiaries consulted at the field missions in CAZ and COFAV corridors expressed they had opportunities to share their needs with CI Madagascar and felt the project design took into account their requests. The consultations held for this evaluation with local beneficiaries did bring up new needs related to new deliveries of seeds, the timing of deliveries, and the extension of the project. CI Madagascar's experience in managing these specific protected areas enhanced stakeholder participation as over time CI Madagascar has acquired a strong network, people are aware of its existence and activities, and trust has been built.

2.1.2 Coherence with other interventions

Level of complementarity with other actors and initiatives active in the country and in the CAZ and/or COFAV corridors

The project is complementary with other initiatives. As CI Madagascar has been managing the protected areas in the CAZ and COFAV corridors for a significant time, it has collaboration arrangements in place with local governments and maintains good relations with various associations and other stakeholders. In this context, the following synergies have been identified:

- Collaboration with local associations and NGOs on agroforestry trees (coffee, vanilla and cloves) and the organization of forest control and project monitoring through the involvement of lead farmers.
- A collaboration with RANOWASH was set up to jointly promote the native forest and fruit trees reforestation activities and not Eucalyptus given their high water requirements.

Moreover, CI is also aware of other large-scale interventions in these landscapes and has built the following complementarities:

- With Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on the plantation of cash crops (e.g. vanilla) by using CSA and finding international buyers for these crops.
- With the project Adaptation of Agricultural Value Chains to Climate Change (PrAda) which is funded by the German Development Agency (GIZ) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture[4]. Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar (SLEM) was supposed to conduct value chain analysis for some commodities, but as PrAda is doing this, SLEM uses their analyses.

In addition, while still in the design stage, SLEM will collaborate with two projects under phase 7 of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7) the implementation of which will start soon: Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) implemented by Food and Agriculture

[4] https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/60509.html

Organization (FAO) on forest restoration and value chains[5]; and PECO like Eco-village by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD). In addition, as noted above, the project is complementary to the REDD+ Strategy, the implementation of which will also start soon.

Evidence of establishment of a coordinating mechanism to ensure coordination between relevant ongoing initiatives
The project uses formal and informal channels for coordination and collaboration with other initiatives. The BNCCREDD+ is responsible for coordination of climate change and REDD+ projects in Madagascar. Its direct involvement in the project ensures coordination between relevant ongoing initiatives. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) also contributes to coordination of activities with other stakeholders. More informally, close communication with local governments facilitates as well as the identification of complementary initiatives and the coordination with them.

2.1.3 Logical framework

The FP was logically designed, in the sense that the project objective, outcomes, outputs and activities are consistent[6]. The FP rightly integrated public sector and private sector mechanisms, proposing a mixed approach. It was also smart in integrating landscape level and national level activities, particularly regarding funding. These two aspects were linked. Public sector activities at the landscape level mostly focus on development planning, capacity building on sustainable agricultural practices, and incentives, through conservation agreements where community groups receive training and in-kind grants in exchange for forest protection (i.e. through patrolling) and restoration. Nation-wide private-sector funding would allow sustainable businesses to move from the fringe to the mainstream economy, giving them time to establish themselves, grow and access more traditional finance. In this context, public sector and private sector activities would complement each other in several ways. Public sector activities would promote the creation of associations of buyers in the target landscapes in the pursuit of strengthened value chains which could then link with the buyers promoted by the nation-wide investment fund. Moreover, the principal invested by the GCF in the investment fund as well as any benefits had the possibility to capitalise the nation-wide CCTF to be created with the support of the programme, a public sector activity, if approved by the GCF Board. The TF could then continue to fund both public sector "not-for profit" and private sector "for profit" activities aligned with low carbon and resilient development priorities of target landscapes and the country more broadly. In addition, the design rightly complemented

[5] "Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Integrated Sustainable Development of Mangoky sub watersheds (TEFIALA)".
[6] The Theory of Change (ToC) is discussed in section 1.2.1 above.

adaptation and mitigation activities, linking ecosystem-based adaptation and emissions reductions and creating financial mechanisms that could benefit from the profitability of renewable energy-related business, with mitigation outcomes. From a sectoral point of view, the only limitation was the integration of the mining sector, a rather informal but important sector in the region responsible for employment and forest degradation.

EIB's withdrawal changed the scope of the project, which became a purely public sector-type, grant-funded project, having lost the private sector elements. This moderately affected the project's logical framework, as presented in the document that CI submitted to the GCF on EIB withdrawal impacts, this included independent but complementary activities. The objective of the project was not significantly affected by EIB's withdrawal. CI's activities could achieve the objective, which focused on landscape level impacts, with effects only on the scope, scale and type of benefits, with reduced number of beneficiaries and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, given the removal of low emission energy production-related activities. Indeed, CI's sustainable agriculture production and marketing, and forest protection and restoration activities, complemented with its policy, capacity and communication efforts, are sustainable landscape measures that contribute to increase climate resilience of smallholder families and ecosystems and reduce emissions. To a limited extent the sustainability of landscape level results was also reduced, as the withdrawal of the EIB negatively affected the capacity of smallholders to engage financial and business services. The removal of EIB's activities had a more significant effect on national level impacts, in terms both of the mobilization of large-scale private-sector finance (and testing a public and private finance linkage model) and the financial sustainability of the project results, namely ongoing funding for the CCTF (see sections 2.3 and 2.5 on impact and sustainability, respectively, for further details).
While the overall structure was adequate, the logical framework was too granular, particularly at the output and activity levels (it included 19 outputs and 93 activities), which made implementation and especially reporting unnecessarily complex and time-consuming. In addition, some elements were not appropriately phrased (some inputs were in reality outputs and some outputs were in reality outcomes) and some outputs were duplicated. This was due to the fact not only that the FP was developed in 2013/2014 under a different set of GCF guidance, but also to this project being the first CI GCF project globally. The no-cost extension proposal should include the simplification of the logical framework, consolidating and removing some activities, with the aim of providing a more cohesive grasp of the impacts of the project.

2.1.4 Results framework

The PRF's effectiveness in monitoring project results is mixed. It includes sound systems for tracking changes in forest cover through Trends.Earth and household resilience through surveys, but it does not adequately measure key intermediate outcomes, including changes in agricultural practices, production, commercialisation, and the health of agricultural and forest ecosystems. Several indicators measure the delivery of training, grants, information or guidelines rather than whether these inputs lead to adopted practices, greater awareness, improved market access or better ecosystem health. Although SLEM's PRF is more robust than those of many ecosystem-based adaptation projects, the omission of agricultural production, commercialisation and ecosystem-health measures is significant. An effective EbA results framework should test the full impact pathway: changes in agricultural practices and ecosystem management; resulting changes in production and ecosystem health; and, ultimately, changes in household resilience. Some outcome indicators function more like output indicators. The project's wider M&E system partly addresses these gaps by monitoring agricultural yields, sales, revenue and pre- and post-training results.

Beyond relevance, at a more granular level, the indicators' system (indicator, baseline, target, mean and sources of verification) is overall adequate. However, some indicators (A5.2, A5.5, A.7.6, A9.4) are not specific enough, with room for more specificity in other indicators (A5.3, A5.4) too.

The PRF included in the FP was improved with the assistance of GCF's Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA) programme, which was created in 2018 to keep track of the impact of GCF investments. LORTA uses theory-based counterfactual impact assessments that are based on experimental or quasi-experimental research designs, comprising both intervention and control sites, to help project teams measure progress and provide rapid lessons during implementation. Through capacity building and direct technical assistance, LORTA improved SLEM's monitoring of household resilience impacts, by designing the sample and a solid household survey, making the analysis of impact and the attribution more rigorous.

SLEM's results framework rightly reflected the complex implementation arrangements. The independent, but complementary nature of CI and EIB's activities was indeed considered in the PRF. Outcome and output level indicators were indicated separately in the results framework (targets were achieved by either CI or EIB), with joint CI and EIB indicators only at the Fund Level Core Indicators. For each of these joint indicators, an overall project target was identified, with explicit targets for each Accredited Entity (AE) that were combined to create the joint targets. This structure would have contributed to better monitoring, adaptive management and accountability. In practice,

it made it easier to clarify CI's commitments and responsibilities once EIB's withdrawal was confirmed. The EIB withdraw impact document did a good job in explaining what the impacts of this withdrawal were in the project's results framework, both in general terms (i.e. what types of indicators were affected) and in very specific terms (i.e. indicating the new mid-term and final targets for fund-level impact indicators, reflecting solely the outcomes of the CI Funded Activity)[7].

2.1.5 Gender equity

Extent to which the project planning documents analysed gender dynamics, including sex-disaggregated indicators

The project planning documents analysed the gender dynamics of the project areas to a sufficient extent. A specific gender mainstreaming and action plan was developed during the project preparation phase (in 2016) in order to ensure that men and women have the opportunity to equally participate in and benefit from the project. This plan was based on the CI gender policy (2012) and CI Madagascar's study on gender integration for interventions (2014). Based on these guidelines, the plan for the SLEM project developed several specific recommendations for its activities:

- Integrating gender aspect in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of field interventions, monitoring and evaluation as well as in any bidding documents for contractors;
- Requiring all subprojects receiving investment from the project to implement gender policies covering equal opportunities within the project and targeting gender equality in access to project benefits. Such policies would be assessed during due diligence of the project and monitored throughout the life of the investment;
- Development of a protocol for the collection of gender sensitive information;
- Monitoring gender-related measures and tools during the lifecycle of the project, the assessment of the efficiency of such measures and tools, and the proposed improvement measures;
- Associating partner structures in project implementation, such as the ministry in charge of population that works on gender issues, women's associations, NGOs working on climate change and gender, etc;
- Training service providers and developing guidance tools.

Moreover, the plan specifies the responsibilities for gender mainstreaming aspects, which lie with a Gender Expert and the Project Director. A Gender Action Plan was also developed which contains specific actions and targets per project outcome and regarding several

[7] This included removing one indicator, reducing the target for 1 indicator and keeping the target, but adjusting the text for 2 indicators - one indicator was not modified.

cross-cutting issues. Examples of such actions and targets are providing gender training to 100% of regional agricultural staff, encouraging increased participation of women in local management structures responsible forest management, targeting 25% of association members being women by end of year 5 and integrating gender into the monitoring and evaluation system.
The gender mainstreaming and action plan was updated in 2019. This extensively expanded the information concerning gender situations and inequalities in Madagascar, the administrative and legal framework related to gender, opportunities and impact for men and women participating in project activities and the general recommendations, which were now tailored towards project implementation and the execution of project activities. The final section, consisting of the gender action plan did not change compared to the 2016 version. CI plans to update the Gender Action Plan in 2022. Gender data are collected and processed on a monthly basis during project implementation, following the M&E system (see section 2.4.6).

Extent to which financial resources/project activities are explicitly allocated to enable women to benefit from project interventions

The Project includes various specific activities to support women's associations or activities in which women are greatly involved (e.g. market gardening, transformation and commercialization of agricultural products, conservation) and from which they derive their principal incomes. Through the capacity building activities, the project also aims to improve the representation of women in decision making (e.g. by increasing the number and capacity of women serving on community forest management committees, ensuring their participation in local and regional development planning). In practice this leads to improved involvement of women in various leadership positions, such as, nursery keepers, local trainers, and patrollers (now 10 new patrollers in the CAZ, whereas this position was previously not accessible for women).

Training activities are organized in such a way as to encourage participation by women, for example by choosing appropriate times and being sensitive to childcare needs. For communication and awareness raising messages particular care was to be taken to develop messaging that both men and women are likely to receive, taking into account different sources of information that men and women use and emphasizing the use of nonwritten communications such as radio, community meetings and picture-based communications to overcome the high illiteracy rates. Although specific indicators and targets were set in the gender action plan, these were not integrated in the overall PRF, where most indicators were not sex disaggregated.

2.2 Effectiveness

2.2.1 Outputs and outcomes

What and how much progress has been made towards achieving the outputs and outcomes of the project? Progress toward targets at the output and outcome levels / Quality of outputs and outcomes

Considering only CI-related activities, the project includes 4 outcome level indicators and 27 output level indicators[8]. Overall, the project has made significant progress at the outcome level. In particular, it is on target on 3 outcome level indicators (A7, A8, M9), and not on target on 1 outcome level indicator (A5). Progress at the output level has also been significant. The project is on target on 19 output level indicators (76%) and not on target on 6 output level indicators (24% of the output level indicators where progress can be assessed)[9]. Progress on 2 output level indicators (A7.1(a), A7.3) cannot be assessed, because the second household survey has not been conducted. By component, progress is more significant in A8, followed by A7 and M9, and far behind by A5, where many activities are the responsibility of government partners who have not undertaken activities or expended resources efficiently. This progress is particularly remarkable considering the low expenditure (see section 2.4.1 on financing and co-financing). Quality of outputs is good. For a more detailed assessment kindly see Annex 6.

It is worth providing more quantitative and qualitative details, particularly at output level. On component A7, on adoption of climate-smart tools, practices and techniques, market access and habitats (agricultural landscapes) managed sustainably and restored, the progress is substantive in 4 of the 5 indicators where progress can be assessed[10]. In general, as of December 31, 2021, there has been significant progress on the number of people involved (95,982 people, of which 83,664 trained and provided with in-kind grants) and the hectares covered (2,226 ha restored and 8,125 ha managed sustainably within the agricultural landscape), where mid-term targets have been

[8] Kindly note that in the PRF some indicators have several subindicators. For instance, indicator A5.4 has 4 subindicators. The number provided here refers to the number of subindicators and not to the number of indicators, as in some cases it is not possible or robust to provide an aggregate assessment. For the sake of clarity, subindicators have been numbered (e.g. A5.4(a) - A5.4(d)).

[9] The project team measures progress against the final (or life of the program (LoP)) targets. According to the draft APR 2021, considering both fund-level and project level indicators, as of 31 December 2021, 10 (25.6%) of the indicators were 100% or above the LoP targets. Five (12,8%) of the indicators had reached a target above 75% of the LoP target, five (12,8%) were between 50% and 75% of the LoP target, while nine (23.1%) were less than 50% of the LoP target. Four indicators are related to the CCTF funds, which is, as described above, currently at hold due to discussions with the NDA/MEDD. Six (15.4%) of the indicators are TBD as they depend on the household survey which will take place in 2022

[10] The final target has been achieved in one indicator (A7.6(b)), the mid-term target has been exceeded in 3 subindicators (A7.1(b), A7.2(b), A7.6(a)) where the achievement of the end of the project target is likely by the end of the project, and the mid-term target has not been achieved and the end of the project target will not likely be achieved by the end of the project in one indicator (A7.2(a)).

exceeded, and less progress than expected on marketing, although the project has compiled market studies for the most viable cash crops to be produced by beneficiary populations, is building the capacity of beneficiaries within targeted communities to create local trade committees and cooperatives that can develop and build market networks, negotiate with buyers, and create sustainable production agreements, has identified, in partnership with other stakeholders, capable private sector buyers and is working with communities to sell these cash crops to these buyers and build critical market access, and is working to identify and partner with other microfinance institutions to support buyers and the viability of agricultural value chains. As noted, the indicators in the PRF do not assess the results in terms of examining robustly the adoption of the tools, practices and techniques, sales and income and the health of ecosystems, although some of these aspects are monitored by the project's M&E system.

On component A8, on improved awareness and capacity, progress has been excellent. At mid-term the final targets in all output level indicators have been achieved, and in half of the cases exceeded. In this sense, as of December 31, 2021, the project has made extraordinary progress in the number of training and communication materials developed (8 materials) and distributed (2,500 packs) and the number of people informed (104,620 people) and trained (102,917 people). It is worth noting that the indicators in the PRF do not assess the results of training and awareness raising campaigns, in terms of changes in the awareness and capacity of trained and informed people, which are monitored to a certain extent through the M&E system. Consultation during the field missions conducted in CAZ and COFAV suggest increased awareness and capacity, with positive specific impacts. Interviewees mentioned several improvements due to the trainings in climate smart agriculture, agroecology and management. In general, improvements relate to increased productivity of some crops in some areas[11], improved soil quality and more diversification. Those interviewees not mentioning any improvements, do almost all emphasize the fact that training should be further developed and continued, meaning trainings are in general conceived as useful and are beneficial.

On component A5, on institutional and regulatory systems, progress is mixed. The project is on target in half of the output indicators[12]. In general, as of December 31, 2021, the project has made good progress on the development of some guidelines (12), training (7 decentralized technical services supported), monitoring (8 reports) and alignment with the REDD+ strategy, but there is limited progress on strengthening of local planning and the creation, operationalization and capitalization of the CCTF. To a great extent these delays are

[11] Certain crops, such as beans, coffee and rice, have not provided better yields in some communities (while they did in others).

[12] It has achieved the final targets in four indicators (A5.2(b), A5.3(a), A5.4(d) and A5.5), is on target in one indicator (A5.3(b)) and not on target on five indicators (A5.1, A5.2(a) and A5.4 (a, b, c))

due to delays on the part of the BNCCREDD+ and buy in from MEDD, respectively. The latter is a considerable concern (see section 2.2.2 on inhibiting factors for details).

On component M9, on improved forest management, the project is on target on all output level indicators. In 83% of the indicators the mid-term target has been achieved or exceeded, and the final target will very likely be met by the end of the project[13]. As of December 31, 2021, the project has made significant progress on Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores (63.5%), workplans and reporting (15 reports) and forest restoration (2,008 ha), including GHG emissions reduction. The project has made an important effort on forest controls and patrolling with mixed brigades. The level of deforestation was particularly low in 2021. The approach of the project to prevent deforestation seems effective. Available data shows that areas that are patrolled experience lower rates of deforestation than those that are not patrolled. Moreover, patrolling is combined with other monitoring and control activities, such as drone flights, particularly in harder-to-reach sections of forest, which seems to have worked well. The project shares results of patrols with municipalities and government agencies to increase enforcement activities. The monitoring and control activities are rightly combined with communication and sensitization activities that emphasize the usefulness of forests and discourages deforestation / illegal use of forest resources (mining etc), as well as with agriculture support (adaptation) activities that create incentives to preserve the forests and halt slash-and-burn activities. **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** provides more information on the progress per project output towards its final target based on the indicators of the 2021 Annual Progress Report[14].

Table 2: Progress per project output, as indicated in the 2021 APR

Project outcome	Project output	Progress towards final target
A.7	A.7.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks	80%
	A.7.1 (a) Sustainable Agriculture Programme - number of individuals with vulnerability reduced.	TBD
	A.7.1 (b) Sustainable Agriculture Programme - number of households adopting sustainable agriculture techniques.	63.5%

[13] This is the case in indicators M9.2 (a, b, c), M9.3, M9.4. In one indicator (M9.1) the mid-term target has not been achieved, but the project will likely meet its final target by its end.
[14] It is important to stress that the percentages are taken from the 2021 APR and are not developed by the evaluation team.

	A.7.2 (b) Market and crop production information – Women in producer groups	62.5%
	A.7.3 Supporting farmer-led, gender-sensitive analysis, planning and risk management	TBD
	A.7.6 (a) Critical habitats managed sustainably by the local communities within the agricultural landscape	88%
	A.7.6 (b) Critical habitats restored within the agricultural landscape	298%
A.8	A.8.0 Strengthened awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes.	97%
	A.8.1 (a) Strengthened capacity of government employees, local conservation, and development NGOS, farmer groups and local communities to implement mitigation and adaptation measures to achieve Climate-smart Landscapes – training modules	200%
	A.8.1 (b) Strengthened capacity of government employees, local conservation, and development NGOS, farmer groups and local communities to implement mitigation and adaptation measures to achieve Climate-smart Landscapes – men and women trained	96%
	A.8.2 (a) Improved knowledge by the CAZ and COFAV population (including school children) about climate change issues and responses proposed by the project – material packs	113%
	A.8.2 (b) Improved knowledge by the CAZ and COFAV population (including school children) about climate change issues and responses proposed by the project – number of people informed	96%
A.5	A.5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate- responsive planning and development.	0%
	A.5.1 Strategies and actions identified in national climate change policies are integrated into decentralized planning at regional and local levels.	0%
	A.5.2 (a) Intervention capacity on climate change issues of decentralized technical services is strengthened – Entities and technical services with resources to support Climate-smart landscapes	0%
	A.5.2 (b) Intervention capacity on climate change issues of decentralized technical services is strengthened – Decentralized technical services supported	100%

	A.5.3 (a) The monitoring and evaluation system for CSLs – M&E system operational	100%
	A.5.3 (b) The monitoring and evaluation system for CSLs – Annual reports and annual workplans using M&E data	80%
	A.5.4. (a) Financial sustainability of project activities – Trust fund created	0%
	A.5.4. (b) Financial sustainability of project activities – Trust fund operational	0%
	A.5.4. (c) Financial sustainability of project activities – Amount provided to Trust fund	0%
	A.5.4. (d) Financial sustainability of project activities – REDD+ pilot projects are part of accredited carbon offset programmes	0%
	A.5.5. Lessons learned and best practices regarding Climate-Smart Landscapes are integrated into relevant documents and relevant structures.	80%
M.9	M.9.0 Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions.	100%
	M.9.1. Key planning documents for CAZ and COFAV are updated.	0%
	M.9.2 (a) Improved forest management as outlined in the CAZ and COFAV management plans and Emissions Reductions Verified – IEG following IUCN assessment methodology	92%
	M.9.2 (b) Improved forest management as outlined in the CAZ and COFAV management plans and Emissions Reductions Verified – Planned activities PA work plans that are completed	79%
	M.9.2 (c) Improved forest management as outlined in the CAZ and COFAV management plans and Emissions Reductions Verified – verification of reports produced	50%
	M.9.3. A system of efficient and transparent governance is strengthened for CAZ and COFAV.	150%
	M.9.4. Forest restoration on degraded lands within the CAZ and COFAV protected areas/carbon project areas	91%

How do the results for women compare to those for men? To what extent are female stakeholders or beneficiaries satisfied with the project gender equality results? Gender equality on progress towards achieving project outputs and outcomes

Overall, women tend to be actively engaged in the project and appear to be equally or more productive than men which can explain the general satisfaction among female beneficiaries towards the project.

There are multiple examples of the project taking into account and addressing local gender dynamics:

- All 58 project staff and key partners and the BNCCC staff working for this project who have implemented gender-sensitive adaptation and mitigation activities received training on gender approach.
- From 2018-2021, the project trained and sensitized 13,383 individuals on gender approach. When looking geographically, 6,156 persons were trained in CAZ (3,542 male and 2,614 female) and 7,227 for COFAV (3,342 men and 2,885 women). These include both new beneficiaries and existing beneficiaries who received a refresher training. To stimulate female participation GCF SLEM encouraged local trainers, farmer organization's board members, and other stakeholders to pay extra attention to the specific needs, constraints, and requirements women have while implementing activities.
- A survey-based study to assess the GCF-SLEM sustainable agriculture program (technical training/supervision and input supply) with regard to level of women's empowerment was conducted in 2021 in both CAZ and COFAV with a sample of 94 female beneficiaries from the 2019-2020 agricultural campaign. The results show that positive changes for the female beneficiaries have started to be seen i.e., increased self-confidence, more consideration from husbands as well other male beneficiaries, increased inclusion in productive decisions, and more control over resources and income. The women's groups approach appears to be successful in enabling women to share their challenges and best practices. Nevertheless, the report found that additional efforts were needed regarding public speaking and participation in (mixed) meetings.
- GCF-SLEM trained 290 local trainers or Lead Farmers (173 men and 117 women) on CSA and EbA. After the training they received agricultural packages to showcase the development of sustainable agricultural, and they provide direct trainings, extension services, and technical supervision to about 30 household beneficiaries per local trainer.
- The Gender Action Plan for 2022 includes:
    - Sharing of the results of the CSA programme impacts on gender empowerment in a report to be published.
    - Continuation of training and awareness-raising on gender equality/equity, for household beneficiaries.
    - Continuous coaching to local trainers and farmer organization leaders for greater consideration of gender equality and for more participation of women in the activities to be implemented.

- Conduct the second round of gender-sensitive survey to monitor beneficiaries' vulnerability to climate change.
- Conduct a refresher training for project's staff.
- Support 23 new women associations for which proposals were already developed in Q4 2020.

Moreover, during the field visits women expressed that they are actively engaged in the project and play an active role in its implementation. However, women associations did express a need for more support, both related to material (transportation-oriented and other small materials) and to training.

Can any unintended or unexpected positive or negative effects be observed as a consequence of the project's interventions? Examples of unintended results

Most observed effects were expected. Unintended effects can only be observed regarding unplanned approaches, activities and technologies (see also section 2.3.2 on innovation), which are related to adaptive management (see section 2.4.5) either to address external shocks, particularly the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), or use technologies that were not originally considered. Travel restrictions between March and December 2020 and between March and July 2021 did not enable project staff to conduct training in the target landscapes. To reduce the negative effects of this on project performance, the project promoted farmer field trainers, which could easily interact with other beneficiaries. This has resulted in an increased engagement both from the trainers and the trainees, exceeding what was originally envisioned. In addition, as drones became more readily available, the project started using them instead of satellite imagery. This shift has allowed for visualization of damage and destruction of forest in a way that was not anticipated, increasing the local willingness to conduct patrols, engage with enforcement authorities and prosecute offenders. No negative unintended effects have been observed. For example, there has not been an increase in social conflict over the use of natural resources due to restrictions on deforestation and increased enforcement activities.

2.2.2 Barriers and enabling factors

What external factors are enabling and hindering the achievement of expected outputs and outcomes?

The progress presented above has been achieved despite important **inhibiting external factors**. To begin with, the remoteness of the target areas has been a challenge. Only 20% of sites are accessible by road, and 10 months out of 12 the road cannot be used due to rain. It takes up to 2 days to go from some villages to some others. Telephone connectivity is also limited, as some communities do not have cell phone service. This has implied challenges for project monitoring, for provision of inputs and for the commercialization of agricultural products supported by the project. For example, accessibility is a challenge in getting buyers, establishing long term partnerships with them and negotiating reasonable prices in many project sites. In some of them, farmers need to

transport goods to the main road, which can be very tiring and/or time consuming, to get buyers. As noted in section 2.4.5 on adaptive capacity, the project has made adjustments to reduce the negative impacts of this (i.e., increased reliance on local lead farmers and locally produced inputs, selection of agricultural products that can be transported more easily and less costly). The remoteness of the target areas was not considered a risk factor in the Funding Proposal.

At least in some areas in COFAV insecurity has also been a hindering factor for project performance, particularly for forest protection, including patrolling, and restoration. According to local stakeholders, in some very remote sites some illegal activities are conducted by dangerous populations ("Dahalo" in Malgasi), who take goods from the villages and can even kill people when they are not getting what they want. This has negatively affected forest patrolling and restoration. Risk prevention and mitigation measures were taken during project implementation to further reduce the threat for forest patrollers, in particular obliging patrollers to patrol in groups, equipping them with communication equipment and improving communication protocols with enforcement authorities.

COVID-19 has had significant impacts on project performance. The GoM established lockdowns from March to December 2020 and from April to June 2021. Travel restrictions did not allow the project team to conduct face-to-face activities and compromised the delivery of training and inputs, as well as the commercialization of agricultural products, which was coupled with an increase in the prices of the necessary products project beneficiaries need to get from urban markets. On the mitigation side, this economic downturn, which led to a need of alternative and immediate sources of income, such as illegal mining, and a reduction in controlling patrols, increased deforestation. On adaptation, the demonstrative effect of the promoted agricultural practices was reduced as it was difficult, if not impossible, to commercialize the products resulting from these practices, given that transport links to markets were shut down.

However, these communities had more crops for local consumption – reducing vulnerability to the pandemic and lack of market access. As some businesses were closed down or with reduced staffing, it was also difficult to procure the inputs to be provided to beneficiaries, including field supplies for patrollers and equipment for BNCCREDD+, negatively impacting those activities. Even with the procedures put in place in 2020 to rely more on local key partners (local lead farmers, tree nurserymen, and forest patrollers) during lockdowns and in normal circumstance, given the remoteness of most sites (see above), during the 2021 lockdown the primary project activities could only be implemented at a reduced pace. The number of forest controls, local forest patrolling missions, and tree nursery development was lower than anticipated in the project implementation plan. In this sense, the activities that were postponed due to COVID in 2020 could not be fully implemented in 2021, due to a new lockdown. Even with the conclusion of travel restrictions, between January and March 2021 and from July 2021 onwards, field activities conducted by the project technical staff have not been fully resumed as in a pre-pandemic context. Only a sub-set of

activities are implemented and they are carried out considering the COVID safety instructions provided by the CI's Health and Security Division (i.e., Isolated communities were not visited to ensure that there was no transmission from the staff taking place given the limited access to health facilities), which, given the remoteness of many sites, reduces the ability of the project to promote the envisioned paradigm shift at the landscape level.

Limited ownership of planned project activities by government counterparts has also negatively affected the achievement of project targets, particularly on outcome A5 on the strengthening of institutional and regulatory systems. Progress on activities related to training of local authorities and mainstreaming climate change into local development plans (A5.1 and A5.2, respectively), to be conducted by BNCCREDD+, has not been significant, with remarkable delays. One of the key factors is the administrative process, which according to BNCCREDD+, is slow and inefficient, although this is also related to slow and poor reporting, which have to be robust in order for reimbursement to take place in compliance with CI and GCF policies. Also, there have been changes on the staff assigned to the project, which slowed down implementation.

In addition, there are serious issues regarding the creation, operationalization and capitalization of the CCTF (A5.4), which has been postponed for a year and a half. In October 2021 the NDA office communicated that they rejected the plan in the FP and the FAA whereby the CCTF would be managed independently, by a private non-profit legal entity to be established under Malagasy legislation on foundations, where the government would not have the majority of board seats, and stated that a single fund fully managed by the MEDD should be created, or the funds reallocated or returned. The GoM are currently in discussions about this aspect, as a non-independently managed CCTF would imply a major deviation from the FAA and would require a restructuring of the project, if it were to be accepted by the GCF. The non-creation of the CCTF would reduce the project's contribution towards paradigm shift and negatively affect the replication and scalability potential and to a lesser extent the likelihood of sustaining project results at the landscape and national levels of the project.

Moreover, implementation on the ground, in particular forest protection, has been negatively affected by weak law enforcement by the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD), who has the corresponding authority. Although there has been some progress recently, as the number of arrested people show, a significant group of stakeholder feels that people arrested from doing slash and burn are released shortly and go back in the society to repeat the same offense. Finally, progress on face-to-face training on risk management has also been slowed due to limited collaboration from the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC by its initials in French), which is very busy with managing cyclones, hunger in the south of Madagascar, and COVID-19.

Furthermore, climatic shocks and the time-bound specificity of project activities have negatively affected project performance. The project has faced severe drought. Importantly, this, as COVID-related delays, have impacted the agricultural calendar, which the project missed in 2020 and 2021. For example, during the tree planting season in Madagascar (i.e. October and November) there was too little rain in 2021, so the activity had to be postponed for 2022, which has impacts on yields, transformation of products, sales and incomes. The productivity of the crops and fruit trees that could be planted has also been affected by drought and cyclones.

In some cases, agricultural productivity appears to have been low due to the lack of adequate studies, at least for some crops and some areas, where yields have been lower than expected. Although this could be explained by the nature of agricultural improvements, which take time, the initial conditions, with low productivity, and external factors, such as soil fertility and availability of rainfall, some stakeholders argue that studies may not have always been fully appropriate.

In contrast, project performance has been **enabled** by its alignment with national policies, strategies and regulations and the remarkable engagement of regional and local authorities and beneficiary communities (see section 2.1.1), although this is not fully an external factor.

2.3 Impact

2.3.1 Progress toward impact

How has the project contributed to achieving a stronger shift to low emission sustainable development pathways and/or increased climate resilient sustainable development? Progress toward targets (GCF Result Management Framework (RMF)/Performance Management Framework (PMF) Paradigm Shift objectives) / Qualitative evidence of progress toward impact and causal pathways

The goal of the project is to shift from a model based on forest clearance for inefficient agricultural production to low emission and climate resilient sustainable development through the introduction of sustainable, climate resilient and efficient agricultural approaches and techniques, increased market access, and the protection and restoration of the neighboring forests, including patrolling. Awareness raising, capacity building and institutional and regulatory strengthening would reinforce this paradigm shift.

The PRF includes 8 fund-level indicators. At mid-term, the project has achieved 2 end of the project targets and is on target to meet end of the project targets in four indicators, on the six of eight

indicators where progress can be assessed[15]. As of December 31, 2021, the project has made significant progress on the number of beneficiaries (50,198 people), improved ecosystem management (3,343 ha) and emissions reductions (10.6 MtCO2e). Evidence on changes in household resilience is not yet available, as the 2021 survey was postponed to March 2022. It is reasonable to expect that the progress made on outcomes A7 and A8, and some outputs of outcome A5 (see section 2.3.1), have resulted in increased household climate resilience. The PRF does not assess the health of ecosystems, so it is unclear whether improved ecosystem management has resulted in healthier ecosystems and strengthened ecosystem services, beyond emissions reductions, which is monitored, although it can be expected that the progress made on the protection of existing forests and reforestation related to outcome M9 (see section 2.3.1) have resulted in healthier ecosystems and strengthened ecosystem services. As such, although the evidence on impacts and causal pathways currently available is incomplete, it can be argued that the project is contributing to the achievement of the expected paradigm shift, moving towards a low emission, climate resilient development pathway. This is a process and as the project has only spent a small percentage of GCF funds (see section 2.4.1), the project's contribution to the expected paradigm shift will likely strengthen in the coming years, as activities are conducted for more time with the inclusion of the NCE. Annex 6 provides a detailed analysis of the progress made towards achieving the fund-level targets.

It is worth noting that the withdrawal of EIB reduces the expected contribution of the project towards paradigm shift. As discussed in section 2.1.3 on the logical framework, the FP rightly integrated public sector and private sector mechanisms, where the private sector investment fund would support small- and medium-sized enterprise initiatives in mitigation and adaptation, and the profits from the investment fund had the possibility to capitalise CCTF to be created with the support of the programme, if approved by the GCF Board, which could then continue to fund both public sector "not-for profit" and private sector "for profit" activities aligned with low carbon and resilient development priorities of target landscapes and the country more broadly. As noted, EIB's withdrawal changed the scope of the project, which became a purely public sector-type, grant-funded project. This affected landscape level impacts slightly, particularly on the capacity of smallholders to engage financial and business services, but affected national level impacts more significantly, in terms both of the mobilization of large-scale private-sector finance (and testing a public and private finance linkage model) and the financial sustainability of the project results, namely funding for the CCTF. While as noted above, the project is progressing well in achieving impact-level indicators, which implies a contribution to a paradigm shift, the capacity to contribute to a broader paradigm shift was negatively affected by the withdrawal of EIB's private sector elements and could be further affected by the slow progress on the creation of the CCTF.

[15] The project has achieved its final targets on the mitigation core indicator 1 and M4.0 and is on target on the adaptation impact core indicator 1, mitigation impact core indicator 2, adaptation impact A1.0(b) and A4.0. Progress cannot be assessed in two indicators (mitigation impact core Indicator 1, Adaptation Impact – A1.0(a), and M2.0).

2.3.2 Innovation

What role has the project played in the provision of "thought leadership," "innovation," or "unlocked additional climate finance" for climate change adaptation/mitigation in the project and country context? Examples of innovative project activities / Evidence of additional climate finance mobilized due to project activities and outcomes

The project was innovative as it was the first GCF project in Madagascar and also the first CI GCF project. CI has learned some lessons through its design and implementation, which it is using in the design of new GCF proposals. CI Madagascar has also shared lessons from the project with other development partners and other stakeholders in the country. In addition, the project's specific approaches and technologies have brought innovation. The project has engaged local lead farmers in order to communicate with remote communities and organize the monitoring and evaluation of the project in these remote communities. This empowerment of local farmers to become leaders and share best practices is the first of its kind in Madagascar. Technological innovations brought by the project are the use of drone technologies and fire cast system to identify where deforestation is taking place. Deployment of LORTA has also been innovative (see section 2.4.6).

The project contained two mechanisms, the Investment Fund, for private sector funding, and the Climate Change Trust Fund, for both private and public funding, that aimed at unlocking additional climate finance on the long-term (post project period). This combination of public and private resources to achieve paradigm was innovative. In addition, the Investment Fund would have been partly funded by 'green bonds' issued by the EIB, by itself an innovative financing method to channel in private investment and let private investors take direct risk in the underlying landscape project. However, as EIB withdrew from the project, the Investment Fund was never set up, the green bonds were never issued, and the mixed public-private finance approach did not materialize, which significantly reduces the contribution to innovation of the project. Regarding the CCTF, as noted, creation of the CCTF has been postponed and discussions are still ongoing. In any case, increased knowledge on GCF project design and implementation can contribute to the design and submission of new GCF projects, mobilizing additional funding for not project-related activities (co-financing is assessed in section 2.4.1). In order to enable parties to unlock this potential, the project team held a presentation on how to develop a full proposal to the GCF and information regarding the GCF policies, strategies and operation was shared. While the GCF has not approved new country-level project in Madagascar since the approval of SLEM, this will likely take place in the coming years building on the design and implementation experience of SLEM.

2.3.3 Replicability and scalability

What factors of the project achievements are contingent on specific local context or enabling environment factors? (Which project outcomes and outputs have greater scalability and replication potential?) Evidence of replication and scaling up and market change
The replication potential of the use of green bonds and involvement of the private sector was projected to be high, yet these two elements have not been implemented following the withdrawal of EIB, therefore reducing the replication potential of the project. The creation of the CCTF would also greatly contribute to the replication of project results, but as discussed, the establishment of the CCTF is currently under discussion. The implemented climate-smart landscape measures, including sustainable agriculture and forest conservation and reforestation, do have a strong replicability and scalability potential. The information generated through this project on their effectiveness will be valuable when sharing lessons and best practices to other initiatives.

The conservation agreement is a model that can be applied to other regions in Madagascar and around the world. Through this approach communities received both inputs (seeds, seedlings, organic fertilizers…) and financial support to set up associations among farmers and create partnerships between farmers and private firms, and commit to conduct reforestation activities, cease all slash and burn agriculture, and conduct forest monitoring and patrols. This dual approach aims at stimulating market development on different levels to increase market access for small-scale farmers, as well as to conserve and restore forests.

Several elements of the project, such as the Training of Trainers (ToT) model, are to a certain extent contingent on the specific local context, namely the remoteness of several communities, on the one side, and the historically strong local presence of CI Madagascar, which allows the project to intervene rapidly when adjustments are needed or issues arise. These elements do still contain the potential for replication, yet mostly in other remote areas in Madagascar. It is worth noting, however, that while there are other protected forest areas in the country, CAZ and COFAV are the two largest and some of the most pristine ones, which reduces the replicability potential.

What are the key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of scalability or replication of project outcomes/outputs/results? Type of barriers and enabling key factors
Key factors requiring attention are capacity-building for decentralised authorities, support for forest police and law enforcement, and consultation with local communities to enable the inclusion of more beneficiaries. Site accessibility should also be improved to facilitate access to inputs and markets.

Another aspect is support to forest police and law application, including a better communication of its enforcement. According to the 2021 Annual Progress Report (APR), that year the project facilitated 36 forest controls by mixed brigades which were conducted under the lead by the

DREDD. These mixed brigade for forest control are only taking place after patrollers or drones have identified illegal activities inside the forest. These forest controls resulted in the identification of 133 offenders, of which 28 were summoned for further investigation and 47 were arrested. However, local patrollers and beneficiaries feel that reported infringements often stay without consequences because forest police and authorities do not have the capacity to address these issues. This undermines the credibility of forest patrollers as offenders understand they do not face punishments in case they are caught.

2.4 Efficiency

2.4.1 Financing and cofinancing

Is there any difference between planned and actual expenditures? Why?

As of 31 December 2021, when 73% of the implementation time had gone (44 months out of the planned 60 months), the project had spent 33% of the budget of GCF funds (6,1 million USD out of 18,5 million USD). The fact that the project has spent less than half of the budget has several explanations. Firstly, when implementation began in mid-2018, the project team worked mostly on revising the strategy, workplan and the baselines/indicators, as those were written in 2015 when the Funding Proposal was developed and also did not include LORTA methodologies[16]. The work in the field started from 2019, when expenditure was relatively good, even though the team faced several issues related to the remoteness of several communities in the CAZ and COFAV corridors. Lessons were drawn from these experiences on how to reach remote beneficiaries and were to be used in 2020, yet that year the Covid-19 pandemic started. As can be seen in **Error! Reference source not found.**, the expenditure rate decreased strongly because of the impact of the long lockdown (March to December 2020) that severely delayed implementation in the field, including significant planned expenditure for travel/meetings and grants[17]. The 2021 lockdown (March to July) and delays to CCTF establishment affected expenditure in 2021[18].

When looking at expenditure per outcome, outcomes A7 ‘adaptation through sustainable agriculture’ and A5 ‘strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for a climate-responsive planning and development’ have a low amount of the budget disbursed compared to what was planned. The same can be said for M9 ‘improved management of forest areas contributing to emission reduction’. For A7 and M9 this can be mostly explained due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the issues related to the remoteness of beneficiaries, as these outcomes require mostly on-site activities. The fact that the expenditure rate is higher for M9 can be explained due to the success of the implementation through local stakeholders (lead farmers, tree nursery workers and forest

[16] Source for revisions: 2018 APR Section 3.
[17] 2020 Financial APR.
[18] 2021 Financial APR.

patrollers). This approach made sure some activities could continue despite COVID-19, yet gap remains. This approach is less useful for A7 as new agricultural techniques and approaches had to be introduced which required material (deliveries were delayed) and on-the-ground training for which project staff could not travel and deliver. The low expenditure of outcome A5 is mostly due delays on the implementation of BNCCREDD+ activities and the discussions around the CCTF.

Table 3: Planned and expended budget for GCF project funds (as of 31 December 2021) (USD)

Concept	Planned FAA	Cumulative expenditure (May 2018 - Dec 2021)	Spent/ planned	Progress towards final target[19]
Outcome A7	6 331 284	2 173 854	34%	78.5%
Outcome A8	609 020	296 523	49%	98%
Outcome M9	4 039 780	1 460 441	36%	69%
Outcome A5	5 019 981	785 711	16%	36%
Project Management	2 499 923	1 421 473	57%	/
Total	**18 500 000**	**6 138 003**	**33%**	**66%**

Source: FAA schedule 2 and information provided by the PMU.

Note: Figures exclude co-financing and "commitments" reported in project APRs.

Table 4 : Expenditure by year (USD)

Concept	2018	2019	2020	2021
Outcome A7	88 241	1 049 837	433 291	602 486
Outcome A8	54 945	96 847	82 684	62 047
Outcome M9	58 560	616 928	400 345	384 608
Outcome A5	54 095	353 928	189 634	188 055
Project Management Costs	235 042	456 552	368 847	361 033
Total expenditure	**490 883**	**2 574 091**	**1 474 800**	**1 598 229**
Planned FAA	**3 402 882**	**3 279 043**	**3 245 648**	**6 797 286**
Spent/planned	**14%**	**79%**	**45%**	**24%**

Source: FAA and information provided by the PMU.

Note: Figures exclude co-financing and "commitments" reported in project APRs.

[19] This is based on Error! **Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** provides more information on the progress per project output towards its final target based on the indicators of the 2021 Annual Progress Report. Table 2, calculating the average of percentages. Therefore, it should merely be seen as an estimate. Progress towards outputs to which the progress is still to be determined (TBD) are not taken into account.

Did the leveraging of funds (co-financing) occur as planned? How did this affect project progress?[20]

As of 31 December 2021, 113% of the planned co-financing through Year 4 and 100% of total committed project co-financing amount had been disbursed. Even though most of the original proposed CI co-financing was no longer available in 2018[21], the project team has managed to find other sources of co-financing funds, which are presented below. The project team successfully launched a fundraising initiative to fill the gap. CI also applied for co-financing for restoration with Mastercard, and in December 2021 it was approved. This will materialize after CI has met the full co-financing commitment from the FAA. A mining company, Ambatovy, is also providing co-financing. The Ambatovy mine compensates for forest clearance at the mine site by slowing down deforestation by small scale agriculture. Its involvement in this project is in line with its other biodiversity offsetting efforts.[22] In particular, Ambatovy has contributed to funding income-generating activities, mitigation (controls by mixed brigades), and communication activities (environmental education, awareness-raising campaign for communities, including for school children on the protection of forest, biodiversity and climate change issues) and to improve the resilience of 150 vulnerable farmer households and the protection of biodiversity in the Ankerana site. This co-financing has also been used from preparation until validation of the communal development plan of Ankerana project site and funding the CAZ protected area committee meeting in 2020.

Table 5: Planned and disbursed cofinancing

Source of Cofinancing	Total disbursed contribution (2018-2021)	Planned FAA (2018-2021)	Disbursed/ planned	Type
		682 223		**Cash**
Ambatovy Project	552 172			Cash
Helmsley Charitable Trust	40 221			Cash
Lemur Project	129 016			Cash
Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) II: Hosting & Management Services	8 012			Cash
Lemur Project II	41 895			Cash
Total	**771 318**	**682 223**	**113%**	**Cash**

Source: Information provided by the PMU.

[20] This section on co-financing should remain confidential (provided to Baastel and the GCF) and not be disclosed publicly.

[21] The main source of CI co-financing originally proposed was from the CI BioCarbon Fund, which was not available once the project began implementation.

[22] Devenish K., Desbureaux S., Willcock S. and Jones P.G.J., On track to achieve no net loss of forest at Madagascar's biggest mine, *Nature sustainability*, 2020.

Are adequate accounting and financial systems in place for project management and the production of accurate and timely financial information?

Available documentation, such as project monitoring reports, suggests the project has adequate accounting and financial systems for project management. External audit reports are created each year.

Have project resources been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible?

As of 31 December 2021, project management costs (PMC) using GCF Funds amounted USD 1 421 473. PMC represented a very high percentage (23%) of total expenditure in that period, well beyond the 14% ratio that was planned in the budget in the FP. This is in part due to the fact that during Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions, the suspension of field activities significantly inversely impacted Project expenditure in the field, particularly in travel and grants that could not be delivered to communities, while other costs, including project management, largely continued at the previous rate. Cumulative PMC as of 31 December 2021 represented 57% of the budget planned for project management for the whole implementation period, when the project is 73% through the initially planned implementation period, which is good. PMC will need to be carefully managed to reduce their ratio vis a vis total expenditure. This is particularly important if a no-cost extension is envisioned, as this would extend in time project management expenditures with no additional funding sources. Of course, as implementation of activities in A7, A8, A5 and M9 resumes and accelerates the ratio of PMC will decrease, but this is however a concerning issue. Throughout implementation the project has identified and implemented cost efficiency measures, such as the installation of proximity nurseries to produce locally native trees and cash crops seedlings to reduce transportation cost, the involvement of local partners for implementation and monitoring of project activities that do not need physical presence of project technical staff, and the collaboration with existing institutions, structures and initiatives, for example using the market studies already prepared by CRS. As noted on the effectiveness section, the project has achieved remarkable results with low expenditure.

2.4.2 Governance system

Were the roles and responsibilities of the different actors clearly defined in the project design?

The roles and responsibilities of the different actors were clearly defined in the FP. This focused on the role of each accredited entity, CI and EIB, the role of the GCF and the role of the implementing partners. While CI would focus on the technical and financial management aspects of public sector activities, EIB was responsible for the implementation of the private sector activities through oversight of Althelia's (executing partner) Investment Fund. Due to this clear separation of responsibilities between CI and EIB, the project could adjust and continue once the EIB withdrew.

The GCF from its side through its national focal point has the responsibility to ensure that the implementation of the project aligns with strategical national objectives and priorities.

The execution of the project is led by the BNCCREDD+, the part of the Ministry responsible for Environment and Forests, and CI Madagascar. A Project Steering Committee was established which was to be led by a representative of the government of Madagascar, had a representative of the executing partner (CI Madagascar) and involved other relevant stakeholders. Besides the Project Steering Committee, a Coordination Unit and Project Executing Units were set up. The Coordination Unit is composed by representatives of each executing entity and chaired by a National Director. In addition to the MEDD, CI would collaborate with the Ministry of Education at the national level. No other ministries would be directly involved. The Project Executing Units are local teams responsible for operative planning and day-to-day execution of the activities under the project components.

How efficient and effective has the project governance system proved to be during implementation for decision making, communication flows and coordination?[23]

The governance system put in place by CI is proving to be both efficient and effective at the local level, allowing the project to achieve results in the Covid-19 context, while it is not fully effective at the national level. Communication could have constituted a difficult topic for the project due to both Covid-19 and the presence of remote beneficiaries. Nevertheless, the project put a lot of effort to reach difficult project areas and keep communicating during the pandemic through radio, articles, newspapers and calling the widespread local field agents or lead farmers present on the ground (when necessary, enabled by the provision of cell phones). The field missions carried out for this evaluation confirmed that CI is communicating efficiently and continuously at the commune level.

There is room for improvement in collaboration and communication at the national level. CI is in contact with MEDD, particularly BNCCREDD+, as well as with DREDD. While according to CI Madagascar communication is constant through emails, meetings and calls, the MEDD considers that this is not regular enough. Discrepancies exist for instance regarding sharing of quarterly reports: while CI Madagascar claims that these are shared with the BNCCREDD+ one month after the quarter ends, after the report is reviewed, BNCCREDD+ argues that they are not shared in a systematic way with BNCCREDD+. Beyond communication, the administrative system for the implementation of the A5.1 and A5.2 activities to be executed by BNCCREDD+ is not efficient nor effective and is indeed a cause of duplication of efforts and delays. The involvement of other national players, particularly ministries, is limited. While the project made an effort to add national players, in particular ministries involved in land use, planning and agriculture, their participation is reduced to the PSC committees, which, while they were originally planned bi-annually, have only taken place three times, in 2018, 2019 and December 2021. While face-to-face meetings were not feasible for most of the time in 2020 and 2021, they were possible in some periods (January to

[23] This question focuses on the effectiveness of the governance system. Are the project's governance mechanisms functioning efficiently? Have partners, including government entities, been effective in delivering project results? If not, why? Were the modes of deliveries of the outputs appropriate to build essential/necessary capacities and promote national ownership?

March and July to December 2022). Apparently, PSC meeting could not be organized virtually, as many of the PSC members have very limited internet access (CI explored this possibility but concluded it was not feasible). In any case, communication with key partners should not be reduced to PSC meetings, especially when these do not happen bi-annually as expected. This is important because ministries are not always coordinating among them, which makes that the economic incentives are not always aligned with environmental priorities, an element that can hamper the impact of the project.

To what extent have effective partnerships for project implementation been established with relevant stakeholders at different levels?[24]

The project has built effective partnerships for project implementation at the local level. Local authorities, NGOs and beneficiaries are all participating in some way. Communication to all local communities is ensured while collaboration extents to a part of these local communities, being mostly mayors, field agents, lead farmers and forest patrollers. These are all involved in implementation and monitoring of the project, and are significantly contributing to it, as mentioned earlier, in particular in a Covid-19 context where project officers could not travel to the field. In this sense, the achievements of the projects are due to a great extent to the level and quality of the participation of local stakeholders and the training provided to these stakeholders by project staff prior to COVID-19. From a different perspective, consultations held during the field missions for this evaluation confirmed that local communities within the project areas feel the project is taking into account their demands. Local communities are overall supportive towards the project activities, understand them and have ownership of them, including forest protection. Indeed, during consultations local communities proposed the scaling-up of project activities to benefit other communities.

As noted above, there is room for further engagement and communication with the BNCCREDD+ and to a greater extent with other ministries at the national level – collaboration with decentralized entities, such as the DREDD and the Regional Directorate of the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (DRAEPs) is better. As noted in the complementarity and cofinancing sections (sections 2.1.2), the project has built synergies with other initiatives. In particular, it has built synergies with three foundations (Helmsley Charitable Trust, David E. & Mary C. Gallo Foundation and the Pisces foundation), with four neighbouring projects (Ambatovy, Ranowash, Lemur and Lemur II projects), with two international initiatives (the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group and the Union for Ethical BioTrade) and with four local stakeholders (DRAEP, DREDD, Lumahu Fils Production Agency and Sté Rayina).

[24] This question focuses on the inclusiveness of the governance system: who participates and how. It includes the following sub-questions. Who are the partners of the project (including government entities) and how strategic are they in terms of capacities and commitment? Is the decision-making process transparent and inclusive of both women and men? How well is country ownership reflected in the project governance, coordination and consultation mechanisms or other consultations?

2.4.3 Quality of implementation and execution

How efficient is the performance of the accredited entity (including project design, implementation and supervision of project execution)?

CI GCF has been efficient in its performance as accredited entity regarding the implementation and supervision of project execution, yet, as noted in section 2.3.2, it was less efficient on project design. While over time CI had acquired strong experience in managing projects in Madagascar, this is their first GCF project not just in Madagascar but globally. Therefore, the project design process took a decent amount of time, which is understandable as it is a pioneer project. However, because of the withdrawal of the EIB and the fact that a lot of time passed between project design and project initiation, an additional extensive revision was needed afterwards. Taken together this resulted in a heavy and lengthy process.

In its implementation CI-GCF is appearing to be very accessible and continuously communicating with the project team (biweekly meetings). CI-GCF is not only staying on top of things but also supportive and applying lessons learnt (see section 2.4.5 on adaptive management). CI-GCF has provided support with administrative procedures, compliance with donor policies and reporting. An example is the change in procurement process in 2019 to allow for the local production of seedlings.

How efficient is the performance of the executing entities (including execution arrangements, work planning, procurement processes and project monitoring)?

The executing entity of this project is CI Madagascar. Given the funds spent and the difficult context, with the Covid-19 pandemic and severe extreme events, CI Madagascar is appearing to be remarkably efficient in terms of number of grants, number of households and reduction of deforestation (see section 2.2.1 on effectiveness). On the field mission carried out for this evaluation the local beneficiaries confirmed to be very satisfied with the communication and support provided by the project so far. The fact that CI Madagascar had a strong network on the project sites is appreciated and helps to involve the local communities as a whole.

2.4.4 Risk Management and Environmental and Social Safeguards

How realistic are the risks and assumptions of the project? Extent to which the planning documents anticipated or reflected the risks faced by the project during implementation

The risks anticipated were all realistic. Most of them have been to some extent experienced during the project implementation. The FP considered six categories of risks, namely financial, technical, operation and execution, social and environmental, legal and political risks. The financial risks caused by political instability and the ease of doing business in Madagascar was supposed to be tackled by combining GCF grant participation with private sector finance, but the project activities related to private sector finance were removed because of the EIB withdrawal. The financial risk is further downscaled through due diligence of deals and pro-active deal management. The change of

supply of seedlings to local nurseries to avoid expensive transportation costs prove that deal management took place.

The technical risks, mainly failures of techniques and technology, are only faced to some extent. More precisely, the agricultural calendar used for the seeds was not well aligned with the meteorological state, meaning that several plants had to be planted during inappropriate periods. This was a very unpredictable risk due to the variability caused by climate change. The local beneficiaries pointed out to this fact and adapted their calendar themselves. Introduction of other technologies or techniques was successful, including drone technology for forest surveillance purposes, the use of tablets as a data collection instrument (field managers) and the use of mobile cell phones to enhance communication.

The operation and execution risk is experienced at both the local and national level, yet due to different reasons. At the national level, when dealing with the ministries, little response is received which makes collaboration and coordination a difficult exercise. At the local level the network of CI appears to be sufficiently strong to maintain good relations with local partners and stakeholders. The risk on the local level is rather related to the remoteness of certain local beneficiaries in the project areas, which was not considered under operational risks in the FP. The project is dealing with this by working with local lead farmers, forest patrollers and tree nurseries for project implementation and monitoring tasks. Moreover, the strong presence due to local offices increases problem solving capacity in case they appear.

The likelihood of social and environmental risks was assessed to be low. These risks have so far not been experienced. The legal risk, related to the slow and complex functioning of the judicial system, have been to a certain extent experienced by lead farmers, forest patrollers and other local beneficiaries participating in forest conservation. More precisely, violators were caught but not always brought to justice or punished. This undermines the credibility of the forest patrollers. As it is impossible for the project to intervene in the judicial system of Madagascar, this risk is not considered resolvable. Lastly, the political risks, related to political crises, are so far not experienced as the political situation in Madagascar has remained stable since project initiation.

The risks connected to a health crisis were not foreseen but this can be regarded as normal. They have however strongly influenced project implementation. In general, the project requires time in order to have an influence.

How did the project deal with issues and risks in implementation? Quality of information systems in place to identify and analyze new risks, including COVID-19/ Quality of risk mitigation strategies identified and implemented, including COVID-19

The project made an active effort to identify risks during implementation. Several examples demonstrate this. First, the project applied active deal management during implementation, as demonstrated by the change of seedling supplier. An emergency response fund for cyclonic activity was created in recognition of the impact that a single event can have on project beneficiaries. COVID-19 was addressed as effectively as possible by relying more on community trainers when

project staff could not reach beneficiaries. Communication efforts exceeded targets and provided a mechanism for engaging stakeholders during the pandemic. Furthermore, illegal mining activity increased in CAZ in 2019 and early 2020, creating physical risks for patrollers. The project responded by adjusting patrolling procedures: patrols had to take place in groups and patrollers were provided with communication equipment. Communication protocols with enforcement authorities were also revised.

Coordination with national government counterparts proved more difficult than expected, partly because the role of BNCCREDD+ changed from implementing partner to cost-reimbursable grantee and partly because of changes in government priorities and staff, inefficient administrative processes and limited communication.

Are project stakeholders aware of the grievance mechanism?

Local beneficiaries consulted during the field missions that took place for this evaluation confirmed that they are aware of the grievance books that are present at the municipality and fokotany level. CI consults these grievance books when it performs follow up activities.

Is the grievance mechanism effective in addressing grievances? Existence and quality of grievance mechanism and safeguard plans

The grievance books are well distributed and the project team reports on the grievances that are made. For some communities, informal mechanisms exist to report issues, but overall the grievance mechanism of CI is used.

Were other safeguard plans triggered during the project? Level of implementation of safeguard plans

Other safeguards plans were not triggered during the project.

What have the impacts of COVID-19 been on the project? How did the project address issues related to COVID-19?

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a strong impact on almost all project activities and required the project team to put more efforts into communication and empowerment of local stakeholders. All project field activities were suspended on March 20, 2020, with few exceptions as of the end of January 2021. As a summary, the following points present the impact of Covid-19:

- Adaptation component: postponing procurement and delivery of in-kind grants, no delivery of agricultural inputs and capacity building trainings, sustainable agriculture showcases not held, in person communication delayed and community access to market was low.
- Mitigation component: restoration and reforestation activities delayed, no delivery of equipment to forest patrollers, increase of deforestation.
- Additional costs included enhanced cleaning and sanitation measures and higher prices for goods and transport.
- Evaluation activities (LORTA) were postponed.

To mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19, the project expanded communication efforts by doubling radio broadcasts, providing phones to field agents and publishing newspaper articles. It also relied more heavily on community trainers when project staff could not reach local beneficiaries. The project team set aside a small emergency fund to provide food to vulnerable households if needed, although the fund had not been used at the time of the evaluation.

2.4.5 Adaptive management

To what extent and how did the project apply adaptive management? What has been the project's ability to adapt and evolve based on continuous lessons learned and the changing development landscape, including the role of government in the Project, and the withdrawal of the European Investment Bank?

The project has applied adaptive management systematically and throughout. In this sense, it has shown a great ability to adapt to the changing development landscape. The project has identified challenges to implementation and has defined strategies to address them in a sound manner. These mitigation strategies have been clearly documented and shared with key stakeholders. The project prepared a document outlining the impact of EIB's withdrawal, indicating what changed and what CI would do to manage this change in context. The mitigation measures were appropriate. Similarly, the project prepared a document presenting the response to COVID-19. The document robustly identified risks and proposed mitigation measures. As noted in section 2.4.4 above, these have included focusing on activities that did not require the physical presence of project staff[25], relying more on lead farmers, increasing certain communication activities (through radio stations, local magazine, Facebook, newspapers), supplying mobile phones to some key stakeholders[26], opening small satellite sub-regional branches and hiring more field agents.

In addition to these two punctual documents, the project team has been monitoring risks, defining mitigation measures and monitoring their effectiveness as part of the project's M&E system. The quarterly and annual progress reports include a section on implementation challenges, including a description of the challenge encountered, its type and impact on implementation, the measures adopted to manage it and the lessons that can be learned. Overall, the management strategies presented in these monitoring reports are adequate.

Furthermore, the project has made some adjustments such as refining the training protocols, the types of agriculture products, and procurement methods of these products (change in some procurement system, procuring them locally rather than procuring and transporting them across

[25] Both in 2020 and 2021 based on the annual plan, the COVID-19 restrictions, and the progress, capacity building on sustainable agriculture, gender, tree nursery development, tree plantation, in-kind delivery, and communication activities were prioritized, as well as the forest control activities.

[26] All project staff received smartphones (60), additional Internet communication (from 3Go to 50Go) and telephone communication credits to facilitate their work and to reach key local partners during COVID19 lockdown.

the country). Moreover, according to the 2021 APR, the project facilitated and implemented cost-efficient sustainable restoration techniques, trials on applied nucleation, planting of cuttings, direct seeding, transplanting of trees, and forest controls. In addition, to accommodate the increased drought over the past years the proportion of planting fast growing, and drought resistant native tree species has been increased to ensure higher survival rate. The severe forest disturbance caused by the drought led the project to implement a succession phasing of restoration: mimicking the (slower) natural recovery process appeared to be more effective than standard reforestation activities due to the hard drought conditions.

This does not mean that the strategies have been able to overcome all challenges, as some of them are out of the control of the project. As noted, despite the project team's effort to reduce COVID's negative impacts, some impacts can be observed, which is inevitable. Similarly, regarding the creation of the CCTF, CI can only in the end refer to the GCF to negotiate with the GoM and find a solution. On some aspects, such as the management of the funds to be executed by BNCCREDD+ for outcome A5-related activities, conversations are ongoing.

In addition, although this was not meant to deal with an implementation challenge, the project was able to integrate LORTA, which was not part of project design. At the end of 2021 a Senior Advisor was also hired to improve project implementation.

2.4.6 M&E system

Is the M&E plan practical and sufficient?

While the quality of the PRF is mixed (see section 2.1.4), the M&E plan is sound in terms of the definition of roles and responsibilities, monitoring and reporting tasks and processes, including the data collection and quality assurance processes, and is adequately budgeted. The M&E system supports efforts to revise the project planning and monitor its progress. Regarding the planning, the project ensures the periodic planning of the activities during the semi-annual and the annual project performance review. During these reviews, the project assesses the achievements against the annual targets and analyses eventual gaps and reprogram them in the next project period if possible. The periodic review allows to gather lessons learned and best practices to be taken account in the next period of the project planning.

The practical organisation of monitoring is laid out on several levels. Local presence and regular visits (each community is visited every two weeks by a field agent to perform field monitoring activities) are the cornerstones of the M&E plan and laid out in a detailed monthly plan. A field manager assigned for each corridor visits the field agents and patrollers and collects the data with a tablet. Information is coded to protect personal privacy - only the database manager and the chief of party of the project have access to the uncoded data. The only issue here is that it is hard for field

manager to visit remote communities and check on what the field agents, lead farmers or patrollers report.

The M&E plan included several mechanisms to ensure the highest level of data quality. To this end, each person involved in data collection was trained regarding data collection and control. The M&E team and technical manager verify data through field visits and sampling checks. The GIS team maps all data and shares with project staff and partners. Each household beneficiary has ID cards with codes and picture to ensure the right person is participating and accuracy of data. For maps on deforestation (and thus carbon emissions, according to the Trends.Earth approach), data are confirmed during ground-truth missions, which can be accompanied by drone flights. Patrol data are verified using shapefiles showing patrol tracks using the Spatial Monitoring & Reporting Tools (SMART) application. Restoration and agroforestry data are also confirmed during ground-truthing missions, which may be accompanied by drone flights.

Besides these continuous monitoring efforts, the M&E plan also organises several household surveys over project implementation which allow to gain a more detailed insight on the status of the project. The M&E system also foresees two independent evaluations (mid-term and final), which are budgeted. The M&E system is well resourced: it foresees a spatial monitoring and database manager, a real time impact assessment specialist, a geographic information system (GIS) specialist and an M&E coordinator which processes the information collected. These members are united in the Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Unit, which is part of the Project Management Unit.

Is the M&E system operated as per the M&E plan?[27]

Covid-19 heavily affected the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation plan as most of the data collection activities required physical presence. Field agents were replaced by local lead farmers in case physical visits became impossible. Moreover, the household survey that was planned for 2021 was postponed to 2022 which for the moment results in a lack of data to analyse and evaluate key elements of the project's performance.

Several other changes were made regarding IT improvements. M&E data processing and analysis have started the using Adobe Lightroom Classic software to manage beneficiary households' photos database for the ID and have improved the use of Power BI as data analysis and reporting tools within the project.

Until this day all annual reports (2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021) have been delivered. Despite COVID-19, much of the biweekly field visits have managed to continue due to involvement of local lead farmers. CI also continued to conduct periodic reviews of its workplan for activities that could continue during suspension of field activities. Overall, quality of reporting is good.

[27] Including "Was information on specified indicators and relevant GCF focal area tracking tools gathered in a systematic manner?"

Where necessary, was the M&E plan revised in a timely manner?

The monitoring and evaluation team revised where possible its M&E plan to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, which mostly resulted in postponing the survey and hiring more local partners to be able to continue monitoring activities and implement some of the planned data quality assurance mechanisms, namely the field visits, sampling checks and ground-truth missions. To ensure the quality of M&E data local partners conducting M&E activities were trained. The project was also able to use other planned mechanisms to ensure the quality of M&E data, namely the sound identification of beneficiaries - the technological system that was developed, which avoided double entry, and the applications that were used (i.e. Trends.Earth, SMART). Data were also audited by more senior/expert M&E officers. CI has also developed contingency plans and revised timelines for activities once they can fully resume safely. Moreover, CI has developed a plan to recruit and train additional local key partners to combat delays and negative impacts because of COVID-19.

How has the information from the M&E system been used during the project implementation?[28] To what extent has the project's M&E data and mechanism(s) contributed to achieving project results?

The information from the M&E system is being used in several ways to optimize project implementation:

- After year 1 on implementation, the GIS data were able to show differences in areas that were patrolled or not, which allowed an increase in the effectiveness of patrolling activities and how it was communicated to enforcement authorities, resulting in more deterrence.
- The project used M&E data to develop communication tools on the importance of GHG reduction. All communication tools and activities (local Soa an'ala Magazine, Facebook, booklets, film, etc.,) for this project contain good practices in terms of agroforestry, SAP, messages, and CC mitigation and aim to contribute to the change of communities' behaviour to reduce GHG.
- Information on production, sale volumes and types of crops are collected in order to design future priority agricultural interventions

Is the implementation of the project's impact evaluation appropriate and beneficial to the project (LORTA)?

The scientific LORTA approach is beneficial as it helped develop a more rigorous M&E plan, a more rigorous analysis of the impacts of the project, and a better attribution. More specifically, by designing the sample and a solid household survey and holding a LORTA workshop the capacity of the M&E team and the rigorousness of the M&E plan itself were strengthened.

[28] Including "How were the objectives, ToC and strategy used in performance management and progress reporting?", and "How were the indicators and/or benchmark for performance measurements used in project management?"

2.5 Sustainability

2.5.1 Factors affecting the sustainability of project benefits

How effective were the exit strategies and approaches to phase out assistance provided by the project?

The FP included a comprehensive exit strategy (section D.2, pp. 29-30), comprising policy, institutional, socio-cultural, technical, economic and financial aspects. The exit strategy was particularly strong on financial sustainability[29] and linked the sustainability of the results in the target landscapes with national level sustainability mechanisms. In particular, the exit strategy relied on the interaction of public sector activities in the target landscapes and institutional and financial mechanisms at the national level, most notably the investment fund, which would give businesses enough time to establish themselves and reap the benefits of sustainable production methods, and then be able to access traditional finance, and the CCTF.

The assessment of sustainability risks in the EIB withdraw impact document rightly distinguishes between landscape and national level results, their sustainability and the mechanisms leading to it. The document provides an adequate exit strategy for the results at the landscape level. The exit strategy is less robust at the national level, given the landscape focus of CI's activities. The exit strategy is comprehensively implemented by the project team.

Are the actions and results from project interventions likely to be sustained? Why? What are the key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of sustainability, scalability or replication of project outcomes/outputs/results?

Based on progress made during implementation at mid-term, the sustainability of project results at the landscape level seems likely. The local regulatory and policy framework will contribute to it, as the approach and the activities promoted by the project will be integrated into regional and municipal development planning instruments, namely the communal development plans.
The involvement and ownership of local government structures and decentralized services also contribute to sustainability of project results at the targeted landscapes, in the sense that public sector activities are anchored within existing institutions and will likely continue, although there are always risks related to political or government staff turnover. There is also social ownership of project results and activities, but land ownership and general insecurity may compromise the sustainability of project results.

Moreover, although there is no sound evidence on this, CSA practices seem to be in the process of being adopted in the project areas. Applied research, capacity building, awareness raising and

[29] In addition to section D, on the exit strategy, Section E.6.3., refers to the financial viability or sustainability of the project, and one of the outcomes focuses specifically on this.

communication efforts are contributing to this. The ToT approach is particularly appropriate for the sustainability and expansion of these practices, coupled with strengthened extension services. Once crops are well established, agricultural practices may not need the continued external provision of inputs. Some of the inputs that may still be externally required will likely be provided by buyers (see below), at least in some areas (see further below).

Furthermore, most of the proposed agricultural practices are proving to be economically viable. Available data indicates a general increase in yields, which allows communities to move from local consumption and create supply for markets. Importantly, there has also been a diversification of agricultural products, which contributes to economic resilience. In parallel, while the withdraw of EIB, and in particular the removal of the investment fund, reduces sustainability mechanisms, there is significant progress on the market side, as discussed in section 2.2.1. Nevertheless, limited access to funding may reduce the sustainability of the project results. While with the EIB activities, businesses would have had enough time to establish themselves and reap the benefits of sustainable production methods, and then be able to access traditional finance, and potentially CCTF funding, the capacity of business to access financial and business services has been reduced with the withdrawal of EIB and limited progress on the CCTF.

It is important to note however that yields and sales have not uniformly increased across the whole portfolio. Certain crops, such as beans, coffee and rice, have not provided better yields in some communities (while they did in others). In addition, even where yields have increased, market access has not always been achieved. Some areas face structural challenges in this regard that are beyond the scope of the project. Indeed, although the project is rightly considering the specific circumstances of each beneficiary group (e.g. promoting crops that are more easily transportable in extremely remote villages) by adjusting project activities to better serve beneficiaries' needs, the remoteness of certain villages compromises their market access and thus the financial inclusion of some beneficiaries and could hinder sustainability of project results in these areas, even if increases in consumption crops improve their food security. In this sense, sustainability is more likely on certain areas of the landscape than on the landscape as a whole. Moreover, as was already recognized in the FP, costs and sale income are volatile, with significant price and volume risk. While the creation of formal market mechanisms can help partially mitigate it, the sustainability of project results at landscape level faces an important income insecurity risk. In addition, weak law enforcement could compromise the sustainability of project results.

On the environmental side, CSA contributes to protect and restore ecosystems and therefore to the continued provision of ecosystems services. Moreover, the profitability of the promoted agricultural practices will reduce the use of and reliance on slash-and-burn agricultural practices, which, together with better forest monitoring and law enforcement, will contribute to forest conservation and restoration, which will in turn further strengthen climate resilience in the short and medium term, as well as in the longer term through carbon emission reductions and carbon absorption increases. However, although the project is promoting climate change adaptation, increasing the

adaptive capacity of beneficiaries, climate change is still a significant risk, given increased threats, exposure and/or sensitivity, because even if they diminish, initial risk levels were very high, and because there are limits to adaptation. In any case, in line with sections 2.2.1 on unintended impacts and 2.4.4 on environmental safeguards, no maladaptation or risk of it is identified.

At the national level the results are more limited, and their sustainability less likely. Ownership of the MEDD has been more limited than planned and engagement of other national stakeholders has been reduced in frequency and level of involvement. On the financial side, as discussed, progress on the creation of CCTF is limited. The creation of an independently managed multi-donor fund that receives and coordinates bilateral, multilateral, and private donor support for climate adaptation and mitigation measures that are identified by the government of Madagascar as priorities is unlikely. Its capitalisation seems also unlikely, as the GoM's requests reduce development partners' appetite to capitalise the fund, which is the opposite of the FP's idea of the investment fund and the trust fund (CCTF) driving to a sustainable and virtuous circle of investment. The non-creation of the CCTF would affect the replication of the results achieved in CAZ and COFAV to other provinces (as discussed in section 2.3.1 and 2.3.3), as well as the sustainability of project results in those regions (as noted above). Thanks to the knowledge management efforts, some learning at the national level is likely, although at this point regulatory changes seem unlikely.

Both at the landscape and at the national level COVID remains a risk to sustainability, in terms of the priority given by the government to environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation and the funds available for it.

3. Conclusions, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusions

Relevance

The project document analyses the context and problems in a clear and specific way. It explains the vicious circle of inefficient and unsustainable agricultural practices, food insecurity, forest degradation, vulnerability to climate change and poverty and presents its interventions on different levels to break this circle. The withdrawal of the EIB did not change the overall problem analysis but removed several key private-sector and energy-related elements.

The project is in tune with Madagascar's constitution, environmental and climate change policies, strategies and plans (i.e., NAPA, NDC, REDD+ Strategy, sectoral strategies), as well as with its socio-economic policies, strategies and plans (i.e., National Development Policy, National Plan for the Promotion of Gender). It is also consistent with Communal Development Plans, an alignment that will be strengthened as the project supports the integration of climate change and environmental aspects in these plans. Views of stakeholders were integrated during project design through the organization of meetings at both the national and local levels between November 2015 and March 2016.

The project is complementary with other initiatives, both regarding local (i.e. Ranowash and agroforestry NGOs) and rather large-scale interventions (i.e. CRS and PrAda) taking place in the CAZ and COFAV corridors. Moreover, synergies have been built with two projects under GEF-7 implementation (FOLUR and PECO). The project uses formal and informal channels for coordination and collaboration with other initiatives.

The logical framework rightly integrated public and private sector mechanisms, landscape level and national level activities, and adaptation and mitigation outcomes, but was too granular at the output and activity level, and some elements were not properly phrased. The objective of the project, which focused on landscape level impacts, was not significantly affected by EIB's withdrawal, although it changed the type of project from a mixed to a purely public sector, grant-funded project and reduced the likelihood of replication and scalability. The removal of EIB's activities had a more significant effect on national level impacts.

The effectiveness of the PRF to monitor the achievement of project results is mixed. The PRF includes good systems to monitor changes in forest cover and household resilience, but does not adequately monitor key intermediate outcomes, such as changes in agricultural practices, production and commercialization and the health of agricultural and forest ecosystems, although some of these aspects are monitored through the projects M&E system. Beyond relevance, the

indicators' system is overall adequate, although some indicators are not specific enough. The PRF included in the funding proposal was improved with the assistance of GCF's LORTA programme, which makes the analysis of impact and the attribution more rigorous.

During the project preparation phase a gender mainstreaming and action plan with a sound gender analysis and specific recommendations for project activities was developed to ensure that men and women have the opportunity to equally participate in and benefit from the project. The gender analysis was updated and expanded in 2019, and general recommendations were provided, but the detailed action plan was not modified - it is to be updated in 2022. Field missions carried out for this evaluation confirmed that women are greatly involved. Although specific indicators and targets were set in the gender action plan, these were not integrated in the overall PRF, where most indicators were not sex disaggregated.

Effectiveness

The project has made significant progress both at the outcome and output level. The project is on target regarding three of its four outcome level indicators and regarding 19 out of 25 (76%) output level indicators. By component, progress is more significant in A8, followed by A7 and M9, and far behind by A5. This progress is particularly remarkable considering the low expenditure (see Table 4). Moreover, the quality of outputs is good. Project results for men are similar to those for women, who are satisfied with the project gender equality results. The observed unexpected effects, related to unexpected external shocks or newly introduced technologies, are positive.

This progress was achieved despite several major constraints. Remoteness hindered monitoring, input delivery and the commercialisation of agricultural products. Insecurity affected activities, particularly forest patrols. COVID-19 prevented face-to-face activities, disrupted training, input delivery and market access, and increased the cost of goods purchased from urban markets. Limited ownership of activities A5.1, A5.2 and A5.4, together with weak law enforcement, also constrained implementation. Finally, droughts and cyclones disrupted agricultural calendars and caused further delays. Conversely, alignment with national policies and strong engagement by regional and local authorities and beneficiary communities supported project performance.

Impact

The project is on target in all fund-level impact indicators where progress can be assessed (6 out of 8). The project has made significant progress on the number of beneficiaries, improved ecosystem management and emissions reductions. Evidence on changes in household resilience is not yet available. As the PRF does not assess the health of ecosystems, this impact cannot be measured. Although the evidence on impacts and causal pathways currently available is incomplete, it can be argued that the project is contributing to the achievement of the expected paradigm shift. Nevertheless, the capacity of the project to contribute to a broader paradigm shift was negatively

affected by the withdrawal of EIB's private sector elements and could be further affected by the slow progress on the creation of the CCTF.

The project was innovative as it was the first GCF project in Madagascar and the first CI-GCF project. In addition, the project's specific approaches (i.e., empowerment of local stakeholders through the lead farmers approach) and technologies (i.e., drones) have brought innovation. The two main mechanisms that the FP considered to unlock additional climate finance on the long-term are not operational, which decreases the contribution of the project to innovation. Increased knowledge on GCF project design and implementation can contribute to the design and submission of new GCF projects. The project has actively shared its lessons learned and best practices in that regard.

The approach, practices and technologies promoted by the project have replication potential. In particular the conservation agreement model where financial and physical inputs are provided in order to support market development and commit to conduct reforestation activities, cease all slash and burn agriculture, and conduct forest monitoring and patrols is a model that can be applied to other regions in Madagascar and around the world. Regarding Madagascar, however, the project already covers the most important primary forests in the country. The withdrawal of EIB's and limited progress on CCTF reduce the project's replication and scalability potential.

Efficiency

Regarding finance, as of 31 December 2021, when 73% of the implementation time had gone, the project had spent 33% of the revised planned budget. Expenditure was low in 2018, 2020 and 2021, and greater in 2019. Expenditure has been low on A7, M9 and A5, and greater on A8. As of 31 December 2021, 113% of the planned co-financing had been mobilized. It mostly comes from sources not planned. Available documentation suggests the project has adequate accounting and financial systems for project management.

Throughout implementation the project has identified and implemented cost efficiency measures. However, as of 31 December 2021, cumulative project management costs represented a very high percentage (23%) of total cumulative disbursement, well beyond the 14% ratio that was planned. This ratio was affected significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic as PMC costs remained constant while activity expenditures were significantly reduced. The PMC ratio will need to be carefully managed in the remaining time of implementation.

The roles and responsibilities of the different actors in the governance system were clearly defined in the FP. The governance system put in place by CI is proving to be both efficient and effective at the regional, municipal and, above all, the commune level, allowing the project to achieve results in the COVID-19 context. This is mostly due to the strong local network of CI and its empowerment of local stakeholders. The level and quality of information is good. There is room for improvement in

collaboration and communication at the national level. CI is in contact with MEDD, particularly BNCCREDD+ but communication is not regular enough. Beyond communication, the administrative system for the implementation of the A5.1 and A5.2 activities to be executed by BNCCREDD+ is not efficient nor effective. The involvement of other national players, particularly ministries, is limited.

CI-GCF has efficiently supervised project execution, maintained regular communication with CI Madagascar through biweekly meetings, supported administrative procedures, donor compliance and reporting, and applied lessons learned. Given the expenditure level and the difficult operating context, including COVID-19 and severe climatic events, CI Madagascar has also performed efficiently in terms of grants delivered, households reached and reduced deforestation. Field consultations confirmed that local beneficiaries were highly satisfied with the project's communication and support.

The anticipated risks were realistic. Most have been experienced during the project implementation. Due to the good preparatory work, adequate mitigation strategies could be used to cope with the risks. Moreover, there has been a good and active effort to identify additional risks and mitigation strategies during implementation. There are two exceptions to this general trend. Firstly, the health crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic was not foreseen but this can be regarded as normal. The project team has dealt adequately with this unforeseen risk, to the extent of its means and resources (i.e., lead farmers approach, cell phone provision, emergency fund). The second exception is the relation with the government which has turned out to be more difficult than expected and, despite efforts by the project team, has not been fully overcome. Grievance mechanisms are well distributed, known and used and the contents are adequately reported and addressed.

The project has applied adaptive management systematically, showing a great ability to adapt to the changing development landscape. The project has identified challenges to implementation and has defined strategies to address them in a sound manner. This does not mean that the strategies have been able to overcome all challenges, as some of them are out of the control of the project. These mitigation strategies have been clearly documented and shared with key stakeholders, through punctual documents (EIB withdraw impact document and COVID-19 response document) and through the quarterly and annual progress reports.

Although the quality of the PRF is mixed, the M&E plan is sound, adequately budgeted and clear about roles, responsibilities, monitoring, reporting, data collection and quality assurance. The plan and its implementation were adjusted in response to COVID-19 and IT improvements. Reporting is timely and generally of good quality. The M&E team operates effectively at several levels, and its information is used in project management to support the achievement of project targets.

Sustainability

The FP included a comprehensive exit strategy that was particularly strong on financial sustainability and linked the sustainability of results in the target landscapes to national-level sustainability mechanisms. The assessment of sustainability risks in the EIB withdrawal impact document appropriately distinguishes between landscape- and national-level results. The exit strategy is adequate at landscape level but less robust at national level. The project team is implementing the main elements of the exit strategy comprehensively.

The local regulatory and policy framework, ownership by local government structures and decentralised services, community support, adoption of promoted practices, and improvements in crop diversification, yields and market access suggest that project results are likely to be sustained at landscape level. However, remoteness may undermine sustainability in some villages, making prospects stronger in certain parts of the landscape than across the landscape as a whole. Income insecurity also remains a risk, and EIB's withdrawal has reduced businesses' access to financial and business services. Although the project is strengthening adaptive capacity, climate change remains a significant risk because initial levels of threat, exposure and sensitivity were high and adaptation has inherent limits. At national level, results are more limited and less likely to be sustained.

Ownership and engagement of national stakeholders is limited and, on the financial side, the progress on the creation of CCTF is limited. Its capitalisation seems also unlikely, given the government's requests. EIB's withdrawal removed the private sector element of the funding proposal. Thanks to the knowledge management efforts, some learning at the national level is likely, although at this point regulatory changes seem unlikely. Both at the landscape and at the national level COVID remains a risk to sustainability.

3.2 Lessons learned

1. Social changes tend to be slow. It typically takes time to adjust natural resources management at individual, institutional and collective level, overcoming the inertia related to the development paradigm to be modified. Projects themselves need time to build trust with the people they serve. Changes on the environment also tend to be slow. Adjustments in the management of natural resources do not immediately result in visible changes in the health of ecosystems and the provision of the services they provide. Moreover, the landscape approach, which is effective in creating economies of scale and agglomeration and sound in recognizing environmental linkages, implies additional time, as establishing institutional landscape structures and developing landscape strategies are complex and time-consuming tasks. Moreover, projects are subject to external shocks, including pandemics (i.e. COVID-19), extreme weather events, political instability or social unrest, which can halt or slow down project delivery. Considering these aspects, five years may not be enough to achieve the impacts intended by a sustainable landscape project, such as

SLEM. Mainstreaming integrated landscape management is a transformational process that requires significant time. Landscapes may require continued support over a longer period to generate a momentum and for impacts to start to be visible. Long project duration is also cost-effective considering the significant budget and time required to develop a GCF concept note and a project document and follow up its endorsement, and to prepare, negotiate and manage a no-cost extension if this is needed.

2. The physical accessibility and remote connectivity of target landscapes and sites within the landscapes need to be assessed when determining how many and which landscapes and sites to select and determining the length of a project. Similarly, baseline capacities need to be assessed, as they affect the achievement of tipping points in a certain timeframe.

3. The logical framework is a key element of project design, particularly when a paradigm shift is sought. A theory of change illustrating the links between the objective, outcomes and outputs, considering the activities, should be developed. It is important that the ToC is sound, but also clear, because it can and should be used to communicate the project not only to the GCF, but also to national, regional and national stakeholders and other development partners, in order to promote participation, cooperation and collaboration.

4. It is important to design robust PRF that do not assume impacts but monitor and evaluate them. In ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, it is important to monitor and evaluate directly not only changes in natural resources management, but also in the health of ecosystems, socio-economic conditions and resilience to climate change with Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) indicators, comprising sound baselines. The impact chain is complex and uncertain. The M&E system of a project needs to verify to what extent expected impacts were generated along the impact chain, ensuring full alignment with the PRF. LORTA is a great addition, but may not cover all aspects of SLEM. Moreover, monitoring should be conducted in a comprehensive manner regularly.

5. Adaptive capacity is of critical importance for the management of EbA projects, and development projects more broadly. The impact of a project depends to a great extent on the capacity of the implementing and executing entities of identifying and assessing contextual changes and identifying, designing and implementing management measures. Communication of the challenges and related measures is essential to keep the stakeholders engaged.

6. Long experience on a particular geographic and/or thematic area is an added value for project design and implementation. This allows a better understanding of the problem and of operational challenges, as well as good coordination and collaboration with a broad range of local or sectoral stakeholders. Building on previous work in the same geographical

area and establishing links with other interventions both at the strategic level and on the ground with local stakeholders helps generate efficiencies and ensure that the results achieved are maintained.

3.3 Recommendations

In light of the findings presented in section 2, the evaluation team provides the following recommendations:

1. **Develop and submit a no-cost extension proposal.** Although, as noted in section 2.2.1 on effectiveness, the project has made remarkable progress in reaching beneficiaries and working on large areas, achieving the expected results in terms of adoption of practices and changes in the status of ecosystems and household resilience requires more time than the time currently available for implementation. Moreover, some key aspects, such as the creation of the CCTF, are on hold and will not likely be resolved soon. In this context, a no cost extension would be convenient to allow for further exceeding the targets that have been met and a more complete attainment of project targets, thus increasing project impacts. CI-GCF should thus prepare and submit a no-cost extension proposal to the GCF. Two more years would probably be enough. It is worth noting that this additional time is required not only because of COVID-19, an unexpected external shock that, although it has been well managed, has nonetheless slowed down delivery, but also because of the nature of EbA approaches and not totally uncommon changes in government priorities (see section 3.2 on lessons).

2. **Revise the logical framework and results framework.** The amendment to be made to the FAA for the no-cost extension should be used as well to revise the logical framework. In particular, in line with the findings on section 2.1.3 on the logic framework, a Theory of Change should be revised, more clearly illustrating the links between the objective, outcomes and outputs of the project. This opportunity should also be used to simplify the structure, reducing the number of outputs and activities where relevant, and to properly phrase outcomes, outputs and inputs. This revision could also be used to better integrate landscape and national level impacts. The main goal of this revision should be to provide a more cohesive grasp of the impacts and the impact chain of the project. In addition, the amendment of the FAA should consider the revision of the PRF. In tune with findings on section 2.1.4 on the PRF, this should ensure a more comprehensive monitoring of the impact chain, including adoption of sustainable agricultural and ecosystem management practices, production and commercialization of agricultural products and changes in the health of the ecosystems, beyond carbon emissions, complementing the current indicators on forest cover and household resilience to climate change. In this regard, linkages between the PRF and the project's M&E system should be strengthened given that the latter monitors key

aspects that are not considered in the PRF. In addition, as already planned by CI[30], the revision of the PRF should include developing new targets for the indicators where targets have already been met, and/or those which will be affected by a longer project implementation period, in order to guide progress on those areas for the extended implementation period. The specificity of some indicators[31] should also be strengthened. In addition, indicators should be disaggregated by gender, where it is possible and sensible to do so. CI should ensure that any revisions to the ToC and logframe will be consistent with the GCF's results areas, indicators and other requirements as contained in the GCF Performance Measurement Framework and Programming Manual.

3. **Strengthen communication with the NDA and the MEDD more broadly.** Communication with the NDA and the MEDD should be improved. This may include monthly coordination meetings between CI Madagascar, the NDA and staff from the BNCCREDD+.

4. **Adjust the financial management of the funds related to A5.1 and A.5.2.** As noted in section 2.2.2, the current administrative set up is not contributing to the efficient implementation of the activities for which the MEDD is responsible. MEDD and CI Madagascar, under the supervision of CI GCF, should consider alternatives, namely direct management of those funds by CI Madagascar, which has been proposed by the MEDD. If required, this could be integrated in the no-cost extension related FAA amendment. The terms of the grant agreement between CI and the MEDD should also be adjusted. This should be coupled with a quicker and more comprehensive development of the required reports by the MEDD. CI Madagascar could provide training on the completion of these reports, if relevant.

5. **Clarify the future of the CCTF.** In line with its direct oversight role, CI GCF, with support from CI Madagascar, should continue to negotiate with the GoM regarding the CCTF, and provide support to the extent possible in the implementation of the agreed solution. Technically, an independently managed trust fund would make more sense. If this is no longer feasible, the corresponding funds could be channelled to project implementation, in particular to strengthen the sustainability and replicability of project results. For instance, this funds could be used to further promote engagement with the private sector at the landscape level.

6. **Strengthen the involvement of national level stakeholders.** CI Madagascar should assess whether additional national stakeholders should be involved. In addition, and more importantly, CI Madagascar should try to organize PSC meetings bi-annually, as planned, conducting them online when in-person meetings are not possible. Furthermore, CI Madagascar should share project documentation in-between PSC meetings, for instance

[30] CI GCF plans to determine these changes together with the Executing Entity and present them to the GCF as part of the NCE / Restructuring proposal.
[31] In particular, indicators A5.2, A5.3, A5.4, A5.5, A.7.6, A9.4.

preparing short PPT based on quarterly reports. CI Madagascar should strengthen the coordination with the mining sector (i.e., Director of Environmental Regulation and Safety (DRES)) as well as with land use planning (i.e., the Ministry of Land Use Planning and Land Services (MATSF)).

7. **Strengthen tailored technical guidance on crops and agricultural practices.** As noted on section 2.2.1 on effectiveness, in some communities, some crops (beans, coffee and rice) seem not to have produced the expected yields. In addition, the remoteness of some project sites has implications on the type of crops that are promoted, in terms of market access. CI Madagascar, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, should continue to provide tailored technical assistance, identifying why there has been and could potentially be underperformance and identifying and putting forward corrective actions.

Annexes

Annex 1 : Evaluation Matrix

Table 6: Evaluation matrix

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
1. RELEVANCE To what extent does the project meet the needs and priorities of its end users?				
1.1 Relevance of the project in relation with the problem it addresses	Were the context, problem, needs and priorities well analyzed and reviewed during project design, and in development of FAA amendment (which sought to address changes in context / definitions / baselines between FP approval and start of implementation)? To what extent is the project aligned with national and subnational needs and priorities? At which level were stakeholder and beneficiaries' views and concerns considered during project design?	Level of clarity and specificity of the context and problem analysis during project initiation and the development of FAA amendment Extent to which project (outputs/outcomes) are aligned with national and subnational policies, strategies and plans Extent of stakeholder participation during project design	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment National and sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, climate change strategies, other environmental agreements CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Regional project team Communities	Document review Interview Focus group discussion

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
1.2 Coherence with other interventions	Is there coherence and complementarity by the project with other actors and initiatives implementing climate change interventions?	Level of complementarity with other actors and initiatives active in the country and in the CAZ and/or COFAV corridors Evidence of establishment of a coordinating mechanism to ensure coordination between relevant ongoing initiatives	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Communities Partner projects' staff	Document review Interview
1.3 Logical framework	How clear, logically integrated and realistic are the project objectives, outcomes, outputs and activities?	Consistency between project objective, outcomes, outputs, activities Feasibility of the logical framework taking into account similar projects and the development of similar regions in Madagascar	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment EIB withdraw impacts document APRs CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Regional project team Partner projects' staff	Desk review Interviews
1.4 Result framework	Is the result framework effective to monitor the achievement of project results?	Use of SMART indicators	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment EIB withdraw impacts document APRs CI GCF and Madagascar	Desk review Interviews

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
1.5 Gender equity	Is project design based on a sound gender analysis? Does project design include sound a gender action plan? Do women as beneficiaries know their rights and/or benefits from project activities/interventions?	Extent to which the project planning documents analyzed gender dynamics, including sex-disaggregated indicators Extent to which financial resources/project activities are explicitly allocated to enable women to benefit from project interventions Evidence and examples of the project taking into account activities and planning for local gender dynamics and how project interventions affect women as beneficiaries	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar Regional project team Communities	Document review Interview Focus group discussion
2. EFFECTIVENESS: To what extent is the project achieving its objectives?				
2.1 Outputs and outcomes	What and how much progress has been made towards achieving the outputs and outcomes of the project? How do the results for women compare to those for men?	Progress toward targets at the output and outcome levels Quality of outputs and outcomes Gender equality on progress towards achieving project outputs and outcomes	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment EIB withdraw impacts APRs Forest and Carbon Monitoring Report (2021) Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar	Desk review Interviews Focus group discussions

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
	To what extent are female stakeholders or beneficiaries satisfied with the project gender equality results? Can any unintended or unexpected positive or negative effects be observed as a consequence of the project's interventions?	Examples of unintended results	Government national partners Regional authorities Regional project team Communities Partner projects' staff	
2.2 Barriers and enabling factors	What external factors are enabling and hindering the achievement of expected outputs and outcomes?	Type of barriers and enabling conditions	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment EIB withdraw impacts APRs Forest and Carbon Monitoring Report (2021) Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) COVID impact and response (2021) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional project team Partner projects' staff	Desk review Interviews

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
3. IMPACT what difference does the intervention make?				
3.1 Progress toward impact	How has the project contributed to achieving a stronger shift to low emission sustainable development pathways and/or increased climate resilient sustainable development?	Progress toward targets (GCF RMF/PMF Paradigm Shift objectives) Qualitative evidence of progress toward impact and causal pathways	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment EIB withdraw impacts APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional project team Partner projects' staff	Desk review Interviews
3.2 Innovation	What role has the project played in the provision of "thought leadership," "innovation," or "unlocked additional climate finance" for climate change adaptation/mitigation in the project and country context?	Examples of innovative project activities Evidence of additional climate finance mobilized due to project activities and outcomes	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional project team Communities Partner projects' staff	Desk review Interviews Focus group discussions
3.3 Replicability and scalability	What factors of the project achievements are contingent on	Evidence of replication and scaling up and market change	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment APRs	Desk review Interviews

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
	specific local context or enabling environment factors? (Which project outcomes and outputs have greater scalability and replication potential?) What are the key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of scalability or replication of project outcomes/outputs/results?	Type of barriers and enabling key factors	Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Partner projects' staff	
4. EFFICIENCY To what extent is the project implementation timely and cost-effective?				
4.1 Financing and cofinancing	Is there any difference between planned and actual expenditures? Why? Did the leveraging of funds (co-financing) occur as planned? How did this affect project progress? Are adequate accounting and financial systems in place for project management and the production of accurate and timely financial information?	Level of discrepancy between planned and executed budget (total, by year and component) Level of discrepancy between planned and leveraged co-financing (in kind and in cash) Availability and quality of financial reports Level of management costs and discrepancy with planned costs	Funding proposal, FFA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) Financial reports CI Madagascar Government national partners	Desk review Interviews

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
	Have project resources been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible?	Costs related to results achieved, compared to costs of similar projects in other organizations (if feasible given existing information)		
4.2 Governance system	Were the roles and responsibilities of the different actors clearly defined in the project design? How efficient and effective has the project governance system proved to be during implementation for decision making, communication flows and coordination?[32] To what extent have effective partnerships for project implementation been established with relevant	Evidence of clear roles and responsibilities Evidence of any bottlenecks in decision-making Extent and quality of interaction/ exchange between project executors and local partners, as well as within the Executing entities Number and types of partnerships established between the project and local organizations Number, type and quality of mechanisms in place to promote stakeholder participation at each stage of	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) Minutes of Steering Committee Meetings CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Communities Partner projects' staff	Desk review Interviews Focus group discussions

[32] This question focuses on the effectiveness of the governance system. Are the project's governance mechanisms functioning efficiently? Have partners, including government entities, been effective in delivering project results? If not, why? Were the modes of deliveries of the outputs appropriate to build essential/necessary capacities and promote national ownership?

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
	stakeholders at different levels?[33]	the project (design, implementation and monitoring)		
4.3 Quality of implementation and execution	How efficient is the performance of the accredited entity (including project design, implementation and supervision of project execution)? How efficient is the performance of the executing entities (including execution arrangements, work planning, procurement processes and project monitoring)?	Quality of implementation Quality of execution	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) Minutes of Steering Committee Meetings CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Communities	Desk review Interviews
4.4 Risk Management, and social and environmental safeguards	How realistic are the risks and assumptions of the project? How did the project deal with issues and risks in implementation?	Extent to which the planning documents anticipated or reflected the risks faced by the project during implementation	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment Environmental and Social Safeguards APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3)	Desk review Interviews Focus group discussions

[33] This question focuses on the inclusiveness of the governance system: who participates and how. It includes the following sub-questions Who are the partners of the project (including government entities) and how strategic are they in terms of capacities and commitment? Is the decision-making process transparent and inclusive of both women and men? How well is country ownership reflected in the project governance, coordination and consultation mechanisms or other consultations?

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
	Are project stakeholders aware of the grievance mechanism? Is the grievance mechanism effective in addressing grievances? Were other safeguard plans triggered during the project? What have the impacts of COVID-19 been on the project? How did the project address issues related to COVID-19?	Quality of information systems in place to identify and analyze new risks, including COVID-19 Quality of risk mitigation strategies identified and implemented, including COVID-19 Existence and quality of grievance mechanism and safeguard plans Level of implementation of safeguard plans	Minutes of Steering Committee Meetings CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Communities	
4.5 Adaptive management	To what extent and how did the project apply adaptive management? What has been the project's ability to adapt and evolve based on continuous lessons learned and the changing development landscape, including the role of government in the Project, and the withdrawal of the European Investment Bank?	Responsiveness of implementing and executing entities to recommendations made through the review processes (APRs) Examples of changes in project strategy/approach as a direct result of recommendations made Proportion of adaptive management processes	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) Minutes of Steering Committee Meetings EIB withdraw impacts COVID impact and response (2021) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners	Desk review Interviews

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
		documented and shared with partners	Regional authorities	
4.6 M&E system	Is the M&E plan practical and sufficient?[34] Is the M&E system operated as per the M&E plan?[35] Where necessary, was the M&E plan revised in a timely manner? How was the information from the M&E system used during the project implementation?[36] Is the implementation of the project's impact evaluation appropriate and beneficial to the project (LORTA)? To what extent did the project's M&E data and	Methodological soundness of the M&E plan, including clarity of M&E protocols, involvement of key stakeholders and use existing data systems M&E funding (planned and disbursed) Timeliness and quality of monitoring reports Extent to which the M&E system provides the necessary information to report on progress Examples of M&E information use	Funding proposal, FAA and FAA amendment M&E Plan and LORTA Impact Evaluation Design APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Regional project teams	Desk review Interviews

[34] Did it: specify clear targets and appropriate (SMART) indicators to track environmental, gender, and socio-economic results; a proper methodological approach; specify practical organization and logistics of the M&E activities including schedule and responsibilities for data collection; and, budget adequate funds for M&E activities?

[35] Including "Was information on specified indicators and relevant GCF focal area tracking tools gathered in a systematic manner?"

[36] Including "How were the objectives, ToC and strategy used in performance management and progress reporting?", and "How were the indicators and/or benchmark for performance measurements used in project management?"

Dimension	Specific questions	Indicators	Methods and key information sources	
	mechanism(s) contribute to achieving project results?			
5. SUSTAINABILITY To what extent are there risks to the sustainability of project benefits in the long term?				
5.1 Factors enabling or inhibiting sustainability of projects benefits	How effective were the exit strategies and approaches to phase out assistance provided by the project? Are the actions and results from project interventions likely to be sustained? Why? What are the key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of sustainability, scalability or replication of project outcomes/outputs/results?	Existence and quality of a sustainability and exit strategy Level of implementation of the sustainability strategy Evidence of inhibiting factors for the sustainability of project results Evidence of enabling factors for the sustainability of project results	Funding proposal, FFA and FAA amendment APRs Quarterly reports (2021 Q3) CI GCF and Madagascar Government national partners Regional authorities Regional project team Communities Partner projects' staff	Desk review Interviews Focus group discussion s

Annex 2: Restructuring of the evaluation matrix

Table 7: Changes to the proposed evaluation matrix

GCF		OECD DAC	
Criteria	**Description**	**Criteria**	**Description**
Relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of projects and programmes	aligned with OECD DAC Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency criteria; seeks to assess the appropriateness in terms of selection, implementation and achievement of FAA detailed logframe activities and expected results (outputs, outcomes and impacts)	Relevance	Is the intervention doing the right things? To what extent does the project respond to the needs and priorities of its beneficiaries?
Coherence in CF delivery with other multilateral entities	looks at how GCF financing is additional and able to amplify other investments or de-risk and crowd-in further climate investment;		
Gender equity	ensures integration of understanding on how the impacts of climate change are differentiated by gender, the ways that behavioural changes and gender can play in delivering paradigm shift, and the role that women play in responding to climate change challenges both as agents but also for accountability and decision-making	Effectiveness	Is the project achieving its objectives and results?
Country ownership of projects and programmes	including concepts of OECD DAC Sustainability criteria; examines the extent of the emphasis on sustainability post project through country ownership; on ensuring the responsiveness of the GCF investment to country needs and priorities including through the roles that countries play in projects and programmes	Impact	What difference does the intervention make?
Innovativeness in results areas	focuses on identification of innovations (proof of concept, multiplication effects, new models of finance, technologies, etc.) and how changes that bring about paradigm shift can contribute or be attributed to GCF investment;	Efficiency	Is project implementation cost-effective, timely, transparent and robust?
Replication and scalability	including concepts of the OECD DAC Sustainability criteria; assesses the extent to which the activities can be sustained post project implementation and scaled up in other locations within the country or replicated in other countries and identification what are the explicit conditions/success factors that enable the replication or scalability;		
Monitoring & Evaluation Systems	include an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the project M&E plan and its implementation	Sustainability	Will the benefits last? How likely is the sustainability of project results in the medium term? Are there enabling and inhibiting factors?
Unexpected results, both positive and negative	identifies the challenges and the learning, both positive and negative, that can be used by all parties (governments, stakeholders, civil society, AE, GCF, and others) to inform further implementation and future investment decision-making		

Annex 3: Documents reviewed

- Annual Performance Review 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021
- COVID impact and response (2021)
- EIB withdraw impacts
- Environmental and Social Safeguards
- Financial information 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021
- Forest and Carbon Monitoring Report (2021)
- Funded Activity Agreement (2018) and amendment (2019)
- Funding Proposal (2016)
- Gender Mainstreaming and Action Plan (2016)
- Gender Assessment and Action Plan (2019)
- Women Empowerment Survey 2021
- M&E Plan and LORTA Impact Evaluation Design
- REED+ Road Map (2018)
- SLEM Financial information
- SLEM quarterly report (Q3 2021)
- Steering Committee Minutes 2018, 2019
- Work plans

Annex 4: Interviewees

Table 8: Interviewees

#	Name	Organization	Position	Role played in the project	Interview date
1	Robert Merritt	Conservation International	Director, Project Development and Oversight	Accredited Entity	18/11/2021 and 02/02/2022
2	Zo Rakotobe	CI Madagascar	Project Leader	PMU	17/11/2021, 13/12/2021and 27/01/2022
3	Lovakanto Ravelomana	NDA Office	NDAD	National stakeholder	04/02/2022
4	Jonathan Andres	NDA Office	M&E specialist	National stakeholder	04/2/2022
5	Jean Gabriel Nirina	MEDD	Project coordinator	PMU	26/01/2022
6	Natacha Andrianaharinosy	MATSF	Director of Environmental Studies	National stakeholder	31/01/2022
7	Fenosoa Razanakolona	DRES	Director of Environment	Steering Committee member	25/01/2022
8	Mayor of Miarinarivo	Commune	Mayor	Beneficiary	13/12/2021
9	Anicet and Lala	CI Madagascar	Baseline staff (Adaptation lead & field agent)	Executing entity	13/12/2021
10	VOI Ambohibalo Miray	Village	/	Beneficiary	13/12/2021
11	Ezeka (Association des femmes)	Association	/	Beneficiary	13/12/2021

12	DRAE and DREDD	MEDD	Regional coordinators	PMU	14/12/2021
13	Mayor of Androy	Commune	Mayor	Beneficiary	14/12/2021
14	VOI Analava	Village	/	Beneficiary	14/12/2021
15	VOI 3FT	Village	/	Beneficiary	14/12/2021
16	Mayor of Ikianjavato	Commune	Mayor	Beneficiary	15/12/2021
17	Mayor of Antaretra	Commune	Mayor	Beneficiary	15/12/2021
18	VOI Kolo Ala	Village	/	Beneficiary	15/12/2021
19	TAFITA members	/	People affected by the project	Beneficiary	15/12/2021
20	Randriamizaka Philibert	Commune	Vice Mayor	Beneficiary	12/01/2022
21	Rakotonasolonosy Arimiza	/	Development agent	Beneficiary	12/01/2022
22	President of the VOI Fitaratra	Village	President	Beneficiary	12/01/2022
23	Women Association Miray	Association	/	Beneficiary	12/01/2022
24	Women Association Mendrika	Association	/	Beneficiary	12/01/2022
25	VOI Fandrefiala	Village	/	Beneficiary	12/01/2022
26	Tojompifaliana	/	CI Field agent	Executing entity	13/01/2022
27	Sitraka Andrianalison	/	CI Agriculture Manager	Executing entity	13/01/2022
28	VOI Fandrefiala	Village	/	Beneficiary	13/01/2022
29	VOI Firaisankiana	Village	/	Beneficiary	13/01/2022
9	Women Association Mikolo	Association	/	Beneficiary	14/01/2022
30	VOI Miary	Village	/	Beneficiary	14/01/2022
31	Lova Fleurette Rabesoaray	/	Trainer of trainers	Executing entity	14/01/2022

Annex 5: Field mission agendas

Table 9: COFAV field mission agenda

Date	Departure	Destination	Structure interviewed	Commune
12/12/2021	Antsirabe	Ambalavao		
13/12/2021	Ambalavao	Miarinarivo	- VOI AMI - Association EZAKA - Adaptation lead - Field Agent	MIARINARIVO
	Miarinarivo	Fianarantsoa		
14/12/2021	Fianarantsoa	10H – 12H	- Director of the Regional Direction of Agriculture – Fianarantsoa (DRAE) - Director of the Regional Director of Environment and Sustainable Development – Fianarantsoa (DREDD)	Meeting was organised by the CI Director in Fianarantsoa
	Fianarantsoa	Androy	Maire Androy	ANDROY
	Commune Androy	Ambendrana	VOI Analasoa	ANDROY
	Ambendrana	Sahavondronina	VOI 3FT	ANDROY
	Sahavondronina	Ranomafana		Ranomafana
15/12/2021	Ranomafana	Ikianjavato	- Mayor of Ikianjavato - Field agent - PAPs TAFITA	IKIANJAVATO
	Ikianjavato	Antaretra	Association Kolo Ala	Antaretra
16/12/2021	Fianarantsoa	Antsirabe		

Table 10: CAZ field mission agenda

Date	Departure	Destination	Structure interviewed	Commune
11/01/2022	Antsirabe	Andasibe		
12/01/2022	Andasibe	Andrindra	- VOI Fandrefiala - VOI Fitaratra - Association des femmes Mendrika - Association des femmes Miray	MORARANO-GARA
13/01/2022	Moramanga	Atsampanan'Andasibe		Andasibe
	Antsampanan'Andasibe	Antavolobe	VOI FIRAISANKINA	Andasibe
	Ambohimarina (sur RN2)	Ambohimarina village	VOI FANDREFIALA	Beforona
14/01/2022	Andasibe	Ambohimarina	- Association des femmes Mikolo - VOI Miary	Ampasipotsy Gara
	Ampasipotsy Gara	Moramanga	CIRAE Moramanga	Moramanga
15/01/2022	Andasibe	Antsirabe		

Annex 6: Detailed analysis of the project's results' framework

Table 11: Detailed analysis of the PRF

2.4 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE LOGIC FRAMEWORK INDICATORS								
2.4.1 PROGRESS UPDATE ON FUND-LEVEL IMPACT INDICATORS OF THE LOGIC FRAMEWORK								
Adaptation Core Indicator 1 Expected Total Number of Beneficiaries	*0*	*50,198**	*14,280*	*85,700*	**This beneficiary total represents the individuals the project has worked with directly to date. This **an interim estimate** that assumes that project interventions will improve resilience as projected. Assessment of increased resilience to climate change for these individuals still need to be conducted through household surveys which will commence in March 2022-2023.*	The indicator system is adequate. As noted in reporting, at this point it is not possible to fully assess progress, as the increase in resilience is an assumption and a robust assessment has not been conducted yet. The number by Q42021 is smaller than in Q32021.	On target	The midterm target has been exceeded 3-fold. It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded. However, as noted in reporting, assessment of increased resilience to climate change for these individuals still needs to be conducted. This assessment will need to be updated once the second survey is conducted.

[37] Source: Draft AR 2021
[38] Ibidem

Mitigation Impact Core Indicator 1 ***Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2eq) reduced or avoided emissions.*** ***M1.0 Reduced emissions through increased low-emission energy access and power generation*** ***M4.0 Reduced emissions from land use, reforestation, reduced deforestation, and through sustainable forest management and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks***	*1 MtCO2e0*	*10.6 MtCO2e**	*2.4Mt CO2e*	*5Mt CO2e*	*In 2019: 1.9M estimated ERs in 2019. In 2020: 0.774 Mt CO2e . In 2021: estimated ERs of 7.788 Mt CO2e. The estimated ERs of 2021 were generated from the analysis of incomplete satellite images as November and December images were cloudy and could not be hence used. Final figure will be provided in the Q1 report of 2022. The estimation for 2020 ERs will also be updated by March 2022 when government data and methodologies are available. *GCF-SLEM will continue to use Trends until these tools are official and available.* *For the 2021 update, as in the previous year, the project will report by Q1 2022.*	The indicator is smart. Reporting is adequate.	Achieved	The final target has been exceeded by four-fold at mid-term.
Mitigation Impact Core Indicator 2 ***Cost per tCO2eq decreased for all Fund-funded mitigation projects***	*USD19.3/t*	*USD1.82/t*	*USD8.04/t*	*USD3.86/t*	Calculation methodologies: The baseline is total project funding divided by baseline emission reduction. The current value is total project funding divided by the current value of emission reduction. This value is on a cumulative basis. Discussion with the GCF Secretariat on this methodology is requested, this format / calculation does not align with the Project Logical Framework. Current value (with preliminary data from 2021) would equal $19.3M / 10.6MtCO2e = $1.82/ton, but this includes all project spending on adaptation activities and does not reflect project expenses to date.	The indicator system is not fully adequate as the calculation methodology is yet being discussed.	On target	The final target will likely be met by the end of the project.

<u>Adaptation Impact</u> ***Indicator 1*** ***A1.0 Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions*** **(a) Number of people less affected by climate-related disasters (disaggregated by vulnerable groups) due to the Project.** **(b) Number of people adopting a wider variety of livelihood strategies that make them more resilient to climate change.**	*34,272* *34,272*	*TBD** *76,243 **	*48,552* *48,552*	*119,952* *119,952*	*Please see notes in Core Indicator 1* **Progress towards this indicator will be determined through household surveys.* *** To date, 17, 548 households (=5,637 in 2019 + 1,313 in 2020) + 10,598= 4,709 who received in kind grant and trained +5,889 who trained in 2021) households received training on climate change / risk mitigation **and** received agricultural inputs and other in-kind grant support to develop alternative livelihoods.* *In 2019, 5,637 households (33,822 beneficiaries – on average six members per household) are now adopting improved agricultural techniques and a wider variety of livelihood strategies.* *For this indicator, 60% of beneficiaries are projected to have improved resilience from adopting a wider variety of livelihood strategies at the end of project:* *In 2019; 33,822 x 0.6 = 20,293* *In 2020: 7878 x 0.6 = 4,726* *In 2021: 28,254 x0.6 = 16,952* *Cumulative = 41,971* ***Total to date: 34,272 (baseline) + 41,971 = 76,243*** ***Please note that this is an initial estimate and will be updated through household survey results.* *Assumed that 60% of the trained people adopted sustainable agriculture techniques*	The indicator system is appropriate. Again, reporting relies on a survey yet to be conducted.	- On target	The midterm target has been exceeded by 57%. It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded. However, adoption. This assessment will need to be updated once the second survey is conducted. Again, the number of beneficiaries (receiving training and in-kind grants) has been exceeded, but it is unclear what the impact in terms of resilience is. While reporting assumes that beneficiaries necessarily adopt a wider variety of livelihood strategies the survey would also be important for this.
M2.0 Reduced emissions through increased access to low-emission transportation	*5,712*	*TBD**	*8,092*	*19,992*	**Households with improved food security due to the project will be determined through household surveys to be conducted in March 2022- 2023.*	The indicator system is appropriate. Again, reporting relies on a survey	-	

39 Related to the approved indicators and targets in the Logic Framework.

Number of food-secure households due to the Project						yet to be conducted.		
A4.0 Improved resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services **(a) Area of agroforestry projects (ha), silvopastoral-systems, or other Ecosystem-based Adaptation strategies established or enhanced.**	*1,170ha*	*3,343 ha*	*4,046 ha*	*9,996 ha*	*In 2019: 916.6ha (CAZ) + 858.7ha (COFAV)+ 1,170ha (baseline)=2,945ha* *2020: 270ha in CAZ* *In 2021:128ha (94.2 ha in CAZ and 33.5ha in COFAV)* *Total till date =3,343ha (2,945ha+270 ha+128ha)*	The indicator system is not fully relevant, as it should refer to the health of ecosystems resulting from EbA activities, and not to the activities. Taking into account the indicator, reporting is adequate.	Not on target	The project has not met the mid-term target (it achieved 83% of it). Progress was very limited in 2021. It seems unlikely that project will meet its final target by the end of the project.
M4.0 Reduced emissions from land use, reforestation, reduced deforestation, and through sustainable forest management and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks ***(b) tCO2e reduced from forest /land use.***	*1MT*	*10.6 M**	*2.4M*	*5M*	**1.06M + 0.774 M + 7.778 M + 1M baseline estimated ERs in 2020* *The 7.778 M estimated ERs for 2021 will be updated by March 2022 when full 2021 data is available and the government calculation methodology is finalized*	The indicator system and reporting are adequate.	Achieved	By mid-term, the final target has been exceeded by 2-fold.

2.4.2 PROGRESS UPDATE ON PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS OF THE LOGIC FRAMEWORK								
Project indicators (Mitigation/Adaptation)	*Baseline*	*Current value*	*Target (mid-term)*	*Target (final)*	*Remarks*	*Comments*	*Rating*	*Justification*
A.7.0 Indicator 1: **Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks (GCF ref. A 7.0)** **Number of vulnerable farmers, businesses, and public sector services use improved tools, instruments, strategies, and activities for responding to climate variability and climate change.**	*34,272*	*95,982**	*48,552*	*119,992*	*The project will provide training and/or in-kind grant support to the full target population (23,800 households - 142,800 individuals) over the course of implementation, including the baseline group. (COFAV: 150 communities x 100hh, CAZ: 110 communities x 80hh)* *Prior to project implementation, 24% of the 23,800 households were determined to be more food secure and therefore less vulnerable to climate change (baseline A7.0 – 34,247 individuals).* *The project is expected to improve the resilience of 60% of the total population. Average household consists of 6 members.* *Individuals with improved resilience at the end of project* *Baseline: 34,272* *In 2019: 47,532 x 0.6 = 28,519.* *In 2020: 7,878 *0.6 = 4,726* *In 2021: 47,442 *0.6 = 28,465* *Cumulative: 60,666* *Current value = cumulative + baseline = 94,938* *Note, in 2021 10,598 households were trained of which 4709 households also received in-kind grants. Out of the 10,598 households trained by the project in 2021 2981 households were previously reached by the project and received refresher training in 2021 (therefore 7617 new households trained in 2021).*	The indicator system is adequate. Reporting is overall good but is based on an assumption (that those receiving training and in-kind grants "use improved tools, instruments, strategies and activities" and are therefore more resilient). As with indicator Impact indicator 1, this needs to be assessed in a robust manner. In addition, reporting refers to two different final targets (119,992 and 142,800).	On target	The midterm target has been exceeded almost by 2-fold. It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded. However, as noted in reporting, assessment of increased resilience to climate change for these individuals still needs to be conducted. This assessment will need to be updated once the second survey is conducted.
A7.1. Vulnerability of smallholder farmer	*34,272*	*TBD*	*48,552*	*119,952*		The indicator system is adequate. Reporting	-	

communities to climate change impacts is reduced through the establishment of a Sustainable Agriculture (including Climate-Smart Agriculture) Programme **A.7.1 (a) Number of individuals with vulnerability reduced.**					*Reduced vulnerability will be assessed in March 2022 and beyond through household surveys.*	relies on the household survey yet to be conducted.		
A7.1 (b) Number of households adopting sustainable agriculture techniques.	*5,712*	*12,707**	*8,092*	*19,992*	*Per A1.0 - the project has provided training **and** in-kind goods to 11,652 (5,637 in 2019, 1,313 in 2020 and **(10,598 (5,930 men, 4,668 women) including 4,709 who** received in kind grants in 2021) households that are now implementing sustainable agricultural techniques* *60% of all households (23,800) are expected to have increased resilience resulting from the adoption of sustainable CSA techniques by the end of the project.* **Baseline: 5,712 (households assumed to already be using improved agriculture)* *In 2019: 5,637 x 0.6 = 3,382 households* *In 2020: (5637 + 1313) x 0.6 = 4,170 households* *In 2020: 1313 x 0.6 = 788 households* *In 2021: 4709 x 0,6 = 2825 households* *Cumulative = 6995 + baseline = 12,707* **. Assumed that 60% of all trained people adopted the sustainable agriculture techniques,* *Analysis of uptake of these techniques will be evaluated through household surveys and the target performance revised in 2022 during the LORTA phase #2.*	As with indicator 7.0, the indicator system is based on an assumption that should be validated.	On target	The mid-term target has been exceeded by 57%. It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded, by the end of the project. However, adoption should be confirmed.
A7.2. Market and crop production information available at local level to					The crop production information is available for 11 crop varieties, including clove, coffee, vanilla, ginger, bean, corn,	The indicator system should refer to improved market access and not	Not on target	At mid-term 79% of planned market studies are available. Information

inform crop production type) and to improve market access. **A7.2 (a)Number of high potential crops with location specific market study updated**	*3*	*11*	*14*	*28**	rice (3 varieties), orange tree, bambara peas, and vegetables for some households who were reached by the Lead Farmer field monitoring. The project has used existing value chain information from the subregional office of trade. The high potential cash crops effectively implemented by the project are vanilla, clove, and coffee. *the project uses existing market studies from the project target sites but have been conducted by the MAE and its partners	just to market studies. Given the indicator, reporting is adequate.		on plans to develop the pending 17 market studies is not available.
A7.2 (b) Proportion of women from supported households integrated in producer groups (women's association and farmers' associations)	*5%*	37.5%	*10%*	*60%*	All women households trained are member of a farmer's association and from these in 2021 40% are member of women's' farmer associations and benefit from the services offered by these organizations (technical support and other services such as procurement or group marketing and specific issues focusing on women empowerment). Cumulative figure for this indicator is 37,5%. In addition, trainings and coaching provided to local trainers as well as leaders of farmers' organizations include gender aspects to assist and encourage them to promote women's membership.	The indicators system and reporting are adequate.	On target	The mid-term target has been exceeded by mid-term. Although the final target is still far, the project will likely achieve it by the end of the project.
A7.3. Resilience to climate induced shocks and other risks is improved by supporting farmer-led, gender-sensitive analysis, planning and risk management.	70% of households losing more than 25% of crops	*TBD	60% of households losing more than 25% of crops	40% of households losing more than 25% of crops	**To be updated in 2022 after the cyclone season and completion of household surveys* *In 2019: 1,340 leaflets about local risk management measures were produced and shared*	The indicators system is adequate. Reporting is no aligned with the indicator.	-	

% of households losing more than 25% of crops (fields, crops) after climate shocks					*In 2021: 195 Flyers on Disaster and Risks Management are shared in 11 municipalities in CAZ.*			
A7.6 (a) Hectares of critical habitats managed sustainably by the local communities within the agricultural landscape	4,135ha	*8,125ha	5,316 ha	9261ha	**Agroforestry areas managed sustainably by the local communities.* *In 2020: 7,125* *In 2021: 8,125ha*	The indicator system is mostly adequate, although it would have been useful to clarify when an area is considered as being managed sustainably. Reporting is adequate.	On target	At mid-term the mid-term target has been exceed by 53%, and the final target is close. The final target will likely be achieved by the end of the project.
A7.6 (b) Hectares of critical habitats restored within the agricultural landscape	6 ha	*2,226ha	376 ha	746 ha	**Agroforestry restored in both CAZ and COFAV:* *Baseline: 6ha* *In 2019: 1,775ha* *In 2020: 317ha* *In 2021: 128ha* *Cumulative = 2,226ha*	The indicator system should indicate how the restoration of the habitats is measured. The target was perhaps too low in this case – it did not reflect the high local demand for these trees. Reporting is adequate.	Achieved	At mid-term the final target has been exceeded by 3-fold.
A8.0 Strengthened awareness of climate threats and risk-reduction processes. **Number of people informed on the potential impacts of climate change and range of possible responses.**	1,500	104,997*	37,200	108,600	*In 2018: 645 individuals* *In 2019: 47,532 individuals* *In 2020: 7,878 individuals* *In 2021: 45,702 beneficiaries + 1740 lead farmer family members = 47,442* *Not included in the figure: The project did not assess results based on the communication through TV, Radio stations and the national newspapers. Individuals who are among the direct beneficiaries of this project will be targeted by climate change communication activities.*	The indicator is not relevant, as it should focus on the results of the information sharing and not just on the people informed, particularly given that it is an outcome indicator. Reporting is adequate given the indicator.	On target	At mid-term the final target has almost been achieved (97%). It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded, by the end of the project

A8.1. Strengthened capacity of government employees, local conservation, and development NGOS, farmer groups and local communities to implement mitigation and adaptation measures to achieve Climate-smart Landscapes. **# Training modules developed**	1 Manual and 1 Poster	8	2	4	*In 2019: 4 training tools developed (1 video, 1 toolkit, 1 capacity building toolkit for sustainable agriculture, 1 booklet) + baseline materials.* *In 2020 and 2021: More than 20 tools developed and compiled: CC adaptation and mitigation, developing tree nursery, Tree plantation, Agroforestry, Sustainable livelihoods, Ecosystem Based-Adaptation, Bee keeping, Fish farming, Making organic fertilizer, Organic pest management, Vanilla plantation, Coffee plantation, Bean's cultivation, Conservation agriculture, multi-cropping system, Peanut's cultivation, Rice cultivation, M&E, Gender, Socio-organization for local associations, etc..* *To get more time on training the project had compiled and used existing modules and tools related to CC adaptation and mitigation. Eight training tools are developed and improved during 2021(1 video, 1 toolkit, 1 capacity building toolkit for sustainable agriculture, 1 booklet) + baseline materials, 4 Films on the project T0.,*	The indicator system should monitor changes in capacity, and not just changes in training modules, because the development of training modules does not necessarily imply an increase in capacity. Given the indicator, reporting is adequate.	Achieved	At mid-term the final target has been exceeded two-fold.
# Men and women trained	65 People Trained	102,917	28,560	107,165	*Training provided to at least one member of each household who agreed to train their family members.* *Baseline: 65 individuals* *In 2019:* *47,532 + 65 (baseline) = 47,597* *In 2020: 47,597 + 7,878 =55,475 individuals* *In 2021: 55,475+ 45,702 +1,740 (Lead Farmer families)= 102,917 individuals (they are planned to have refresher training and more individuals who not be*	The indicator system and reporting are adequate.	On target	At mid-term the final target has almost been achieved (96%). It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded, by the end of the project

					the direct beneficiaries of this project will be targeted)			
A8.2. Improved knowledge by the CAZ and COFAV population (including school children) about climate change issues and responses proposed by the project. **# Pack of materials developed and distributed**	0	2,500	1,500	3000	*One pack = Poster+ flyers+ sustainable agriculture toolkit + calendars+ Soan'ala local magazine* *In 2019: 500 pack* *In 2020: 500 pack* *In 2021: 1500 pack* *The production of this communication package will be continued until the end of the project.*	Same as A 8.1.	On target	At mid-term the final target has almost been achieved (84%). It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded, by the end of the project
Number of people (m/f) informed about climate change, Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Issues	1,768	*104,620*	30,328	108,868	*In 2018: 1,768 (baseline) + 645* *In 2019: 47,532* *In 2020: 7,878* *In 2021: 45,702 +1,740 (Lead Farmer families)* *Cumulative = 104,620 individuals (the plan is to have refresher trainings).* Communication tools: Facebook, comm pack = Poster+ flyers+ sustainable agriculture toolkit + calendars+ Soan'ala local magazine *The project did not assess the results based on the communication through TV, Radio stations and the national newspapers.*	As above, the indicator system should refer to changes in capacity, not just about people that have received information. Given the indicator, reporting is adequate.	On target	At mid-term the final target has almost been achieved (96%). It is very likely that the final target will be achieved, if not exceeded, by the end of the project
A5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate- responsive planning and development. **# Of communes who integrate CC into local planning documents (SACs)**	0	0	10	40	*This activity will be starting after the training of the co-executing entity that should be conducted in 2022 and will be conducted by BNCREDD+.*	The indicator system and reporting are adequate	Not on target	At mid-term this activity has not started, whereas the plan was to have already completed the integration process in ten communes. It seems unlikely that the project will be able to achieve the final target by the end of project.

A5.1. Strategies and actions identified in national climate change policies are integrated into decentralized planning at regional and local levels. **# Of guidelines developed for integration of CC and climate-smart landscape concepts into regional and local development plans**	PANA and 1 Manual guide on climate change	0	2	2	*Not yet started, behind schedule. To be conducted with BNCREDD+*	The indicator system and reporting are adequate	Not on target	At mid-term this activity has not started, whereas the plan was to have already two guides completed. It seems unlikely that the project will be able to achieve the final target by the end of project.
A5.2. Intervention capacity on climate change issues of decentralized technical services is strengthened. **A5.2(a) # of co-executing entities and key decentralized technical services and local authorities with the necessary resources to support Climate-Smart Landscapes**	0	0	28	56	*Training materials are developed and finalized. This activity will start in Q1 of 2022.*	The indicator system is not adequate, as it is not specific enough. It is unclear what type of resources, and which specific resources target entities need to support climate-smart landscapes. Reporting shows this caveat. It refers to training, but it is unclear whether training will be sufficient.	Not on target	At mid-term this activity has not started, whereas the plan was to half of the target entities would have received the necessary resources. It seems unlikely that the project will be able to achieve the final target by the end of project.
A5.2 (b) # of decentralized technical services supported	0	7	7	7	*7 DRAEPs trained and provided with equipment*	The indicator system is not adequate, as it is not specific enough. It is unclear what type of support (for instance, what type of equipment) decentralized technical services require. Reporting does provide some details, but not enough.	Achieved	At mid-term the final target has been achieved.
A5.3. The monitoring and evaluation system for CSLs is					Completed, approved, and operational. The system is improved based on learnings to enable better implementation	The indicator system is overall adequate, although it could be more	Achieved	At mid-term the final target has been achieved.

operational and informs adaptive management. **A5.3 (a) M&E system operational**	0	1	1	1	of the project's adaptive management system.	specific, indicating what operational means. Reporting is adequate.		
A5.3 (b) # Annual reports and annual workplans using M&E data	0	8	4	10		The indicator system and reporting are adequate.	On target	At mid-term the mid-term target has been exceeded two-fold. It is very likely that the final target will be achieved by the end of project.
A5.4. Financial sustainability of project activities is achieved through a combination of trust fund and performance-based payments. **A5.4 (a) Trust Fund created**	0	0	0	1	*CCTF creation postponed. The NDA/ MEDD stated that it is not priority, and they want to create a single Fund*	The indicator system is adequate, although it could be more specific, indicating what creation means (approval of a decree?). Reporting is adequate.	Not on target	Given lack of political buy in, it is unlikely that the final target will be achieved by the end of the project.
A5.4 (b) Trust Fund operational	0	0	0	1	*CCTF creation postponed*	The indicator system is adequate, although it could be more specific, indicating what operational means (having allocated staff, conducting steering committee meetings?). Reporting is adequate	Not on target	Given lack of political buy in, it is unlikely that the final target will be achieved by the end of the project.
A5.4 (c) Amount ($) provided to Trust Fund capital	0	0	0	3.2M	*CCTF creation postponed*	The indicator system and reporting are adequate.	Not on target	Given lack of political buy in, it is unlikely that the final target will be achieved by the end of the project.

A5.4 (d) 2 REDD+ pilot projects are part of accredited carbon offset programmes	2	2	2	2		The indicator system is adequate. Reporting should provide more detail, indicating the projects and the programmes, and what integration means in this context.	Achieved	At mid-term the final target has been achieved
A5.5. Lessons learned and best practices regarding Climate-Smart Landscapes are integrated into relevant documents and relevant structures. **# of guideline documents developed**	0	12	2	5	*This activity is carried out and combined with A.8.1.10, A.8.1.11, and A.8.1.12.* *In 2019: 4 training tools developed (1 video, 1 toolkit, 1 capacity building toolkit for sustainable agriculture, 1 booklet) + baseline materials.* *In 2020: 7 training tools developed (1 video, 1 toolkit, 1 capacity building toolkit for sustainable agriculture, 1 booklet) + baseline materials, 3 Films on the project T0.* *In 2021: One new factsheet developed.*	The indicator is not specific enough. It is unclear what a guideline document is and what purposes are eligible, including what type of documents are considered (project documents, policies, development plans, investment plans…?). In addition, the reference should be to integration of lessons and not just to guidelines, in the sense that a guideline does not necessarily result in integration if the guideline is poor or is not used. Reporting is in line with the indicator.	Achieved	At mid-term the mid-term target has been exceeded by over two-fold.
M 9.0 Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions. **Forest area under improved management and reduced carbon emissions practices**	655,832	655,832	655,832	655,832		The indicator system is not appropriate, as the baseline is the same as the final target. In addition, as this an outcome level indicator, it should refer to the results of improvement management in terms of		

						the health of ecosystems.		
M9.1. Key planning documents for CAZ and COFAV are updated. **# Of planning documents up to date every 5yrs: Management Plan (PAG)**	0	0	2	2	Updating PAGS will be done in 2022	The indicator system and reporting are adequate.	On target	The project will likely achieve the final target by the end of the project, although work on this has not started.
M9.2. Improved forest management as outlined in the CAZ and COFAV management plans and Emissions Reductions Verified **M9.2 (a) Management effectiveness index (IEG) following IUCN assessment methodology**	58.5%	63.05%	63.5%	68.5%	*METT scores for July 2018 - June 2019: COFAV: 62.89 % and CAZ: 62.77%* *METT scores July 2021: COFAV: 62.6% and CAZ: 63.41%*	The indicator system and reporting are adequate	On target	By midterm, the project has achieved its midterm target. It will likely achieve its final target by the project end.
M9.2 (b) % of planned activities PA work plans that are completed	25%	75%	50%	95%	*Project activities are contributing directly to PA work plan activities – 75% estimate will be revised after further monitoring in 2022*	The indicator system is adequate. Reporting should be more specific, and provide a confirmed figure, not just an estimate.	On target	At midterm the midterm target has been exceed. The project will likely achieve its final target by its end.
M9.2 (c) # of verification reports produced	2	2	2	4	The verification will be done with the new and official standard, but this method is not yet officialized. This officialization is expected in 2022 and the official REFL value needed for the calculations and verification will be released around March according BNCCCREDD+.	The indicator system and reporting are adequate.	On target	At midterm the midterm target has been achieved. The project will likely achieve its final target by its end.

M9.3. A system of efficient and transparent governance is strengthened for CAZ and COFAV. **# of annual work plans and reports approved by regional authorities and stakeholders**	0	15	4	10	3 Workplan shared through a summary during committee meetings, 3 APR and 9 QPR shared soft copy.	The indicator system and reporting are adequate (although reporting provides information that is not required, this is useful).	Achieve	At midterm the midterm target has been exceeded.
M9.4. Forest restoration on degraded lands within the CAZ and COFAV protected areas/carbon project areas **# Hectares restored**	1,410 ha	2,008 ha	1,590 ha	2,200 ha	In 2019: 1,410+ 23 ha In 2020: 1,433+ 340= 1,773ha In 2021: 1773 +235ha = 2,008ha of land planted with forest and agroforest trees	The indicator system should indicate how the restoration of forest is measured. Given the indicator, reporting is adequate.	On target	At midterm the midterm target has been exceeded by 26%. The project will likely achieve its final target by its end.

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