

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10608
Project Name:	Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Cameroon's Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone
Countr(ies):	Cameroon
Implementing Agency:	FAO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
A. Description	3
B. Ratings and Disbursements.....	3
C. Key Dates	3
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES.....	4
A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities	4
B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities.....	5
C. Stakeholder Engagement	5
D. Gender Equality.....	7
E. Knowledge Management	7
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS.....	9
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES.....	9
V. ANNEX	10

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Cameroon's Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone

Country

Cameroon

GEF ID

10608

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

MSP

PIR Submission

9/9/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective

To enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon's Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,190,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

829,509.69

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

7/14/2022

Agency Approval

4/13/2022

Implementation Start 3/1/2023	First Disbursement 12/31/2023
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 9/30/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

As highlighted above, The project officially began in April 2023 with the designation of a national focal point by MINEPDED—who also serves as the national focal point for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)—and the organization of the inception workshop, followed by the first steering committee meeting during which the annual work plan was validated. Six Letters of Agreement (LoAs) were developed, and four key partners—MINEPDED, FEICOM, CELDIE, and ABIOGeT—signed and initiated project activities. A project coordination unit was established, followed by an inception workshop and the first steering committee meeting in April 2023, during which the annual work plan was validated.

Between November and December 2023, a joint mission was conducted in the six target municipalities to present the project, explain the methodology for defining LDN objectives, and validate stakeholder categories, including women's organizations. The mission also assessed the status of Municipal Development Plans (MDPs) and land-use plans, identifying gaps and collecting available documents.

In August 2024, Municipal Advisory Committees were formally established in each municipality through municipal decrees, chaired by the respective mayors. Their first session, held from August 3 to 11, focused on monitoring project implementation and identifying mechanisms to accelerate progress. These committees meet quarterly and report to the Regional Advisory Committee, which in turn reports to the National Steering Committee, ensuring multi-level governance. A joint mission was also conducted during this period to support the organization of these quarterly stakeholder meetings in the North and Far North regions.

FEICOM signed a LoA to support municipalities in updating their MDPs and sustainable land-use plans. A follow-up mission in August 2024 gathered community needs related to climate resilience, informing the recruitment of an expert to update the plans. However, internal delays at FEICOM slowed progress, prompting a working session between FAO and FEICOM to resolve administrative issues. A new LoA is being prepared to continue implementation.

Stakeholder meetings were held in all six municipalities, involving 205 participants (27% women). The lower female representation was attributed to cultural norms, where some women were represented by their husbands. Within the framework of the Letters of Agreement signed with local NGOs in the North and Far North regions, a curriculum and training modules on sustainable land management (SLM) were developed, including a gender-responsive version. In the northern municipalities, farmer field schools trained 82 participants (40% women). Additionally, training modules for cycles 1 and 2 of the Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach were developed and delivered to PADFA II/IFAD agricultural cooperatives in the three northern municipalities, reaching 184 participants (124 women and 58 men). These local NGOs

played a key role in delivering the training and implementing land restoration activities at the community level.

Two major studies were conducted and validated in Garoua in November 2024: one analyzing land degradation trends and drivers, and another documenting and prioritizing SLM practices and policies. These informed the development of a municipal LDN scale-up strategy and guide, validated in June 2025 in Maroua. A list of local fertilizing species for rice and onion production, aligned with biodiversity conservation principles, was also developed.

To strengthen project monitoring and gender integration, a draft monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and a draft gender strategy were developed. Both were presented during stakeholder meetings in the six project municipalities for feedback and alignment.

In response to water scarcity and land productivity challenges expressed by cooperatives, six solar-powered boreholes were constructed across the target municipalities. These infrastructures aim to enhance climate resilience and restore degraded lands. Additionally, small-scale agricultural equipment was acquired to support improved farming practices. Both the boreholes and equipment will be officially handed over during a ceremony led by the Minister of Environment.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project experienced a couple of challenges: 1) Internal and complex disbursement procedures of partners with LoA, such as FEICOM. The first transfer was made on time, but the financial manager of this structure wanted the arrival of new sources of funding to be validated by the members of the Board of Directors. This process took time and delayed activities on the revision of municipal development plans planned by the project. Discussions and working sessions were organized between FAO and FEICOM, and this issue has now been resolved; 2) Low implementation rate of some local NGOs, such as ABIOGeT. Monitoring of activities in the field revealed that this NGO, although effective, is involved in several projects with international and national organizations. By signing several contracts, the NGO finds itself struggling to carry out activities and deliver results. Lesson learned: verify the availability of a partner before signing the LoA.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	Lead Government Partner. Provide strategic leadership to the implementation of the project	Organize project inception workshop and project Steering committee meeting through LoA with FAO Publish calls for applications for project coordination team staff positions Provide offices for National Project Technical Coordinator (NPTC) based in Garoua and Regional project coordinator based in Maroua
Government Institutions	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)	Government Partner. Provide co-financing through activities that are consistent with the National Strategic Framework for Forest and Landscape Restoration. Provision of seedlings for forest landscape restoration and technical personnel to accompany implementation of components 1 and 2.	Participate in the project inception workshop and make the presentation on African Forest Land Restoration (AFR100) Participate in the first Project Steering Committee (PSC). Attended the meetings of presentation of the project, the methodology for defining NDT objectives, integrated land-use planning and implementation with the coordination team and other partners (local NGOs) in the project's 06 target municipalities.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) & IFAD PADFAII.	Government Partner. Accompany implementation of project components 1 and 2, through the baseline co-financing project (PADFAII) which is based within MINADER.	Participate in the project inception workshop and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC) They Attended the meetings of presentation of the project, the methodology for defining NDT objectives, integrated land-use planning and implementation with the coordination team and other partners (local NGOs) in the project's 06 target municipalities.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)	Government Partner. Provide strategic guidance and inputs in the implementation of component 1, in particular in the identification of policy and financial incentives for SLM. Facilitate mobilization of public investments in LDN municipal model scale-up.	Participate in the project inception workshop and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC)
Government Institutions	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA)	Government Partner. Be part of the PSC and provide advice in the implementation of component 1 and component 2 – particularly on protection and restoration of rangelands as well as the promotion of good collaboration between cattle breeders and farmers.	Participate in the project inception workshop and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC) Attended the meetings of presentation of the project, the methodology for defining NDT objectives, integrated land-use planning and implementation with the coordination team and other partners (local NGOs) in the project's 06 target municipalities.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF)	Government Partner. Provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with policies on gender equality	Participate in the project Inception workshop and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC)
Government Institutions	Cameroon's National Climate Change Observatory (ONACC)	Government Partner. Provide technical inputs in the design of the Municipal LDN Monitoring and Decision Support System (under component 1), and the production and dissemination of climatological services at council level and sensitization (under component 2).	Establish a LoA with FAO Participate in the project inception workshop and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC)
Government Institutions	National Forestry Development Agency (ANAFOR)	Government Partner. Accompany the implementation of component 2, and specifically support the establishment of nurseries and restoration.	Participate in the project inception workshop and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC)
Government Institutions	National Participatory Development Program (PNDP) under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development	Government Partner. Provides capacity building assistance to local communities to help them in local development.	Participate in the project inception workshop and the first Project Steering Committee (PSC)
	Local Government (Council); Gazawa, Kaélé and Maga (Far North) and Garoua 3, Lagdo and Pito (North)	Government Partner (Municipal Level). These are key stakeholders for all activities and for mobilizing participation of local and indigenous	The mayors participated in the project inception workshop and make many contributions to facilitate the set up of multi-stakeholder platforms "Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)" They also participated in the first Project Steering

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	Gender analysis assessment had been made at formulation stage.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	During the project inception workshop, partners were made aware of gender mainstreaming measures in all activities to be carried out. Also during implementation, data relating to gender is disaggregated to better reflect its consideration.

E. Knowledge Management

Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	The strategy is planned for the next semester
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	an LDN Municipal model scale-up strategy and a guide were design and validated on June 11-12 2025 in Maroua
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	NA because: -Letters of agreement (LoA) have been established and signed by institutional partners (MINEPDED, IUCN, FEICOM) and local NGOs based in the North and Far North of the country. A first mission to present the project, the methodology for defining NDT objectives, integrated land-use planning and implementation with the coordination team and other partners (local NGOs) took place from November to December 2023 in the project's 06 target communes. -All Partners' field activities with the LoA started in the month of February 2024 and are ongoing
Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HyZh3LEwE/ https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HyZh3LEwE/ https://www.facebook.com/share/p/155ZVkysDu/ https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18Pwg8Lw7x/?mibextid=oFDknk https://www.facebook.com/share/p/v3yaUsSisYuWQhLL/?mibextid=oFDknk
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web, if any.	
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal	Abdourahman Zourmba, Information Resources Assistant Email: Abdourahman.Zourmba@fao.org

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	National Project Technical Coordinator (NPTC) will be based in Maroua instead of Yaoundé. The objective for this change is to better monitor project activities in the two regions, especially since the regional project coordinator will be based in Garoua.
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gazawa council	10.536546	14.140218	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID

Kaele council	10.109574	14.446062	
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Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Maga council	10.841601	14.952686	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Garoua 3 Council	9.272324	13.472894	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Pitoa council	9.386126	13.501115	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title GEFID10608_2025PIR_FAO_Cameroon
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