

REDD-plus results-based payments

Annual Performance Report for the Use of Proceeds (REDD+ RBP APR)

*Reference Number (FP###): Funding Proposal Title
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

*Annual Reporting Period Covered in this Report:
(From 01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022)*

Sections in this report:

- Section 1: General Information
- Section 2: Implementation Progress Report
- Section 3: Financial Information¹ (Excel worksheet attached).
- Section 4: Report on Environmental and Social Safeguards & Gender
- Section 5: Annexes
- Section 6: Attachments

Please submit the REDD+ RBP APR to opm@gcfund.org

SUBMITTED BY	
<i>Noelia Jover, Regional Technical Advisor</i>	<i>1 March 2023</i>
<i>Please indicate if this report has been shared with the relevant NDA(s) for this Funded Activity (Yes.)</i>	<i>Date of submission to NDA: 1 March 2023</i>

¹ Please refer to excel worksheet attached "APR Section 3 (Financial Information)". Provide as attachments to this report detailed financial information per the established requirements in the Funded Activity Agreement.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

This section provides general information on the funded activity.

1. Funded activity title:	<i>Costa Rica REDD-plus Results-Based Payments for 2014 and 2015</i>
2. Funding proposal number:	<i>(FP144)</i>
3. Date of Board approval - Board meeting number:	<i>11/13/2020</i>
4. Accredited Entity:	<i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i>
5. Focal point of the accredited entity for this project:	<i>Noelia Jover, noelia.jover@undp.org</i>
6. Executing Entity(ies):	<i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i>
7. Implementation period:	<i>From: 2/10/2021 To: 2/1/2026</i>
8. Current year of implementation:	<i>Year 2</i>
9. Date of submission of the report:	<i>3/1/2023</i>
10. Annual reporting period covered in this report:	<i>From: 1/1/2022 To: 12/31/2022</i>
11. Total project budget²:	<i>GBP: USD 54,119,143</i>
12. Total amount of REDD+ results-based payments approved:	<i>USD 54,119,143</i>

² Total project budget including co-financing as reflected in the relevant Funded Activity Agreement.

SECTION 2: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 OVERALL (SUMMARY) PROJECT

In December 2022, the project completed 20 months of implementation, and 73% of the budget was executed. The outstanding results were largely due to the successful implementation of the Performance Based Payment Agreement (PBPA), as well as the fact that the project is positioned as the most important ally of the REDD+ Secretariat in the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy (EN-REDD+) and in providing key support for partial access to resources approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Following are the main results achieved during 2022 by output:

Output 1: Activity 1.1 required the most significant amount of human and financial resources. Nevertheless, progress was made in all planned actions. Activities had to be agreed upon with the responsible parties and with other MINAE agencies, such as the National Center for Geoenvironmental Information (CENIGA, for its acronym in Spanish). Also, they required free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) to work with indigenous territories (ITs) in the construction of an Environmental Forestal Territorial Plan (EFTP) that responds precisely to a consultation process carried out with the country's indigenous peoples (IPs). The project's social team, led by the expert on IPs, invested a great deal of time preparing the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), which was sent with the revisions requested to the GCF and on the construction of the EFTPs of each ITs. Successful progress has been made in 22 of the 24 ITs. The Integral Development Association (ADI, for its acronym in Spanish) of each IT sent a Letter of Interest to engage with the development of the EFTP. Additionally, a Road Map for the EFTP has been prepared and approved, specifying work and budget mechanisms that ensure the participation of territorial social actors.

Thanks to work in component 1.2, EN-REDD+ Costa Rica has a Financing Strategy to access high-quality carbon markets associated with REDD+; allowing the country to diversify the climate funding sources to protect forests. In addition, the work of the project's Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) team supported the technical and legal analysis of 58,700 hectares of private forest land. As a result, additional to the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) contracts in force and the State Natural Heritage Lands, which include all protected wild areas, the country was able to claim the first disbursement of USD 16,415,110 out of the USD 60 million from the FCPF, which requests the transfer of carbon rights. Furthermore, the MRV team supported the consolidation of the Contract for the Reduction of Forest Emission (CREF, for its Spanish acronym), a new instrument aimed at properties that do not qualify for conventional PES. CREF incentivize forest owners only for the environmental service of capturing carbon dioxide, thus being a PES that does not include payment for other environmental services contemplated by national legislation (protection of water resources, biodiversity, and scenic beauty). Although the payment of incentives per hectare in the CREF is lower than in the traditional PES for the mentioned reason, this modality will more than double the number of hectares of forest with a PES scheme in the country, diversifying the payment sources for these services. Furthermore, CREF will make it possible to use the resources granted by this project and the World Bank's FCPF to strengthen and expand the PES Program, especially given the country's fiscal and economic crisis, as mentioned in the last year's report.

Output 2: As part of the PBPA, the second verification was carried out by the independent audit (IA); the same company as the previous year was hired. As a result, the IA recommended the second disbursement, for USD 13,304,970, corresponding to activities 2.1 and 2.2, PES on private lands and ITs, respectively. The results of the audit highlighted the following findings between September 2021 and August 2022:

- **156,464 ha under forest protection** active contracts within the PES Program, of which:
 - ✓ 56,055 ha (35%) are in districts with a **Very Low Social Development Index (SDI)**
 - ✓ 29,972 ha (19%) are under contracts formalized with **women owners or co-owners** of properties
 - ✓ 2819 ha (1,8%) belong to **young owners**, and
 - ✓ 32,643 ha (20%) belong to **smallholders** in properties with contracts of less than 50 hectares
- **9,635.5 ha under natural regeneration** active contracts within the PES Program benefiting 900 forest landowners. These contracts include:
 - ✓ 2,251 ha (23,3%) are in districts with a **Very Low Social Development Index (SDI)**
 - ✓ 699 ha (7,2%) are under contracts formalized with **women owners** or co-owners of properties
 - ✓ 145 ha (1,5%) belong to **young owners**, and
 - ✓ 1865 ha (19,3%) belong to **smallholders** in properties with contracts of less than 50 hectares

According to the verification, these verified results in private lands (activity 2.1) were worth USD 12,026,282.24. Therefore, the entire remaining project budget dedicated to PES activities in private lands was exhausted with the disbursement of the USD 9,973,552 to FONAFIFO to increase and strengthen the PES Program.

In the PES in ITs, the results of the verification were the following:

- There is no PES for non-indigenous people within these territories.
- Twenty-three ADIs presented notes expressing their willingness to participate in the EFTP process and the REDD+ program.
- FONAFIFO managed contracts, within the PES Program, in 16 ITs, for a total of: 42,289.2 hectares of forest protection contracts, 880.7 hectares protected under natural regeneration contracts, and 485,192 trees protected under agroforestry systems.

According to the verification, these verified results in IT (activity 2.2) were worth USD 3,331,418 that were transferred to FONAFIFO. These resources will be reinvested in ITs as a result of the implementation of the EFTP, built-in participatory processes that are being carried out, and provide technical and financial assistance for the project in coordination with the REDD+ Secretariat. It must be mentioned that IA this year recommended not to transfer resources to the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC, for its acronym in Spanish) due to the non-compliance with exclusion criterion 3.1: "100 % of institutional and volunteer forest firefighters, with an insurance policy against the risk of incidents". Since this is an exclusion criterion, the non-compliance resulted in the non-payment of all other indicators related to SINAC (activity 2.3), ensuring compliance with social safeguards. According to the verification, these verified results under SINAC were worth USD 1,047,096. Remarkably, with this second disbursement made in December 2022, 80% of the resources agreed under the PBPA (USD 46.7 million) were transferred to FONAFIFO as the Responsible Party.

2.2 PROJECT OUTPUTS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS			
Project Output	Project Activity	Status ³	Implementation Progress (%)
Output 1 <i>Enabling Conditions are in Place for REDD+ Implementation</i>	<i>Project Activity 1.1 Securing Implementation of REDD+ Safeguards Provisions</i>	<i>Activity Started progress on track</i>	<i>60%</i>
	<p>Progress in this activity is very satisfactory, although it was necessary to take adaptive actions to move forward with the sub-activities, achieve compliance with the safeguards commitments, and, above all, comply with MINAE and REDD+ Secretariat requests. Situations that affected the previous year, such as most of COVID-19 restrictions (preventing meetings and workshops), as well as information access of previous REDD+ processes of the REDD+ Secretariat, were solved.</p> <p>The document "Indigenous Peoples Plan of the REDD+ Results-Based Payments Project 2014-2015 in Costa Rica: to Address Impacts Associated with the Implementation of the Payment for Environmental Services Program in Indigenous Territories" was finalized, as the framework for the preparation of the EFTPs. This is a tool to address the risks and capture the opportunities associated with the implementation of PES in ITs and ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures identified. The IPP was approved by REDD+ Secretariat and submitted to the GCF in July 2022.</p> <p>The project team participated with Costa Rican government counterparts in outreach activities at COP27, in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, in November 2022, including at the event, "Channeling REDD+ Incentives to the Ground: Innovative approaches to enhance delivery, and inclusion", organized by UNDP with representatives from Ecuador, Costa Rica, Indonesia, and Brazil. The event recapped the efforts made by National REDD+ Strategy in the country to respect FPIC with IPs, as well as the project's technical and financial support to this process and to the creation of a planning tool which respects collective rights, strengthens governance and traditional knowledge, following the social and environmental standards. It was also highlighted that, this year, PBPA transferred resources to government institutions and that these will be transferred to ITs through CREF, PES and other modalities.</p>		<p>(1) Officialization of the SIS, with MINAE, and the REDD+ Secretariat, to enable information analysis and access to stakeholders.</p> <p>(2) Presentation of GRM results report and start of operation.</p> <p>(3) Road map for communication with IP</p> <p>(4) Strategic Planning for the Monitoring Committee of the National REDD+ Strategy</p> <p>(5) Presentation to technical and political actors of five key regional forest networks for REDD+ governance</p> <p>(6) Supporting ONF to achieve a legal wood certification.</p> <p>(7) Methodology to monitor</p>

³ Activity Not Yet Due; Activity Started -ahead of schedule; Activity started - progress on track; Activity started but progress delayed; Activity start is delayed

Provide an updated progress on this project activity for the relevant reporting period, including delays and issues encountered, key milestones reached, and lessons learned, including issues related to non-compliance with GCF standards or conditions, vis-à-vis expectations, if any. In parallel, include positive achievements and better-than-expected results.

	<p>Another aspect in which significant progress was made was the cross-cutting approach to gender (sub-activity 1.1.7) in all of the project's activities. The year began with the goal of updating the project's Gender Action Plan (GAP) to tailor the activities to the current scope of the project and to properly reflect the multiple positive gender impacts that project is delivering. Its update was completed in December 2022 and done in conjunction with the update of the National REDD+ GAP. As such, the project's updated GAP is a sub-set of and aligned with the updated National REDD+ GAP (See Section 4.2 below for more details of this process). The project's updated GAP was submitted to the GCF for review and approval on 15 December 2022.</p> <p>In addition, the Rural Women's Forum was formed to build a space for national dialogue to enhance the participation of women in decision-making thereby promoting that they can have an impact on the generation of public policies, programs and institutional services in the land sector. Given that in 2021 coordination actions had been established with the Rural Development Institute (INDER, for its acronym in Spanish), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG, for its acronym in Spanish), the Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sector Planning (SEPSA, for its acronym in Spanish), and the National Institute for Women (INAMU, for its acronym in Spanish), nine regional meetings were held in outlying areas of the country, between March and May. The objective was to provide preparatory information about the forum in these meetings, representative women from each region were elected. They attended the presentation of the National Rural Women's Forum, on June 22, 2022, in which more than 100 rural women from all over the country participated. The event was also attended by national authorities of INDER, FONAFIFO, UNDP, as well as the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and the Minister of the Status of Women, among others. A board of directors with representatives from these regions has been meeting periodically to define the bylaws, ways of influencing public policies in favor of rural women, as well as the inter-institutional support needed to approach gaps and influence their reduction or elimination.</p> <p>For the first time, and together with German cooperation (GIZ, for its acronym in German) and the institutions that organized the forum, the REDD+ Secretariat was supported in awarding the Gender Equality Award for Productive Units (GEAPU) to the first 32 women. It helped to make visible and strengthen women's leadership in forest conservation and sustainable production. This activity took place on October 13, 2022, supported by several months of previous work, visiting farms, organizing meetings in rural regions to promote the award, and supporting women to meet the requirements for participation.</p> <p>Support on gender was provided on the PBPA indicators, such as those related to the awareness campaign on labor rights, gender-based violence, and sexual harassment, as well as the implementation of the first gender training module for Costa Rican forest firefighters. A photo story was published to highlight the role of indigenous women protecting forests as well as their active participation in the elaboration of the EFTPs and the need to have a gender approach integrated in the implementation of the plan and in the distribution of benefits. In addition, the project co-organized with UNDP a webinar on Climate Finance/ Catalyst for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Forestry Sector, to transfer knowledge in the framework of the 66th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) and the International Day of Forests. The event included presentations by female leaders from five countries (Costa Rica, Indonesia, Brazil, Ghana, and Ecuador) and a keynote speech by Andrea Meza, Minister of MINAE of Costa Rica. More than 200 people were connected. The recording of the event continues to be broadcasted on Latin America</p>	<p>and evaluate GAPs actions, articulated process for the EFTP, the implementation of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Communications and Safeguards.</p> <p>(8) Systematization GEAPU process 2022.</p> <p>(9) Second Rural Women and Forests Discussion Forum</p> <p>(10) Presentation of a Bill to facilitated access to land for rural women.</p> <p>(11) 10 EFTP validation and approval</p> <p>(12) 12 EFTP validation and approval</p>
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	<p>Genera channels.</p> <p>Regarding the sub-activity 1.1.2. Second Summary of Information (SOI), together with the REDD+ Secretariat, this milestone was concluded in June, when socialized with various stakeholders and submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (REDD+UNFCCC). SOI covers from January 2018 to December 2020. Although initially this Project did not plan to support the third SOI, this has been included as one of the 2023 milestones considering its importance. The third SOI would cover from January 2021 to December 2023.</p> <p>The programmed work for the Safeguard Information System (SIS), sub-activity 1.1.1, and its launch suffered a delay. It was necessary to review the safeguards applicable to REDD+ initiatives, World Bank Policies, and UNDP social and environmental standards, as well as the indicators defined to be reported, to prepare a smaller but more comprehensive list. To this end, an inter-institutional group was created with SINAC, FONAFIFO, CENIGA, UNDP, and the project. Six sessions were held to agree on the 24 new indicators, whose information will be provided by different MINAE agencies and other institutions. Consideration has been given to ensure that the indicators reflect gender differences, in order to visualize if there are differences or if affirmative actions are required. This group was also trained on safeguards, within the cycle of trainings organized by the project, with a specific one called "Safeguards as a framework that protects nature-based markets". Although the country's legal framework offers social and environmental guarantees, safeguards approach is relatively new.</p> <p>With respect to the (GRM), sub-activity 1.1.4., a Plan for Strengthening the FONAFIFO and SINAC Service Comptrollers' Offices for the Implementation of GRM was prepared and presented to the managers of both institutions. SINAC has already assigned an additional person to its comptroller's office to strengthen its capacity to implement the necessary functions of the GRM.</p> <p>Regarding the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (sub-activity 1.1.6), the most relevant achievement was the Project's Joint Work Agreement with the National Forestry Office (ONF, for its acronym in Spanish). In 2021, they initiated the creation of Regional Networks and during 2022 they worked on a work agenda, according to the conditions of each region. The project decided not to duplicate efforts and, together with the ONF, both sought to strengthen these networks as spaces for REDD+ stakeholder participation.</p> <p>In sub-activity 1.1.5, Implement the existing communications strategy, A new REDD+ Communications Strategy 2022-2026 was prepared, validated and approved by the Secretariat in March 2022; and presented to the press in April. Subsequently, several elements of the strategy were developed, such as the website and graphic elements, including the new REDD+ CR logo, among others.</p> <p>Sub-activity 1.1.10, Capacity building, was very successful and, as throughout the project, great emphasis has been placed on working with ITs. Five activities were carried out in each of the ITs blocks or sectors (there are between 5-7 ITs per block, and there are three blocks). They were aimed at building capacities of cultural mediators and technicians who collaborate with the EFTPs, for the boards of directors of the ADIs, and for representatives of indigenous organizations. On the other hand, mediators and technicians from 23</p>	
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ITs participated on a three-day training, supported by FONAFIFO, SINAC, REDD+ Secretariat, forestry specialists, gender specialists, group motivators, and facilitators. It was a comprehensive training aimed at preparing the EFTPs.

A training cycle, called Strengthening capacities to enhance Costa Rica's efforts in forest conservation and mitigation of the climate crisis, was held during this year. It was open to the public and included the following webinars:

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MARKETS: A NATURE-BASED ALTERNATIVE			Men	Women
Climate Finance: Regional Experiences of REDD+ RBP Projects. What New Alternatives does Costa Rica Have?	January 26th, 2022	64	51%	49%
Commitments Established in International Conventions and Protocols Related to REDD+.	February 9th, 2022	36	47%	53%
Carbon Emissions Accounting: the Costa Rican Experience	February 23rd, 2022	37	59%	41%
A CULTURALLY SENSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL APPROACH TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES				
Consultation as a Principle of Indigenous Participation: The Experience of the Creation of the General Consultation Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples	May 12th, 2022	46	50%	50%
Culturally Relevant Approach to Working with Indigenous Peoples	June 26th, 2022	67	47%	53%
Indigenous Intermediation in Forest Work in Costa Rica.	July 9th, 2022	53	74%	26%
Total		303 participants	54%	46%

As a complementary activity, the "Training Module on Gender Equity and Human Rights in Environmental Conservation" was held, between May 18 and 26, 2022, online through Zoom. This module responds to the joint actions identified in the GAP and policy 2 of

	<p>the EN-REDD+, referring to “Strengthening Wildlife Protected Areas and Programs on Prevention and Control of Land Use Change and Fires”, and indicators 3.6-3.11 of the PBPA. Nine professionals specialized in gender, from UNDP and from other institutions (Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Institutional Network for Men, REDD+ Secretariat, SINAC) led the training. An international expert on gender and environment was also involved in the activity. The module totaled 14 synchronous hours in virtual modality, with 40 participants (19 women, 21 men).</p> <p>In addition, a Technical Working Session was held between Costa Rica and Ecuador (South-South Exchange) to analyze the design, implementation, and monitoring of the PBPA.</p>	
	<p><i>Project Activity 1.2 Monitoring and Reporting of REDD+ Implementation</i></p>	<p>Activity Started progress on track</p> <p>55%</p>
	<p>Regarding sub-activity 1.2.1, Construction of the Data Management System (DMS) of the Emission Reduction Program (ERP), periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, established by the REDD+ Secretariat, was completed with support from this project. This DMS version was validated by the FCPF Carbon Fund auditor. It is worth mentioning that this system is an important part of the project's innovation process allow the transfer of carbon credits. This system is also key to the implementation of the benefit-sharing plan. Regarding beneficiary recruitment, 97% of the goal to be submitted to the FCPF by March 2023 was met. The effective areas of the applications that had information provided by the Cadastral Zone of Costa Rica were adjusted.</p> <p>Attending a REDD+ Secretariat request, the project prepared the <i>Manual for the Technical Analysis of the Beneficiaries of the CREF Program</i>. Additionally, the first version of potential CREF area maps for the 24 ITs (more than 165,000 hectares) is already available. To date, more than 1,300 plans of private farms are digitized. As of November 2022, the technical analysis of 883 CREF applications were concluded, corresponding to 1,258 farms. Also, 516 properties were approved for signature and 206 properties were rejected. The rest of the properties are in one of the technical or legal requirements analysis stages. ERP data management has taken longer than planned, as REDD+ Secretariat and FONAFIFO have kept CREF applications open throughout 2022. This became a challenge due to the large number of CREF applications and the volume of work involved in reviewing eligibility requirements. The situation has prevented the completion of this task and beginning of other activities.</p> <p>The definition of a work agenda to support PES Program sustainability did not initiate for several reasons; one of them was that the MRV team was focused on the DMS and the preparation of the methodological variation under the TREES standard, necessary for the registration of the Program Document for the 2017-2021 credit period. Additionally, the change of government involved waiting for new guidelines aimed at a sustainable landscape management strategy for PES Program financing, including new environmental services in which the project can contribute with technical support. During 2023, the baseline will be created for the measurement of forest carbon in soil. These data are expected to be finished and will be included in the national accounting for the year 2024).</p>	<p>(13) Finalized ERP DMS for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019</p> <p>(14) Strategy to address REDD+ credit trading or offsetting initiatives agreed upon with the REDD+ Secretariat.</p> <p>(15) Methodology to generate carbon emission factors on forest land</p> <p>(16) Work agenda that contributes to the sustainability of the PES Program.</p> <p>(17) Coherent methodological proposal NGHGI, NDC and FREL-REDD+.</p> <p>(18) Costa Rica Second REDD+ Technical Annex to UNCCC) agreed between Sec REDD+ and DCC.</p> <p>(19) Socialization of land use map to 2021</p>

	<p>For activity 1.2.2., the FREL update and the consolidation of methodological consistency with the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGHGI) and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) monitoring framework, contact was made with the Climate Change Directorate (DCC, for its acronym in Spanish). This department is in charge of reporting to the UNFCCC about the preparation of a new time series of land use in the country made with the financial support of the World Bank. Feedback was requested on the definition of the land use interpretation protocol, based on high resolution images and the methodological approach for the definition of forest degradation using reference information (e.g., TerraPulse maps). The technical discussion process extended to other specialists is pending. Progress has been made in the preparation of a web-based institutional data repository, where information for the calculation of the different FREL/FRLs submitted by Costa Rica (Carbon Fund, UNFCCC and ART TREES) is transparently shared. The project provided technical support to REDD+ Secretariat reviewing the activity data estimate for 1998-2019 time series, carried out by the consultant hired by the World Bank, for the recalculation of the FREL/FRL submitted by Costa Rica.</p> <p>It should be mentioned that DCC has scheduled for 2024 the delivery of the First Biennial Transparency Report. It is not clear whether the REDD+ Technical Annex can be submitted separately, given that REDD+ 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 results are available. This decision was consulted with DCC, but no response has been received yet. Therefore, tasks related to sub-activity 1.2.3 are suspended until a course of action is agreed with authorities.</p> <p>Regarding support for Costa Rica's participation in market mechanisms, including the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) of the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) program, the registry document (2017-2021) and the monitoring report (2017-2019) are uploaded to ART Registry and ready to be validated and verified by Aster Global (the validation and verification body). This organization was hired at the beginning of the year, but it was necessary to prepare a methodological variance under TREES standard, for the registration of the Program Document for 2017-2021 crediting period. Therefore, the verification will start in 2023. Also, the Land Use Map 2021, for emissions monitoring 2020-2021 will be ready in January 2023. Its validation in the first quarter of 2023, will be in charge of the REDD+ Secretariat.</p>	<p>(20) ART-TREES monitoring report 2017-2021 validated and approved</p>		
<p>Output 2 <i>Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and Fighting Forest Fires Conservation)</i></p>	<p><i>Project Activity 2.1 Improving and Expanding the Payment for Environmental Services Program</i></p> <p>Regarding this component, evaluation methodology indicators were reviewed and adjusted according to the PBPA. As a result, four exclusion criteria were included, related to actions to: raise awareness on labor rights, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence to PES beneficiaries; non-payment to non-indigenous people within ITs; a PES Improvement Plan to be followed by FONAFIFO, and the Strengthening Plan for the Implementation of the GRM. The updated verification methodology was approved in August, and the second verification process took place in September.</p> <p>The results of the audit highlighted the following findings between September 2021 and August 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 156,464 ha under forest protection active contracts within the PES Program, of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 56,055 ha (35%) are in districts with a Very Low Social Development Index (SDI) ✓ 29,972 ha (19%) are under contracts formalized with women owners or co-owners of properties 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>Completed</i></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">100%</td> </tr> </table> <p>(21) Relaunch of the campaign on labor rights, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence for PES owners</p>	<i>Completed</i>	100%
<i>Completed</i>	100%			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2819 ha (1,8%) belong to young owners, and ✓ 32,643 ha (20%) belong to smallholders in properties with contracts of less than 50 hectares ● 9,635.5 ha under natural regeneration active contracts within the PES Program benefiting 900 forest landowners. These contracts include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2,251 ha (23,3%) are in districts with a Very Low Social Development Index (SDI) ✓ 699 ha (7,2%) are under contracts formalized with women owners or co-owners of properties ✓ 145 ha (1,5%) belong to young owners, and ✓ 1865 ha (19,3%) belong to smallholders in properties with contracts of less than 50 hectares <p>Results were accepted in November and a disbursement of USD 9,973,552 recognizing the results in private lands was made in December. The disbursement responds to the verification of 156,464 hectares of PES under forest protection up to date and with payment in the verification period, as well as 19,636 hectares in PES under forest regeneration modality. With this disbursement, the transference of 100% of the funds for this component (USD 31,094,921) was completed. It is important to highlight that, in 2021 FONAFIFO only placed 5,997 hectares of new PES contracts, being the year with the lowest placement since the existence of this program (1997). It was the result of the country's fiscal crisis (which generated significant cuts to different budgets), in addition to the decrease in revenues from the fuel tax, for the impact of the post-COVID-19 economic recession. During 2022, thanks to the first project's disbursement at the end of 2021, FONAFIFO formalized new contracts equivalent to 52,000 hectares, more than in 2019 (pre-COVID) and previous years. Undoubtedly, the income from the project's transfers contributed to this institutional achievement improving and expanding the PES.</p> <p>In 2023 and 2024, improvement plans derived from the independent auditor's verifications will be implemented.</p>		
	<p><i>Project Activity 2.2 Expanding and Improving the Special Payment for Environmental Services in Indigenous Territories</i></p>	<p><i>Activity Started progress on track</i></p>	<p>42%</p>

	<p>On-site verification of PES in ITs took place in September 2022. In the PES in ITs, the results of the verification were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no PES for non-indigenous people within these territories. • Twenty-three ADIs presented notes expressing their willingness to participate in the EFTP process and the REDD+ program. • FONAFIFO managed contracts, within the PES Program, in 16 ITs, for a total of: 42,289.2 hectares of forest protection contracts, 880.7 hectares protected under natural regeneration contracts, and 485,192 trees protected under agroforestry systems. <p>Results were approved in November, and the first disbursement to FONAFIFO for results in ITs, for USD 3,331,418, took place in December 2022. This amount corresponds to 42% of the transferable funds to improve and expand PES in ITs, which is linked to the IPP, the construction of the EFTPs and the plan to invest REDD+ resources in these plans. The audit recognized FONAFIFO's up-to-date contracts in 16 ITs (42,289 hectares under forest protection within the PES, 880 hectares under forest regeneration, and 485,202 trees under agroforestry systems).</p>	<p>(22) Review and update, if needed, the indicators for year two for the PES in indigenous people's component and build the verification methodology. (23) First Independent Auditor's Report for PES in indigenous peoples completed. (24) Recommendation by the IA of the second disbursement to FONAFIFO as part of the independent audit for indigenous territories PES</p>	
	<p><i>Project Activity 2.3 Forest Fire Prevention</i></p>	<p><i>Activity Started progress on track</i></p>	<p>40%</p>
	<p>The PBPA indicators were reviewed and adjusted for the second verification. The verification methodology was agreed upon. The documentation review and on-site verification was carried out, as well as the follow-up of the findings book, and the presentation of the results. One exclusion criterion for this activity was not met, as more than one forest firefighter in IT attended fires in 2022 without an insurance policy. As a result, the transfer of resources for this year was not made, despite presenting results associated with an equivalent of USD 1,047,000. Indicator 3.4, Percentage of Forest Fires attended at level 1, was 93%, exceeding the goal of 90% but below last year's percentage of 98%. Indicator 3.5, Percentage of Forest Affected in the State's Natural Heritage, reached the minimum of non-payment, which is 70%, in contrast to last year's 19% of affected area in forest ecosystems. It should be noted that the climatic conditions of the country were prone to greater fire damage, and SINAC made an excellent work attending fires. In connection with this activity, the Training Module on Gender and Human Rights in Environmental Conservation was held for the first time for 40 SINAC firefighters (21 men, 19 women).</p>	<p>(25) Verification methodology completed and approved by the parties for the Forest Fires Program component. (26) Independent Audit Report completed for the component related to the SINAC National Fire Management Program. (27) Recommendation by the IA of the payment of the results from SINAC's National Fire Management Program as part of the independent audit.</p>	

2.4 IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE/MILESTONES FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Provide a timetable including milestones to be delivered for the next annual reporting period. This should be aligned with Section 2.2. Kindly specify milestones. Note that milestones for the next reporting period should be defined in more detail than originally planned since project managers should have a better idea of what milestones are to be achieved in their annual work plans than they may have had when the original project implementation timetable was included in the funding proposal.

2.4. IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE/MILESTONES FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD ⁴												
TASK	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<i>Output 1. Enabling conditions are in place for REDD+ implementation</i>												
<i>Activity 1.1. Securing implementation of REDD+ safeguards provisions</i>												
Activity 1.1.1. Implementation of the SIS.												
a) Validation of indicators and evidence of safeguards approach with REDD+ Secretariat and other stakeholders.	X	X										
b) Design and operation of the SIS technological platform.			X	X	X							
c) Officialization of the SIS, with MINAE, and the REDD+ Secretariat.						X (1)						
d) Presentation of progress in improving the SIS.											X	
Activity 1.1.2. Preparation of a SOI on safeguards.												
a) Analysis to structure the Third SOI report.									X	X		
b) Compilation of secondary and primary information for the Third SOI report, covering January 2021 to December 2023, to be submitted to UNFCCC in 2024.										X	X	X
Activity 1.1.3. Technical assistance for the achievement of Environmental and Social Certification under the REDD+ SES framework.												
a) Technical assistance to fulfil environmental and social requirements for Leaf, linked to the TREES certification and the standard verification process.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Activity 1.1.4. Strengthening the grievance redress mechanism.												

⁴ Sub-activities respond to the structure of the Prodoc.

a) Validation and operationalization of the Plan to Strengthen the FONAFIFO and SINAC's Services Comptrollers' Offices for the implementation of the GRM.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
b) Creation of an inter-institutional follow-up commission for the operation of GRM.			X									
c) Implementation and socialization of the technological platform for GRM.							X (2)					
d) Presentation of GRM annual results and management report.												X
Activity 1.1.5. Implement the existing communications strategy to ensure that information dissemination reaches all relevant stakeholders.												
a) Implement the communication strategy approved by the REDD+ Secretariat.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
b) Based on the communication strategy, prepare a road map for communication with IP to assist the construction of the EFTPs.		X	X	X (3)								
c) Implement the communication actions defined in the road map with IP.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
d) Increase the presence of the REDD+ RBP Project's actions and products in national media and social networks.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activity 1.1.6. Design of a stakeholder engagement plan, including the participation of governmental, non-governmental, and indigenous peoples' stakeholders.												
a) Support the REDD+ Secretariat in the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
b) Joint construction of Strategic Planning for the Monitoring Committee of the National REDD+ Strategy support for the effectiveness of its role.		X	X	X (4)			X		X		X	
c) Strengthening of alliances to work with identified key actors that did not participate in REDD+ (banana, pineapple, cattle, and coffee farmers).			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
d) Consolidation of at least five key regional forest networks for REDD+ governance and their national presentation to technical and political actors.			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X (5)	X	X
e) Supporting ONF to achieve a legal wood certification.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X (6)				
f) Exploring the development of a deforestation-free agricultural product certification for export markets.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activity 1.1.7. Update the existing GAP for the National REDD+ Strategy.												
a) Design of the methodology to monitor and evaluate GAP's actions, articulated with the processes for the EFTPs, the implementation of the Stakeholder		X	X (7)									

Engagement Plan, communication and safeguards to build an implementation plan of the GAP RBP 2023-2025													
b) Systematization of the GEAPU 2022 process as a basis for the GEAPU 2023 road map and the presentation of results.		X	X	X	X(8)								
c) Socialize GEAPU in ITs, promoting needed adaptations to recognize productive units models, according to women's realities in ITs.				X	X	X	X						
d) Improve and enable the GEAPU web platform for the second generation of the award and the 2023 call.		X	X			X							
e) Strengthen the National Women's Forum through the 2023-2025 inter-institutional planning process.		X	X	X	X								
f) Implementation of four field schools to strengthen the National Women's Forum at regional level and promote articulation with other windows of participation and exchange such as GEAPU.								X	X				
g) Follow-up of the Second National Rural Women's Forum, assisting the planning, facilitation and systematization of the regular sessions as well as a face-to-face meeting.							X(9)						
h) Technical support for the drafting and presentation of a bill to facilitate access to land for rural women for forest management.			X	X	X	X	(10)						
i) Design and implementation of a gender and environment training, addressed to staff of the Fire Management Program, considering experiences of women participating in forest fire groups			X	X	X	X	X	X					
Activity 1.1.8. Design and implementation of the IPP, including participation of governmental, non-governmental and IPs' stakeholders.													
a) Support and monitor implementation of the IPP.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
b) Support and follow-up for the construction of the EFTPs in 21 ITs.	X	X	X	X	X	X							
c) EFTPs validation and approval.							X(11)					X(12)	
d) Support SINAC in updating the indigenous component of the National Forestry Development Plan.							X	X	X				
e) National socialization of the EFTPs and search for institutional commitments for their implementation.												X	X
Activity 1.1.9. Targeted assessments on unknown risks (biodiversity; community, health, and safety; working conditions; displacement; pollution) and management measures or plans.													
a) Full incorporation of management measures into project procedures and monitoring methodology.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Activity 1.1.10. Capacity building will be incorporated into the project and will serve as a basis for the successful implementation of management plans.													
a) Strengthening local capacities to build the EFTPs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
b) Capacity building for forest managers on IT work, technological improvements for PES and ethics, among other topics.				X		X		X					
c) Support for capacity building to agricultural sectors that will be involved in REDD+ work (coffee, livestock, and pineapple farmers).			X	X	X	X							
d) Share knowledge among RBP Projects in Latin America, over specific topics.		X			X			X			X		
e) Generate knowledge products related to the results of the Project: Ambientico, UN-REDD, UNDP, ACADEMY.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Activity 1.2. Monitoring and reporting of REDD+ implementation.													
Activity 1.2.1. Development and implementation of a diversified strategy for access to REDD+ Results-Based Payments and carbon markets based on international partnerships, in line with the San José principles.													
a) Finalize the construction of the ERP DMS, periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019. Preparation of the exit strategy and transfer of technical process information to the Secretariat.	X	X	X (13)										
b) Publication on digital platforms of data generated by the project.						X							
c) Update information and strategy to address REDD+ credit trading or offsetting initiatives agreed upon with the REDD+ Secretariat.				X	X	X	X	X	X (14)				
d) Create a methodology to generate carbon emission factors on forest land, to increase emission reductions, recalculating all avoided carbon emissions since 2006.				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X (15)		
e) Construction and presentation of a work agenda on alternative financing mechanisms for the PES Program, with the participation of the Secretariat, IMN, MAG, SIMOCUTE, Escala Project (UNDP-FAO), and INTA, among others.									X	X	X (16)		
f) Support the development of the National Registry of the Climate Change Metric System under the management of the National Climate Change Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Energy					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Activity 1.2.2. Updating the FREL for future submission, methodological improvements in response to the recommendations of the technical assessment and consolidation of methodological consistency with the national GHG inventory and the NDC monitoring framework.													
a) Present progress report on the methodology to estimate the new FREL-REDD.				X	X	X	X	X	X				

b) Together with the Secretariat and the DCC consolidate the methodological consistency of the NGHGI, NDC and FREL-REDD+.								X	X	X	X	X	X (17)
Activity 1.2.3 Preparation of the second REDD+ technical annex in the Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC.													
a) Preparation of the second REDD+ technical annex in the Biennial Update Report submitted to UNFCCC, joint REDD+ secretariat and DCC.										X	X	X	X (18)
Activity 1.2.4 Support for Costa Rica's participation in market mechanisms, including the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) of the Transaction Architecture for REDD+ (ART) program.													
a) Technical assistance for ART TREES verification, preparation of ART-TREES registration document period 2017-2021.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
b) Socialization of Land Use Map 2021 for emissions monitoring 2020-2021.													X (19)
Activity 1.2.5 Support to validation and verification processes.													
a) Generate report and approval of the validation and verification audit of the registration document and monitoring report 2017-2021 ERP-Costa Rica.											X	(20)	
Output 2. Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and Fighting Forest Fires.													
Activity 2.1. Improving and expanding the Payment for Environmental Services Program.													
a) Analyze the results obtained in 2022 and initiate work with FONAFIFO on areas for improvement.		X											X
b) Implementation, by FONAFIFO, the PES Improvement Action Plan, as exclusion criteria for component 2.2.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
c) Analyze and relaunch the campaign aimed at PES beneficiaries, to raise awareness of labor rights, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence.			X	X	X	(21)							
Activity 2.2. Expanding and Improving the Special PES in ITs													
a) Review and update, if needed, the indicators for year two for the PES in indigenous people's component and build the verification methodology.		X	X	X	(22)								
b) Initiate the second verification process and complete it upon submission of the Independent Auditor's Report.						X	X	X	X	X			
c) Analyze 2023 verification results, accept them by UNDP and agree on them with FONAFIFO.											X		
d) Approval of IAs report by Board of Directors and make arrangements for second disbursement linked to PBPA for PES in ITs.											X	X	(23)
e) Recommendation by the IA of the second disbursement to FONAFIFO for the PES in ITs.													X (24)

Activity 2.3. Forest Fire Prevention.												
a) Analyze the results, areas of improvement for SINAC's National Fire Management Program.	X	X										
b) Work on a proposal for new indicators to be included for the 2023 verification.	X	X	X									
c) Support the implementation of the Improvement Plan and training on gender and human rights for volunteer forest firefighters.		X	X	X	X							
d) Review along with SINAC of the indicators for the year 2023 and build the verification methodology.		X	X	X (25)								
e) Initiate the second verification process and complete it upon submission of the Independent Auditor's Report.						X						
f) Approval of Independent Auditor's report by the Board of Directors and make arrangements for the second disbursement linked to the PBPA for the PES.							X (26)					
g) Recommendation by the IA of the payment for the results of SINAC's National Fire Management Program as part of the independent audit.								X (27)				

List of Milestones:

Activity 1.1.

- (1) Officialization of the SIS, with MINAE, and the REDD+ Secretariat, to enable information analysis and access to stakeholders.
- (2) Presentation of GRM results report and start of operation.
- (3) Road map for communication with IP
- (4) Strategic Planning for the Monitoring Committee of the National REDD+ Strategy
- (5) Presentation to technical and political actors of five key regional forest networks for REDD+ governance
- (6) Supporting ONF to achieve a legal wood certification.
- (7) Methodology to monitor and evaluate GAPS actions, articulated process for the EFTP, the implementation of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Communications and Safeguards.
- (8) Systematization GEAPU process 2022.
- (9) Second Rural Women and Forests Discussion Forum
- (10) Presentation of a Bill to facilitated access to land for rural women.
- (11) 10 EFTP validation and approval
- (12) 12 EFTP validation and approval

Activity 1.2.

- (13) Finalized ERP DMS for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019
- (14) Strategy to address REDD+ credit trading or offsetting initiatives agreed upon with the REDD+ Secretariat.
- (15) Methodology to generate carbon emission factors on forest land
- (16) Work agenda that contributes to the sustainability of the PES Program.
- (17) Coherent methodological proposal NGHGI, NDC and FREL-REDD+.
- (18) Costa Rica Second REDD+ Technical Annex to UNCCC) agreed between Sec REDD+ and DCC.
- (19) Socialization of land use map to 2021

(20) ART-TREES monitoring report 2017-2021 validated and approved

Activity 2.1.

(21) Relaunch of the campaign on labor rights, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence for PES owners.

Activity 2.2.

(22) Review and update, if needed, the indicators for year two for the PES in indigenous people's component and build the verification methodology.

(23) First Independent Auditor's Report for PES in indigenous peoples completed.

(24) Recommendation by the IA of the second disbursement to FONAFIFO as part of the independent audit for indigenous territories PES

Activity 2.3.

(25) Verification methodology completed and approved by the parties for the Forest Fires Program component.

(26) Independent Audit Report completed for the component related to the SINAC National Fire Management Program.

(27) Recommendation by the IA of the payment of the results from SINAC's National Fire Management Program as part of the independent audit.

2.5 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED⁵

Describe implementation challenges faced during the last reporting period, including measures adopted and lessons learned. In case of challenges that may result in a change of the scope of the project, please provide a description of such elements and considerations on the implementation period and final targets.

Challenge Encountered	Type ⁶	Measures Adopted	Has the Challenge been Resolved During Reporting Period? (Y/N)	Impact on the Project Implementation ⁷	Lessons Learned and Other	Is this Challenge Caused by COVID-19? (Y/N)	Severity of Impact	Select a Type of COVID-19 Challenges Encountered	Describe if any Support is Required from the GCF to Address the COVID-19 Impact on your Project/Programme.
The change in Government brought with it a change in institutional authorities and had effects on the development of the project, both in the operational part, (since the MINAE minister was one of the members of the board of directors, he had to take time to understand the project and this generated delays in procedures, such as the acceptance of the independent	Political	In the operational part: 1. Explanation to new authorities of the objectives of the project and their participation within it. 2. Lean on the two members of the board of directors who remained, who supported and guided the minister.	Yes, in the case of MINAE. No, in policies linked to access to land for women and in work with stakeholders in the agricultural sector.	Moderate	1. Foresee in the formulation of the project the consideration of goals that depend on institutions external to the project. 2. There must be a lot of good information to support the	No	On track with no or minor impact		

⁵ If applicable (only to be filled if there were challenges faced during implementation)

⁶ Implementation; Legal; Financial; Environmental/Social; Political; Procurement; Other; AML/CFT; Sanctions; Prohibited Practices.

⁷ Minor/Solved; Moderate; High.

<p>audit report, which is a requirement for disbursement), as well as in the definition of new public policies: participation in carbon markets, public resources for PES, purchase of land for rural women, among others.</p> <p>On the other hand, in the MAG all the hierarchs have been changed twice after May. This affects several activities that are carried out jointly with the agricultural sector.</p>		<p>On the political side:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adapt to the new defined public policies. 2. Active participation of actors linked to the project, to influence these public policies. Find alternative actions, such as the presentation of laws to reorient the expected scope. 			<p>actions carried out in the project.</p>				
<p>Due to recommendations from MINAE, FONAFIFO and the REDD+ Secretariat, it was decided to approach the work with the ITs in a way that it will not duplicate efforts in the ITs, therefore, in addition to the IPP, an approach will be carried out by territory, which materialize in EFTPs. To carry out these plans, it was decided to hire the ADI of each territory, to facilitate participatory processes to build and validate the EFTPs.</p>	<p>Political implementation and procurement</p>	<p>Create three work teams within the PMU and divide monitoring responsibilities. Each team has responsibilities over eight territories. Each work team is responsible for technical assistance to prepare the EFTPs, hiring mediators and ADIs, as well as preparing training, reviewing products, supporting workshops, assisting equipment provision, etc.</p> <p>Identify positive leaders in each IT, so that they facilitate the work, especially in the early stages.</p> <p>One more person was hired to provide administrative support to the PMU, in order to</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Minor / Solved</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are guidelines on the progress of the project that must be followed so as not to affect users or beneficiaries, which have a greater impact than expected. 2. To work with IT, UNDP contracting schemes must be adapted to IT realities, which are absolutely different from others. 3. Transparency is essential when working with social groups. 4. Maintain face-to-face and virtual communication channels. The use of WhatsApp is 	<p>No</p>	<p>On track with no or minor impact</p>	<p>Click or tap to enter a date.</p>	

		<p>simultaneously take ITs as far as possible.</p> <p>UNDP had to modify and simplify contracting schemes and presentation of documents and products.</p>			important given the limitations of access and equipment.				
Rotation of people in key positions in institutions, including the REDD+ Secretariat and within the PMU.	<i>Implementation</i>	<p>Adaptive Project Management.</p> <p>Readjustment to new styles of leadership.</p> <p>Assistance to the new people who join.</p> <p>Systematization of key information of the project and of REDD+, which allows to expedite the transition.</p> <p>There must be new hires.</p>	<i>No</i>	<i>Minor/solved</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There must be mechanisms or plans for the transfer of information, knowledge, and skills that people manage. 2. The transitions must be programmed in time. 	<i>No</i>	<i>On track with no or minor impact</i>		
Last year it was reported that the level of coordination and state of relations between FONAFIFO and SINAC, which conformed the REDD+ Secretariat, needed to improve. This situation worsened with the retirement of the Coordinator of the Secretariat and even had the intervention of the Vice Minister of MINAE.	<i>Implementation.</i>	<p>The situation has been managed with the support of the Secretariat as a whole, providing them with information in a transparent manner, supporting the requests.</p> <p>The Secretariat has a new member from SINAC who is proactive, which added dynamism to the relations with the Secretariat and this has been positive for the project.</p>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Minor/Solved</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The types of leadership impact the functioning of the entities and institutional structures. 2. There are differences in approaches between national environmental entities. 	<i>No</i>	<i>Minor changes required</i>		
<i>The Monitoring Committee of the National REDD+ Strategy, whose function according to DE 40464 is to ensure compliance with the strategy.</i>	<i>Political, legal and implementation</i>	<i>Integration of the work with the Monitoring Committee of the National REDD+ Strategy as one of the priority activities in 2022 in</i>		<i>The limited participation of the Monitoring Committee limits the</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More joint work spaces facilitated by the Secretariat are required . 2. A change to Decree 	<i>No</i>	<i>Minor changes Required</i>		

<p>Nowadays, and as it was mentioned last year, the Executive Decree that makes it up, only gives monitoring functions and not decision-making functions, an aspect that they have claimed from the Secretariat and the Minister of MINAE, given that their role is limited to reviewing progress and transmitting information to the sectors they represent.</p>		<p>the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p> <p>Participation in follow-up meetings, invited by the Committee.</p> <p>Support the proposal for the elaboration of a Strategic Plan for the Monitoring Committee of the National REDD+ Strategy during 2023.</p>		<p>impact of the project and reduces full participation in its development. This committee could be considered the most important social platform for the project and the strategy since its members are representatives of sectors such as indigenous groups, producers, academia, the private sector, among others.</p>	<p>40464 is required to give the Monitoring Committee of the National REDD+ Strategy a more relevant role at the forest governance level.</p> <p>3. With the present regulations, there must be a regulation governing its operation, rotation of members, and characteristics of representation.</p>				
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2.6 REPORT ON CHANGES DURING IMPLEMENTATION

N/A

SECTION 3: FINANCIAL PROGRESS DETAILS

OUTPUT ⁸	PROJECT ACTIVITY ⁹	CUMULATIVE BUDGET THROUGH TO THE END OF THIS REPORTING PERIOD	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURE THROUGH TO THE END OF THIS REPORTING PERIOD	EXPENDITURE FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD	COMMITMENTS ¹⁰
Output 1 Enabling conditions are in place for REDD+ implementation	Project Activity 1.1 Securing implementation of safeguards provisions	838,141.00	646,500.72	481,751.93	110,516.81
	Project Activity 1.2 Monitoring and reporting of REDD+ implementation	805,934.00	266,469.31	168,205.18	96,378.20
	Output 1 Total	1,644,075.00	912,970.03	649,957.11	206,895.01
Output 2 Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and Fighting Forest fires	Project Activity 2.1 Expanding and improving the Payment for Environmental Services Program	13,015,516.00	31,432,953.59	10,055,981.05	
	Project Activity 2.2 Expanding and Improving the Special Payment for Environmental Services in Indigenous territories	3,288,598.00	3,331,418.00	3,331,418.00	0
	Project Activity 3.1 Forest fire prevention	3,288,598.00	2,806,274.33	106,274.33	0
	Output 2 Total	19,592,712.00	37,570,645.92	13,493,673.38	0
	PMC	904,918.00	333,697.58	195,212.37	0
PMC Total	904,918.00	333,697.58	195,212.37	0	
GRAND TOTAL:		22,141,705.00	38,817,313.53	14,338,842.86	206,895.01

⁸ Edit or adjust Output/Project Activity rows in line with the approved Funded Activity Agreement (FAA).

⁹ Edit or adjust Output/Project Activity rows in line with the approved Funded Activity Agreement (FAA).

¹⁰ Refers only to the items as of the reporting date where the AE has signed binding contracts and the relevant expenses are not included under the expenditure's column.

SECTION 4: PROJECT- SPECIFIC REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS & GENDER

4.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS AND GENDER ELEMENTS

(max 1 page)

There has been a great effort to achieve progress in the preparation of the EFTPs, as a requirement to access the PES in the ITs, created by the indigenous representative bodies and with the active participation of other organized groups in ITs, promoting those of women, following what is established by the General Mechanism for Consultation of Indigenous Peoples freely, prior and informed and through appropriate cultural procedures. In addition, work is being done to strengthen and consolidate SIS and GRM, as core elements to ensure respect and progress in compliance with the safeguards and avoid social and environmental risks. Inter-institutional groups have been created and strengthened to implement these structures allowing sustainability over time.

The approach of socio-environmental safeguards and gender mainstreaming in the project's actions was embodied in the different activities and planning instruments used by the Project. For specific details on efforts undertaken by the project in implementing the GAP, please review Section 4.2 below. Considerations on compliance with environmental and social safeguards are core principles in the preparation of the EFTP of each IT, and the project is working to ensure that these instruments guarantee effective participation of indigenous women both in the preparation of these plans and in their phase of implementation and acknowledges that women must be able to access the benefits and lead actions within the framework of the EFTP directly and autonomously.

The project also has a very valuable instrument (the PBPA) for the execution of Output 2, in which performance indicators and exclusion criteria that are directly related to gender perspective have been established, which includes equity in the distribution of PES benefits, avoiding sexual harassment and gender violence, with the participation of indigenous peoples, with the impact on districts with very low social development indicators, youth participation and compliance with labor rights on farms with PES. Since compliance with indicators is linked to economic transfers from the PBPA, this is a means to have a better performance in actions and measures related to safeguards. Therefore, in 2022 for the first time, it was agreed to incorporate **exclusion criteria** to ensure compliance with safeguards. In the case of the Activity 2.1. Improving and expanding the PES in privately-owned lands, it was established as a condition of payment that the PES beneficiaries receive the information prepared by the project associated with labor rights of men and women, gender-based violence and sexual harassment. More than 4,000 PES beneficiaries (of which 20% are women beneficiaries) across the country were reached by this awareness campaign, called "Green jobs are dignified and safe jobs" that was shared by various channels, to ensure that it reached the target population and beyond. This campaign was set up by the project and executed by FONAFIFO, in coordination with UNDP, INAMU and the Ministry of Labor.

In the case of SINAC, a training module on "Gender, Conservation and Human Rights" was design and implemented in March 2022. The course was attended by 40 institutional firefighters (of which 19 were women and 21 were men). The course materials developed for this training will be adapted and integrated in the development of the "Gender and Forests" Capacity Building package that will be implemented through both virtual and in person workshops that will be conducted in 2023 and that expect to involve at least 200 firefighters and volunteer firefighters (40% women) in 10 conservation areas of Costa Rica.

Given that one of the exclusion criteria for SINAC is to have occupational risk policies and the appropriate work equipment for firefighters, the PBPA allowed from 2022 and beyond that the environmental and social risks could be addressed through key programmes such as the "Improvement Plans" resulting from the Independent Audits of the PES Program on private lands and Its and the National Program of Fire.

(4.1.2) The information should include status of compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the country as well as the relevant conditions or covenants under the FAA. This can be captured in the table below:

Status of compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the conditions and covenants under FAA

Compliance Type	Compliance Title & Description	Status of compliance
Covenant	<p>Covenant 2: FAA Clause 8.03 In addition to clause 18.02 of the AMA and other relevant Clauses of this Agreement, the Accredited Entity covenants that as from the Effective Date it shall: [...]</p> <p>(a) Contractually require, monitor and enforce that (i) the GCF Volume of ERs for those ERs are recorded in the Info Hub as well as in the Recipient's interim registry, to be replaced by the National Registry of the Climate Change Metric System under the management of the National Climate Change Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Host Country; (ii) the GCF Volume of ERs are no longer eligible for RBPs under the GCF or in any other arrangement; and (iii) the Host Country will retire the GCF Volume of ERs and will not transfer or otherwise use them, including offsetting;</p> <p>(e) Undertake and/or put in place any adequate measures in order to ensure that the management of the environmental and social risks and impacts arising from the Funded Activity complies at all times with the recommendations, requirements and procedures set forth in the Environmental and Social Safeguards, Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) Report, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) (annex VI to the Funding Proposal), and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) (annex XIII to the Funding Proposal), which were provided by the Accredited Entity to the Fund before the Approval Decision, and shall not assign, amend, abrogate or waive any provisions of these documents without prior approval of the Fund;</p> <p>(f) Ensure that the Recipient shall obtain, all necessary environmental licenses or clearances, land and rights in respect of land that are required to carry out the Funded Activity pursuant to the relevant laws, including deeds of donation or assignment of land use rights for land that will not be compensated, and shall promptly furnish to the Fund, upon its request, evidence in a form and substance satisfactory to the Fund that such licenses, clearances, land and rights in respect of the land are available for the purposes of the Funded Activity; [...]</p> <p>(i) Ensure that the GCF Proceeds will not support or finance, directly or indirectly, any activities with potential environmental and social risks that are equivalent to category A pursuant to the Environmental and Social Risks Categories to be conducted as part of the use of the GCF</p>	<p>(a) The GCF Volume of ERs and REDD+ RBP paid by the GCF for those ERs are published in the Info Hub as well as in National Registry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Info Hub: https://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html • Link to the National Registry of Emission Reduction Accounting for REDD+: https://sinamecc.opendata.junar.com/dashboards/21364/registro-interino-de-pagos-por-resultados-redd-en-costa-rica/ <p>(e) The SESP and recommendations of the ESMP of the FP have been adhered to closely. In line with the ESMF, the project has developed the SEP; elaborated the GAP; started work on the IPP; assessed the GRM and has a roadmap for a strengthened project GRM; has analyzed risks not clarified in the design phase; and has incorporated key social and environmental indicators into the performance-based payment agreement. The PMU has also hired qualified staff to manage the safeguards aspects of the project.</p> <p>(f) UNDP confirms compliance.</p> <p>(i) The project's risk category remains the same as when the FP was submitted, based on the SESP. The project will not support or finance activities with potential risks equivalent to Category A.</p> <p>(j) The IPP was shared with GCF in August 2022; comments were received and responded to. Additional documentation of FPIC will be shared on a rolling basis.</p>

	<p>Proceeds.</p> <p>(j) Prior to commencing any activities that have potential application of the Accredited Entity's safeguards standards on indigenous peoples and/or cultural heritage, the Accredited Entity shall submit to the Fund the relevant indigenous peoples plan, cultural heritage plan, or other appropriate mitigation measure, including related to benefit sharing and/or a grievance mechanism where relevant, and shall also furnish to the Fund evidence, satisfactory to the Fund, that free, prior and informed consent from the indigenous communities has been obtained for the purposes of the relevant activities;</p>		
	<p>The most applicable and relevant laws and regulations for the project include:</p> <p>Social / labour / indigenous peoples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive Decree 40932 MP-MJP of March 6th, 2018, on the general mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples. - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ratified by the country through Law No. 3844 of January 5th, 1967. - Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Ratified by Costa Rica through Law No. 7316 of 4 December 1992. - Law No. 2 of the Republic of Costa Rica or Labour Code. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organic Law on the Environment No. 7554 of 4 October 1995. - Forestry Law No. 7575 of 1996 and Regulations to the Forestry Law, Executive Decree No. 25721-MINAE of 1996. - Regulation for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, Executive Decree No. 40464-MINAE of 18 July 2017. - Regulation for the Use of the Forestry Resources in Indigenous Reserves, Executive Decree No. 27800-MINAE of 16 March 1999. - Biodiversity Law No. 7788 of April 30, 1998 - Indigenous Law No. 6172 of November 29, 1977. 	<p>The project is complying with the laws and regulations listed to the left.</p> <p>The IPP ensures consistency with the relevant laws listed to the left and UNDP's SES, which reflect Costa Rica's commitment to international human rights laws and standards.</p> <p>Potential impacts on workers and workers' rights have been assessed and applicable national labour standards and UNDP's SES have been applied.</p> <p>The PES program is being implemented in line with the national environmental legal framework referenced to the left.</p>	

(4.1.3) Provide a report on the progress made in implementation environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) and frameworks (ESMFs) describing achievements, and specifying details outlined in the tables below.

Implementation of ESMPs and ESMFs

(i) activities implemented during the reporting period,	(ii) outputs during the reporting period	(iii) key environmental, social and gender issues, risks and	(iv) any pending key environmental, social and gender issues needing
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including monitoring		impacts addressed during implementation	accredited entity's actions and GCF attention
<p>The IPP was finalized, as a means to ensure the project applies FPIC and the national and international regulations on rights related to indigenous peoples, and which will be the basis for the preparation of the EFTPs.</p>	<p>The IPP created jointly with the REDD+ Secretariat and socialized with authorities and indigenous representatives.</p> <p>23 letters of interest from ADIs and IT organizations to continue the territorial processes related to REDD+ and the EFTPs, sent to the REDD+ Secretariat.</p> <p>21 road maps set out by IT participatorily, for the preparation and validation of EFTPs.</p>	<p>Indigenous Peoples' rights</p> <p>Human rights</p>	
<p>Six sessions and a workshop for the analysis of the Conceptual Framework of GRM prepared in 2018, including an in-depth and realistic analysis of the status of the FONAFIFO and SINAC Services Comptrollers' Offices and the available resources and demands for their operation.</p> <p>Two training sessions for the Services Comptrollers' Offices, the REDD+ Secretariat, FONAFIFO Planning and Control Unit, SINAC Headquarters and Control and Surveillance Personnel, PMU and UNDP planning manager, with the participation of 20 people. (7 women and 13 men) These trainings included the review of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) of the GCF.</p> <p>Local IT capacities building to</p>	<p>20 key stakeholders trained on the institutionalization and operation of the GRM. (7 women and 13 men)</p> <p>More than 100 indigenous peoples (45% women and 55% men) trained on the design of participatory, culturally appropriate and gender sensitive EFTPs. The training invited a diversity of stakeholders, including cultural mediators, technicians, and members of the ADIs to ensure that the development of EFTPs is linked to GRM and GRM.</p>	<p>Transparency, accountability, stakeholder engagement, conflict management, gender equality</p>	

<p>learn about GRM and structure the local information, feedback and non-conformity management mechanisms.</p> <p>Within the Engagement Plan, an alliance has been established with the ONF that made possible to identify regional forestry structures to improve forest governance and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.</p> <p>Contacts and training with the main corporations of the agri-food sector and private chambers, including the National Forestry Chamber to be able to involve them in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and that they can learn about and participate in the CREF Program.</p> <p>Strengthening of relations with the EN-REDD+ Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>Coordinate review and update of the National REDD+ GAP and the project's GAP. The project's updated GAP (still pending approval from the GCF) is a sub-set of and aligned with the updated National REDD+ GAP. The project's updated GAP was also tailored to properly reflect the current scope and activities of the project and the multiple positive gender impacts that project is delivering. (See Section 4.2 below for more details of this process).</p>	<p>Joint work agreement between the project and the ONF for work with the Regional Forestry Networks.</p> <p>Information and involvement of the national private sector within the EN-REDD+ and the PPPI, from: Five high level working sessions. Six training sessions on CREF. One workshop with the National Forestry Chamber entitled "Forest Plantations: Experiences and Alternatives for Costa Rica".</p> <p>Commitment to work together on the Strategic Plan of the Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>Two harmonized GAPs that clearly define how the project will contribute to the implementation of the national gender and REDD+ commitments and priorities.</p> <p>National Forum of Rural Women working.</p>			
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<p>Promote the recognition and inclusion of rural women in national forest and REDD+ actions through the establishment of a National Forum of Rural Women working and the Gender Equality Award for Productive Units.</p> <p>The structure of the SIS is simplified, reducing the number of indicators, making them more robust and traceable, to make its operation more feasible. For this, an inter-institutional group has been created and more than eight technical sessions have been held, where the selected indicators and the way to periodically obtain this data were agreed.</p>	<p>First generation of 32 agricultural productive units obtained the Gender Equality Award.</p> <p>SIS structure built from the prioritization of safeguards and socio-environmental standards.</p> <p>Terms of reference for the design of the virtual platform of the SIS concluded.</p>			
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4.1.4)

Information regarding the UNDP corporate Accountability Mechanism (Stakeholder Response Mechanism and the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit); as well as the Project-level grievance redress mechanism; and the GCF IRM is made available to project stakeholders throughout project design and implementation including in Project Inception Workshops; and also made available to all project stakeholders, and yearly reporting on project-level grievance redress mechanisms and stakeholder engagement events (including dates and venues) where this information is made available can be found in Sections 4.1.5 and 4.1.6 in PPMS.

(4.1.5) Include a description of the actions undertaken towards increasing the relevant stakeholders' engagement in the project environmental, social and gender elements, and a list on the grievances received in the reporting period that will include at least the description of the grievance, the date the grievance was received, and the resolution of the grievance.

Information below in this sub-section should be provided for all projects regardless of the E&S risk category for the project

Implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan

(i) activities implemented during the reporting period	(ii) dates and venues of engagement activities	(iii) information shared with stakeholders	(iv) outputs including issues addressed during the reporting period
<p>Joint work agreement between the project and the ONF.</p>	<p>August, September, November</p>	<p>General information on the REDD+ Strategy and the REDD+ PBR Project. Identification of common points of interest and work. Analysis of progress for certification of legal wood products.</p>	<p>Work documents. Joint Work Agreement. The work plan and budget are being prepared.</p>
<p>Preparation of joint work with</p>	<p>September, October,</p>	<p>General information on the</p>	<p>Executive Director of CORFO-</p>

<p>the livestock sector represented in the National Cattle Farmers Corporation (CORFOGA, for its acronym in Spanish).</p>	<p>and November</p>	<p>REDD+ Strategy and the REDD+ PBR Project. Training for regional heads on how to access CREF and PES, what requirements must be presented by ranchers who own forests for each one of them. Identification of common points of interest and work for the year 2023.</p>	<p>GA and technical staff committed to working with REDD+ and the project. Training on CREF and PES for 12 CORFOGA regional liaisons (5 women and 6 men) so that they can train ranchers from different regions.</p>
<p>Informative meetings about the project and CREF with productive sectors such as Costa Rican Coffee Institute (ICAFE, for its acronym in Spanish), CORBANA and pineapple producers.</p>	<p>October and November</p>	<p>General information on the REDD+ Strategy and the REDD+ PBR project. Explanation of the possibility of having benefits for owners of farms with forests, forest plantations, and agroforestry systems.</p>	<p>Creation of awareness of executive directors of these instances. Interest in knowing the progress in the work with CORFOGA. Possibility of building a work agreement with each of the entities during 2023.</p>
<p>Implementation of the projects GAP Implementation of the National Forum of Rural Women.</p>	<p>March-December 2022</p>	<p>General information on the REDD+ Strategy and the REDD+ PBR Project GAP of the REDD+ Strategy and the project. What does the GEAPU consist of, and how to register the production unit, from the presentation of the Manual of Procedures of the Award. It is worth mentioning that this manual will be updated.</p>	<p>Officialization of the National Forum of Rural Women. Board of Directors of the Forum meeting in ordinary monthly sessions since July, with their work regulations approved. First presentation of the award to 32 productive units that comply with gender equity actions. Exchange of women winners of the GEAPU with the Board of Directors of the Forum.</p>
<p>Follow-up for the construction of road maps and contracts in 22 ITs. During 2022, 61 activities have been carried out in 22 territories where 1,530 people participated, 654 were women and this represents the 43% of the participants. In addition, support and process systematization materials have been produced.</p>	<p>February-December 2022</p>	<p>General information on the REDD+ Strategy and the REDD+ PBR Project FIPC. Explanation of what a EFTP should include. Processes for hiring mediators by UNDP.</p>	<p>13 documents produced for work with indigenous peoples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Systematizations diagrammed for dissemination of the proposals by indigenous territory carried out in previous years (total this year: 6) layouts for a total of 19 between 2021 and 2022. ● Diagrammed systematization of the national results of territorialization of the FPIC. ● PES information material. ● Socialization material on the EFTP preparation process.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps of ITs updated by the project. • Short documentary on the impacts of the PES on IT. • Presentation to disseminate the monitoring of the preparation of the EFTPs in ITs. • Presentation of the main FPIC actions of the National REDD+ Strategy with ITs in Costa Rica. <p>21 Road maps concluded in 21 ITs and more than 100 people trained (45% women and 55% men) in the construction and validation of the EFTP.</p> <p>Training for ADIs representatives and cultural mediators on the UNDP contracting process.</p>
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Implementation of the grievance redress mechanism

(i) Description of issues/complaints received during the reporting period	(ii) date of receipt (YYYY-MM-DD)	(iii) description of resolution	(iv) status of addressing issues/complaints
No complaints received			

4.2 GENDER ACTION PLAN

Gender actions have been mainstreamed in all the project's activities. **As part of these activities implemented to strengthen the PES and provide priority access to women for participation in the PES programme**, technical and financial support was provided to develop an awareness campaign on gender-based violence, sexual harassment and labor rights that targeted the beneficiaries and landowners that have current PES contracts. The campaign was integrated in the national complaints mechanisms and was done to comply with the exclusion criteria of the PBPA (Exclusion Criterion 1.3), which dictates that payments will not be recognized for PES contracts where evidence cannot be provided regarding direct disclosure of information and awareness material on labor rights and what refers to gender violence.

The project also supported the develop of a methodology to determine how many women are direct PES beneficiaries through individual or shared land ownership. Data collected by FONAFIFO, did not allow the proper identification of these women and the development of a robust baseline. The country modified the criteria to allocate PES through a national decree that assigns women owners a higher score, hence a methodology was required to measure the changes in the percentage of women PES beneficiaries to determine the impacts this national policy. Thanks to the data compiled and analyzed within the Performance Based Payment Agreement (PBPA), the country has been able to document a slight increase in the number of women PES beneficiaries. The project is proposing the incorporation of new gender indicators to obtain information related to the number of hectares that receive PES that are owned by women. Thanks to this new methodology, the verification report included data that highlights that under current contracts with payment for forest protection in the hands of women was 19% of the total of hectares (verified by the AI), this being the same value as last year. In the PES modality for forest regeneration, although it exceeded what was projected for women, this percentage barely reaches 7.2% of the entire area at the national level in this PES modality.

Regarding the creation of discussion forums for rural women, the National Forum of Rural Women was established and made official in June of 2022. The goal of this national forum is to build as a space to enhance the representation and participation in decision-making of rural women and foster a national dialogue that can impact the generation of public policies, programs, and institutional services. The Forum also serves as a platform to exchange experiences and knowledge, build capacities, and obtain data regarding the inequalities and priorities that rural women have in different parts of the country. This establishment of the forum was carried out through an alliance between the project and the MAG, the National Council of 4S Clubs (CONAC 4S), INDER and INAMU. These institutions formed an inter-institutional committee in charge of designing and implementing the methodology and road map to establish the National Forum.

To ensure that Forum was inclusive and representative of the diversity of women in the country, a bottom-up approach was used to identify the rural women that could integrate the National Forum. This approach included conducting nine Regional Forums of Rural Women, organized as follows:

1. Regional Forum Brunca (Buenos Aires) March 8th, 2022
2. Regional Brunca (Ciudad Cortés) March 8th, 2022
3. Regional Forum Pacífico Central (Puntarenas) March 10th, 2022
4. Regional Forum Chorotega (Liberia) March 15th, 2022
5. Regional Forum Huetar Norte (Ciudad Quesada) March 17th, 2022
6. Regional Forum Huetar Caribe (Siquirres) March 23rd, 2022
7. Regional Forum Central Sur (Tabarcia, Mora) March 23rd, 2022
8. Regional Forum Central Oriental (Cartago) March 24th, 2022
9. Regional Forum Central Occidente (Grecia) March 24th, 2022

These regional forums focused on advocating for establishment of the National Forum of Rural Women and promoting a participatory discussion to identify needs and priorities of rural women. The regional forums also served as a space to discuss the details of the National Gender Equality Policy for the Inclusive Development of the Agricultural, Fishing, and Rural Sectors (officialiated in 2020) and identify priority actions needs to address the prevalent gender gaps that jeopardize the implementation of this new gender policy. These forums were also a way to discuss the current situation of rural women regarding their social, economic, environmental, and political development, recognizing that the pandemic has exacerbated their problems and the inequalities they face. The representatives who actively participated (approximately 80) in the formalization ceremony of the National Forum of Rural Women on June 22nd, 2022, were selected as representatives of about 181 women who attended the regional forums. After the formation of the National Forum, the project accompanied the inter-institutional team to facilitate four

virtual follow-up meetings and one face-to-face, which resulted in the participatory construction and validation of: a) organization chart and representation mechanisms of the forum, b) the operating statute of the forum, and c) the strategic work lines that should be included as part of the Forum's Road Map for the period 2023-2025. The project also supported the organization of a second in person meeting in October with the women representatives from the different regions that were selected to conform the National Forum. This meeting's objective was to validate the Forum's governance, statute, and strategic work lines and was organized as part of the national celebration of the International Rural Women's Day.

Additionally, the project assisted the REDD+ Secretariat in the implementation of the GEAPU. Specifically, the project supported activities to a) disseminate the information and requirements of the award, b) support and advise women on how to apply to the award, c) activate and support the award evaluation committee and d) organize the award ceremony. One of the greatest barriers rural women faces is the access to information and technical support to apply to new platforms. As such, the project implemented a mixed model of advisory support that combined virtual support and field visits to the communities to provide in person support and were, strategically convened with the support of the MAG 4S Club and Fundación Banco Ambiental. The project assigned a point person to provide direct attention and advice to complete the application procedure. As a result of this process, the GEAPU Certificate was given to 32 rural women for the first time in the country, in the ceremony held on October 13th, 2022.

Within the framework of GEAPU, one of the main points of feedback led to paying special attention to timing, contracts and forms of coordination of those processes that involve virtual platforms or technology elements. In the case of the Gender Award, the project supports and will continue supporting the improvement of the application and evaluation methodology (in coordination with the evaluation committee and the REDD+ Secretariat) because the official page was not in optimal usability conditions for users. Thanks to this continue support the project will contribute to enhance the GEAPU scope and efforts to involve more women to the GEAPU certification, particularly indigenous women.

In relation to land tenure, even though it was initially planned to contribute to the endowment of communal lands to women for forest management, it was not possible to make progress in this regard due to changes in the national priorities. The Costa Rica government changed in May of 2022 and has communicated that it will not allocate new individual or community lands to either rural men or women. To account for these realities while also still promoting women's increased access to land, the updated project GAP proposes to develop a guide for women that compiles the possible options offered by the government to access communal or individual lands, so that this serves as an orientation platform on existing institutional pathways. In addition, the task of presenting a bill to the Legislative Assembly is proposed, to guarantee that the government allocates resources to buy communal lands for women. The platforms of the GEAPU and the National Forum of Rural Women will also enable the project to foster a national discussion to identify the priorities to advance towards the reduction of gaps of gender and access to land with a perspective anchored in their own realities.

As part of the activities to implement gender responsive training processes for firefighters and forest firefighters, the "Training module on gender equality and human rights in environmental conservation" was implemented virtually between May 18th and 26th, 2022. In addition to the project's GAP, this module also responds to the joint actions defined in the National REDD+ GAP that refers to "Strengthening Protected Wilderness Areas and Programs for the prevention and control of land use changes and fires" and indicators 3.6 - 3.11 of the PBPA. The module was composed of 4 sessions that were delivered by nine experts (6 of which were women) specializing in various gender issues, including an international gender and environmental expert and experts from UNDP, the Ministry of Labor, the Institutional Network of Men for Equality, the REDD+ Secretariat, and SINAC. The virtual sessions covered more than 14 hours of capacity building activities and were attended virtually by 40 participants (19 women; 21 men) in total. Furthermore, between October and December 2022 several coordination meetings with SINAC were organized to define a "Gender and Forests" capacity building process that would build upon the materials developed as part of the training module and integrate resources that the REDD+ Secretariat had previously developed. This capacity building process will be implemented in 2023 and will offer both virtual and in person workshops for firefighters and forest firefighters (volunteers and officials) to achieve greater coverage and impact.

As the project is helping to implement a number of activities in the National REDD+ GAP, it helped to support the process of its update and validation in 2022. The updating of the National GAP was a priority for the REDD+ Secretariat as the country, during the last three years, has advanced in the implementation of some of the original activities included in the National REDD+ GAP. Furthermore, the country situation changed drastically due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rural women were one of the vulnerable groups that were impacted the most; hence the Secretariat considered appropriate for the activities to be reviewed and adapted to this new national circumstances. Some adjustments on the original National REDD+ GAP were also required due to the change in government and its political priorities, and the updated GAP reflects these realities. The updated National REDD+ GAP has been reviewed and validated with the national institutions of the REDD+ Secretariat (Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) and National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC)).

Based on this new updated version of the National REDD+ GAP and given that the project's GAP is a sub-set of the National REDD+ GAP, the project's GAP was also updated in conjunction with the National REDD+ GAP. The update of the project GAP also took place to ensure that: a) the gender actions are tailored to the current project's scope and results framework, b) the project's GAP is aligned the updated 2022 version of the National REDD+ Gender Action Plan (GAP), and c) the multiple positive gender impacts that the project is delivering are properly reflected. The updated project GAP has increased and expanded its scope and activities beyond the original project GAP which was included in the project's funding proposal. It is important to note that some adjustments on the original project GAP were also required due to the change in government and its political priorities, and the updated project GAP reflects these realities. Nevertheless, it is key to highlight that the level of ambition of the updated project GAP is now greater. The updated project GAP has been reviewed and validated with the national institutions of the REDD+ Secretariat (Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) and National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC)). It is a sub-set and aligned with the updated version of the National REDD+ Gender Action Plan¹¹ as well. It was submitted to the GCF for review and approval on 15 December 2022 (still pending approval from the GCF). The GCF-approved updated project GAP will then be used for 2023 reporting.

The implementation of some of the activities planned for 2022 was delayed due to the updating of the National GAP, as the project could only advance if the activities were validated by the REDD+ Secretariat and incorporated in the updated National GAP. Particularly, the implementation of the following activities was delayed to 2023: 1) documentation of the experiences and lessons learned of women forest firefighters and their contributions to fire prevention, control, and management, 2) updating of a mapping of women's grassroots groups linked to productive activities on low carbon emissions, conservation projects and sustainable forest management, 3) undertake a diagnosis, identification, and socialization of the information on financial mechanisms available for rural woman and local groups lead by them, 4) Undertake a diagnosis and identification of administrative, technical, or procedural barriers that prevent greater access to credit for women producers. Moreover, the collection of the data needed to conduct these diagnosis and analysis required the establishment of participatory platforms that involved a diversity of women from different parts of the country. The platforms of the GEAPU and the National Forum of Rural Women are enabling conditions for such work and were established as participatory platforms that allow the project to collect data from a diverse sample of women and ensure that the results of these analysis will inform actions to address gender inequalities and promote women's empowerment.

4.2.1 Progress on implementing the project-level gender action plan submitted with the funding proposal.

Activities/actions	Indicator	Baseline	Targets, including sex-disaggregated targets	Budget and Currency	Report on annual progress
Provide priority access for women to participate in the PES.	Increase the # of women beneficiaries of PES.	14 % of PES the owner or co-owner of the forest is a woman. (2020)	20% of PES where the owner or co-owner of the forest is a woman in 2021 and 2022.	Less than 1% in administrative costs associated with monitoring women participation (approx 200,000 USD)	The original activity was modified in the updated version of the GAP that is specific to the project to include the new modality of financing EN REDD+ through the CREFs. However, without adequate support, women may not have access to this new possibility, for this reason the project includes the new specific actions in the updated project GAP to guarantee that women can be trained on these initiatives and the mechanisms to apply

¹¹ Updated version was finalized in November 2022 and will be presented officially in the first quarter of 2023.

					to them, either in PES or CREF that will be scheduled for 2023.
<p>Partnership will be established between FONAFIFO, INDER and INAMU for:</p> <p>1) assign communal lands to local women's groups for the implementation of forest management initiatives, watershed restoration, agroforestry systems and other initiatives, and</p> <p>2) Creation of a discussion forum for rural women with the cooperation of INAMU.</p>	<p>1- # hectares of community land assigned to groups of women.</p> <p>2- # of discussion forums held and level of satisfaction of women in these discussion forums.</p> <p>3- Level of satisfaction of women with the discussion forums.</p>	<p>0 Hectares of land allocated to women's groups</p> <p>No discussion forums.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>1000 HA</p> <p>5 discussion forum</p> <p>50 meetings</p> <p>At least 70% of participants indicated a high level of satisfaction</p>	<p>Approx. 500,000 USD</p>	<p>As noted in Section 4.2 above, the change of government in Costa Rica in May 2022 brought with it an explicit communication from the governing institution noting neither community nor individual lands will be assigned to rural men or women. As such, this activity needed was revised and amended in the updated project GAP (to be reported against in 2023) to reflect this reality To continue promoting land tenure for rural women, the project has suggested new activities are noted to promote land tenure for rural women.</p> <p>To illustrate, at the end of 2022,</p> <p>15 inter-institutional coordination meetings took place (10 women and one man) to strengthen and coordinate the National Forum of Rural Women in its process of creating a road map to address the land issue.</p> <p>Nine regional discussion forums and a national session to formalize the Forum of Rural Women were held, with 181 women attending in which the findings of the main challenges and gaps in access to land for women were identified and validated.</p>

					<p>Within the framework of the National Forum of Rural Women, nine regional discussion workshops took place (181 women attending), in which the main bottlenecks regarding accessibility to resources for women (land, financing, training, among others) were identified. With the formalization of the forum, these findings are validated and become the working foundation for the follow-up sessions. In the ordinary session of the Forum, on October 27th, 2022, an exercise was carried out to prioritize issues to be addressed and access gaps for each region according to the distribution with the Ministry of Planning, and based on that, the first draft of the operational proposal was proposed, which will be concluded and ratified during 2023</p> <p>After its creation, the National Women's Forum held a total of six ordinary sessions between July and December to define aspects of representation, internal governance and the participatory preparation of a priority agenda of environmental issues for women, as well as the statute of operation of the forum.</p> <p>Based on the assessments collected in the regional and national forums, it is concluded that there is a high motivation</p>
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					of rural women to participate in these spaces for dialogue and coordination. At the end of 2022, at least 90% of the women expressed their satisfaction and motivation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the experiences and lessons learned from women forest firefighters and their contributions to fire prevention, control and management. • Systematize the experiences and lessons learned when establishing mixed fire control brigades. • Improve the relations of brigade women and men, break gender stereotypes, promote the importance of teamwork and rotate leadership tasks through conflict resolution, masculinity and femininity workshops. • Design a gender responsive communication and outreach strategy that highlights the contributions of women, giving examples of their work and stories and that includes female figures; for example, Toño Pizote and her friends, in order to debunk negative gender stereotypes. • Implement a gender responsive fire prevention, 	<p>Lessons learned report</p> <p>Lessons learned report</p> <p>Level of satisfaction of women and men with workshops</p> <p>Gender communication and outreach material and strategy</p> <p>Same as above</p>	<p>No lessons learned reports</p> <p>No lessons learned reports</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>There is not a Gender communication and outreach strategy</p> <p>No previous trainings held</p>	<p>Lessons learned report</p> <p>Lessons learned report</p> <p>At least 70% of participants indicated a high level of satisfaction</p> <p>Gender communication and outreach material and strategy developed</p> <p>80% of participants increase their gender awareness</p>	<p>Approx. 1,000,000 usd</p>	<p>At the end of 2022,</p> <p>Design and implemented a training and created awareness process aimed at the personnel of the SINAC's Fire Management Program on topics related to human rights, intersectional gender perspective in forest conservation.</p> <p>A training module of with 4 session that covered 14 hours was implemented.</p> <p>Coordination with SINAC started for the creation of the learning platform to facilitate the structure and contents of a course with the support of the Office of the Gender and Environment Specialist of the UNDP LAC team</p> <p>40 participants who were officials of the SINAC Fire Management Program were trained: (19 women; 21 men). Participation percentage during the four sessions including men and women : 62.5% (25) participated in the four sessions, 15% (six) in three sessions, another 15% (six) of two sessions, and 7.5%</p>

<p>control and management public outreach campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement gender responsive training processes for target populations identified in the training plan for firefighters and forest firefighters. • Incorporate gender considerations in the regulations of voluntary forest brigades and in the guidelines for the preparation of fire management plans for ASPs. 	<p>Increased gender responsiveness as a result of the training</p> <p>Regulation amendments</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The regulation is amended by project end</p>		<p>(three) in one session.</p> <p>SINAC requires a period of internal coordination to process the necessary contracts to enable the virtual platform. During 2023, coordination will continue to define the line of action and support required by the project</p>

4.3 PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Provide a list of activities in the ESMP to be implemented in the next reporting period. Include relevant deliverables such as reports or action plans, and other project specific products. Please include the monitoring schedule concerning ESS and gender activities for the next annual reporting period.

1. Strengthen and consolidate technical and inter-institutional committees for the effective implementation of the SIS and GRM. For this purpose, meetings and a final workshop will be held, inter-institutional units or committees will be created to manage SIS and GRM, and monthly meetings will be held to implement action plans to consolidate these country tools for accessing carbon markets.
2. Advance the contracting and construction of technological products to strengthen the SIS and GRM through institutional agreements.
3. Implement the Plan to Strengthen the Service Comptroller's Offices for the implementation of the GRM.
4. Conduct activities to formalize and update the SIS with the 2021-2022 SIS baseline and the GRM as a mechanism for key parts of the REDD+ Strategy.
5. Strengthen, at least three (one per block), GRM cases in ITs coordinating with the ADIs and relying on the figure of cultural mediators.
6. Support the training of more than 200 forest firefighters in gender and human rights issues.
7. Support forest fire prevention campaigns and actions in at least three conservation areas in coordination with authorities of SINAC's Fire Management Program.
8. Implement 50% of the Improvement Plans for the National Fire Management and PES programs.
9. Re-launch the Green, Safe and Decent Jobs campaign that approaches the issues of gender-based violence and labor rights. For this purpose, an institutional analysis will be carried out with the PES management of FONAFIFO and of institutions such as INAMU and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.
10. Start construction of the country's Third SOI that reports from January 2021 to December 2023.
11. Generate and socialize knowledge products related with the country's progress in the treatment of safeguards linked to REDD+.
12. Conduct the third independent audit of the PBPA, which reports on compliance with indicators related to safeguards as well as social and environmental standards.
13. To conclude, at least, 12 EFTPs as part of the IPP.

4.4 PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON GENDER ELEMENTS

Provide a list of activities in the gender action plan to be implemented in the next reporting period. Include relevant deliverables such as reports or action plans, and other project specific products including processes that will be involved to implement the activities effectively. Please include the monitoring schedule concerning gender activities for the next annual reporting period.

Report on actions taken on any of the recommendations made by the Secretariat (if applicable) to improve the level of integration of gender issues in the project.

Planned 2023 gender activities include the following:

1. Design a methodology for monitoring and evaluation of the GAP for the project. Define the type of indicators for cross-cutting monitoring of all the axes: fire prevention, EFTPs, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Communications Plan. Conduct a socialization and delivery of the final monitoring and evaluation proposal with the RBP team and REDD+ National Strategy. Prepare a mid-term compliance report and an annual accountability-feedback report.
2. Prepare an Implementation Plan for the updated project GAP, establishing a time frame for the execution of gender activities of the project, taking into account the availability of resources, established partnerships, and the national context.
3. Systematize the GEAPU 2022 process as road map basis for the second generation of the award, incorporating opportunities identified in the first generation, such as: a) carry out a virtual exchange Women's Forum-Rural Women's Network and group of Women Awardees on 2022, b) promote the incorporation of productive units within ITs into GEAPU, as well as the necessary and possible adjustments to recognize traditional indigenous productive models c) conduct the second GEAPU open call and support the evaluation committee-GEAPU in the review of the applications received. It will end with the Second Awards Ceremony.

4. Enable the virtual platform designed to promote the second GEAPU call, so that the contest and the evaluation can be more agile for both, the participating women and the judges of the evaluation committee. Based on lessons learned from 2022, this action requires contracting for design modifications to the platform.
5. Strengthen the National Rural Women's Forum through the construction of a road map to give continuity to the process. This road map includes the operating statute, governance, strategic axes (already validated in 2022), and the definition of specific actions and responsibilities of the institutions involved.
6. Continue the follow-up and support to the regular virtual sessions to analyze and the annual face-to-face session, in which will be undertaken in a participatory manner on the construction and validation of a bill to promote the allocation of economic resources by public institutions for the endowment of communal lands to rural women.
7. Conduct four field schools for women of the seven regions of the country as part of the strengthening of the National Rural Women's Forum. Topics to be addressed include: i) Empowerment and leadership; ii) Financing; iii) Exchange of experiences; iv) GEAPU; v) Digitalization.
Field schools are a methodological modality that will allow promoting the forum's action at a regional level within the country, in addition to encouraging the articulation of this platform with other opportunities for women such as GEAPU.
8. In the area of work with SINAC's National Fire Management Program, training and awareness-raising on gender and environment will be extended to program officials and volunteer firefighters, incorporating the experiences of women who participate in the forest fire departments. The above as part of the support for the implementation of the SINAC Women Forest Firefighters' Action Plan.

ANNEXES AND ATTACHMENTS

Section 2 on PPMS: [Updated implementation timetable for the funded activity.](#)

Section 3 on PPMS:

- **Attachment 1.** Unaudited/Audited financial statements (as required by FAA) *(If available. (If not submitted, indicate date of submission).*
- **Attachment 2.** Interim/Final evaluation report (as required by FAA) *(If available.) (If not submitted, indicate date of submission).*

Section 5 on PPMS:

- **Annex 1.** Accredited Entity compliance reports (self-assessment reports¹², report on actions pursuant to Clause 18.02, if applicable¹³).
- **Other Attachments (if any).** Such as additional budget-related information, loan repayment schedules to GCF (interest/principal), equity investment schedules, other related reports relevant to the Funded Activity, statements of capital account, valuation reports, credit guarantee agreements, investor reports, and others, as specified in the relevant legal agreements (e.g. Funded Activity Agreement, Shareholders Agreement)

Please describe details of challenges encountered and corrective/mitigation measures taken.

Type of Challenges Encountered	Details of the challenges encountered
Field Activities	Restrictions due to COVID 19 were lifted at the beginning of the year, so there were no impediments to going out into the field or holding scheduled workshops and meetings. However, the project always planned to have supplies to protect all the attendees (masks, alcohol gel, sanitizers, etc.). In 2021, REDD+ Secretariat required that visits to ITs were made with their presence. This was true during the first contacts, but the project was positioned and overcame this conditioning. Field trips were partially affected by the lack of project vehicles since companies selling cars in the country could not meet the requirements of the purchase bidding due to the global container problems. To be discussed below.
Supply Chain	The acquisition of vehicles, equipment and computers was affected, and there were minor problems in other acquisitions. Regarding the vehicles, after all the administrative procedures, UNDP issued a first bid for the purchase of the vehicles at the end of 2021, which was awarded to Cori Motors. In February 2022, the company informed that the deliver the vehicles requested in the tender would not be possible until the end of the year. Worldwide container problems and the lack of parts to assemble vehicles meant that their supplier was unable to ship the units. Therefore, it was necessary to reissue another purchase order, which was awarded to Purdy Motors. The company delivered the vehicles in August. Prior to this, vehicles had to be rented for the many tasks in the field, especially the visits to ITs. A similar situation arose with technological equipment required by the project, for the IMN, special high-capacity equipment, for the preparation of the Land Use Map, as well as the approved for SINAC. Since there was no alternative option, due to the complexity of the equipment, there was a considerable delay, for example, with the Land Use Map, which was expected to be completed in the middle of the year but was completed in December.
Liquidity and Solvency	Not applicable.

¹² In accordance with the AMA requirement in Clause 13.01 of the Accreditation Master Agreement, with the Fiduciary Principles and Standards, ESS and Gender Policy.

¹³ Only applicable to International Accredited Entities. In accordance with the Monitoring and Accountability Framework, a report on its actions carried out or planned to be carried out pursuant to Clause 18.02 of the Accreditation Master Agreement.

Project Costs	As mentioned before, the project did not contemplate the preparation of EFTPs in 24 ITs. This meant a change in the budget, as the item for individual contracts (mediators) increased, as were the contracts for the ADIs.
Financing and Concessionality	Not applicable.
Others	We had two resignations, one extended maternity leaves and one non-renewal of a contract due to poor performance. These people had to be replaced during the year. The departure of three members of the PMU to the REDD+ Secretariat as of 2023 will have a considerable impact on implementation, especially the senior MRV specialist. What had to be done was an adaptive management of part of the team, taking over the functions that have been left while new personnel were hired.