



2014
Project Implementation Review (PIR)
of
PIMS 4197



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Resilient nations.*

Biodiversity Conservation through Sustainable Forest Management by local communities

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A. Basic Project and Finance Data

Executing Agency:

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity
 Country(ies) (BOL) Bolivia
 Project Start Date: 16-Apr-2012
 Planned Project Closing Date: -
 Revised Planned Closing Date:
 Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board meetings during reporting period: April 2014
 Overall Risk rating High
 Overall DO rating Moderately Satisfactory
 Overall IP rating Moderately Unsatisfactory
 GEF grant amount disbursed so far \$ 671,412.65

B. Project Summary

This project aims to improve conservation of biodiversity (BD) in Bolivia, primarily in the Amboro-Madidi Corridor. The project will reduce pressure on globally-significant BD in this vital biological corridor through the expansion of sustainable forest management (SFM) practices that implement specific measures for BD conservation and monitoring. The project will achieve this by strengthening operational and institutional capacities at multiple scales to enhance the contribution of FSC-certified SFM to BD conservation. The project's operational strategy is to (i) enable community forestry operations to achieve and maintain BD-friendly Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification; (ii) grow the already robust market demand for FSC certified tropical hardwoods, and; (iii) improve community forestry operational competitiveness for increased market access. At the same time, the project will work to build institutional capacity at multiple scales to support, enforce and monitor SFM and BD management practices.

C. Project Evaluation

D. Adjustments

Project Planning				
Key project milestone	Status	Original Planned Date (Month/Year)	Actual or Expected Date (Month/Year)	Comments, including reasons for delays and their implications
Inception Workshop	on schedule	July - 2013	-	The inception workshop took place 18/7/2013 in La Paz-Bolivia, with the participation of authorities representing Environment Ministry,

				<p>DGBAP, SERNAP, ABT, DGGyDF, UMATI, FONABOSQUE, Ministry of International Relations, PASF, Pro Indigenous People Regional Programme , Association of Municipalities of Northern La Paz and Departmental Assembly. From the beginning of the project activities in April 2013 and considering the elapsed times between its preparation and its approval as an initial activity project document had to be adjusted in their activities and then the project itself had to adapt to the new national policies. Similarly, there has been progress in the development of the Communication Strategy and Awareness and establishment of the project graphic line. A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed. Coordination mechanisms with a range of institutions involved had been set to implement planned actions; also results activities were pointed out. Project team has been hired and equipment and material were acquired.</p>
Mid-term Review	delayed/pending	4 - 2013	5 - 2015	Due to late start it is suggested to reprogramme mid-ter evaluation
Terminal Evaluation		-	-	

Critical Risk Management

Critical Risks Type(s)	2014
Environmental	Natural Disasters. Due to severe flooding the early months of 2014, it was necessary to evacuate personnel from both regional offices to the office in the city of La Paz. For this reason it was also decided to relocate the Regional Office Ixiamas set initially in San Buenaventura to Rurrenabaque, where it has lower risk and better technical and operational conditions.
Regulatory	Change in the regulatory framework. Since the enactment of the Framework Law of Mother Earth, by which a new vision of development and an alternative to the concept of payments for environmental services to the new strategy of adaptation and mitigation joint management, the project had to adapt this new approach. In this regard, the Authority Plurinational Mother Earth conceived the project as one of the focal points for the implementation of the joint mechanism. In this sense, this risk has become a strategic opportunity.
Political	There are tensions between the political authorities of Environment Viceministry and the new Mother Earth Authority. These tensions cause delays in project implementation due to the need to agree with both entities and requiring more coordination actions with Project is undertaking.
Operational	The gold mining activity in the Guanay region has become the main economic source with high impacts on water, soil and forests while promoting immigration attraction. The project can not directly compete against this activity, but it is developing productive activities that demonstrate there is an economic alternative through the sustainable use of non-timber resources.
Environmental	The installation of a sugar mill of 45,000 hectares in San Buenaventura involves severe problems on the soil, forest coverage and biodiversity by planting reeds. Extensive and intensive forest fires, as well as opening of new forest areas are foreseen for this purpose. The project could offer mitigation strategies to maintain biodiversity in this monoculture system and shoveling extreme winds at the lack of coverage

General comments:

E. Progress toward Development Objective

Description	Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Target Level at end of project	Level at 30 June 2009	Level at 30 June 2010	Level at 30 June 2011	Level at 30 June 2012	Level at 30 June 2013	Level at 30 June 2014
Improve protection and conservation of biodiversity in the Amboró Madidi corridor through sustainable forest management, based on fostering markets for certified forest products and increase in local revenues	<p>Increase in Community Forestry Enterprises (CFEs) dedicating resources to biodiversity conservation and implementing specific measures related to biodiversity, measured as</p> <p>a. # of communities that apply the biodiversity monitoring system</p> <p>b. # ha under forest management plans</p> <p>c. # of indicator species that maintain their populations at landscape level</p> <p>d. Rate of change in forest floral diversity (proxy for overall BD) in project impact study site</p> <p>e. Rate of deforestation and degradation in project impact study sites</p>	<p>There are at least 3 experiences in biodiversity monitoring (FAN, WCS and Instituto de Ecología). None adapted to the context of the communities</p> <p>a. 0 communities monitor biodiversity</p> <p>b. 160.000 ha</p> <p>c. Decreasing numbers in populations</p> <p>d. TBD once the BD monitoring system is finalized</p> <p>e. TBD once the local team are equipped, functional and able to monitor effectively deforestation</p> <p>f. 32.000ha</p>	<p>Mid-term:</p> <p>a. 40 communities are trained to apply the BD monitoring system that has been prepared and approved by the government</p> <p>End of project:</p> <p>a. 20 communities apply the BD monitoring system in their managed forest areas</p> <p>b. 25,000 additional ha under timber forest management plans mainly in Ixiamas, and 5,000 ha under non-timber forest management plans mainly in Guanay</p> <p>c. BD monitoring system shows that populations of jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>), white lipped peccary (<i>Tajacu tajaco</i>) and spider monkey</p>					<p>Coordination actions with the Biodiversity Office (dependent of the Environment Viceministry) and the National Protected Areas Service have been taken to jointly establish the main basis on which the biodiversity monitoring system will be developed.</p>	<p>- Several coordination meetings were carried out between project and the Department of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (DGBAP) and the Department of Forestry (DGGyDF) to agree in the design of the biodiversity monitoring system.</p> <p>- Biodiversity Monitoring System design was initiated in coordination with DGBAP, DGGyDF and the Adaptation and Mitigation Joint Mechanism of Mother Earth Authority (MC-APMT), to generate an instrument of national interest, useful to national authorities involved, and to municipalities and Indigenous Population Tacana (CIPTA) and Lecos (PILCOL) .</p>

	f. Areas set-aside and under strict protection measures.		<p>(Ateles paniscus) are stable.</p> <p>d. <10% of plots with declining forest floral diversity in certified sites</p> <p><!--10--><!--10--><!--10--></p> <p><!--10-->e. 0% deforestation in certified sites.</p> <p>f. 6,000 ha (20% of total certified forestland) apply set-asides and protection plans and strict safeguard measures for the protection of biodiversity with support from GEF and 3,000 with support of partners</p>						<p>- Coordination was established with the Council for Voluntary Forest Certification in Bolivia to seek the alternative to vintulate the FSC standard with the one developed by the ABT. This issue needs further harmonization approach with national counterpart, given the regulatory changes that are taking place in the country.</p> <p>- The Project and ABT are working together in the criteria definition to formulate a harmonized ABT certification instrument.</p> <p>- The project along with the Bolivian Council for Voluntary Forest Certification FSC are developing joint activities to promote good forest management and are also seeking the possibility to certify communities in a harmonized manner with the ABT.</p> <p>- There is a training plan for community</p>
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									<p>members of the TCO Tacana (CIPTA) in Carmen Pecha community according to the identification of institutional weaknesses presented.</p> <p>- A second call for proposals was released (via Web and bolivian journals son) for the development of a General Forest Management Plan for 12,300 hectares in the Carmen Pecha community.</p> <p>- A Management Plan for the asai palm (Euterpe precatoria) to cover 300 hectares in being developed in Carmen Pecha community.</p>
	<p>Increase in competitiveness of communities enabling greater investments in BD conservation, measured through</p> <p>a) Increase in communities revenues</p> <p>b) Increased investment allocated to BD monitoring</p>	<p>a) US\$8,000 to 20,000 annual income</p> <p>b) 0% of incomes invested in BD monitoring</p>	<p>a) Increase of 15% in revenues of communities that work with timber and 20% in those that work with NTFP over traditional market</p> <p>b) 25% of communities invest 5% of their incomes in BD</p>					<p>Information on project communities and municipalities has been reconfirmed regarding productive development, political and economic conditions, all of which reaffirm the relevance of the project.</p>	<p>80% complete Project baseline information in relation to: 1) analysis of institutional regulatory consistency, 2) local actors, 3) political scenarios, 4) innovative enterprises 5) current risk analysis and vulnerabilities, 6)</p>

									gender-based enterprises, 7) indigenous and intercultural populations factors, 8) municipalities situation, 9) biodiversity and monitoring systems.
	Level of participation of women and men in operations of CFEs in project impact study sites	TBD once the gender indicators are agreed upon participants	30% average increase participation of women in CFE operations					During field visits the women participation in productive development processes had been verified, however, the baseline has not yet been established to measure the increase of women's participation.	- The project In association with RENACE Foundation developed two business plans to support women entrepreneurs from the Indigenous Women Mossetenes Organization (OMIM) and Intercultural Women of Alto Beni Association (MIAB), to transform non-timber forest resources, such as juices of asai and majo palm fruits. These products are part of the school breakfast and are aimed to improve children nutrition that municipalities of Alto Beni and Palos Blancos buy to provide children in their schools.
Institutional support mechanisms are generated to foster conservation of biodiversity through	Legal, regulatory and operational frameworks facilitate BD protection in	a) There is a national Comprehensive Forest Management plan, no	Mid-term:					In October 2012, the Framework Law of the Mother Earth and Integral	- For the formulation and discussion of the new Forest Law, the Project promotes the

<p>sustainable forest management and certification.</p>	<p>the AMC area:</p> <p>a) Protection of BD is incorporated as a requirement of comprehensive forest management</p> <p>b) BD monitoring tool is developed, validated and included as requirement in the operational plan of comprehensive forest management</p> <p>c) National policy to promote procurement of certified forest products</p> <p>d) # NTFP management plan standards</p>	<p>operational plan.</p> <p>b) There are at least 3 examples of BD monitoring systems but not adapted for use in communities.</p> <p>c) There is no national policy prioritizing purchase of certified products.</p> <p>d) There are two standards for NTFP (Brazil nut and Açai Palm)</p>	<p>a) Proposal of an operating plan for the Comprehensive Forest Management plan including a proposal adopted by the government</p> <p>b) Simplified FSC certification standard approved by the FSC</p> <p>End of project:</p> <p>c) Operating plan for Comprehensive Forest Management effectively integrates guidelines for BD protection and the implementation of a BD monitoring tool.</p> <p>d) A national policy that prioritizes purchase of certified products is approved and implemented in at least two municipalities</p> <p>e) At least two standards for management plans approved for other NTFP</p>					<p>Development for Well Living was issued, which sets the basis of the new environmental policy. In this respect, the project design responds, without any adjustments, to the mandate of this law. It is also important to note that the Congress has prioritized the formulation of the new Forestry Law. The project will contribute to this Law, particularly through its work in the AMC area.</p>	<p>participation of DGGyDF in the discussion forums organized to that end. Through this activity the project is involved with decision makers and contributes to the development of new standards on which the project will base some of their activities.</p> <p>- The project is working with the Council for Voluntary Forest Certification Office to generate a work plan between the Project, CFV, and ABT</p> <p>- Through a successful tender process a specialized entity was selected to prepare the methodological guide for the Tacana TCO (CIPTA) life system formulation document.</p> <p>- Along with the above mentioned guide an additional product will be obtained which is the Plan for the Integral Management of Natural Resources in the TCO territory as</p>
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									<p>well as the identification of strategic guidelines for the conservation of biodiversity in this territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project has identified six initiatives that are working in the area of project intervention (WCS, CI, TNC, ACEAA, WWF, MC-APMT) to jointly work to promote sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. - Project is in contact with the WBs project that will work with over 20 rural communities in northern La Paz to promote sustainable forest management. - The project is in the process of designing the strategy for Biodiversity Monitoring with DGBAP, DGGyDF and NGOs working in the area. - The DGDfYDF and FAO will begin to develop sustainable forest management activities in northern
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									La Paz and the project has been invited to share its goals and objectives.
	<p>Reduced illegal logging in the project intervention area:</p> <p>a) Rate of illegal deforestation in the project zone</p> <p>b) # of seizures of wood in the project zone</p> <p>c) # mobile teams operating</p>	<p>a) 100% of deforestation is illegal (2007)</p> <p>b) 160 seizures of wood in the project implementation region in 2009</p> <p>c) 0 mobile teams in the project region</p>	<p>a) 30% reduction in illegal deforestation in the project intervention area</p> <p>b) By mid-term the effectiveness of operations against illegal wood has increased 40%</p> <p>c) Two mobile inspection teams established, trained and operational.</p>					N/A	<p>- To date the Environmental Viceministry (VMAs) authorization is being processed to hire ABT forest and legal technicians to reduce illegal timber harvesting in the area covered by the project.</p>
	<p>Technical support team for forest certification operational</p> <p>a) # of municipal forest management and development plans formulated and tied to the municipal plans (PDM)</p> <p>b) # of PDMs that include chapters and elements on BD monitoring</p> <p>c) # of internal technical audit teams (forestry) in operation for the Ixiamas</p>	<p>a) 0 municipal forest management and development plans formulated and tied to the PDM (MFUs with low budget allocations and isolated projects)</p> <p>b) 0 municipal plans (PDM) that include chapters and elements on BD monitoring</p> <p>c) There are no internal auditing services in the CFEs, ASLs or TCOs.</p> <p>d) 0 technical audits to</p>	<p>a) Three municipal forest management and development plans formulated and tied to the PDM</p> <p>b) Municipal plans (PDM) include chapters and elements on BD monitoring.</p> <p>c) An internal technical auditing team (forestry) in operation for the Ixiamas area (ABT, UFM, NGOs)</p> <p>d) 15 technical audits to support CFEs in the process</p>					N/A	<p>- Framework agreements have been developed with 7 municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Northern of La Paz and TCO PILCOL and CIPTAS.</p> <p>- There are agreements with five NGOs to jointly support, interact and develop activities sharing accumulated knowledge and experience.</p> <p>- Project is giving support to municipalities</p>

	<p>area (ABT, MFUs, NGOs)</p> <p>d) # of technical audits to support CFEs in the process of obtaining certification</p>	<p>support CFEs in certification processes (absence of knowledge about certification processes)</p>	<p>of obtaining certification</p>						<p>involved adjusting their Development Management Plans in concurrence with the Association of Municipalities of Northern La Paz.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eight motorcycles were acquired to strengthen the Forestry Municipal Units (UFM) with responsibilities in the management and conservation of biodiversity. - Under an agreement with Amazon Without Fire Programme (PASF) under the Environment Viceministry, the Project has provided tools and equipment for firefighting aimed at strengthening UFM. These will be delivered to municipalities along with the necessary training that will be provided by PASF. - Project is working an agreement with the Bolivian Forest Research Institute (IBIF) for joint action in the monitoring of forestry activities through the use of
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									permanent monitoring plots system (PPM) and forest research plots (PIF).
Communities with strengthened capacities to obtain and keep certification and manage forests in a sustainable and biodiversity-friendly way	<p>Increase in number of forest communities receiving support to apply the forest management plans, prevent and reduce fires, increase control over their territory and move towards certification:</p> <p>a) Number of communities with forest management plans</p> <p>b) Number of communities with forest certification</p> <p>c) # of TCO and extension with indigenous territory management plans</p>	<p>a) 14 communities with management plans or with POAF. Two communities have management plans for NTFP (Majo and Incienso) in Ixiamas and Madidi.</p> <p>b) To date there is a single community in the process of FSC certification under the regency scheme but it is outside AMC. 2 ASLs in AMC have FSC certification under regency with Colegno. Zero communities with NTFP certified in AMC.</p> <p>c) One TCO has indigenous territory management plans finalized and one has remained half done. Implementation is partial. There is no territorial control strategy.</p>	<p>a) 8 additional CFEs with forest management plans and 5 additional CFEs have NTFP management plans.</p> <p>b) 5 communities in AMC (joint communities of CIPTA) with FSC certification for wood products. 5 communities with another type of certification for NTFP.</p> <p>c) 20 communities participate in preparing the strategy of territorial protection against illegal logging activities and apply it on 100,000 ha.</p>					N/A	<p>- The project has initiated the adjustment of the management and use of natural resources strategy for 20 communities in the TCO Tacana (CIPTA) which will be applied in an approximately 300,000 hectares.</p> <p>- The project is supporting CIPTA to resolve major failures on forestry management of seven community forestry organizations (OFC) which came out in a forest audit hired and paid by themselves. This is because ABT has informed them that next year they will have a forestry inspection.</p> <p>- The project is developing a work plan with the Association of Municipalities of Northern La Paz to identify weaknesses</p>

									and potentialities that we must strengthen to achieve sustainable forest management and biodiversity management and conservation.
	<p>Forest area conserved through biodiversity-friendly forest management certified following a stepwise approach, including participation in</p> <p>a) Forest management plan</p> <p>b) Forest management plan and/or FSC simplified certification</p> <p>c) Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification</p> <p>d) NTFP certification</p>	<p>a) 74,705 hectares under forest management plans, mostly private companies</p> <p>b) Integral forest certification does not exist yet</p> <p>c) 0 ha managed by communities under FSC certification</p>	<p>a) 30,000 new hectares with management plans at community level</p> <p>b) At least 5 pilot communities (15,000 has) with management plans</p> <p>c) At least 10.000 has of community forests certified with FSC standards</p> <p>d) At least 50% of 5,000 hectares under management receive international NTFP certification</p>					N/A	<p>- The training work to TCO Tacana (CIPTA) community members has started and at the same time the formulation of Forest Management Plan for 12,300 hectares in the community of Carmen Pecha.</p> <p>- The project is in process of hiring a consultant to formulate a management plan and creation of value added for the asai palm (<i>Euterpe precatoria</i>) in 300 hectares.</p> <p>- Two consultancies are being developed to identify the productive potential, management, use and value-added of the majo palm (<i>Oenocarpus bataua</i>) and latex of rubber trees (<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>), to</p>

									generate information that also identifies the criteria for an integral and sustainable forest management for more than 10 communities.
	Number of communities participating in the project, and trained in BD management to apply safeguard measures in accordance with BD protection best practices (defined in the management plan guidelines)	a. 0 Communities participating in project b. 0 monitoring record sheets filled out autonomously by the communities	a. 20 CFEs applying the BD monitoring system b. 20 monitoring record sheets per year filled out autonomously by the communities in three years (up to year 4)					N/A	- The monitoring system of biodiversity is under development and builds on the results generated by various conservation organizations working in the area of project intervention. The resistance by some NGOs to provide information makes it difficult to move forward more quickly.
Economic incentives are in place to attract and keep community forestry operations committed to sustainable forestry and BD management practices	Increase in communities competitiveness via: a) Change in unit production costs of communities per m3	a. To be established in case study baselines b. 0 investment in BD Management practices	a) 10% average decrease in production costs b) 5% average increase in recovery rates					N/A	- To date the Project has identified three innovative ventures that are considered as priority by bothTCOs because they will help to consolidate their territory and preserve their forests. Products such as forest natural rubber, majo fruit processing for various purposes and timber harvesting is

	<p>b) Change in recovery rates CFEs incomes</p> <p>c) Increase in percentage of final sale price that reaches the primary producer</p>	<p>c. The primary producer in the wood chain receives 5 to 8% of the final price in La Paz.</p>	<p>c) Percent of revenues increases at least 5 points (10 to 13%)</p>						<p>an economical alternative for Guanay region. Meanwhile, the processing of the asai palm fruits needs further development, since in the Ixiamas region is more focused to timber harvesting. In both cases, more work needs to be done around integral forest management to then work in marketing and commercialization.</p>
	<p>Increase in demand for certified products, measured via</p> <p>a) % of certified communities sales to certified buyers</p> <p>b) # of chain-of-custody certifications involving communities</p> <p>c) # of alliances resulting in sales contracts between communities and international or national buyers specifically demanding certified forest products</p>	<p>a) 32% of certified sales to certified buyers</p> <p>b) 0 chain of custody certification involving communities</p> <p>c) 0 new alliances facilitated by project</p> <p>d) 0 national markets for products sourced from certified forests (there is no law to foster the purchase of certified products)</p> <p>e) 3,172 M3 of certified wood (in custody) sold to</p>	<p>a) 50% of certified communities sales to certified buyers</p> <p>b) Two new chains of custody established in the intervention area</p> <p>c) Six alliances between communities and the next links in the chain consolidated allowing for better revenues to communities</p> <p>d) 4 new markets opened for NTFP with value-added</p>					N/A	<p>- The project is working jointly with the National Council for Voluntary Forest Certification CFV-FSC, to agree on the implementation of short and medium term strategies aimed to: a) simplify FSC standards, b) reduce certification costs, c) linking the FSC private initiative with the national certification system developed by the ABT, d) develop high impact training to create a certification national duly recognized by the CFV and FSC.</p>

	<p>d) # of national markets for products sourced from certified forests (including Government demand)</p> <p>e) Certified volumes sold</p>	the national market	e) At least 50,000 M3 of certified or verified wood sold in the national or international market						
	<p>Increase in investment in communities to improve management and business practices that contribute to BD objectives, through various mechanisms:</p> <p>a) Number of government lines of credit adapted to forestry activities</p> <p>b) Number of alliances with financial entities</p> <p>c) Number of communities that access credits for comprehensive forest management</p> <p>d) Amounts allocated for comprehensive forest management</p>	<p>a) Zero government lines of credit directed and adapted to forestry activities</p> <p>b) Zero alliances with financial entities</p> <p>c) 5 communities access credit for comprehensive forest management</p> <p>d) Amount to be determined at the start of the project for comprehensive forest management</p>	<p>a) One government line of credit directed and adapted to forestry activities</p> <p>b) At least one alliance established with financial entities to leverage funds (relation 3 to 1 for forest management)</p> <p>c) 5 additional communities access credit for forestry operations</p> <p>d) Amount over US\$ 2,000,000</p>					N/A	- Based on the project's map of actors a Financial Incentive Fund Platform is being conformed for which USD 400,000 were already registered in the 2015 Annual Operation Plan.

F. Progress in Implementation

Outcome 1	Institutional support mechanisms are generated to foster conservation of biodiversity through sustainable forest management and certification.
<p>Outputs Reported - Agreements have been established with: a) 7 municipalities where the project intervenes; b) the two TCOs PILCOL (Lecos Larecajas) and CIPTA (Tacanas); c) Authority and Social Control of Forest and Land (ABT), and d) 5 International Organizations and NGOs.</p> <p>- The Project Board has been conformed (VMA/UNDP) and the Technical Committee composed of 7 government institutions and civil society organizations.</p> <p>- Working mechanisms were established to work with the Department of Biodiversity and Protected Areas and Forest Management to assist in the formulation of the new Forest Law of Bolivia.</p> <p>- An articulation and dialogue spacem is set to work with Mother Earth Authority and to propose criteria and indicators of interaction with its Joint Mechanism for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.</p>	
Outcome 2	Communities with strengthened capacities to obtain and keep certification and manage forests in a sustainable and biodiversity-friendly way
<p>Outputs Reported - Project jointly with the Forest and Land Control Authority (ABT) are working to promote the implementation of Forest and Land Integral Plans (PGIBT), generating local capacities and incentives as part of the national certification mechanism</p> <p>- Project activities are coordinated with both TCOs (CIPTA / PILCOL) to deine the life systems, life plans including their productive potential.</p> <p>- Coordination with FSC certification bodies and ABT to see the feasibility of simplifying or complement international and national certification systems.</p>	
Outcome 3	Economic incentives are in place to attract and keep community forestry operations committed to sustainable forestry and BD management practices
<p>Outputs Reported - The project and ABT are working to implement incentives through a)Forest and Land Integrated Management Plans, b) Initiative of voluntary adherence from TCO to TIOC, and c) ABT National Certification, to promote and encourage sustainable and responsible forest management.</p>	

General comments:

Although the project has had several delays, progress was made in the consultation processes, articulation and entrepreneurship eligibility criteria to be used in Project areas. Currently the Environment Viceministry, its two Departments DGBAP and DGGyDF, as well as the Mother Earth Authority are directly supporting the project to be one of the four focus points of application of the Adaptation and MitigationJoint Mechanism.

G. Ratings and Comments on Project Progress

Progress toward Development Objectives	
Project Manager/Coordinator	Moderately Satisfactory
<p>Despite the efforts, the project still has delays mainly due to: 1) change of project coordinator and hiring of new staff; 2) extreme weather events caused flooding in project areas forcing regional teams to retreat to the National Office; 3) since the end of 2012 to date there were substantial changes in environmental policies and there is a new vision of development and sustainable forest management. In general the new legal framework is positive for project purposes, since project objectives pretty much relates to Mother Earth Law mandates.</p>	
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Satisfactory
<p>Since last PIR, the project faced change of Environmental Viceminister (VMA) and Project Coordinator as well as some of</p>	

the consultants. In spite of the above mentioned changes, government commitment to project objective remained and it seems to be at the top of their agenda.

As a result of the new environmental policy, it is important to mention that there is a new institution denominated Mother Earth Authority (APMT) which also has the mandate to work in integrated and sustainable forest management; this situation has required the project to spend more time to adapt and coordinate its work with VMA and APMT.

As Project Coordinator mentioned above, the project areas were flooded by heavy and unusual rains that lasted from January to April and May in some places. Due to security issues consultants in project regional offices had to be deployed to La Paz.

Given these conditions obviously the project was delayed, but in the last months the activities return to normal and the team is working to its full capacity.

Project Implementing Partner	
GEF Operational Focal point	
Other Partners	
UNDP Technical Advisor	Moderately Satisfactory

During the reporting period the Project has faced external difficulties such as floods which have affected several sites where project's interventions are programmed. Staff rotation of key project personnel has also occurred producing additional delays to the implementation of project's activities.

The Project has had also the need to adapt to the new institutions' and regulatory frameworks governing forest management in the country, which has taken place under the recently established Adaptation and Mitigation Joint Mechanism of Mother Earth Authority (MC-APMT). This have required starting a process for harmonizing the National Council for Voluntary Forest Certification (CFV-FSC) standards with those developed by the Forest and Land Authority (ABT), in order to have a set of policy instruments that are consistent with the new regulatory framework and that are suitable for national and local stakeholders. While this is a process which can take some time, it is commendable the joint effort undertaken both by the CFV-FSC and the ABT to produce harmonized standards promoting sustainable forest management.

The RTA would also like to highlight the project's involvement in the process of creating the new forests' law, which includes the definition of forest management standards that are critical for several of the outcomes to be attained through the project. It is also important its interaction with the National Council for Voluntary Forest Certification to agree on the implementation of short and medium term strategies aimed at simplifying FSC standards, as well as reducing certification costs.

At local level, it is highlighted the developing of agreement frameworks for working with seven municipalities of the Northern of La Paz Department and the indigenous originary lands (TIOCs) PILCOL and CIPTAS, and that the Project is already advising these governments on developing local Development Management Plans.

There is also progress on developing the training plan on sustainable forest management and community forest management plans with native species, although the formulation of the General Forest Management Plan for 12,300 has. is still pending. It should be also highlighted the project's support to women's participation such is the case of the business plans for indigenous women small business devoted to transforming non-timber forest products such as asai juices and majo palm fruits.

On the side of the economic incentives, the Project has identified three innovative ventures that are considered as priority by the participating communities: forest natural rubber, majo fruit processing and asai palm processing. As a pending task for the Project it is necessary to ensure that these ventures are developed under a sustainable forest management approach which adds value to the supply chain of forest products.

In what makes relation to investments in the communities to improve management and business practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation objectives, a financial incentive fund platform is being established for which USD 400,000 were already registered in the 2015 Annual Operational Plan.

At this stage, since the Project is still expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but only yield some of the expected global environment benefits at site level, a Moderately Satisfactory rating is provided.

For this year it is again recommended that a tripartite meeting be held to review the project's implementation (including delivery rates, particularly at site level), and identify a contingency plan to address the limits to progress towards the development objective.

General Comments

MS: The project has suffered several setbacks that have slowed the implementation of activities as I had planned. Throughout the 2013's the project sought to develop the respective agreement as specified in PRODOCs and national standards, a crucial point framework agreements, but ultimately the VMA defined withdraw all personnel from the national office to follow up a more technical process. In the first half of 2014 implementation problems given the limited knowledge of the staff on PRODOCs, followed by extreme weather events forced the project to make a withdrawal of two regional offices to the city of La Paz were given. It is in this sense that from the second half of 2014 with a new management and administration of the Forest project GEF 4 as well as the technical staff of the national office, an administrative court is done and start is given to a business process, but with an analysis of relevance to the project should be considered to achieve the objectives, goals and proposed outcomes, given the structural changes in Bolivian politics forcing any initiatives to develop cautious and measured change to adjust and viable activities consistent with the proposed state .

MS: El proyecto ha sufrido varios contratiempos que ha frenado la ejecución de actividades como se tenía planificado. En todo el 2013 las el proyecto trató de desarrollar los acuerdos marcos respectivos de acuerdo como lo especifica el PRODOC y las normas nacionales, un punto crucial, pero que al final el VMA definió retirar a todo el personal de la oficina nacional para dar curso a un proceso mas técnico. En el primer semestre del 2014 se dieron problemas de ejecución dado el poco conocimiento del personal sobre el PRODOC, seguido por eventos climáticos extremos que obligo al proyecto de hacer un repliegue de las dos oficinas regionales hacia la Ciudad de La Paz. Es en este sentido que a partir del segundo semestre del 2014, con una nueva gerencia y administración del GEF Forestal 4, así como del personal técnico de la oficina nacional, se hace un corte administrativo y se da inicio a un proceso más operativo, pero con un análisis de pertinencia que el proyecto debe considerar para lograr los objetivos, metas y resultados propuestos, dado los cambios estructurales en las política boliviana que obliga a cualquier iniciativas a desarrollar cambio cautos y mesurados para ajustar y viabilizar actividades coherentes con las propuestas de estado.

Progress in Implementation	
Project Manager/Coordinator	Moderately Unsatisfactory
<p>The consultant's work had been working on a low implementation rate, nonetheless the coordination with the decision maker actors to develop clear action plans had been accomplished. The project is working towards the adaptation of the country vision and strategy.</p> <p>A nivel de consultorias, el proyecto ha tenido una baja ejecución, sin embargo se ha logrado coordinar con autoridades tomadores de decisiones para desarrollar un plan acorde a las actuales políticas del país. Asimismo el proyecto se está adaptando a los cambios de visión y estrategias de país.</p>	
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Satisfactory
<p>The project has had delays in implementation partly for reasons of context change and the need to continually adjust and partly due to an unstable project team. Still, it is considered that the project has made progress and it is expected that with its full team already hired will accelerate activities to achieve the expected results.</p>	
Project Implementing Partner	
GEF Operational Focal point	
Other Partners	
UNDP Technical Adviser	Moderately Unsatisfactory
<p>The project continues to suffer delays in its implementation due to external and internal factors, which relate to floods in the sites of the project's interventions and rotation of key project staff. This has affected the delivery rate which at the end of the reporting period is at only the 12% of the total budget compared to the 26 months that have elapsed since project signature and 34 months since CEO endorsement. This clearly put at risk the achievement of project results in the remaining time of the project considering the closure date determined by the GEF.</p> <p>This very low delivery rate is reflected in the delay of several project activities, particularly at site level. While the project's counterpart has adopted adaptive measures to cope with some of the difficulties such as assigning temporary additional responsibilities to one of the regional coordinators of the project to compensate the absence of the general project coordinator, more proactive implementation and major remedial actions will be required to get the project back on track.</p> <p>Since progress implementation rate of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original plan with most components requiring remedial action, a Moderately Unsatisfactory rating is provided.</p> <p>The RTA makes the following recommendations:</p> <p>a) Hold a TPR meeting during the 3rd/4th Quarter of 2014 to revisit reasons for low delivery, assess feasibility of the project results in the remaining time and identify different options for accelerating implementation.</p> <p>b) Ensure that the mid-term review takes place by the end of 2014. If an extension would be needed, formally submit the MTR extension request justifying the reasons for that.</p>	

H. Communications and Knowledge Management

The Story of This Project

The Project "Biodiversity Conservation Through Sustainable Management of Forests by the local actors", is considered a strategy that generates a new vision of forest management in the north-west region of the Amazonas, promoting the transformation with value-added to timber and non-timber forest products and incorporates elements that promotes the conservation of biodiversity supporting also the implementation of the new forest public policies. The project works with public and private actors belonging to national, departmental and local levels, specifically with 7 municipalities and 2 indigenous populations: Lecos Larecajas (PILCOL) and Tacanas (CIPTA). At national level the main counterpart is the Vice Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Forest Management with two of their specialized units: General Department of Biodiversity and Protected Areas and Department of Forest Management. It is also involved the Authority and Social Control of Forest and Land (ABT).

Given the project disruption due to severe floods, at this point, the project can not yet show its impact, but also because is building a process of interaction with various entities.

Adaptive Management this Reporting Period

In the past two years, the country has had complex structural transformation process, starting from the reduction in over 70% of the areas certified under SFC schemes, followed by a process of legal and regulatory changes, such as the ongoing development of the new forest law, increased social inclusion and participation, democratization of forest resources, dynamic changes in the production and design of forest management and biodiversity. Another important element to consider is the creation of the Mother Earth Plurinational Authority and its Adaptation and Mitigation Joint Mechanism for the Integral and Sustainable Management of Forests and Mother Earth. In order to work under the above describe new conditions, the project has adapted its activities to ensure articulation to all these new initiatives to achieve their goals in a coordinated, proactive and empathetic way. To this end, project has also adjusted its action plan to ensure its participation on the process of natural resource management and knowledge management, considering the new paradigms that promotes Bolivia towards the conservation of biodiversity in a responsible and sustainable manner.

The project will also deal strategically with challenges in the two regional offices to: a) demonstrate that forests initiatives can be an alternative to minimize mining activities by improve the living conditions of local and indigenous populations; b) promote adaptation and mitigation through management and conservation of biodiversity in view of the expansion of the agricultural frontier; c) develop management schemes that minimize the direct and indirect impact that mega infraestructures can generate to forests.

For the aforementioned reasons and other that may occur in the region, the project is developing abilities to adapt to rapid changing conditions.

Lessons Learned

Technical: Changing scenarios in the conception of how to achieve forest management still have methodological gaps. The concept of making better use of forest resources, value-added, enhanced capacities for the integrated management of forests has led to a misperception by taking advantage of everything that exists in the forest. The project is working with its own technicians to ensure that the strategy applied effectively leads to use forests with responsibly under management approaches, long-term, appropriate methodologies, and solid institutional structures.

Social. There is still reluctance on the local and indigenous populations to develop management practices under the concept of sustainability. Also there is distrust of indigenous communities because several projects left no information or installed capabilities. For this it is essential to work with indigenous communities involved, with access to information and decision-making on project issues, establishing clear roles and responsibilities.

Political. The project must balance three major conflicts: a) develop activities that mitigate impacts to proposed expansion of the agricultural frontier; b) alternatives should be promoted innovative incentive schemes to manage and conserve forest

biodiversity versus productive systems linked to mining, farming and livestock in forest areas; c) support the development of standards that promote the integrated management of forests at the community, municipal, departmental and national indigenous level.

General Comments

I. Partnerships

Partners	Innovation and Work with Partners
Civil Society Organisations/NGOs	The project is promoting the functioning of a platform with the participation of public and private actors, including NGOs, to articulate activities carried out by actors such as the Natural History Museum Noel Kempff Mercado, Bolivian Institute of Forestry Research, WCS, Bolivian Council for Voluntary Forest Certification, Association for the Conservation of Andean Amazonian Forests, among others.
Indigenous Peoples	Tacana and Leco Larecaja Indigenous communities are the central actors of this project, thus their participation in activities that are developed in their territories is crucial. The project has generated a strategic partnership with these communities for which horizontal dialogues are implemented to enhance the design making process.
Private Sector	
GEF Small Grants Programme	SGP in Bolivia has no interventions in project geographical area.
Other Partners	

General Comments

J. Progress toward Gender Equality

Findings of gender/social needs assessment	
Changes in targeting women/girls	
Additional information on the project's work on gender equality	In the areas of Palos Blancos and Alto Beni, the project is supporting initiatives led by 3 women organizations: a) Agroecological Federation of Community Intercultural Women-Area 4 Alto Beni; b) Agroecological Central of Community Intercultural Women-Areas 5 Alto Beni; c) Organization of Indigenous Mosen Women. These 3 organizations are producing school breakfast with forest products, still though in a very small percentage. Through these initiative the project seeks to promote the conservation of forests islands of palm trees and the conservation of biodiversity.

General Comments

K. Environmental \ Social Grievances

Related environmental or social issue	
Status	
Significance	
Detailed description	

L. Project Contacts and Links

Partner	Contact Name	Email Address
Project Coordinator / Manager	Jose Luis Santivañez	jsantiva@catie.ac.cr
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Rocio Chain	rocio.chain@undp.org
Project Implementing Partner	Roberto Salvatierra	rsalvatierra8@gmail.com
GEF Operational Focal Point	Roberto Salvatierra	rsalvatierra8@gmail.com
Other Partners		
UNDP Technical Adviser	Mr. Jose Troya	jose.troya@undp.org

Project website, etc.	Not yet available.
Links to media coverage	

M. Annex 1 - Ratings Definitions

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

Satisfactory (S): Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only few that are subject to remedial action.

Moderately Satisfactory (MS): Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.

Unsatisfactory (U): Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

Satisfactory (S): Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.

Moderately Satisfactory (MS): Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives.

Unsatisfactory (U): Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.