

Project Evaluation Series

**Terminal evaluation of the project
“Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation,
sustainable forest management and
carbon sink enhancement into Mongolia’s
productive forest landscapes”**

**Project code: GCP/MON/008/GFF
GEF ID: 4744**

Follow-up report

Terminal evaluation of the project “Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and carbon sink enhancement into Mongolia’s productive forest landscapes”– Follow-up report					01/2023
Evaluation recommendation	Management response Accepted, Partially accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken	MAR Score	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions
<p>Recommendation 1. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) should invest and scale up the positive results derived from the project by providing institutional leadership, financial resources and policy support. The Provincial government should lead on SFM implementation and develop multi-stakeholder-based monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and provide additional financial and capacity support to ISFUs, the Soum authorities and FUGs, whereas the FUGs should strengthen their internal governance systems and raise their operational challenges with the concerned authorities.</p>	Accepted	<p>The recommendation will be considered and reflected in the Ministry Action Plan for upcoming 4-year. The final draft policy documents (Structure of Forest management plan, Guidance on Developing Forest management and Procedure for evaluation performance of FUGs) developed with support from the project will be discussed at the ministerial meeting and decision will be made.</p>	<p>No action had been taken under this recommendation. Due to the turnover of the General Director and the officer of MET who were responsible for following the policy-related activities. However, there is a potential to address the recommendation through the ongoing GEF-7 project and other initiatives also in pipeline.</p>	None/poor	Ongoing

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<p>Recommendation 2.</p> <p>During the project design stage, analysis of logic and appropriateness of indicators and targets have to be well discussed with the stakeholders. A theory of change (TOC) or similar approach during project design should be employed that help to ensure greater consistency in their internal logic and external factors (drivers and barriers) to improve programme logic.</p>	Accepted	The recommendation is accepted and will be considered for the future project development	The requirement for developing TOC became streamlined only at the end of GEF-7 cycle. Therefore, new initiative such as Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA) project developed the TOC in consultation with stakeholders before initiating the assessment of the project. The second phase of the CBIT project will develop the TOC during project design to ensure greater consistency of project results.	Excellent	The development of TOC has resulted in the understanding of the impacts and results of the project in a wider range. This is now a standard practice during the design phase.
<p>Recommendation 3.</p> <p>For the remaining project period, the project should prepare a more strategic and achievable sustainability plan in consultations with the MET for promoting and scaling up of SFM.</p>	Accepted	The recommendation is fully accepted and discussions with different stakeholders (national and local) are planned in the remaining period to improve draft strategic sustainability plan.	The sustainability plan was prepared/ updated during the terminal stage of the project. It was discussed at the PCC meeting and delivered to the MET.	Excellent	The sustainability plan was prepared including the actions to be taken to ensure the project result by the stakeholders. As a result of the clear actions to be taken, some impacts were made. For

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		Moreover, the plan will be discussed at the PCC meeting.			instance: Forest Agency was established by the Government resolution in July, 2022 which was the ongoing discussions in 2020. The unit in charge of forest management is included in the structure.
Recommendation 4. The GEF/FAO project should have more systematic, robust and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms for all outputs and outcomes ensuring regular reviews and feedback mechanisms.	Accepted	The recommendation is accepted and will be considered for the future project development and implementation. More capacity building, knowledge enhancing activities (e.g. training, workshops, handbook development) on GEF/FAO Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms will be organized for program team within 2020.	GEF-7 and other recent initiatives have incorporated this recommendation and established a robust M&E mechanism and the results are periodically reviewed.	Good	The project outputs and outcomes are being monitored and evaluated regularly following the monitoring standard and logistical framework of the project.

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