

Project Evaluation Series
[50/2024](#)

Evaluation of the project “Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d’Ivoire”

Mid-term report
Project code: GCP/IVC/609/GCF

Management response

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Evaluation recommendations	Management response Accepted, Partially accepted or Rejected	Management plan				
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Responsible unit	Timeframe	Further funding required (Y or N)	Additional comments
<p>Recommendation 1.</p> <p><i>To the government (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development).</i></p> <p>Create a platform at national level for exchanging information and experiences between the diverse projects and initiatives underway on zero-deforestation agriculture.</p> <p>Given the growing number of projects and other initiatives aimed at promoting the emergence of deforestation-free agriculture (zero-deforestation agriculture), the existence at national level of a platform for the exchange of information and experiences would be conducive to creating greater coherence. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, through SEP-RED, gained experience in multi-sectoral and inclusive dialogue in the environmental field during the development of the national REDD+ strategy adopted by the government in 2017. This experience could be used to coordinate these exchanges at national level. The PROMIRE project could provide support for the implementation of this coordination initiative, which would fit perfectly with the objectives of the national REDD+ strategic plan.</p>	Accepted	<p>This recommendation is in line with the aspirations of SEP REDD+ / Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, which has already planned action in this direction.</p> <p>The UN REDD+/FAO programming is already planning to support the SEP REDD in setting up and running this national exchange platform in 2024.</p> <p>The PROMIRE project will subsequently contribute to the operations of this platform.</p>	SEP REDD+/ Project Coordination Unit/ UN REDD+ / FAO	In progress: creation of the platform in 2024 and support for its operationalisation in subsequent years until 2026 (by the project).	No	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition is the new name of the former Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development.
<p>Recommendation 2.</p> <p><i>To the Project Coordination Unit.</i></p> <p>Strengthen alignment with the project's logical framework with the project's Theory of Change, in particular reflecting the need for an ex-post evaluation of the investment costs necessary to</p>	Accepted	The project has already planned knowledge-generation activities, including related to the investment costs and profitability in the technical	Project Coordination Unit	The project is in the process of capitalizing on data for future use.	No	In order to strengthen the implementation of activities relating to the mobilization of the private sector,

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<p>convert old cocoa orchards into agroforestry systems and their economic profitability.</p> <p>It is also important to include in the logical framework indicators disaggregated by gender resulting from the gender action plan, in order to enable stakeholders to take greater ownership of the gender objectives expected by the project. If formal procedures do not facilitate this, closer and more regular monitoring of all sex-disaggregated indicators contained in the gender plan, including outcome indicators, and the inclusion of sex-disaggregated indicators in the partnership agreements may be sufficient. The project did not originally have the full TOC. The complete TOC was developed by the evaluation team during its field mission (September 2023), through an inclusive process involving the project stakeholders. It therefore appears necessary to review the project's initial logical framework, in order to strengthen the alignment with the TOC. The main change introduced by the TOC, in relation to the project's initial logical framework, concerns the inclusion of the investment costs necessary to convert old cocoa orchards into agroforestry systems and their profitability, in accordance with the evaluation. This could be done by adjusting activity 2.5 of Component 2 of the project.</p> <p>The inclusion of this additional product is justified by the need to take advantage of the technical, economic and financial data collected as part of the project's implementation. The use of this available</p>		<p>fields of agroforestry and forest restoration. These will be carried out during the second part of the project's implementation.</p> <p>Admittedly, the logical framework does not include gender-disaggregated indicators, however this is monitored through the implementation of the gender action plan. The data is reported in the annual project report (APR) submitted to the GCF. In the gender action plan, indicators are broken down by sex. This monitoring will be further strengthened with the recruitment of a dedicated gender expert.</p>		<p>This action will be reinforced from October 2024 until the end of the project.</p>		<p>including microfinance institutions, the recruitment of a specialist in economics, and mobilization of the private sector has been underway since December 2023 (the recruitment process is currently underway).</p> <p>At the same time, this expert will be responsible for updating the economic and financial data on the project's investments, data which will be valorised within the framework of knowledge management.</p> <p>The project's theory of change was drawn up and included in the pre-</p>

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economic and financial data will help to facilitate the reproduction and extension of the achievements of the PROMIRE project. This new logical framework should also include relevant results and indicators, disaggregated by sex, from the project's gender plan.						feasibility study when the project was set up. The project outline did not allow this TOC to be included in the main project document, as there was no dedicated space for it in the document (in addition to the limited number of pages in the project document according to the GCF guideline), hence the AE's choice to insert this important element of the project at least in the pre-feasibility study.
<p>Recommendation 3.</p> <p><i>To the Project Coordination Unit. Update the project indicators which are linked to the population size of the three regions.</i></p> <p>The choice of the indicator of indirect project beneficiaries was based on a total population of 1 764 172 for the three regions. The project set the level of indirect beneficiaries at one third of this</p>	Partially accepted	The project will assess the available budget and look at possible options to cover this recommendation. It would imply additional costs given the increase in targets. The project must also consider the cost of inflation (which has	Project Coordination Unit	Feasibility evaluation is in progress.	Yes	

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<p>population, or around 600 000. This population size corresponds to the figures from the 2014 population and housing census. However, the total population of the three regions is growing significantly and was estimated at 2 377 504 in 2021 by the latest population and housing census carried out in 2021. This was an increase of 34.8 percent compared to the figures used for the formulation of the project. A third of this population would be around 800 000. The project would benefit from aligning its indirect beneficiary objectives with these updated statistics. The project would benefit from better definition of indirect beneficiaries, clarifying the methodology for calculating their actual number and, if necessary, considering updated demographic statistics when setting target objectives.</p>		<p>been higher than expected at the national level), and take measures that sometimes have financial implications to be able to implement (such as recruiting additional human resources).</p>				
<p>Recommendation 4. <i>To the Project Coordination Unit.</i></p> <p>The project should improve its organisation of the capitalisation of the acquired knowledge, in particular the information and data linked to the technical, economic and financial standards of zero-deforestation agriculture, validated by the PROMIRE project, as well as lessons learned during project implementation. This knowledge could serve as a reference in the development and implementation of new projects by government, the private sector and other stakeholders.</p> <p>So far, the project has developed a REDD+ communication plan and produced communication</p>	Accepted	<p>This recommendation is very similar to recommendation 2. The response given there is also valid for this recommendation 4.</p> <p>The project will take the appropriate steps to comply with this recommendation, in addition to the communication aspect.</p>	Project Coordination Unit	<p>Data is being capitalized upon for future use.</p> <p>Action to be reinforced from October 2024 until the end of the project.</p>	No	

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<p>tools to improve the visibility of its actions. However, the component relating to knowledge management remains to be developed and implemented. Indeed, the PROMIRE project is seen as a model which should capitalise on lessons learned and experiences. In the future it should be reproduced on a larger scale by the government and other projects/donors interested in the problem of zero-deforestation agriculture. The technical, economic and financial standards for zero-deforestation agriculture, validated by the PROMIRE project, could serve in the future as a reference for the development and implementation of new projects, with broader geographical coverage.</p> <p>The PROMIRE project therefore requires that importance be given to the management of the knowledge it generates. Adequate knowledge management will allow the capitalisation of project achievements with a view to sharing them with users, both during and after the project’s existence. It is therefore an important basis for the reproducibility and scalability of the project.</p>						
<p>Recommendation 5. <i>To the Project Coordination Unit.</i></p> <p>Strengthen the consideration of Gender and Social Inclusion in project management. In particular, the project should improve the targeting of disadvantaged groups, develop strategies capable of addressing the root causes of their vulnerability in the cocoa-growing sector, associate stakeholders with</p>	Accepted	<p>The project plans to recruit a person dedicated to monitoring the gender and safeguard aspects.</p> <p>In addition, the project team has undertaken the identification and capacity-building of women's</p>	Project Coordination Unit	Implementation is in progress.	No	

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<p>gender objectives more effectively and plan a specific budget for these efforts.</p> <p>Additional efforts are needed to improve gender targeting and encourage greater participation of women in activities. These efforts must focus on the causes of low representation, such as the issue of access to land, and female poverty. The latter could be mitigated by the introduction of income-generating activities for the women who participate. All partners must be involved in strengthening the project's gender approach, through specific training and the introduction of specific tasks on this subject into collaboration agreements. A dedicated human resource would strengthen the implementation of the gender plan. Regarding monitoring, the project should monitor more closely the result indicators that show the benefits in terms of socio-economic empowerment of women, as well as paying greater attention to capitalising on lessons learned and good practices. Finally, planning a gender budget could promote greater transparency regarding the project's impact on gender equality and female empowerment. Regarding the participation of minorities and young people, the project should take greater account of and target, these population groups and develop specific action strategies.</p>		<p>associations in the project's intervention zones.</p> <p>In addition to capacity-building sessions, the project plans to provide additional support specifically for women, women's associations, minorities and young people, notably through income-generating activities linked to the valorisation of resources from agroforestry systems set up by the project.</p> <p>Partners will also be better mobilized to integrate such gender, youth and minority aspects with a view to their future empowerment.</p> <p>A budget was drawn up for the implementation of the gender action plan during the project design phase. A closer follow-up of the implementation of this budget dedicated to women will be carried out for the next stages of the project implementation.</p>				

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<p>Recommendation 6.</p> <p><i>To the Project Coordination Unit.</i></p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of members of the Project Steering Committee in terms of project governance.</p> <p>The project start-up and implementation phases showed the crucial role of the Steering Committee (COFIL) in guiding and supervising the project operational team. In addition, COFIL members played an essential role in the country’s ownership of the project. Strengthening their project governance skills and organising visits to observe project achievements in the field would enable them to be better equipped to analyse the constraints and challenges of the project and support the UPC better in implementation of the project.</p>	Accepted	<p>The project has already initiated capacity-building sessions for its Steering Committee members relating to the project governance, since the decentralized meeting held in December 2023 in Agboville, in the Agneby Tiassa region.</p> <p>Visits to showcase the project's achievements in the field were scheduled during this last meeting, and such visits will be made systematically from now on.</p>	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition / Project Coordination Unit	In progress, and until the end of the project, with a frequency of two Steering Committee meetings per year	No	

Office of Evaluation
evaluation@fao.org
www.fao.org/evaluation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy