



FINAL MID-TERM REPORT



Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria

GEF ID: 9143
PIMS No. 5578

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December, 2020

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Summary details of the Evaluation

Title of UNDP supported GEF financed project:

Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria

UNDP and GEF project ID#s:

UNDP- GEF ID number: 9143; UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 5578;

Evaluation time frame:

19th Oct – 18th Dec 2020

Date of evaluation report:

18th Dec 2020

Region and countries included in the project:

Africa; Nigeria

GEF Operational Program/Strategic Program:

GEF Focal Area: Food Security

GEF-6 Strategic Objective 1: Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security.

Implementing Partner and other project partners:

Implementation Modality:

National Implementation (NIM)

Implementing Partner:

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMA&RD)/State Agricultural Development Programmes

Responsible Parties/ Partners:

7 State administration

Mid Term Review team members:

Mr. Muyambi Fortunate and Mr. Abila Nelson

Acknowledgements:

The MTR team would like to thank Mrs. Rhoda Dia, the Project Manager, Habib Zangina, Ibrahim Dandel, Aminu Ali Bichi, Pius Birdling, Ado Ubaya, Abdullali Abubakar, Yusufu Nasarawa, Benue Spinu, Sunusi Bichi, Auwalu Isa Kila for the information provided during the MTR. The MTR team also thanks Oladipo Osibo, UNDP CO for briefing and technical support during the evaluation mission and report-drafting period. We are also grateful for the opportunity for individual consultations in 7 state project site administration, and other project actors gave their time to provide views on project activities. The staff of the Project Partners and stakeholders at national and local levels, were very forthcoming during online consultations.

List of abbreviations and acronyms

ADP	Agricultural Development Project
ASSAPIN	Association of Small Scale Agro Producers
AEZ	Agro-Ecological Zone
ACGS	Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme
AFIM	African Facility for Inclusive Markets
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
AVC	Agricultural Value Chain
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
ERGP	Economic Recovery & Growth Plan (2017-2020),
FAO	Food And Agricultural Organization of the UN
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning System
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FME	Federal Ministry of Environment
FSP	Full Sized Project
FSNM	Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEB	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEFSEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GIEWS	Global information and early warning system on food and agriculture
GRP	Green Revolution Programme
IAP	Integrated Approach Pilot
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
INRM	Integrated Natural Resources Management
LGA	Local Government Area
MARKETS	Maximizing Agriculture Revenue and Key Enterprises in Targeted Sites
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSP	Medium Sized Project
NAFPP	National Accelerated Food Production Project
NAERLS	National Agricultural Extension, Research and Liaison Services
NALDA	National Agricultural Land Development Authority
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIMET	Nigerian Meteorological Agency
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NSFN	National System for Food and Nutrition Security
NSFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
NSFSRF	National Sustainable Food Security Resilience Framework
OFN	Operation Feed the Nation
PCU	Project Coordinating Unit
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIMS	Project Information Management System
PIR	GEF Project Implementation Report
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
RBDA	River Basin Development Authority
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLWM	Sustainable Land and Water Management
SPAT	Special Plots for Extension and Training
STAP	Scientific Technical Advisory Panel (GEF)
ToC	Theory of Change
UNDO-GEF	Nature, Climate and Energy Team

UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
USD	United States Dollars
VSF	Voice for Food Security
WaSA	Water Smart Agriculture

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1 Executive Summary

Table 1: Project Information Table

UNDP PIMS ID: 5578	GEF ID: 9143
Planned start date: Dec 1, 2017	Planned end date: 30 Dec, 2022
FINANCING PLAN	
GEF Trust Fund	US\$ 7,139,450
UNDP TRAC resources (Cash)	US\$ 100,000
UNDP TRAC Resources (in-kind)	US\$ 900,000
(1) Total Budget administered	US\$ 8,139,450
PARALLEL CO-FINANCING	
Government	US\$ 50,000,000
(2) Total co-financing	US\$ 50,000,000
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	US\$ 58,139,450

Project Description

The overall objective of this project is: To enhance productivity and promote sustainability and resilience of Nigeria's agricultural production systems for improved national food security. To achieve this objective, the project will address the aforementioned barriers through three closely inter-related impact pathways: (i) strengthening institutional and policy coherence; (ii) scaling up sustainable land and water management practices; and (iii) Addressing gender disparities in agricultural production and food value chains. Impact will be monitored and assessed for sustainability and resilience. This will be achieved through four outcomes: i) Supportive policies, governance structures and incentives in place at Federal and State levels to support sustainability and resilience of smallholder agriculture and food value chains; ii) Scaling up sustainable agricultural practices and market opportunities for smallholder farmers in the target agro-ecological zones to increase food security under increasing climate risks; iii) Improved youth involvement and reduced gender disparities in agricultural production for enhanced food security; iv) Harmonized M&E framework in place for food security information, multi-scale assessment of sustainability and resilience in production agro-ecological zones and landscapes and monitoring of global environmental benefits (GEBs).

MTR Ratings and Achievement Summary Table

Aspects of Project performance	Rating	Achievement Description
Project strategy/ design		
Problem ID and assumptions	N/A	Main assumptions in line with best practice on Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria. Sustainability of financing and outcomes are likely.
Relevance; country priorities	N/A	Design relevant to international and national priorities, noting broader development effects, sustainability and stakeholder inclusion
Progress towards Results		
Objective	S	All the three indicators are "On target", but with considerable work remaining to achieve the targets by End of Project (EoP).
Component 1	S	The project has made progress, with two output indicators clearly "On target. One Output indicator is "Not on target", because the National and state level multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and SLWM practices for improved food security have not been developed and operational.
Component 2	S	Four Output indicators are on target for while one Output indicator is not on target. There is need to have the planned 35,000 hectares under intensive and diversified production for enhanced income and improved nutrition.
Component 3	S	Implementation progress is "On Target" towards one output target indicator 12. The Overall progress is considered satisfactory; this could change towards to Highly Satisfactory if conservation international completed work on the vital sign frame work and submit to the project.
Project implementation and adaptive management		
Management arrangements: Implementing partner	S	Good MoARD support via project administrative, management, financial and personnel inputs, with regular monitoring of the work of the partner organizations and other project support provided by the UNDP CO.

Management arrangements: UNDP support	S	Good support to PSC & PMU towards objectives & in oversight/ monitoring, with prospects for improvement performance for the EoP.
Work planning	S	Planning timely & thorough, the project has given attention to greater coordination between Project Team members, Project coordinators at state level and with project partners and stakeholders, and towards a more results-oriented approach to Activity planning, the prospects are good for improved performance in the remainder of the project term
Finance and co-finance	HS	Project funds managed efficiently and cost-effectively. Financial management now in place including internal and external audits carried out. Good co-financing from the states.
Monitoring systems	MS	Procedures have been followed correctly but the Project Team has not applied results-based monitoring as thoroughly as it should; the reporting has largely been on indicators and activities using UNDP output verification monitoring program rather than results (outcomes), and has not really assessed measurable progress towards targets
Risk management	MS	ProDoc identified and proposed mitigation of risks. There has been little attention to risk reporting during implementation. This aspect of the project management need to receive much attention during implementation. It should receive more attention and reporting in future.
Stakeholder inclusion	S	Substantial consultation with stakeholders at national, state, & private sector levels has been done. Others stakeholders such as Agriculture Universities and Research institutions, NGOs, including associations of women farmers have been engaged. The project has continuously engaged wider stakeholders especially private sector, farmers and research institutions for effective implementation and sustainability.
Reporting	S	Progress of implementation & management issues have been regularly reported by project management to PSC & UNDP, with lessons learned shared and taken on board by project partners. Reporting should be on results and progress towards Outcomes, not just output and indicators, and this needs to be improved in future, and there is scope for improvement in the reporting and coordination with other partners.

Communication	HS	The project has made a lot efforts to communicate its results to an audience in the region. The Project had developed websites and other Social Media pages, communication strategy document and project leaflet has been reviewed and uploaded on the website. The project has IDs of the website, video documentary links and social media page and stories.
Sustainability of outcomes	Likely	Financial, socio-economic, institutional and environmental risks to sustainability exist. A Sustainability Plan is strongly called for, and could increase the prospect of sustainability.

Summary of conclusions

The project has made good progress on:

- A total number of 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries have directly benefited from improved land and water management practices for sustainable agriculture introduced by the project.
- The project has facilitated the creation of 39,981 (79.9% achievement) (Male = 24,009, Female = 15,972) jobs and improved livelihood in both on-farm and off-farm activities.
- The project has 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries that have benefited from practicing climate resilient sustainable agriculture practice.
- A final draft policy has been submitted by the reviewers which contain National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) and National System for Food and Nutrition Security (NSFNS) to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture for subsequent further review by the national council for policy to finalize review and approval.
- In collaboration with WOFAN, 3 interstate food commodity value chains have been established between project beneficiaries and farm produce off taking private milling companies.
- So far beneficiaries use 3,637.20 hectares of land under gender-sensitive integrated sustainable land and water management and climate smart agricultural practices, managed by both men and women.
- Terms of reference for soil erosion control/reduction and establishment of agro-forestry to increase vegetation cover and carbon stored has been developed and consultants have been engaged to work across the 70 communities.
- The project has recorded a total of 12,096 (Male = 7,466, Female = 4,630) who are involved in food production and value chains for rice and groundnut activities registered with 524 farmers' cooperative societies. The project has also built

their capacities through showcasing viability and benefits of involving in rice and groundnut value chain.

- The project planned to have functional food security reporting and monitoring system at national level, using the Vital Signs Framework. The project signed a contract with Conservation International and has trained train M&E officers from the 7 States' ADPs and Ministries of Agriculture and Federal Staff (27 persons) on Vital signs, Resilience Atlas, and on Trends Earth to enable them to measure progress towards GEB targets and other key project targets.

Progress has been slow in some areas, which needs critical attention if targets are to be achieved. These include:

- There has been delayed creation of the multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platform at national level but once the restrictions on international flights is lifted and movement is safe across countries, the project team will work with UNEP team and their consultants to come to Nigeria to offer support to create the multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platform at national level.
- The project planned at least 10% increase in production of crops. No study on increase in crops production has been undertaken yet although records from demonstration plots for 2019 season revealed up to 40-50% increase in crop yield compared to farmers plot and until a study is carried out after 2020 season after farmers start adopting new technologies they are taught.
- The project planned at least 20% (8,400) of targeted women and youth adopt new production and post-harvest technologies. There are no figures on this indicator available until after a study on technology adoption has been conducted. The PMU revealed that the study is most appropriate at the end of the harvest to ascertain whether 20% of women and youth (8,400) beneficiaries adopt the technologies they learned or not.

Development Project Objective

Output indicator 1

A total number of 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries have directly benefited from improved land and water management practices for sustainable agriculture introduced by the project.

Output indicator 2

The project has facilitated the creation of 39,981 (79.9% achievement) (Male = 24,009, Female = 15,972) jobs and improved livelihood in both on-farm and off-farm activities.

Output indicator 3

The project has 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries that have benefited from practicing climate resilient sustainable agriculture practice.

Component 1:

Output indicator 4

A final draft policy has been submitted by the reviewers which contain National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) and National System for Food and Nutrition Security (NSFNS) to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture for subsequent further review by the national council for policy to finalize review and approval.

Output indicator 5

This indicator has been delayed but once the restrictions on international flights is lifted and movement is safe across countries, the project team will work with UNEP team and their consultants to come to Nigeria to offer support to create the multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platform at national level.

Output indicator 6

In collaboration with WOFAN, 3 interstate food commodity value chains have been established between project beneficiaries and farm produce off taking private milling companies.

Component 2:**Output indicator 7**

So far beneficiaries use 3,637.20 hectares of land under gender-sensitive integrated sustainable land and water management and climate smart agricultural practices, managed by both men and women.

Output indicator 8

Terms of reference for soil erosion control/reduction and establishment of agro-forestry to increase vegetation cover and carbon stored has been developed and consultants have been engaged to work across the 70 communities.

Output indicator 9

The project planned at least 10% increase in production of crops. No study on increase in crops production has been undertaken yet although records from demonstration plots for 2019 season revealed up to 40-50% increase in crop yield compared to farmers plot and until a study is carried out after 2020 season after farmers start adopting new technologies they are taught.

Output indicator 10

The project planned at least 20% (8,400) of targeted women and youth adopt new production and post-harvest technologies. There are no figures on this indicator available until after a study on technology adoption has been conducted. The PMU revealed that the study is most appropriate at the end of the harvest to ascertain whether 20% of women and youth (8,400) beneficiaries adopt the technologies they learned or not.

Output indicator 11

The project has recorded a total of 12,096 (Male = 7,466, Female = 4,630) who are involved in food production and value chains for rice and groundnut activities registered with 524 farmers' cooperative societies. The project has also built their capacities through showcasing viability and benefits of involving in rice and groundnut value chain.

Component 3

Output indicator 12

The project planned to have functional food security reporting and monitoring system at national level, using the Vital Signs Framework. The project signed a contract with Conservation International and has trained train M&E officers from the 7 States' ADPs and Ministries of Agriculture and Federal Staff (27 persons) on Vital signs, Resilience Atlas, and on Trends Earth to enable them to measure progress towards GEB targets and other key project targets.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the Mid-Term Review and objectives

The *GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy*¹ has two overarching objectives:

- To promote accountability for the achievement of GEF objectives through the assessment of results, effectiveness, processes and performance of the partners involved in GEF activities, and contribution to global environmental benefits;
- To promote learning, feedback and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners, as basis for decision-making on policies, strategies, program management, and projects and to improve performance.

For all UNDP-supported GEF-financed full-sized projects, and some mid-sized projects, M&E policy requires a Mid-Term Review (MTR) be undertaken at the halfway stage. As outlined in the *Guidance for conducting Midterm Reviews*², the MTR is an opportunity to provide an independent, unbiased overview of the project that identifies the potential for improvement and produces actionable, realistic, results-oriented and concrete recommendations. At this stage, the project still has time to recover from problems and improve its prospects for delivery; a successful MTR can catalyze change in a project by outlining how recommended changes have the potential to improve the project's results.

UNDP Nigeria has instituted an MTR of the Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria Project, which was undertaken 19th Oct – 18th Dec 2020.

¹ GEF (2010) *The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy 2010*. Global Environment Facility, Evaluation Office. Evaluation Document No.4, November 2010.

² GEF (2014) *Guidance for conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed projects*. UNDP-GEF Directorate.

2.2 Scope and Methodology

Two consultants, Muyambi Fortunate (International lead consultant) and Abila Nelson (National consultant), were selected to conduct the MTR, which assesses early signs of project success or failure and identifies necessary changes to be made. The project performance is measured based on the indicators of the project's logical framework and the appropriate Tracking Tool(s).

Specific tasks of the evidence-based review are outlined in the Terms of Reference (**Annex 1**). The review team has assessed the following three categories of project progress. For each category, the review team was required to rate overall progress using a six-point rating scale as required by GEF evaluation criteria (**Annex 2**):

1. Project Strategy
 - Project Design
 - Results Framework/Logframe
2. Progress Towards Results
 - Progress towards outcomes analysis
 - Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective
3. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management*
 - Management Arrangements
 - Work planning
 - Finance and co-finance
 - Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Reporting
 - Communications
4. Sustainability
 - Financial risks to sustainability
 - Socio-economic to sustainability
 - Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability
 - Environmental risks to sustainability

To achieve these tasks, the Consultant team followed standard methodology for UNDP-GEF reviews, as outlined in the *Guidance* document. This methodology sought to ask questions in the key analysis areas in three phases of a participatory and consultative approach:

1. Review of relevant documents
2. Semi-structured interviews with all stakeholders online and visits by the national consultant:
 - UNDP and Implementing Partner Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development staff who have project responsibilities
 - PMU
 - Project stakeholders
 - MoE
 - MoW
 - MoWA
 - State Representatives
 - LG representatives
 - Representatives of pilot sites

3. A Presentation/ Briefing Meeting with the key stakeholders, with discussion of and feedback on the initial findings, followed by development of the draft and final report

Questions were asked of stakeholders were based on an Evaluative Matrix (**Annex 3**), but interviews were conducted in a conversational, interactive style and the questions were modified appropriately to suit the specific respondents. The observations from these different data sources were cross-checked against each other, in a process of "triangulation".

After the consultancy contracts were approved and signed, discussions by email with UNDP Country Office (CO) and PMU personnel confirmed the stakeholders consultation online and physical interviews carried out by the National Consultant. Key documents were assembled and initial study began.

The Consultant team held virtual meeting on 11th Nov 2020 with the UNDP CO and PMU staff, where the team was briefed on the background of the programme, documentation sources and stakeholder identification, deliverables expected and the timing of such delivery. Consultations and meetings began on 12th Nov 2020. A full itinerary of online meetings was discussed and agreed (**Annex 4**).

The consultants reviewed the extent to which relevant gender and crosscutting issues were raised in the project design through use of tools in the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.

2.3 Structure of the MTR report

The review report is comprised of:

- An Executive Summary, with Project Summary Table, a brief project description, a Review rating table and a summary of of conclusions, recommendations and lessons learnt
- An introduction, summarizing the review's purpose, scope and methodology
- A brief description of the project and its development context, including the background to the project
- The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review
- Annexes including information about the review process, project co-financing, a proposed revised Strategic Results Framework, Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.

The following Annexes provide additional supporting documentation to the Report:

Annex 8. UNDP-GEF MTR Audit Trail

Annex 9. Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Form

Annex 10. Signed MTR final report clearance form

3 Project description and background context

3.1 Context of the project and problems it seeks to address

3.1.1 Background and context

Nigeria has huge, largely untapped, agricultural growth potential, with an abundance of arable land and water, and a domestic market of some 170 million people – the largest in Africa. Only 40% of the 84million hectares of arable land in the country is cultivated. This potential requires considerable investment given that some 90 per cent of agricultural production remains rain-fed. Agricultural production is dominated by about 15 million smallholders who account for over 90 percent of the national food production. Smallholders, mostly subsistence producers, account for 80% of all farm holdings, which on average are about 2.5ha per holding or less. This subsistence system is characterized by use of simple farm tools, small farm holdings, restricted access to credit facilities and low agricultural inputs, inadequate storage facilities, significant post-harvest losses, insecure markets for post-harvest products and exploitation of farmers by the middlemen.

The need is great, however. Nigeria remains a food deficit country relying on cereal imports (mostly rice and wheat) that were forecast to exceed seven million tonnes in 2016 in order to maintain food security for its population. Current production of rice, which is increasingly becoming important for the food basket of an average household, stands at about 5.7million metric tonnes annually, against a demand of 7million metric tonnes, and imports have increased in the recent past, with Nigeria currently the second largest importer of rice in the world. As farmers push cultivation into new lands and/or reduce fallow intervals, soil fertility declines, particularly where there are no compensatory inputs in the form of organic fertilizers. Over time, land degradation results, undermining long-term farming- system viability. This also exposes farmers to shocks, particularly in agro-pastoral production ecosystems. In fact, food insecurity and poverty remain the two top development challenges in Nigeria. Some 69% of Nigerians still live below the universal poverty line of \$1.25per day and food insecurity rose from about 18% in 1986 to about 41% in 2004, to about % in 2016.

3.1.2 Problems/challenges to be addressed

It is projected that by 2020 half of Nigeria's agro-ecological zones (AEZs) will not be able to meet demand for food through local supply, rising to 75% by 2050 and persistently low oil prices are hampering the country's capacity to continue importing food. This complex and challenging situation requires significant advances in agricultural development based on strengthening smallholder farmers, increasing their capacity to engage in value chains and markets and reducing risk associated with their farming systems through building greater resilience.

The productivity of smallholder agriculture and its contribution to the economy, food security and poverty reduction in Nigeria depend on the services provided by well-

functioning ecosystems, including soil fertility, freshwater delivery, pollination and pest control. Smallholder farming practices, in turn, affect the condition of ecosystems. In general, poverty and immediate needs have driven smallholders to put pressure on ecosystems, for example through habitat modification, over-extraction of water and nutrients, and use of pesticides. Thus, many of the productivity gains accrued to smallholder farmers in the country came with environmental externalities, leaving soils degraded and groundwater depleted, undermining the very resource base that made the revolution possible. In yet other agro-ecological zones, the modification of habitats, such as through deforestation, has resulted in the inability of ecosystems to regulate floods, and this has in many cases contributed to reduced yields in rice production for instance. Food production through agriculture, has largely been achieved at the expense of reductions in other ecosystem services. Environmental degradation contributes to food insecurity, as natural ecosystems that provide most of the smallholders with food, fuel, medicine, building materials and cultural identity are being systematically degraded and destroyed, and their regenerative and strategic productive capacity jeopardized. Unsustainable land management practices lead to scarcity of water for both drinking and agriculture. Environmental degradation generates multiple negative feedbacks on food production systems, and on the livelihoods and human well-being they support. The recent outbreak of the tomato pest (*Tuta Absoluta*) that more or less wiped out tomato from the menu of most Nigerians could be one of such negative feedbacks from poor and environmentally unfriendly agricultural practices that had persisted in the country for a while. Ecosystem deterioration, and the resultant loss of integrity, biodiversity and valued ecosystem services, along with the risk of reduced system resiliency to future shocks, must be more adequately factored into our understanding of drivers and the complex system feedbacks that their trends induce to safeguard food security in the country.

This project is implemented in Northern Nigeria, which accounts for approximately 75% of the country's land area and includes the north-central, north-east and north-west geopolitical zones of the country. This is an area targeted by the government to support national food security. A largely savannah landscape (Guinea-Sudan-Sahel), the major crops grown are grain legumes, cereal, root crops and tubers. It is also the major livestock production area in Nigeria. To meet the rapidly increasing demand for food by an ever-expanding human population (estimated to grow by 2.5% annually), it is expected that crop production must expand at a 4% annual rate, while livestock production must expand by more than 3% annually between now and 2025. This substantial growth requirement means both an emphasis on intensification and potentially more extensive production, pushing into marginal areas and inducing greater vulnerability to climate change and variability.

Challenges facing farmers and agro-pastoralists in Northern Nigeria are especially acute. The August 2015 Food Security and Livelihood Assessment in Northeast Nigeria by Food Security Sector Humanitarian Agencies indicated that about 31% of households experienced moderate to severe hunger. Yobe State had the highest percentage (48%) of food insecure households, due mainly to low agricultural output per household compared to other adjacent states. On average, about 37% of displaced households experienced moderate to severe hunger. Similarly, a 2016 Livelihoods and

Economic Recovery Assessment report by the UNDP indicated that 46% of households in the Northeastern part of the country have to borrow to eat, a challenge likely to be exacerbated by the Central Bank of Nigeria's recent decision to allow the Naira to float against the US dollar, likely to lead to a further devaluation in the currency and reduced purchasing power. In Borno State, in May 2016, some 217,000 people required emergency food assistance, and overall, some 3.2 million people across all the eight states in the North-east (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) and North-west (Jigawa, Kano, Katsina Sokoto and Zamfara) were affected (FAO, 2016). In 2014 Nigeria ranked 152nd out of 182 on the UNDP Human Development Index. Overall, the FAO estimates some 12.9 million Nigerians are undernourished (FAO, 2015).

Many of the above challenges are recognized in the government's Vision 20:2020 4 document, in the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, and other policy documents including the National Climate Change Policy and Responsive Strategy, National Agricultural Resilience Framework and the new Agricultural Promotion Policy (2016-2020) and the overall Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (February 2017) that officially recognizes agriculture as an important sector for driving the economy forward following reduced income from the oil sector. Building sustainable food production systems that meet the future food security needs of Nigerians forms the core of these approaches. Agriculture remains a key component of Nigeria's economy, accounting for an average of 23% of the GDP between 2010 and 2014 and employing about 60% of the active population.

The intertwined, but complex, relationships between poverty, food insecurity and climate change denote a significant task facing Nigeria as it seeks to achieve and sustain the objectives of its Vision 20:2020, and the many plans and strategies currently in place or under development, as well as tackle the key sustainable development goals of ending poverty (SDG1), ending hunger (SDG2), tackling climate change (SDG13), and protecting its ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use (SDG 15). As in most rural development contexts in Sub-Saharan Africa, there are also significant gender components embedded in food insecurity and vulnerability. For this reason, fostering resilient and sustainable food security in Nigeria requires women's empowerment and the achievement of gender equality (SDG5), particularly in the agricultural production and food processing sectors. Many of the country's women smallholders farm an average plot size of 1 to 2 hectares, usually with little or limited mechanization and low access to credit, fertilizers and storage facilities. As a result, productivity and production levels are low. National average food production growth rates are estimated to be just 3.7 percent, far behind growth in demand for food at 6.5 percent.

Overall, Nigeria remains a food deficit country. Coupled with problems of production and productivity, dwindling oil revenues hamper Nigeria's ability to import food. This complex and challenging situation requires significant change in the way farming is developed, with an emphasis on integrated solutions that build greater capacity to produce more within systems that are more environmentally sustainable.

3.2 Development context

The Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria Project serves the development needs of Ethiopia, in line with the goals of its relevant donor organisations under the United Nations mandate.

Agriculture shapes Nigeria's physical landscape and remains a significant contributor to its economic and social landscape, accounting for some 22 percent of national GDP and providing employment for about 70 percent of the labor force. In past decades, slow growth in the agricultural sector and rapid increases in population shifted Nigeria from self-sufficiency in food production during the 1960s to heavy reliance on food imports from the 1980s onwards. Poor agricultural output and widespread poverty have resulted in extensive and persistent food insecurity. In 2015 Nigeria was ranked 91st out of 116 in the Global Hunger Index and 91st out of 108 in the Global Food Security Index.

In recent years, with declining oil prices the potential economic significance of the agricultural sector has grown. Nevertheless, the sector faces significant challenges including global warming and increasing climate variability. The potential for external shocks to further compound food insecurity and affect sector development is high. Future food security and wider economic development driven by a thriving agricultural sector require an integrated approach under which agricultural development and environmental sustainability develop in tandem, reducing risks to communities and enhancing the sustainable development of key value chains.

The overall goal of this project is therefore to enhance long-term sustainability and resilience of food production systems in Nigeria, building greater community resilience to climate risks and other shocks that drive food insecurity. This will be achieved through interventions that: (i) enhance the policy and institutional enabling environment for achieving improved food security in a sustainable, resilient and value-chain driven manner; (ii) scale up sustainable land and water management (SLWM) and climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practices in support of environmental and social development benefits at farm and landscape level; and (iii) reduce gender disparities in agricultural production, which substantially affect overall sector performance.

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s):

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Under UNDAF/Country Programme Outcome is:

Outcome 3.3 Nigeria's productive system is value chain-linked driven, productivity enhancing, sectorally-linked and inclusive, based on green and relevant technology,

supported by robust private sector-friendly investment policies that provide gender-friendly opportunities and promote rural economic development by 2017.

Outcome 4.3 By 2017, Nigeria's environmental vulnerability to negative effects of economic activities, urbanization and climate change is reduced through efficient use of natural resources, a reformed regulatory framework aligned with Nigeria's international commitments, enforced at Federal, State and local levels by strengthened institutions, and a private sector and population that are environmentally conscious and taking action towards environmental sustainability.

UNDP Strategic Plan Output:

This project will be linked to the following output of the UNDP Strategic Plan:

Output 1.3: Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste.

GEF objective and programme

This project contributes to the GEF's Land Degradation objectives 1, 3, and 4: (1- Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods; 3 - Reduce pressures on natural resources by managing competing land uses in broader landscapes; and 4 - Maximize transformational impact through mainstreaming of SLM for agro-ecosystem services). The programs covered under the Land Degradation objectives include programs 1 - Agro-ecological intensification; 2 - SLM for Climate-smart Agriculture; 4 - Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach; and 5 - SLM Mainstreaming in Development.

3.3 Project description and strategy

The Project objective of Food systems Project is: *"To enhance productivity and promote sustainability and resilience of Nigeria's agricultural production systems for improved national food security."*

The project is aimed to enhance long-term sustainability and resilience of food production systems in Nigeria, building greater community resilience to climate risks and other shocks that drive food insecurity. This will be achieved through interventions that: (i) enhance the policy and institutional enabling environment for achieving improved food security in a sustainable, resilient and value-chain driven manner; (ii) scale up sustainable land and water management (SLWM) and climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practices in support of environmental and social development benefits at farm and landscape level; and (iii) reduce gender disparities in agricultural production, which substantially affect overall sector performance.

The project is achieving the long-term sustainability and resilience of food production systems in Nigeria through its four Component/ Outcome areas. Some indicators for the Objective and each of the Outcome areas are summarized below:

Component 1: Enhancing the institutional and policy environment for achieving improved food security:

Component 2: Scaling up sustainable agricultural practices and market opportunities for smallholder farmers in the target agro-ecological zones to increase food security under increasing climate risks

Component 3: Knowledge, Monitoring and Assessment

Component 1: Enhancing the institutional and policy environment for achieving improved food security:

Outcome 1: Supportive policies, governance structures and incentives in place at Federal and State levels to support sustainability and resilience of smallholder agriculture and food value chains

Output 1.1: Support to the implementation of The Green Alternative/Agriculture Promotion Policy to promote sustainable and resilient food and nutrition security

Output 1.2: National and state level multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and SLWM practices for improved food security

Output 1.3: Public-Private Partnerships established for major food crops (cassava, rice and sorghum) value chains for food production, processing and distribution

Component 2: Scaling up sustainable agricultural practices and market opportunities for smallholder farmers in the target agro-ecological zones to increase food security under increasing climate risks

Outcome 2: Increased land area and agro-ecosystems under sustainable agricultural practices

Output 2.1: 350,000 ha under improved land use and agro-ecosystem management practices

Output 2.2: Increased value addition and access to markets realized by beneficiary smallholder farmers

Output 2.3: 35,000 ha under intensive and diversified production for enhanced income and improved nutrition.

Outcome 3: Improved youth involvement and reduced gender disparities in agricultural production for enhanced food security

Output 3.1. 14,000 women and 28,000 youth incentivized to participate/engage in increased groundnut and rice production and processing for improved income and nutrition

Component 3: Knowledge, Monitoring and Assessment

Outcome 4: Harmonized M&E framework in place for food security information, multi-scale assessment of sustainability and resilience in production agro-ecological zones and landscapes and monitoring of global environmental benefits (GEBs).

Output 4.1: Capacity in place to monitor and report on the food security situation with emphasis on its resilience and sustainability at national, state and local levels:

Output 4.2: M&E System for GEBs using the Vital Signs monitoring framework

Output 4.3: Functional linkage with the regional Food Security IAP initiative:

3.4 Project implementation arrangements

The project management implementation arrangements follows NIM (National Implementation Modality), which is the UNDP format for a Program Based Approach on donor harmonization and government ownership. Under NIM, the Federal Government of Nigeria exercises full ownership of a partnership that includes all relevant stakeholders in a common effort. The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Implementing Partner (IP) is responsible and accountable for managing this project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of UNDP resources. The Project Management Structure is shown in Figure 1.

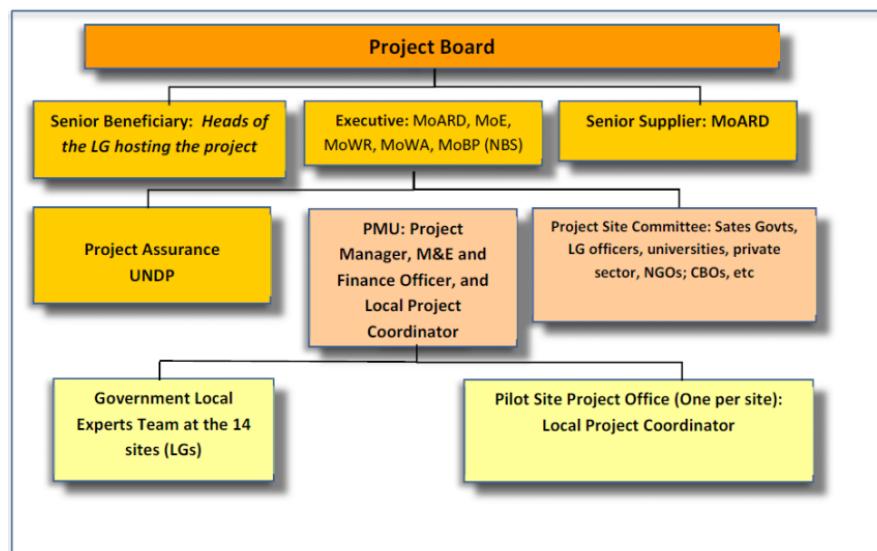


Figure 1 Project Management Structure

In the Structure, there is a Project Board (Project Steering Committee) that is responsible for making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendation for UNDP/Implementing Partner

approval of project plans and revisions. The Project Steering Committee is comprised of the representatives of the following institutions:

- Executive Director, MoARD, Chair
- UNDP (Co-Chair)
- MoE Technical Expert
- MoWR
- MoWA
- MoBP
- State Representatives
- Local Government representatives
- Representatives of pilot sites
- Project Manager (Secretary)

The Project Manager participates as a non-voting member in the PSC meetings and is also responsible for compiling a summary report of the discussions and conclusions of each meeting. The project Manager runs the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Board.

The PSC meets twice a year, to approve the annual work plans and annual progress reports, and it provides overall guidance for the project throughout implementation.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will consist of the Project Manager, a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and a Finance and Administration Officer, and a Local Level Coordinator supporting implementation at the site level. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will avail technical officers at both the central and site levels who will advise the technical design and implementation of project interventions. The ministry will also avail office space for and support to the PMU.

3.5 Project timing and milestones

A summary of the key project milestones and their dates is provided in Table .

Table 2. Project milestone dates

Milestone	Date
GEF PIF Approval	May 2015
Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting held	November 2017
GEF CEO Endorsement	June 2017
Inception workshop	December 2017
Project launch	December 2017
First Project Steering Committee meeting	September 2018
Actual field implementation start	Oct 2018
Mid-term Evaluation	June 2020
Terminal Evaluation due	September 2022
Expected project ending date	December 2022

3.6 Main stakeholders

A summary list of stakeholders is provided below.

- MoARD
- UNDP
- MoE
- MoWR
- MoWA
- MoBP
- State Representatives
- Local Government pilot sites

4 Findings

4.1 Project strategy

The project's key strategy aligns with existing national and states' agendas in the attainment of food security. These includes the Vision 20:2020, the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, the National Climate Change Policy and Responsive Strategy, National Agricultural Resilience Framework and the new Agricultural Promotion Policy (2016-2020) and the overall Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (which was launched in February 2017) that officially recognizes agriculture as an important sector for driving the growth of the economy, promote economic diversification and reduced the overdependence on the oil sector.

The project's overall objectives - To enhance productivity and promote sustainability and resilience of Nigeria's agricultural production systems for improved national food security and the three interrelated pathways for attaining this objectives - namely: (i) Strengthening institutional and policy coherence; (ii) Scaling up sustainable land and water management practices; and (iii) Addressing gender disparities in agricultural production and food value chains aligns with overall national goal of tackling poverty, reducing unemployment, ensuring food and nutrition security, tackling climate change, rural and agricultural transformation.

The intertwined, but complex, relationships between poverty, food insecurity and climate change denote a significant task facing Nigeria as it seeks to achieve and sustain the objectives of its Vision 20:2020, and the many plans and strategies currently in place or under development, as well as tackle the key sustainable development goals of ending poverty (SDG1), ending hunger (SDG2), tackling climate change (SDG13), and protecting its ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use (SDG 15). As in most rural development contexts in Sub-Saharan Africa, there are also significant gender components embedded in food insecurity and vulnerability. For this reason, fostering resilient and sustainable food security in Nigeria requires women's empowerment and the achievement of gender equality (SDG5), particularly in the agricultural production and food processing sectors. Many of the country's women smallholders farm an average plot size of 1 to 2 hectares, usually with little or limited mechanization and low access to credit, fertilizers and storage facilities. As a result, productivity and production

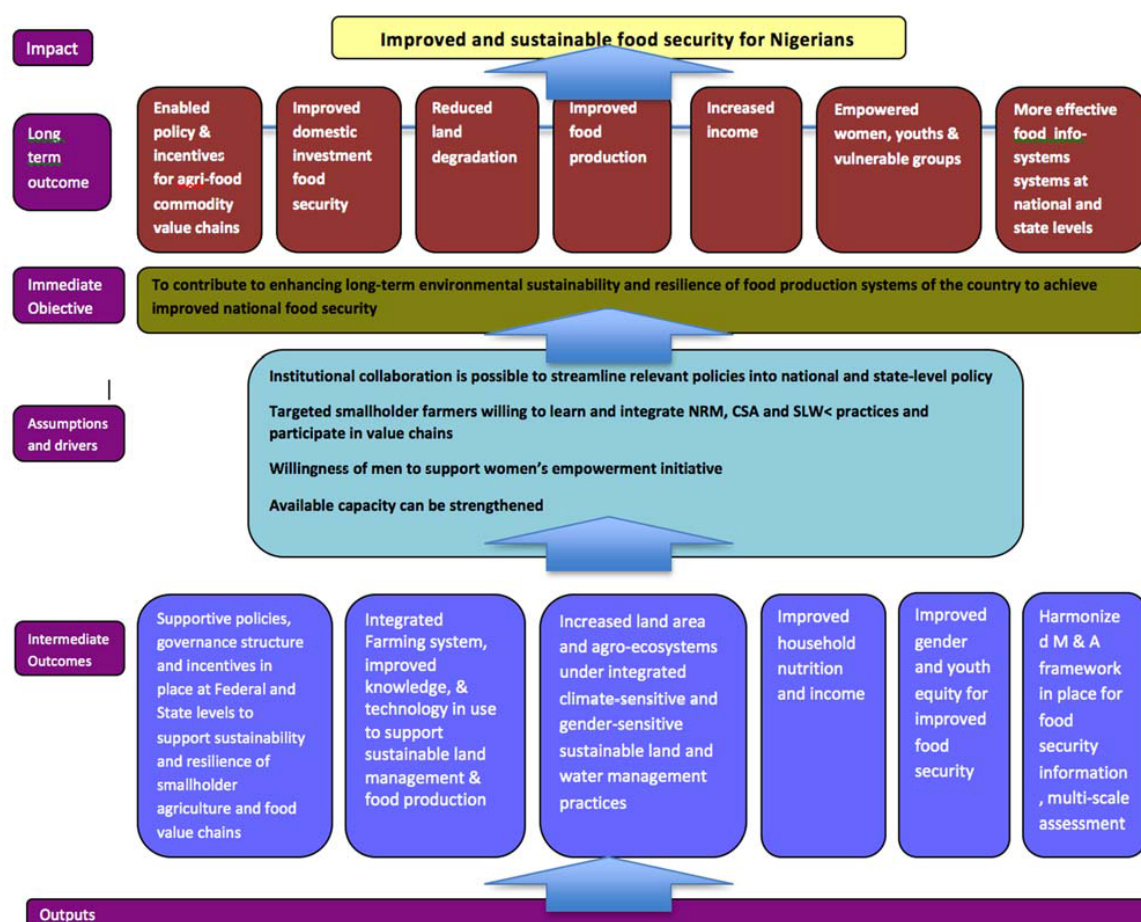
levels are low. National average food production growth rates are estimated to be just 3.7 percent, far behind growth in demand for food at 6.5 percent.

Overall, Nigeria remains a food deficit country. Coupled with problems of production and productivity, dwindling oil revenues hamper Nigeria's ability to import food. This complex and challenging situation requires significant change in the way farming is developed, with an emphasis on integrated solutions that build greater capacity to produce more within systems that are more environmentally sustainable.

4.1.1 Project Design

Project identification and assumptions

Theory of Change: The project's TOC recognizes that food security is the product of both socio-economic and environmental drivers. Addressing these drivers requires both coherent policies and institutions that influence the ability of farming households to foster sustainable food security and address critical shocks (e.g. climate change and conflicts) in order to enhance the resilience of food production systems. A landscape approach to management is key, integrating resilience of land-use systems, natural resource management and livelihood security.



It must be noted that the external drivers are determinant factor to achieve the results at the impact level. Therefore, the project management unit and UNDP should closely work with the steering and technical committee. In conclusion, the project management

and the implementing partner should keep an eye on the drivers and assumptions all the time while implementing the activities on the ground. Hence, the MTR team believes the theory of change is well designed to lead the project towards the intended objective.

The project's assumptions include the following:

- Federal and State governments are willing to develop policies and adopt value chain approaches to agricultural transformation under which Ministries, Departments and Agencies collaborate to streamline key policies into a national policy on food security and state-level food commodity value chain initiatives;
- Male and female smallholder farmers, once exposed to INRM and SLWM practices, will be willing to adopt them, to learn and integrate NRM, CSA and SLWM practices into agricultural production, and to participate in commodity food value chain initiatives;
- Improved power relations among men and women ensure the success of the female-targeted interventions and youth can be provided sufficient incentives to engage in the agriculture sector;
- National priority is given to the collection of disaggregated food security data for impact monitoring, and adequate capacity at federal, state and community levels exists, in addition to which there is adequate budget; and
- Private sector participation and guaranteed access to markets are some of the critical impact drivers of the project. In view of recent government commitment to transforming the agriculture sector to meet the food and nutrition needs of Nigerians through added market value chains, these assumptions would not pose serious risks to the project.

Relevance to international and country priorities

The project is assessed as very relevant to both the international and country level priorities. The three key pathways towards the attaining of the project objectives are in line with the GEF global key strategic priorities of: (1) Addressing Drivers of Environmental Degradation, (2) Delivering Integrated Solutions, (3) Enhancing Resilience and Adaptation, (4) Ensuring Complementarity and Synergies in the Global Financing Architecture, and (5) Choosing the Right Influencing Models.

- The project is also relevant for the attainment of key goals within sustainable development goals namely: ending poverty (SDG1), ending hunger (SDG2), Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG5), tackling climate change (SDG13), and protecting its ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use (SDG 15). The project will remain relevant in the attainment of the above and other related SDGs in the implementing communities, local governments and states.
- The project is also very relevant for the outlined national priorities within the ERGP. The ERGP has set as a priority the need to use agriculture to achieve food security, create jobs and save foreign exchange and reduce the over dependence on food imports.

International agreements/ frameworks

As a member of the global community, Nigeria has signed up to a number of international treaties and frameworks. Key among them with high relevance to the project and its implementation include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is worth noting that the project's implementation aligns with the commitment of the Federal government of Nigeria to these treaties and framework. Of particular interest is the relevance of the project in the attainment of the Nigeria's key measures under the intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) – promoting climate smart agriculture and reforestation.

National priorities

The Nigeria's ERGP launched in 2017 prioritized economic recovery and growth by catalyzing the transformation of the key sectors that are relevant for the diversification of the Nigerian economy, including agriculture. The project has remained relevant in the implementation of this important national priority of economic growth and diversification. As Nigeria enters into another recession, the second within four years and the government push to develop a new economic development plan to be tagged Vision 2040, the project's implementation in pilot states and replications in other will remain relevant.

Broader development effects

Nigeria development challenges include slowdown in the economic growth, youth unemployment, conflicts, insurgency and insecurity affecting nearly all parts of the country, high population growth rate and exposure to climate change and variability just to mention a few. Addressing these and other development concerns hinged on agriculture – which employs over 70 percent of the population has been a major contributor to GDP growth. Agriculture has consistently contributed to GDP growth in the country. The sector grew by 4.88 percent in Q3 2016 and by as much as 13 percent in 2015. It is widely accepted that investments in agriculture can guarantee food-security, can contribute to job creation, particularly for the youth and women, ensuring huge savings in foreign exchange and catalyse overall economic development of the country. The successful implementation of the project will provide a unique model towards using agriculture for economic transformation of the country.

Lessons from other projects and programmes

The GEF Project complements other ongoing agricultural interventions by UNDP and other donor agencies in implementing states, particularly the various donor support for revamping agricultural production in Adamawa State, one of the states in the North-eastern Nigeria that has been ravaged by the Boko Haram insurgency. The project also complements the UNDP led United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) funding project which aims to end the herdsman-farmers crisis in the middle-belt region of Nigeria, including Benue State.

The GEF project can draw specific lessons from the ongoing and concluded projects in terms of navigating the challenges hampering project implementation in a crisis. Key lessons to be drawn include how these other projects have been able to overcome insecurity and related challenges in attaining set milestones.

Other key lessons include broadening project the stakeholders' base to include both primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders whose influence may affect the project implementation and who are affected by the core problems being addressed by the projects three-pathways. The nexus between food, energy (various forms of fuels) and the environment remain very strong in Nigeria. The project needs to draw lessons on developing workplan and activities that attain the overall project objectives as well as help to attain an equilibrium between food, fuel and environmental sustainability.

Sustainability and viability considerations

The implementation of the GEF project - Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria has shown a high degree of sustainability and viable in the pilot communities in selected states. By implementing the three-pathways for addressing the challenges to food security and environmental sustainability, there is a changing social, economic and environmental paradigms with key stakeholders – end beneficiary leading and taking very active role in the project implementation.

- **Social sustainability**

The participation of women and youth in the implementation has set the tone for the attainment of social sustainability of the project. The Project key intervention have been crucial towards addressing social concerns by creating employment for the youth and women, empowering women and ensuring these segments of the population play more active role in promoting food production system that is both resilient and environmentally sustainable. The models being scaled-up and fostered by the project will have higher level of adoption and replicability across the country with the focus on youth and women.

- **Economic/Financial sustainability**

The project's focus on northern ecological zones, an area that has been experiencing greater economic vulnerability and declining in productivity will help in fostering economic and financial sustainability by revamping key natural resources and productive assets, while protecting the environment. With a higher percentage of the population in the region relying on agriculture for their livelihood, the project's goal of fostering resilient and sustainable food production system has improved income, enhanced livelihoods of members of the beneficiary communities.

- **Environmental sustainability**

The project's core goal is fostering environmental sustainability by promoting models and technologies that ensures food security with little or no negative impact on the environment. The setting up of 125 hectares of land for the purpose of demonstration

plots to showcase climate smart agriculture and sustainable land and water management for Rice, Groundnuts, Maize, Sorghum, Cow-pea, Cassava and Soy beans has increased awareness on sustainable production system for these crops in the implementing states.

- **Stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes**

There has been stakeholder's engagement and active participation throughout the project stages including conception and implementation. The active engagement of beneficiaries in designing yearly work program and full involvement in the project activities accounts for the progress attained by project. The inauguration of the project steering committees at the national, state and local communities at the onset of the project has been a key approach for ensuring stakeholders participation.

- **Gender issues**

A major pathway for the attainment of the project overall goals is addressing gender disparities in agricultural production. Indeed, the project locations have persisting cultural and social conditions that have always limited access to productive assets and participation in livelihood activities by women. The project implementation and involvement of WOFAN in mainstreaming gender, promoting gender sensitive innovations, technologies and systems is helping to ensure gender equality and ensuring women and youth are empowered.

4.1.2 Design of the Results framework

The Project's results framework as captured by the theory of change fully outlined the problems and the pathways for the attainment of the overall project objective. The project implementation so far has paid due attention to the key components of the result framework and also created a synergy between specific outcomes towards the overall project goal. While progress has been made towards attaining key outcomes specified in the project components, attention must be paid to new realities and changing assumptions that underpinned the project theory of change such as the changing economic reality and the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected the country as well as the implementing states and communities. The consultants also found the project indicators in the result framework SMART.

4.2 Progress towards Results

4.2.1 Progress towards output results and barriers to achieving the project objectives

Project Objective

The Project Objective is: *"To enhance productivity and promote sustainability and resilience of Nigeria's agricultural production systems for improved national food security."*

In the Results Framework, there are twelve (12) indicators at Objective level. These indicators are:

Mandatory indicator 1: Number of additional people (smallholder farmers) benefitting from strengthened livelihoods through solutions for management of natural resources, ecosystems services, chemicals and waste.

By Mid-term, the project was to benefit at least 500,000 farmers directly and indirectly from improved land and water management practices for sustainable agriculture by beneficiary farmers introduced under the project.

So far, a total number of 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries (80.1% achievement) have directly benefited from improved land and water management practices for sustainable agriculture introduced by the project. This group which will continue to increase cumulatively every year and will lead to the obtainment of 1,000,000 additional (indirect beneficiaries) small holder farmers who will be benefiting from strengthened livelihood through solutions for management of natural resources, ecosystems services, chemical and waste. The PMU thinks that this will be achieved through neighbouring community dissemination of knowledge and information continuously.

During this reporting period, the project carried out various interventions/activities which took place mainly at community level to keep pace with requirements of this indicator. Many beneficiaries benefited from these interventions through full participation and interaction with project team and consultants. These activities include the following:

- i. Training of beneficiaries on identified community suitable crops and sustainable agricultural practices (GAP); A total number of 6,102 (Male = 3,023, Female = 3,079) community beneficiaries attended and started putting what they learned into practice during this ongoing rainy season.
- ii. Beneficiaries practicing sustainable Land & water management technology as a means of climate smart agriculture using treadle pumps provided by the project have reached a total of 1,593 (Male = 703, Female = 890) . The device is climate smart friendly because it is mechanical with two pedals and no fuel is required to operate it. It provides water to irrigation farmland and drains flooded farm with ease.
- iii. To combat soil erosion devastation that affect some farmers farmland, the project supported at total number of 1,350 (Male = 992, Female = 358) to minimize and control soil and rill erosion in their plots.
- iv. The project trained other beneficiaries groups on how to establish agro-forestry system in their farmland and at community landscape with a view to increase vegetation cover and sequester carbon. Up to 3,599 (Male = 1,989, Female = 1,610) direct beneficiaries were involved in the exercise.
- v. In order to have an alternative livelihood package for the beneficiaries as coping mechanism to drive away poverty, the project supported and trained beneficiaries with a starter pack for alternative livelihood in bee keeping, ram & goat fattening and dairy goat. The total number of the beneficiaries in this category are 1,389 (Male = 815, Female = 574)

- vi. so many beneficiaries have benefited from new innovation and technologies such as making use of aflasafe as bio-pesticide to prevent aflatoxin infection; use of treadle pumps for irrigation and to scoop water out of flooded farm lands which is climate smart; use of inoculant for nitrogen fixation in soya beans; terracing i.e making ridges across the slope and earth bonding to control flow of water in and out of farmlands; use of improved varieties of crops/seeds which are drought tolerant ,pest resistant, and matures early); micro dosing of inorganic fertilizer with manure; mixing of tree crops with cereal and legumes OR mix cropping system to improve nitrogen economy & soil quality; integrated pests & weeds management and e.t.c using demonstration plots which serve as a practical training sites for target farmers and as at this reporting period, a total number of 12,745 (Male = 8,285, Female = 4,460) participated and continued to practice what they learned to boost their production and increase their income and 7,466 (Male = 7,466, Female = 4,630) members of cooperative groups are engaged in value chain of rice, groundnuts and cassava supported in various ways by the project. The project is proposing a survey to determine indirect beneficiaries. This survey will be conducted during the end of project evaluation in the last year of the project after the project activities have reached climax and spread widely to the neighbouring communities. Therefore, the result will be available in end line survey report.

This indicator has been partially achieved and the achievement will continue throughout the five-year period of the project time frame. The reasons for not fully achieving this indicator are:

- i. The project field implementation did not start as planned i.e it started 10 months behind schedule. The implementation was supposed to start in January 2018 but started in October 2018 (10 months late)
- ii. Covid-19 consumes almost 7 month of full field implementation. Activities were carried out skeletally through virtual medium and remotely by phone.
- iii. Dip stick assessment survey, Farmers' technology adoption surveys and Beneficiaries feedback mechanism survey which are all supposed to take place this year to estimate the number of total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries benefiting from the project in the project sites could not be held because of Covid-19 and shifted to next year.

It is worth noting therefore, the 38,874 beneficiaries reported are the ones who benefitted from project trainings, coaching and mentoring as well as recipients of inputs from the project purse not actually everyone who directly or indirectly benefited from the project activities from inception to date. These will be captured and reported next year after the conduct of the three surveys mentioned above.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as "On Target",

Mandatory indicator 2: Number of jobs and improved livelihoods created through management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste, disaggregated by sex, and rural and urban.

The project planned to create at least additional 50,000 jobs in the food value chains for rice, sorghum, maize, groundnuts and cassava.

The project has so far facilitated the creation of 39,981 (79.9% achievement) (Male = 24,009, Female = 15,972) jobs and improved livelihood in both on-farm and off-farm activities in the following areas:

- i. Under on-farm activities, up to 38,592 (Male = 23,194, Female = 15,398) have been created in production, processing, marketing, agro-input dealing and farm service provision along value chain of rice, groundnut, cassava, cowpea and other commodities. This is done using Nigerian Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) system where one hectare provides up to 12 jobs both at lower and upper stream.
- ii. As many as 1,389 (Male=815, Female =574) jobs have been created in bee keeping, ram fattening and dairy goat and production/multiplication. The beneficiaries have already been trained and the project has provided them with starter packs which are materials, items, equipment, animals, building, space, etc as off farm livelihood support for income generation.in addition to farming) So far, 323 rams, 349 goats and 717 beehives have been provided and made available to the beneficiaries in 7 project states for ram fattening, goat dairy and production and beekeeping respectively.

The PMU explained that other groups will be targeted in next year's budget. The beneficiaries that have been trained and given starter packs have been encouraged by the project to disseminate the skills and learning from the training received on bee keeping, ram fattening and dairy goat and production/multiplication to other farmers in the neighbouring communities for wider reach and as form of scaling up learning to more framers

All the jobs and improved livelihood the projected created are basically rural. The project has not so far created any kind of job that could be desegregated as urban yet. That's why the dis-aggregation in this report under this indicator is mainly by sex.

This indicator has been partially achieved and the achievement will continue throughout the five year period of the project time frame.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as "On Target",

Mandatory indicator 3: Number of smallholder farmers practicing climate resilient sustainable agriculture and with increased access to food and improved nutrition disaggregated by sex.

The project planned to have at least 500, 000 smallholder farmers (60% women, 40% men) practice climate-resilient sustainable agriculture and have enhanced food security through increased access to food security and improved nutrition.

So far as in mandatory indicator, 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries which led to the obtainment of total

number of both direct and indirect beneficiaries of 400,402 (80.1% achievement) have benefited from practicing climate resilient sustainable agriculture practice. The climate smart agriculture they generally practice cut across the 7 project states of Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Benue, Nasarawa, Adamawa and Gombe include terracing farming, crop rotation, use of improved variety, use of compost manure, inoculation of soya beans for nitrogen fixation, agroforestry system, erosion control, beekeeping, small ruminant dairy production, value addition at along value chain and so on.

The PMU informed the consultants that primarily, all the farm and alternative livelihood activities the project trained beneficiaries were climate smart based and that all the beneficiaries are inclined towards sustainable land and water management/climate smart agricultural practices. As for the increase in access to food and improved nutrition, the PMU is planning a survey on dip stick assessment to be conducted after the harvest of 2020.

This indicator has been partially achieved and the achievement will continue throughout the five-year period of the project time frame. The same reasons mentioned in mandatory indicator 1 to justify lack of reaching 500,000 by the mid-term review also apply here.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as “On Target”,

UN Development Objectives

It is beyond the scope of this MTR to assess progress towards the development objectives of the UN Development Assistance Framework and the UNDP Country Programme.

All the three indicators are "On target", but with considerable work remaining to achieve the targets by EoP. The overall Progress towards the Objective is judged to be Satisfactory.

*Overall Progress toward the Project Objectives is rated as **Satisfactory**.*

Progress towards Components/ Outcomes/Indicators

Component 1: Enhancing the institutional and policy environment for achieving improved food security:

Outcome 1: “Supportive policies, governance structures and incentives in place at Federal and State levels to support sustainability and resilience of smallholder agriculture and food value chains”.

Indicator 4: Number of supportive policies and incentives in place at the Federal and State levels to support sustainable smallholder agriculture and food value chains resilience of food security.

Output 1.1: Support to the implementation of The Green Alternative/Agriculture Promotion Policy to promote sustainable and resilient food and nutrition security.

The project planned to draft of (i) National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP), and (ii) National System for Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NSFNS) by mid-term

As at June 2020, the consultants who were hired to review and harmonize conflicting and divergent national food and nutrition security policies and strategies (National Policy on Environment, National Policy on Agriculture, National Food Security Programmes and Policy on Food Nutrition) submitted a draft of the policy document.

The consultants in the process of executing their duties had one on one interaction with some principal officers of some Government institutions. Some of the institutions visited for consultations included Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Federal ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Transport, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the Federal Ministry of Health. The review and harmonization of exercise was further subjected to a stakeholder review meeting which was held in February 2020. In attendance were 81 persons with 53 males and 28 females drawn from relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Development Partners, CSOs, Research institutions, private sectors and independent consultants/specialists. The objective of the stakeholders workshop was review and validate the gaps identified and come up with recommendations on how the identified gaps in the policies and institutional arrangements can be bridged and also how to engage the relevant authorities with a view to adopting appropriate policies, strategies and institutional arrangements that are considered crucial to guaranteeing sustainable food and nutrition security in Nigeria in the years ahead. The consultants have put up and submitted a draft after the stakeholder's consultative meeting which was further reviewed by expert and gave feedback.

A final draft copy was submitted by the reviewers which contain National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) and National System for Food and Nutrition Security (NSFNS) to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture for subsequent further review by the national council for policy to finalize review and approval.

This indicator has been fully achieved as the final copy has this quarter (4th quarter) been submitted to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture for approval.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as "On Target",

Indicator 5: Number of gender-sensitive and inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms established at Federal, State and local levels supporting sustainable agriculture.

Output 1.2: National and state level multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and SLWM practices for improved food security.

The project planned to have atleast 1 national multi-stakeholder, gender-sensitive and inclusive (men, women, youth, civil society etc.) and 7 state-based platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and SLM practices for improved food security.

This indicator has been delayed but once the restrictions on international flights is lifted and movement is safe across countries, the project team will work with UNEP team and their consultants to come to Nigeria to offer support to create the platform at national level then replication in the seven states will commence because in an attempt to establish a gender sensitive and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform at national level which will be replicated in the seven project states, the project team had a series of teleconferences in quarter one of 2020 with experts from UNEP who are one of the hub partners in the project to support implementing countries with component 1. The discussion was for UNEP team to support Nigerian project to establish the national platform. Discussions have reached advanced stage and a date (22nd - 24th March 2020) was fixed for conducting of the exercise in Abuja Nigeria but the coming of corona virus pandemic that necessitated enforcing travel restrictions globally, UNEP could not travel to Nigeria as scheduled. The PMU therefore put hold to the activity awaiting complete ease of travel restriction any moment.

There is need for the project to hire local consultants to create both platforms at national level and local level as against the initial plan of seeking support from UNEP as advised by the Regional office (ICRAFT).

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as “Not on Target”,

Indicator 6: Number of public private partnerships (PPPs) established for key food commodities, particularly cassava, maize, rice and sorghum that will give a major boost to food processing, production and distribution, enhance national food sufficiency and food security, as well as create employment and improve the well-being of smallholder farmers.

Output 1.3. Public-Private Partnerships established for major food crops (cassava, rice and sorghum) value chains for food production, processing and distribution

The project planned to establish at least one interstate food commodity value chains through public private partnerships (PPP).

In collaboration with WOFAN, 3 interstate food commodity value chains have been established between project beneficiaries and farm produce off taking private milling companies. These include

- i. Al-Hamsad Rice Mill Limited – Rice off taking company.
- ii. Dantata Foods and Allied Products Limited – Groundnut off taking company.
- iii. Dangote rice mill. – Rice off taking company

The millers will off take farm produce from all the 7 implementing states as buy back arrangement under contract farming system i.e the company will supply improved seeds and other qualitative farm inputs while the farmers will sell certain percentage of their produce to the companies at an agreed % increase over the prevailing urban market price.

Although, the contract was signed in 2019, some disagreement issues arose which delayed the commencement of the off taking same year. Having, re-signed the agreement now, the off taking is expected to start at the end of rainy season harvest to make the interstate food commodity value chain effective.

This indicator has been achieved its targets and surpassed with addition of one.

Progress toward Component 1

The expected outcome from outputs proposed in Component 1 is: “Supportive policies, governance structures and incentives in place at Federal and State levels to support sustainability and resilience of smallholder agriculture and food value chains”. The outcome can be achieved when all the outputs under component one are addressed; Support to the implementation of The Green Alternative/ Agriculture Promotion Policy to promote sustainable and resilient food and nutrition security; National and state level multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and SLWM practices for improved food security; and Public-Private Partnerships established for major food crops (cassava, rice and sorghum) value chains for food production, processing and distribution. The implementation progress is on course towards the targets for only 2 output indicators and not on target for 1 output indicator. Overall, progress is considered satisfactory; this could change towards to highly Satisfactory if National and state level multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and SLWM practices for improved food security are developed and operational.

Progress toward Component 1 is rated as **Satisfactory**.

Component 2: Scaling up sustainable agricultural practices and market opportunities for smallholder farmers in the target agro-ecological zones to increase food security under increasing climate risks.

Expected Outcome 2: “Increased land area and agro-ecosystems under sustainable agricultural practices”

Indicator 7: Number of hectares of land under gender-sensitive integrated sustainable land and water management and climate smart agricultural practices, managed by both men and women.

Output 2.1: 350,000 ha under improved land use and agro-ecosystem management practices

The project planned to have at least 100,000 ha of arable land and agro-ecosystems under improved land use and agro-ecosystem management practices.

So far beneficiaries use 3,637.20 hectares of land (a rapid appraisal is being undertaken to clearly disaggregate the hectares by sex for all the activities mentioned below and will be reported in the next PIR) for different activities of climate smart agricultural and integrated sustainable land and water management practices. The 3,637.20 hectares under improved land use and agro-ecosystem management practices are as follows:

- i. 87.5 hectares of land is used for community demonstration plots to showcase viability and benefit of community suitable crops and sustainable agricultural practices
- ii. 340 hectares of land has been used to established agroforestry system in farmers plot /their farmland and at community landscape with a view to increase vegetation cover and sequester carbon
- iii. 67.4 hectares of land has been used to run different activities of livelihoods like bee keeping, ram & Goat fattening etc
- iv. 3,216 hectares of land has been put under productions and processing of rice and groundnut using climate smart agriculture

This indicator has been partially achieved and the achievement will continue throughout the five-year period of the project timeframe.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as “On Target”,

Indicator 8: % reduction in soil erosion and increase in vegetation cover and carbon stored in target farmers’ plots.

Output 2.2: Increased value addition and access to markets realized by beneficiary smallholder farmers

The project planned at least 5% reduction in soil erosion and 10% increase in vegetation cover and carbon stored in pilot farm plots

Terms of reference for soil erosion control/reduction and establishment of agro-forestry to increase vegetation cover and carbon stored has been developed and consultants have been engaged to work across the 70 communities. Soil erosion control training to reclaim degraded lands and agroforestry training is ongoing across the 70 communities. Consultants are working with state teams to ensure the trainings are concluded and inputs are being procured. Also seedlings, grass species, gravels and etc are being procured for the reclamation work. Percentage reduction in soil erosion and increase in vegetation cover and carbon stored cannot be determined at this stage of reporting. Data on this will be reported at the end of 2020 rainy season when farmers trained put into practice what the consultants taught them on how to reduce the erosion and after the germination of the tree seedlings planted in farmers plot to establish agroforestry system.

This indicator has been partially achieved and the achievement will continue throughout the five year period of the project timeframe.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as “On Target”,

Indicator 9: Percentage increase in total production of targeted value chains among participating small- and medium-scale commercial farmers (dis-aggregated by rice, cassava, maize, sorghum, groundnuts, poultry, and dairy and maize) – final value chains to be decided at inception stage.

Output 2.3. 35,000 ha under intensive and diversified production for enhanced income and improved nutrition.

The project planned at least 10% increase in production of crops. No study on increase in crops production has been undertaken yet although records from demonstration plots for 2019 season revealed up to 40-50% increase in crop yield compared to farmers plot and until a study is carried out after 2020 season after farmers start adopting new technologies they are taught. No accurate estimation has been done. The PMU could not determine the increase in farmers yield till after the harvest of the 2020 rainy season. Although, the farmers have been trained on Good Agricultural Practices with emphasis on Climate Smart Agriculture and they have not been trained on suitable crops and sustainable agricultural practices in their communities. The farmers in this 2020 rainy season are practicing what they have been taught and getting technical support from extension agents. Farmers are aware of how to get access to improved seeds, technical support and other inputs to increase their yield but that cannot be determine until after 2020 rainy season harvest.

This indicator has been partially delayed to the end of 2020 harvest period.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as “Not on Target”,

Expected Outcome 3: *“Improved youth involvement and reduced gender disparities in agricultural production for enhanced food security”.*

Indicator 10: Number and percentage of women and youth who adopt new production and post-harvest technologies for rice and groundnut.

Output 3.1. 14,000 women and 28,000 youth incentivized to participate/engage in increased groundnut and rice production and processing for improved income and nutrition.

The project planned at least 20% (8,400) of targeted women and youth adopt new production and post-harvest technologies.

There are no figures on this indicator available until after a study on technology adoption has been conducted. The PMU revealed that the study is most appropriate at the end of the harvest to ascertain whether 20% of women and youth (8,400) beneficiaries adopt the technologies they learned or not. Although, construction of the

agricultural center has been completed in Nasarawa, Benue, Gombe, and Kano States and ongoing in Jigawa State. The Government of all the 7 implementing states has allocated a total of 14 hectares for the construction of Agricultural Centers in each of the 2 LGAs selected for the project. Having completed the construction work in Balanga and Kaltungo LGAs in Gombe State, Gwarzo and Garun Mallam LGA in Kano State, Kokona and Akanga LGAs in Nasarawa State and in Obi and Buruku LGAs in Benue State installation of equipment has started and almost completed before the lock down due to covid-19.

Two of the centres in Gidan Ara Community in Ringim LGA and in Dom Community in Jahun LGAs of Jigawa State have commenced construction and reasonable progress has been made so far but 4 centers in Katsina and Adamawa States are yet to commence construction, but the project already has land approved by the government for the construction. These agricultural centers are to house harvesting, production and post-harvest/processing equipment for rice, maize, sorghum, groundnut and cassava in 5 communities of each LGA. The sustainable agricultural centers are designed to demonstrate the viability and benefits of sustainable agricultural practices under the INRM, SLWM and CSA across the 7 states. These centers are processing centers for all the small hold farmers in the surrounding communities and will serve as an income generation centre for these farmers as well as create employment for the youth in the communities. The equipment being installed in these agricultural centers are Rice Trans-Planter, Rice Milling Machine, Ground Nut Harvester/Lifter, Ground Nut Harvester/Lifter, Ground Nut Decorticator, Ground Nut Oil Expeller, Ground Nut Oil Refiner, Cassava Slicing Machine, Cassava Press with Jerks, Cassava Sieving Machine and Cassava Graters. All these have been procured and are being installed in the centers and will be officially handed over to the respective state governments in all 7 states.

A comprehensive training (ToT) on practical sustainable intensification, production and processing of rice, sorghum, maize, groundnuts and cassava has been planned in collaboration with WOFAN for the 1st quarter in 2020 for women and youth who are the direct beneficiaries of the project in each of these communities but has been put on hold due to the covid-19 situation. As soon as the lock down is relaxed and workshops are allowed, the team will kick start the training of the beneficiaries specially on processing.

This indicator has been partially achieved and will be completed at the end of 2020 harvest period when more farmers adopt different appropriate technologies relevant to their community.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as “On Target”,

Indicator 11: Number of women and youth actively involved in food production and value chains for rice and groundnut.

The project planned to target at least 30% (12,600) women and youth participating in full value chain processes for rice and groundnut.

Since June 2019 to date, the project records a total of 12,096 (Male = 7,466, Female = 4,630) who are involved in food production and value chains for rice and groundnut activities registered with 524 farmers' cooperative societies. Since then, the project has built their capacities through showcasing viability and benefits of involving in rice and groundnut value chain. They have been linked with rice and groundnut mills that serve as private off taking companies for a more profitable market. Community extension workers have offered them farm advisory services at different capacity and continued to mentor them.

Additional 5,000 Women and youth have been targeted to participate in a comprehensive training of trainers (ToT) on practical sustainable intensification, production and processing of rice, sorghum, maize, groundnuts and cassava by WOFAN as integral part of quarter one 2020 activities which was postponed due to COVID 19. As soon as the lock down is relaxed, the team will kick start the training to the beneficiaries

This indicator has been partially achieved and the achievement will continue throughout the five year period of the project timeframe.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as "On Target",

Progress toward Component 2

The expected outcome from outputs proposed in Component 2 is: *"Increased land area and agro-ecosystems under sustainable agricultural practices" and "Improved youth involvement and reduced gender disparities in agricultural production for enhanced food security"*. The outcome can be achieved when all the outputs under component two are addressed; 350,000 ha under improved land use and agro-ecosystem management practices; increased value addition and access to markets realized by beneficiary smallholder farmers; 35,000 ha under intensive and diversified production for enhanced income and improved nutrition; and 14,000 women and 28,000 youth incentivized to participate/engage in increased groundnut and rice production and processing for improved income and nutrition. The implementation progress is on course towards the targets for 4 output indicators and not on target for 1 output indicator. Overall, progress is considered satisfactory; this could change towards to Highly Satisfactory if 35,000 hectares are under intensive and diversified production for enhanced income and improved nutrition.

Progress toward Component 2 is rated as Satisfactory.

Component 3: Knowledge, Monitoring and Assessment

Expected Outcome 4: "Harmonized M&E framework in place for food security information, multi-scale assessment of sustainability and resilience in production agro-ecological zones and landscapes and monitoring of global environmental benefits (GEBs)"

Output 4.1: Capacity in place to monitor and report on the food security situation with emphasis on its resilience and sustainability at national, state and local levels

Output 4.2: M&E System for GEBs using the Vital Signs monitoring framework

Output 4.3: Functional linkage with the regional Food Security IAP initiative

Indicator 12: Level of gender-dis-aggregated data on resilience and global environmental benefits of sustainable agriculture for food security.

The project planned to have functional food security reporting and monitoring system at national level, using the Vital Signs Framework.

The project has signed a contract with Conservation International and has trained train M&E officers from the 7 States' ADPs and Ministries of Agriculture and Federal Staff (27 persons) on Vital signs, Resilience Atlas, and on Trends Earth to enable them to measure progress towards GEB targets and other key project targets. This also includes customizing Vital Signs package to capture the progress in land restoration from the SLWM practices adopted by the project, land cover changes in the project sites and their implications at site level and country level, estimation of carbon emissions and also accessing other biophysical and socio-economic data to understand the status of food security resilience.

The Vital Sign reporting framework will have data collection and submission center at the community level. Trained M&E officers at the state level will enter up to date data using tablets to access the database online by the internet. The system will get satellite based data on regular bases to show the changes in land use land cover, degradation level, soil fertility and underground water level and others.

The database will be accessible by federal and NPMU professionals to see and process the data to have meaning full information for decision makers. Currently Conservation International is finalizing 70 project communities documented base line for ecosystem services and GEB using a GIS and satellite or remote sensing technology. The project is in the process to procure hardware and software to establish the database center for the monitoring system of the M&E officers that have been trained on data collection and interpretation using GIS and remote sensing technologies by Conservation International.

This indicator has been fully achieved as conservation international completed work on the vital sign frame work and submitted the report to the project.

The progress towards the output indicator is assessed as “On Target”,

Progress toward Component 3

The expected outcome from outputs proposed in Component 2 is: *“Harmonized M&E framework in place for food security information, multi-scale assessment of sustainability and resilience in production agro-ecological zones and landscapes and monitoring of global environmental benefits (GEBs)”*. The outcome can be achieved. The CI has submitted the final document which customized the 70 project communities with harmonized M&E

framework on assessing sustainability and resilience in food security of all the project sites.

The implementation progress is on target. Overall, progress is considered satisfactory.

Progress toward Component 3 is rated as Satisfactory.

4.3 Project implementation and adaptive management

Adaptive management has been defined as "accommodating changes in project design and implementation to changes in context (implementation environment), if any, with the overall objective of meeting project goals and objectives". Knowledge of the state of the implementation environment will come from project monitoring and evaluation, from information sources provided by external evaluation or from within the project.

4.3.1 Management Arrangements

Overall project management

In the ProDoc, it was stated that project management arrangements would follow NIM (National Implementation Modality), which is the UNDP format for a Program Based Approach on donor harmonization and government ownership. Under NIM, the Government of Nigeria exercises full ownership of a partnership that includes all relevant stakeholders in a common effort. The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development. The Implementing Partner (IP) is responsible and accountable for managing this project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of UNDP resources. The Project Management Structure is shown in Figure 1.

In the Structure, there is a Project Steering Committee (Project Board) that is responsible for making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendation for UNDP/Implementing Partner approval of project plans and revisions. The Project Steering Committee is comprised of the representatives of the following institutions: Executive Director, MoARD, Chair, UNDP (Co-Chair), MoE Technical Expert, MoWR, MoWA, MoBP, State Representatives, Local Government representatives, Representatives of pilot sites as well as the Project Manager (Secretary). The Project Manager participates as a non-voting member in the PSC meetings and will also be responsible for compiling a summary report of the discussions and conclusions of each meeting.

Project start-up and implementation

This project started with 8 months delay which had a significant effect on implementation. The project started with the establishment of the management office, coordinating and convening initial meetings of the Project Steering Committee, contracting of any project consultants/ implementation partners, and the conduct of project Inception. The Project Management Unit (PMU) consists of the Project Manager,

a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and a Finance and Administration Officer, and a Local Level Coordinator supporting implementation at the site level. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development availed technical officers at both the central and site levels to advise the technical design and implementation of project interventions.

The project started in Dec 2017 with an inception workshop. The project staff at the National Project Management unit assumes duties in the last quarter of 2018. Since assuming duties, a lot of time was spent on the implementation modalities especially with the IPs (ADPs) at the State level who had the capacity issues and problems understanding UNDP operational modalities i.e the direct payment modalities. This modality caused delay because State Project Management Units (ADPs) had problems with getting registered vendors to deal with, they had difficulties in getting vendors that can provide services and be able to wait for a long time (Minimum of 4-6 weeks) before payment are made as such not much was accomplished at the State level. Implementation and expenditure typically gather momentum towards and beyond mid-term.

The project is on track because project team at National and State levels have clear understanding of the Project Objective and Outcomes. Results to be achieved at different times and levels of intervention are clear to the team and implementation so far is progressing in the right direction. With little that is achieved, some states are making plans to replicate some of what the project is doing in other communities.

There were delays in payment of vendors and participants at the beginning of the project which really slowed implementation and affecting meeting up with the farming season and other planned activities, this also made beneficiaries and vendors to loose confidence in the project. However, this challenge was mitigated through a review meeting with UNDP programme & Finance team on speeding up payments and developed face form payment tracker for ease of tracking payments and reminding UNDP team of pending payments.

Quality of Execution by Implementing Partner

The current PMU based at MoARD has done a thorough and effective job of project management and administration since their recruitment, with regular monitoring of the work of the partner organizations and other project support provided by the UNDP CO. During the project commencement, the PMU had problems with office space but UNDP came to the rescue by giving temporary accommodation pending the time in which the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development was able to do so in a government building.

The project has realized delays in establishing the number of gender-sensitive and inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms at Federal, State and local levels supporting sustainable agriculture. Due to Convi-19 Pandemic, UNEP could not travel to Nigeria as scheduled. The PMU therefore put hold to the activity awaiting complete ease of travel restriction any moment. Another delayed activity is the percentage increase in total production of targeted value chains among participating small- and medium-scale commercial farmers. No study on increase in crops production has been undertaken.

No accurate estimation has been done. The PMU could not determine the increase in farmers yield till after the harvest of the 2020 rainy season.

*Project management by the Implementing Partner is rated as **Satisfactory**.*

Quality of support provided by UNDP

UNDP is the responsible GEF Agency for the project, and carries general backstopping and oversight responsibilities. The Project Document outlines UNDP's responsibilities on management arrangements and the section on monitoring and evaluation. UNDP has maintained the oversight and management of the overall project budget. It has been responsible for monitoring project implementation, timely reporting of the progress to the UNDP Regional Service Centre and the GEF, as well as organising mandatory and possible complementary reviews, financial regular spot checks on utilization, audits and evaluations on an as-needed basis. It has also supported the implementing partner in the procurement of the required expert services and other project inputs and administer the required contracts. Furthermore, it has also supported the coordination and networking with other related initiatives and institutions in the country and outside the country like organising visits to Austria and Uganda. It has supported the PSC in carrying out its objectives and independent project oversight and monitoring functions.

UNDP has provided supervision and backstopping to the Project and project performance is a result of it, and a commitment to frequent monitoring and communication with ministries will maintain the momentum of implementation progress. There is no evidence that UNDP has communicated project results to stakeholders and public at large although there has been a donor group visiting Bishoftu this year. Better communication with stakeholders and public at large about the project achievements and plans would be appreciated.

Implementing entities appreciated the quality of support provided by UNDP. Similarly, the implementing agencies at state level appreciated the support provided by UNDP.

A key role played by the UNDP CO is that of oversight, monitoring and evaluation such as regular monitoring on financial utilization and documentation, output verification monitoring, and annual team monitoring with IP. As noted in Section 4.3.4 below, there have been some improvement in the monitoring of progress towards project results, with both Project Reports and PIRs tending to emphasize Activities undertaken and results (Outputs and Outcomes) achieved.

The project has not yet developed improved mechanisms and templates for tracking, monitoring and reporting progress towards results; M&E and oversight should improve. Nonetheless, the project has a manual called projects implementation manual (PIM) that is used to guide implementation of the project activities.

Overall, the UNDP CO has provided **satisfactory** support, with the prospect for improved performance for the duration of the project.

*Quality of support provided by UNDP is rated as **Satisfactory**.*

4.3.2 Work planning

The approach to management of work planning followed the NIM Guidelines. This management approach is discussed in more detail below;

Preparation of Annual Work Plans and Budgets

Work planning was accomplished by the Project Team, comprised of the Project Management Unit, Project Manager and Technical officers, PSC and Project coordinators at the state level, partners and UNDP CO, on an annual schedule, using as a basis the original 5-year Project Work plan. Project team meetings have been held each year to assess progress and to confirm or adjust the work plans for the upcoming year.

The process of preparing AWP appears to be stepwise, with Technical officers preparing their plans, cities determining their targets and activities for their annual plan, then submit them to the Project Manager, who then prepares the project AWP based on his perception of priorities. The AWP is then presented to the PSC for approval. This process results in project-level AWP that are done in collaboration with technical committees drawn by states, implementing agency and Project Technical team. This is an improved approach for a formal annual planning meeting to take place, with all relevant stakeholders present to prepare the AWP together.

Annual work plans are approved by the PSC, upon recommendation from the Project Technical Committee. The PMU shares the AWP approved with each state at national level to further get approval from the various project states during their state steering committee meeting at local level. As noted above, PSC meetings should be held twice a year; at one of these meetings the Annual Work plan for the upcoming year to be approved. The frequency and timing of these meetings was less than intended during the first two years of the project, as they have been meeting once a year. The PSC meetings need to occur more regularly and according to the agreed timetable.

Use of Results Framework as a management tool

Results-based adaptive management has been practiced to some extent with work planning, in that adjustments to upcoming plans were made based on performance against existing milestones, which were in turn based on Outputs derived from the Results Framework (see below Section 4.3.4). If necessary, and according to any obstacles met, there was discussion on approaches to addressing challenges and re-setting quarterly or annual milestones. If higher-level changes were needed, such as changes to Project targets, they were referred to the PSC for discussion and approval.

The Project Team and its Steering Committee have made decisions on project design based on information gained during monitoring of project progress. The project document itself has not been changed.

The work planning approach started with the intended Outcome target in mind, leading to the Output and then Activity needed to achieve it. Equally, reporting was upwards from Activities via Outputs towards the Outcome targets.

A focus on Activity-oriented planning can lead to project resources being spent on goods or services that may be potentially unproductive or unsustainable in terms of the

intended Outcomes. This project followed a good approach of planning from Outcome target in mind, leading to the Output and then Activity needed to achieve it

As noted above in Section 4.3.1, the current NPM is reporting based on the Logical Framework, and this mechanism has guided the Project Team on work planning that is guided by the project design and Project Implementation Manual for UN agencies assistant programmes in Nigeria.

Given these good practices, work planning to date is judged to be **Satisfactory** because the project has given attention to greater coordination between Project Team members, Project coordinators at state level and with project partners and stakeholders, and towards a more results-oriented approach to Activity planning, the prospects are good for improved performance in the remainder of the project term.

Work Planning is rated as Satisfactory.

4.3.3 Finance and co-finance

The total cost of the project is USD 58,139,450. This is financed through a GEF grant of USD 7,139,450, USD 1,000,000 in co-financing to be administered by UNDP and USD 50,000,000 in parallel co-financing from the government. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the execution of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to UNDP bank account only.

Financing Plan	
GEF Trust Fund	USD 7,139,450
UNDP TRAC resources (cash)	USD 100,000
UNDP TRAC resources (in-kind)	USD 900,000
Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 8,139,450
Parallel co-financing (<i>all other co-financing that is not cash co-financing administered by UNDP</i>)	
Government	USD 50,000,000
Total co-financing	USD 50,000,000
Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	USD 58,139,450

A 5-year Work plan was presented to Technical Committee, PSC and MoARD and was agreed. According to the implementing partners, the implementation of this plan has operated efficiently. The reporting on Quarterly Project Reports and Project Implementation Reviews do provide financial breakdown against project components through Funding Authorisation and Certificate of expenditure (FACE). Information provided by the Project Manager allows an assessment of expenditure against

Components and Project Management, including M&E and Administration – see Table 3 below.

Table 3. Expenditure against project Components (in US\$)

Component	Budget	% of total budget	Expenditure to date	Amount remaining	% remaining
Component 1	1,000,000.00	14.01%	695,000.00	305,000.00	30.5%
Component 2	5,149,476.00	72.13%	3,237,956.90	1,911,519.10	37.12%
Component 3	650,000.00	9.10%	400,800.00	249,200.00	38.34%
Project Management	339,974.00	4.76%	229,188.00	110,786.00	32.59%
Total	7,139,450.00	100%	4,562,944.90	2,576,505.10	36.09%

Note: This financial analysis was prepared based on records maintained at the National Project Management Unit.

Table 4. Planned co-financing and actual co-financing at the time of the MTR

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
Recipient Country Government	Gombe State Government	Grant	Investment mobilized	125,000
Recipient Country Government	Gombe State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,700,000
Recipient Country Government	Benue State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,700,000
Recipient Country Government	Nasarawa State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,700,000
Recipient Country Government	Kano State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,700,000
Recipient Country Government	Jigawa State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,700,000
Recipient Country Government	Katsina State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,700,000
Recipient Country Government	Adamawa State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,700,000
Recipient Country Government	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000
Recipient Country Government	Federal Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000
(select)		(select)	(select)	
(select)		(select)	(select)	
(select)		(select)	(select)	
(select)		(select)	(select)	
(select)		(select)	(select)	
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(select)		(select)	(select)	
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(select)		(select)	(select)	
(select)		(select)	(select)	
Total Co-financing				25,025,000

The budget allocation and expenditure rates have both been higher on all Components.

The internal audit of the Project took place in 30th October, 2019 and 31st October, 2019. The external Audit was carried out for the year ending 31st December 2019. The external audit gave unqualified opinion for the audits done for the year ending 31st December 2019.

It appears safe to conclude that project funds have been managed efficiently, and cost-effectively. The rating for finance and co-finance is Highly Satisfactory.

*Finance and co-finance are rated as **Highly Satisfactory**.*

4.3.4 Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems

Results-based management process

The ProDoc emphasized the importance of Results-Based Management, and included with the Results Framework a plan for measurement of project indicators, with timings (annual, mid-term, end of project) indicated for each.

Reporting of the project progress has occurred in its Quarterly and Annual Reports (see below Section 4.3.6), which are prepared by the Project Manager and shared with the PSC. The narrative is more about activities, i.e. indicator themselves. This focus on indicator activities has implications for both work planning and the monitoring of progress. Also the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and annual progress reported presented to the PSC have focussed specifically on the indicator level.

As part of the M&E plan, external evaluations are scheduled for project mid-term and end. A mid-term review (MTR) has now been conducted. Towards the end of the project (three months before termination of project), a terminal evaluation should be conducted, again contracting independent consultants. The final evaluation will analyze the delivery of the project results as targeted in the project plan. It will assess impact, sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness of the project results. It will also note lessons learned and provide recommendation for follow-up activities.

The monitoring tools used in this process have involved all the key project partners, using the most up-to-date existing information. The UNDP CO has conducted periodic field visits to assess project progress, as have members of the PMU.

The financial allocation of GEF funds to Project Management in the GEF component of the budget was US\$ 7, 139,450. 2% of the total financing has been earmarked for M&E. The MTR team feels that these resources appear to have been managed and allocated effectively.

Overall assessment of monitoring systems.

Procedures have been followed correctly but the Project Team has not applied results-based monitoring as thoroughly as it should; the reporting has largely been on indicators and activities using UNDP output verification monitoring program rather than results (outcomes), and has not really assessed measurable progress towards targets. For this reason, monitoring systems applied to date are rated as Moderately Satisfactory. However, the prospects look good for an improved approach to results-based reporting for the remainder of the project term since the project is still at activity and output level, because bulk of 10 month behind schedule activities are still carried out as carry over. It is pertinent to say that unless all process and output indicators are attained, the outcome indicators cannot be seen clearly especially middle and higher-level outcome. Field implementation is barely two years and more than half of a year has been stagnated by Covid-19.

Monitoring systems are rated as Moderately Satisfactory.

Risk management

The ProDoc provided a risk assessment, which looked at threats and barriers to project implementation and laid the basis for a risk identification and mitigation measures. APR/PIRs have similarly identified similar risks. The risks identified by these documents appear to be comprehensive, with appropriate ratings applied. As per standard UNDP requirements, these risks were to be monitored quarterly by the Project Manager. The Project Manager is required to report on the status of the risks to the UNDP Country Office, which will record progress in the UNDP ATLAS risk log. Risks will be reported as critical when the impact and probability are high. Management responses to critical risks are also reported to the GEF in the annual PIR.

A discussion of risks and their mitigation were part of the reporting in Quarterly or Annual Project Progress Reports. The PIRs reported the critical risk management on environment. The Social and Environmental risks identified included security issues like Banditry, Kidnapping, farmer/herder clash and communal clashes in some target communities especially in the North West region where bandits from neighbouring countries attack the communities is one of the security risk. State project team are always up to date with security reports from those communities before going to the field to carry out any activity. For example, there were recent floods experienced in Gombe, Jigawa & Adamawa States and looting and vandalization of equipment in Adamawa state. The State set up a committee to recover the looted equipment and some of the equipment are being recovered and farmers are being supported with flood resistant seedlings and flood mitigation techniques.

There have been seven quarterly Project Reports and one Annual Progress Report to date, and two PIRs, and they show little evidence of risk identification or efforts to mitigate those risks.

As there has been some risk identification and mitigation measures although there is little attention to reporting of risk identification or mitigation. This aspect of the project management need to receive much attention during implementation. It should receive more attention and reporting in future.

*Risk management is rated as **Moderately Satisfactory**.*

4.3.5 Stakeholder engagement

The project since inception has been working in partnership with all intended and even additional unintended stakeholders. These included Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development the lead national partner who chairs the Steering Committee and oversee the strategic direction of the project. Other Federal Ministries participating in the project include Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Women Affairs, and Ministry of Budget and Planning (National Bureau of Statistics). These ministries participate in the implementation of project pilots, as well as provide technical and advisory services.

Other stakeholders that have been engaged in this project are participating State and Local governments. These are main beneficiaries who support the implementation of the project in their respective States and Local Government areas, including monitoring. These also provided appropriate co-financing in cash or in-kind for project implementation.

The project has also worked with private sector actors, including multinational corporations and Nigerian companies active in the different stages of the food value chain (production, sourcing, transportation, processing, imports, marketing, input supplies etc). In the context of Nigeria's food production landscape, this group of stakeholders is key as it holds the key to revolutionizing the development of the country's food value chains in several agricultural supply chains. They have the potential to influence policy, action and markets, provide capacity and skills to farmers at all levels of the food value chain. There is therefore increasing need to formally engage these actors in the dialogue and decisions about the agriculture sector and food production processes and practices. Partnership with some private sectors has been established as they will be off taking farmers produce after the 2020 harvest, more partnership in the area of access to finance from financial institution will also intended after the covid-19 situation

Agriculture Universities and Research institutions (national and international) have also been engaged on a regular basis to provide the results of research breakthroughs and technical inputs towards improving knowledge sharing and global networking in sustainable, resilient and value-chain approaches.

Also NGOs, including associations of women farmers have been engaged. The project also partnered with WOFAN to organized Stakeholders consultative workshop for the review and harmonization of relevant policies and strategies to improve policy environment, at the federal, state, and local levels to support sustainable smallholder agriculture and food value chains activities in order to provide more coherent governance to the food and nutrition security of the country and they are more intended partnership with WOFAN and other NGOs.

The project has continuously engaged wider stakeholders especially private sector, farmers and research institutions for effective implementation and sustainability.

Stakeholder inclusion is rated as Satisfactory.

4.3.6 Reporting

The M&E plan is being implemented as part of a system of reporting and approval as envisioned in the ProDoc, and refined and clarified in the Inception Report, in line with UNDP-GEF policies.

Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports are prepared regularly and submitted to PSC, UNDP and then to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The PIRs are submitted to UNDP GEF according to the Atlas standard format, covering:

- i. progress of implementation:
 - progress towards outcomes/ outputs of the Project,
 - lessons learned;
- ii. project implementation challenges
 - risks and issues, with actions taken
 - Financial status summary.

The quarterly and annual Progress Reports are prepared by the Project Management Unit (Project Manager, 2 Project officers and Local Project Coordinators) together with Government Local Experts and Pilot project officers, using information supplied by Technical Officers and project partners, and is submitted by the National Project Coordinator to the PSC. The annual Project Implementation Review (PIR), also prepared in part by the Project Manager as well as the UNDP CO, is shared with the PSC. Project Management ensure that the UNDP CO receives quarterly progress reports providing updates on the status of planned activities, the status of the overall project schedule, the achievement of milestones, and an outline of the activities and milestones planned for the following quarter.

As noted above in **Section 4.3.4**, quarterly reporting was largely on indicators under Outputs level, rather than progress towards Results, and towards Outcome Indicator/ Targets. However, PIR and annual reports presented to PSC are at indicator level. And, as noted above in **Section 4.3.4**, there was financial reporting in the Progress Reports – this has been done separately. Technical and financial reporting should provide more detail at Outcome level in future, to allow more effective monitoring of progress.

The Project Implementation Reviews (PIR), are also prepared and submitted by the Project Team to the UNDP-CO, UNDP Regional Coordination Unit, and UNDP HQ for review and official comments, followed by final submission to the GEF. The PIRs are intended to report progress at the Outcome level, although the reporting has been largely on indicator level than outcomes.

Reports have been presented to PSC members during their meetings and through this means, the key national ministries and state administration has been kept abreast of the Project's implementation progress.

It appears that, overall, the progress of implementation and management issues have been regularly reported by the project management to the PSC and to UNDP, with lessons learned shared and taken on board by the project partners. PSC meetings have been presented with issues needing decisions, and such decisions have been taken. As indicated in the Output Verification Report, it's stated that from AWP and quarterly reports review indicate that there are gaps on results reporting, most reports focus on indicator. Reporting should be on results and progress towards Outcomes, not just output and indicators, and this needs to be improved in future, and there is scope for improvement in the reporting and coordination with other partners.

*Reporting is rated as **Satisfactory**.*

4.3.7 Communication

The project has made some concerted efforts to communicate its results to an audience in the region through website in place along with active social media dissemination using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Project had developed website and other Social Media pages, communication strategy document and project leaflet has been reviewed and uploaded on the website. The project has the following IDs of the website and social media pages: Website:

<https://resilientfoodsecurity.ng>; Facebook: Resilient Food Security Nigeria; Twitter Username: resilientfoodNG; Instagram user name: resilientfoodng;

Video documentary links:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grvlfqk44ZU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJGmpLD59Bo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esyUywgx2Po>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMZxHnEjKT0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYR-omaw9w>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEjJfaCK2Z8>

Link to some news stories include the following;

- <https://www.von.gov.ng/gef-undp-train-women-beneficiary-on-goat-farming-in-gombe-state/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/undp-highlights-benefits-of-record-keeping-in-diary-farming/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/gombe-extension-workers-receive-motorcycles-to-implement-climate-smart-agriculture/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/gombe-gets-bumper-harvest-from-food-security-programme/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/nigerian-agricultural-programme-to-boost-food-security-commended/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/undp-supports-farmers-to-sustain-nigerias-food-security/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/un-trains-farmers-in-nigeria/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/undp-gef-encourage-use-of-bio-control-for-standard-grain-production/>
- <https://www.von.gov.ng/workers-from-two-state-receive-training-on-food-security/>

The PM has considered a visual guidance manual recording farmer experiences and anecdotes to transfer knowledge and awareness to additional farmers on sustainable agricultural practices and as well as any additional impacts on health, crop losses, etc. across the 7 states.

*Communication is rated as **Highly Satisfactory**.*

4.4 Sustainability of project outcomes

4.4.1 Risks to sustainability

It is early, at project mid-term, for an assessment of sustainability prospects but it is important to consider the risks facing project Outcomes and possible actions to deal with them. But there are certain risks associated with stability of the country as well as financial risks. To some extent environmental/health risks might cause unintended results.

The approach of the project to risk management is discussed in **Section 4.3.4** above, and

the risks to sustainability are discussed below.

Financial risks

The financing of the various activities of the project has from the national has proceeded as planned, but there remains the high risk of co-financing from the state counterparts. The financing risk may increase due to the current national economic realities of Nigeria with declining oil revenue, the recession and the need for government to cut down expenditure. The project management team must ensure adequate follow up with community and state government counterparts to ensure co-financing for project are delivered on time.

Socio-economic risks

The setting of project steering committee has given the project unit entry points into the communities, increasing the buy-in of the key stakeholders. The project management team must continue to make effort to maintain cordial relationship with leaders and members of the local communities where projects activities are being undertaken. As the entire nation has gone into recession, there may be a slowdown in economic activities at the community levels, which limit the readiness of the beneficiary to play active role in the project implementation. The team members should go extra mile encouraging community member to continue to play their expected roles in the project.

Institutional framework and governance risks

The institutional framework and governance system put in place for the project implementation at the national level is working perfectly. The management team must ensure the current institutional arrangement is maintained by ensuring all partners are carried along on all activities. The management team at the national level has also been very effective. At the state level, there exist a lack of capacity and low level of morale at the ADPs. The project must ensure consistent training and assessment of the capacity of adhoc staff at the state levels to ensure annual work plan is well implemented. Period field visits and follow up should be part of the project monitoring process.

Environmental risks

Nigeria has been receiving declining rainfall in the last two agricultural seasons. With the decline has also been incessant flooding in a few states across Nigeria. The project implementing states have all been affected by these. The project must step up on the implementation of climate smart interventions, promoting more technologies that will help smallholder farmers to be more productive despite the increasing weather and climate variability. Weather predictions has been well advanced; hence the project should pay closer attention to the promotion of applications, tools and technologies that will help farmers to better plan their production in the face of changing climate and environmental risks.

Financial, socio-economic, institutional and environmental risks to sustainability exist; most of these have been identified but only some are being addressed, with need for

continued attention. Financial, socio-economic, institutional and environmental risks to sustainability were considered at all level of the project starting from the conceptualization stage. Overall, the sustainability of project Outcomes is considered at this stage to be **Likely** as PMU is working hard to get the buy in of the respective States Governors which some are already supporting the project. Gombe State Governor gave a counterpart funding of \$130,000, and Kano State Government donated 32 motor cycles to the project in addition to the 12 the project procured for the State. On the 23rd of Nov 2020, the PMU met with the Governor of Benue State who promised to release some funds as counterpart and in the coming months they will be visits to the other states. The consultants think there is reasonable progress being made which will make the state to commit resources for upscaling of project activities to more locations which will help in sustaining the project beyond UNDP funding. A Sustainability Plan is strongly called for, and could increase the prospect of sustainability.

*Sustainability of project Outcomes is rated as **Likely**.*

4.4.2 Approaches for improving sustainability

The project has done well by adopting pilot and demonstration design in the implementation of the project activities. To ensure wider adoption and sustainability, the project should ensure more demonstration plots and training are taken closer to the beneficiaries, to help ensure their full participation in activities and the adoption of the improved and sustainable food production systems. When new models are to be introduced, members of the project implementing communities should be part of the advanced training the trainer program.

5 Lessons learnt, Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Lessons Learnt

Throughout the seven states where the project is being implemented, the importance of the community leaders and local authority in rallying support and getting the buy-in of the community members has been highlighted. This has indeed fast track the work of the project team in implementing project activities.

Also highlighted has been the immense role of the local project steering committee in ensuring timely delivery and attainment of set targets. The PMU at the community levels have been proven to be very effective in setting the stage for drawing up work activities and their implementation. Effort must be made to ensure the local PMU continue to lead in the design and implementation of various work programs under the project components.

Another key lesson is that has also been highlighted is the critical role of women in ensuring project success. On this project women have shown more dedication and willingness to lead in carrying out project activities than their men counterparts. This has helped in no small measure in ensure gender balance and empowerment of women

and youth.

The smallholder farmers are willing to learn new technologies and ready to abandon their traditional ones as long the new ones are effective. We further learned that these technologies were not readily available from the government side, they are more often than not introduced to farmers by interventions like our own. For example, so many project communities embraced trench compost making as against traditional heaping of animal dung before taking into farm.

The community members are ready to take ownership and protect any contributions given to them by the project and sustain it for continuous use as long as they are organized in group by the project. For example, community members of obi village where the agricultural center was built they took charge of safeguarding it day and night after the project oriented them that the center is their own not government own.

Prior to the commencement of the project, several communities did not know a lot of potentials their communities have until the intervention exposed it to them. For example, obi and buruku communities of Benue never planted soya beans thinking that it will not thrive there, with the guide of the project expert they cultivate it twice a year now.

Almost all Agricultural Development Project staff that work in agricultural project (in the 7 project states) were not familiar with and using GIS information to monitor the progress of the intervention until the time this project exposed them to usage of vital signs technology.

No comprehensive and up to date data on food security which is systematically stored for instant retrieval and usage to make informed decision either in the project states nor in the federal. Also, no research is currently being conducted to obtain that.

5.2 Conclusions and summary of findings

The conclusion and summary of the findings are evidence-based and connected to the MTR's findings which highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project.

5.2.1 Progress in implementation of output indicators

Development Project Objective

- **Output mandatory indicator 1**

A total number of 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries have directly benefited from improved land and water management practices for sustainable agriculture introduced by the project.

- **Output mandatory indicator 2**

The project has facilitated the creation of 39,981 (79.9% achievement) (Male = 24,009, Female = 15,972) jobs and improved livelihood in both on-farm and off-farm activities.

- **Output mandatory indicator 3**

The project has 38,874 (Male = 23,273, Female = 15,601) direct beneficiaries and 361,528 indirect beneficiaries that have benefited from practicing climate resilient sustainable agriculture practice.

Component 1:

- **Output indicator 4**

A final draft policy has been submitted by the reviewers which contain National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) and National System for Food and Nutrition Security (NSFNS) to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture for subsequent further review by the national council for policy to finalize review and approval.

- **Output indicator 5**

This indicator has been delayed but once the restrictions on international flights is lifted and movement is safe across countries, the project team will work with UNEP team and their consultants to come to Nigeria to offer support to create the multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platform at national level.

- **Output indicator 6**

In collaboration with WOFAN, 3 interstate food commodity value chains have been established between project beneficiaries and farm produce off taking private milling companies.

Component 2:

- **Output indicator 7**

So far beneficiaries use 3,637.20 hectares of land under gender-sensitive integrated sustainable land and water management and climate smart agricultural practices, managed by both men and women.

- **Output indicator 8**

Terms of reference for soil erosion control/reduction and establishment of agro-forestry to increase vegetation cover and carbon stored has been developed and consultants have been engaged to work across the 70 communities.

- **Output indicator 9**

The project planned at least 10% increase in production of crops. No study on increase in crops production has been undertaken yet although records from demonstration plots for 2019 season revealed up to 40-50% increase in crop yield compared to farmers plot and until a study is carried out after 2020 season after farmers start adopting new technologies they are taught.

- **Output indicator 10**

The project planned at least 20% (8,400) of targeted women and youth adopt new production and post-harvest technologies. There are no figures on this indicator available until after a study on technology adoption has been conducted. The PMU

revealed that the study is most appropriate at the end of the harvest to ascertain whether 20% of women and youth (8,400) beneficiaries adopt the technologies they learned or not.

- **Output indicator 11**

The project has recorded a total of 12,096 (Male = 7,466, Female = 4,630) who are involved in food production and value chains for rice and groundnut activities registered with 524 farmers' cooperative societies. The project has also built their capacities through showcasing viability and benefits of involving in rice and groundnut value chain.

Component 3

- **Output indicator 12**

The project planned to have functional food security reporting and monitoring system at national level, using the Vital Signs Framework. The project signed a contract with Conservation International and has trained train M&E officers from the 7 States' ADPs and Ministries of Agriculture and Federal Staff (27 persons) on Vital signs, Resilience Atlas, and on Trends Earth to enable them to measure progress towards GEB targets and other key project targets.

5.3 Recommendations

- 1- Mandatory indicator 1 &3 should be merged to produce one encompassing indicator to avoid redundancy and confusing. The two indicators are technically measuring the same result, the same target, on the same activities as they read: "Mandatory indicator 1: Number of additional people (smallholder farmers) benefitting from strengthened livelihoods through solutions for management of natural resources, ecosystems services, chemicals and waste" and "Mandatory indicator 3: Number of smallholder farmers practicing climate resilient sustainable agriculture and with increased access to food and improved nutrition disaggregated by sex". The only difference is that in indicator 3 there is addition of "**Increased Access to Food and Improved Nutrition**" which is the main goal of the project entirely. Whether or not it is mentioned the project is working towards it. Nevertheless, if it is necessarily needed it could be added as a last statement of the merged indicator. The last statement of the 1st indicator (through solutions for management of natural resources, ecosystems services, chemicals and waste) is just expressing the technique to be used which is technically and clearly an integral part of climate smart agriculture mentioned in indicator 3. Thus, the two indicators are trying to achieve the same result on the same beneficiaries using the same activities.

The New Indicator 1 is recommended to be: "**Number of additional smallholder farmers practicing climate resilient sustainable agriculture and benefiting from strengthened livelihood solution for management of natural resources, ecosystems**

service, chemical, waste and with increased access to food and improved nutrition disaggregated by sex". The changes need to be reflected in the result logic framework to be approved by PSC.

- 2- Hectares in indicator 7 are over ambitious and exaggerated (100,000ha at midterm, 385,000ha at project end). They should be reviewed. The project is working with only 42,000 direct beneficiaries and according to the latest findings by FAO and World Bank of 2018, the average size of smallholder farmers in Nigeria is 0.58 ha. When you calculate this with the total number of our farmers you will get $42,000 \times 0.58 = 24,360$. Moreover, even if PMU goes by the project appraisal conducted in the project site in 2015 it says the average size of smallholder farmers is 1.9 ha. If you calculate it gives you $42,000 \times 1.9 = 79,800$. So, the target of 385,000ha is barely achievable by the project direct beneficiaries, in fact they do not own such a huge amount of land at their disposal for cultivation. We therefore, recommend the review of hectares from 385,000 to 24,360 based on FAO and WBG findings or 79,800 based on project appraisal documents because such land space is not obtainable in the 70 project communities.

The New Indicator 7 is recommended to be: **"79,800ha number of hectares of land under gender-sensitive integrated sustainable land and water management and climate smart agricultural practices, managed by both men and women".** The changes need to be reflected in the result logic framework to be approved by PSC.

Annexes

1. MTR Terms of Reference
2. Rating Scales
3. MTR Evaluative Matrix
4. MTR mission itinerary
5. List of persons interviewed
6. List of documents reviewed
7. Audit trail from received comments on draft MTR report

8. Signed UNEG Code of Conduct form
9. Signed MTR final report clearance form

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

• INTRODUCTION

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the UNDP-GEF Midterm Review (MTR) of the full-sized project titled **Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria (PIMS 5578)** implemented through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMA&RD)/State Agricultural Development Programmes, also known as ADPs, to be undertaken in August 2020. The project started on the **01 February 2018** and is in its second year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this MTR. The MTR process must follow the guidance outlined in the document *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*.

• PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The overall objective of this project is: To enhance productivity and promote sustainability and resilience of Nigeria's agricultural production systems for improved national food security. To achieve this objective, the project will address the aforementioned barriers through three closely inter-related impact pathways: (i) Strengthening institutional and policy coherence; (ii) Scaling up sustainable land and water management practices; and (iii) Addressing gender disparities in agricultural production and food value chains. Impact will be monitored and assessed for sustainability and resilience.

This project is implemented in Northern Nigeria, which accounts for approximately 75% of the country's land area and includes the north-central, north-east and north-west geopolitical zones of the country. This is an area targeted by the government to support national food security. A largely savannah landscape (Guinea-Sudan-Sahel), the major crops grown are grain legumes, cereal, root crops and tubers. It is also the major livestock production area in Nigeria. To meet the rapidly increasing demand for food by an ever-expanding human population (estimated to grow by 2.5% annually), it is expected that crop production must expand at a 4% annual rate, while livestock production must expand by more than 3% annually between now and 2025. This substantial growth requirement means both an emphasis on intensification and potentially more extensive production, pushing into marginal areas and inducing greater vulnerability to climate change and variability. Time frame for the project based on the project document is 2011-2017, which would be given an extension. The total budget for the project is US\$4,610,000.00 while planned co-financing is at US\$10,650,000.00,

For the project, UNDP has been the GEF Implementing Agency (IA). The project is working at the Federal level, across seven northern states and a women-based NGO targeting the women and youth for the gender component of the project. At the moment, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMA&RD) is the lead government agency under the project with the Agricultural Development Programme (ADPs) of Adamawa, Benue, Jigawa,

Kano, Katsina, Gombe and Nasarrawa as state counterparts. The FMA&RD is the primary authority responsible for agricultural development in Nigeria. In its capacity of lead agency, the FMA&RD is responsible for the supervision of the project, providing joint approval of quarterly work plans and budgets at the national level. To achieve project objectives and produce required outputs, the FMA&RD is partnering with the States ADPs, WOFAN and other stakeholders such as other government ministries and departments, local communities and NGOs. The State ADPs all play important role as members of the Steering Committee.

• OBJECTIVES OF THE MTR

The MTR will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTR will also review the project's strategy, its risks to sustainability.

• MTR APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The MTR must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The MTR team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Environmental & Social Safeguard Policy, the Project Document, project reports including Annual Project Review/PIRs, project budget revisions, lesson learned reports, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based review). The MTR team will review the baseline GEF focal area Tracking Tool submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Tracking Tool that must be completed before the MTR field mission begins.

The MTR team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach, ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP Country Office(s), UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisers, and other key stakeholders.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful MTR.² Stakeholder involvement should include interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to Federal Ministry Of Environment (for the climate change component), National Planning Commission, State Ministries Of Agriculture and Rural Development, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Board, project stakeholders, academia, local government and CSOs, etc. Additionally, the MTR team is not expected to conduct project field missions to the participating states, however, contacts should be made using remote access to discuss with all the stakeholders due the prevailing covid pandemic situation across the globe.

The final MTR report should describe the full MTR approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the review.

• DETAILED SCOPE OF THE MTR

The MTR team will assess the following four categories of project progress. See the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for extended descriptions.

- **Project Strategy**

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)?
- Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.
- If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement.

Results Framework/Logframe:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary.
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance etc...) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis.
- Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits.

- **Progress Towards Results**

Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis:

- Review the log-frame indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and following the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-*

Financed Projects; colour code progress in a “traffic light system” based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each outcome; make recommendations from the areas marked as “Not on target to be achieved” (red).

Table. Progress Towards Results Matrix (Achievement of outcomes against End-of-project Targets)

Project Strategy	Indicators ³	Baseline Level ⁴	Level in 1 st PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Targets	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment ⁶	Achievement Rating ⁷	Justification for Rating
Objective:	Indicator (if applicable):							
Outcome 1:	Indicator 1:							
	Indicator 2:							

Outcome 2:	Indicator 3:							
	Indicator 4:							
	Etc.							
Etc.								

³ Populate with data from the Logframe and scorecards

⁴ Populate with data from the Project Document

⁵ If available

⁶ Colour code this column only

⁷ Use the 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU

Indicator Assessment Key

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved
-----------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

In addition to the progress towards outcomes analysis:

- Compare and analyse the GEF Tracking Tool at the Baseline with the one completed right before the Midterm Review.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

• Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements:

- Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the Project Document. Have changes been made and are they effective? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by the GEF Partner Agency (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement.

Work Planning:

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.

- Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.

Finance and co-finance:

- Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?
- Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out, provide commentary on co-financing: is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Is the Project Team meeting with all co-financing partners regularly in order to align financing priorities and annual work plans?

Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively?

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?

Reporting:

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Board.
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GEF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated PIRs, if applicable?)
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.

Communications:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and

effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?

- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)
- For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits.
- **Sustainability**
- Validate whether the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.
- In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

- What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?

Socio-economic risks to sustainability:

- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?

Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:

- Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/ mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?

5.4 Conclusions & Recommendations

The MTR team will include a section of the report setting out the MTR's evidence-based conclusions, in light of the findings.⁸

Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report's executive summary. See the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for guidance on a recommendation table.

The MTR team should make no more than 15 recommendations total.

5.5 Ratings

The MTR team will include its ratings of the project's results and brief descriptions of the associated achievements in an *MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table* in the Executive Summary of the MTR report. See Annex E for ratings scales. No rating on Project Strategy and no overall project rating is required.

Table. MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria. (PIMS 5578)

Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 3 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Etc.	
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	(rate 6 pt. scale)	
Sustainability	(rate 4 pt. scale)	

• TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the MTR will be approximately **40 Days** over a time period of 8 weeks starting August 01, 2020, and shall not exceed 2 months from when the consultant(s) are hired. The tentative MTR timeframe is as follows:

TIMEFRAME	ACTIVITY
20 September, 2020	Application closes
28 September, 2020	Select MTR Team
30 September, 2020	Prep the MTR Team (handover of Project Documents)
1 – 3 October, 2020	Document review and preparing MTR Inception Report
5– 10 October, 2020 (5 days)	Finalization and Validation of MTR Inception Report- latest start of MTR mission
12 - 30 October 2020 (15 days)	MTR mission: stakeholder meetings, remote interviews, discussions with relevant stakeholders, State ADPs

1 November, 2020 (1 day)	Mission wrap-up meeting & presentation of initial findings-earliest end of MTR mission
2 - 7 November, 2020 (6 days)	Preparing and submission of draft report
7 - 12 November, 2020 (6 days)	Incorporating audit trail from feedback on draft report/Finalization of MTR report)
13 – 19 November, 2020 (7 days)	Preparation & Issue of Management Response
20 November 2020	Expected date of full MTR completion

• MIDTERM REVIEW DELIVERABLES

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing	Responsibilities
1	MTR Inception Report	MTR team clarifies objectives and methods of Midterm Review	No later than 2 weeks before the MTR mission: 3 October, 2020	MTR team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2	Presentation	Initial Findings	End of MTR mission: 1 November, 2020	MTR Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
3	Draft Final Report	Full report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Within 4 weeks of the MTR mission: 14 November, 2020	Sent to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA,
				Project Coordinating Unit, GEF OFP
4	Final Report*	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft: 12 October, 2020	Sent to the Commissioning Unit

*The final MTR report must be in English. If applicable, the Commissioning Unit may choose to arrange for a translation of the report into a language more widely shared by national stakeholders.

• MTR ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this MTR resides with the Commissioning Unit. The

Commissioning Unit for this project's MTR is the UNDP Nigeria Country Office.

The commissioning unit will contract the consultants and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country for the MTR team. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the MTR team to provide all relevant documents, set up stakeholder interviews, and arrange field visits.

• TEAM COMPOSITION

A team of two independent consultants will conduct the MTR - one team leader (with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions globally) and one team expert, usually from the country of the project. The consultants cannot have participated in

the project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with project's related activities.

The selection of consultants will be aimed at maximizing the overall "team" qualities in the following areas:

- Recent experience with result-based management evaluation methodologies; (5 marks)
- Experience applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios; (5 marks)
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to; (15 marks)
- Experience working with the GEF or GEF-evaluations; (15 marks)
- Experience working in developing countries especially Sub – Saharan Africa; (10 marks)
- Work experience in relevant technical areas (ecosystem management, sustainable land management, food security) for at least 10 years; (10 marks)
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and biodiversity mainstreaming, experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis; (10 marks)
- Excellent communication skills; (5 marks)
- Demonstrable analytical skills; (5 marks)
- Project evaluation/review experiences within United Nations system will be considered an asset; (10 marks)
- A Master's degree or higher in biology, ecology, forestry, zoology, integrated landscape management, natural resources management or other closely related field. (10 marks)

• **PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS**

10% of payment upon approval of the final MTR Inception

Report 30% upon submission of the draft MTR report

60% upon finalization of the MTR report

Or, as otherwise agreed between the Commissioning Unit and the MTR team.

• APPLICATION PROCESS⁹

5.6 Recommended Presentation of Proposal:

- **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the [template](#)¹⁰ provided by UNDP;
- **CV and a Personal History Form** ([P11 form](#)¹¹);
- **Brief description of approach to work/technical proposal** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; (max 1 page)
- **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price and all other travel related costs (such as flight ticket, per diem, etc), supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template attached to the Letter of Confirmation of Interest template. If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

All application materials should be done online at the UNDP jobsite ONLY: by *midnight of 30th October 2016*.

Incomplete applications will be excluded from further consideration.

Criteria for Evaluation of Proposal: Only those applications which are responsive and compliant will be evaluated. Offers will be evaluated according to the Combined Scoring method – where the educational background and experience on similar assignments will be weighted at 70% and the price proposal will weigh as 30% of the total scoring. The applicant receiving the Highest Combined Score that has also accepted UNDP's General Terms and Conditions will be awarded the contract.

ToR ANNEX A: List of Documents to be reviewed by the MTR Team

1. PIF
2. UNDP Initiation Plan
3. UNDP Project Document
4. UNDP Environmental and Social Screening results
5. Project Inception Report
6. All Project Implementation Reports (PIR's)
7. Quarterly progress reports and work plans of the various implementation task teams
8. Audit reports
9. Finalized GEF Land Degradation Tracking Tools at CEO endorsement and midterm
10. Oversight mission reports
11. All monitoring reports prepared by the project
12. Financial and Administration guidelines used by Project Team

The following documents will also be available:

13. Project operational guidelines, manuals and systems
14. UNDP country/countries programme document(s)
15. Minutes of the Project Board Meetings and other meetings (i.e. Project Appraisal Committee meetings)

⁹ Engagement of the consultants should be done in line with guidelines for hiring consultants in the POPP:
<https://info.undp.org/global/popp/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁰

<https://intranet.undp.org/unit/bom/psa/Support%20documents%20on%20IC%20Guidelines/Template%20for%20Confirmation%20of%20Interest%20and%20Submission%20of%20Financial%20Proposal.docx>

¹¹ http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc

5.7 ToR ANNEX B: Guidelines on Contents for the Midterm Review Report¹²

- i. Basic Report Information (*for opening page or title page*)
 - Title of UNDP supported GEF financed project
 - UNDP PIMS# and GEF project ID#
 - MTR time frame and date of MTR report
 - Region and countries included in the project
 - GEF Operational Focal Area/Strategic Program
 - Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and other project partners
 - MTR team members
 - Acknowledgements
- ii. Table of Contents
- iii. Acronyms and Abbreviations
1. Executive Summary (*3-5 pages*)
 - Project Information Table
 - Project Description (brief)
 - Project Progress Summary (between 200-500 words)
 - MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table
 - Concise summary of conclusions
 - Recommendation Summary Table
2. Introduction (*2-3 pages*)
 - Purpose of the MTR and objectives
 - Scope & Methodology: principles of design and execution of the MTR, MTR approach and data collection methods, limitations to the MTR
 - Structure of the MTR report
3. Project Description and Background Context (*3-5 pages*)
 - Development context: environmental, socio-economic, institutional, and policy factors relevant to the project objective and scope
 - Problems that the project sought to address: threats and barriers targeted
 - Project Description and Strategy: objective, outcomes and expected results, description of field sites (if any)
 - Project Implementation Arrangements: short description of the Project Board, key implementing partner arrangements, etc.
 - Project timing and milestones
 - Main stakeholders: summary list
4. Findings (*12-14 pages*)
 - 4.1 Project Strategy
 - Project Design
 - Results Framework/Logframe
 - 4.2 Progress Towards Results
 - VIII.** Progress towards outcomes analysis
 - IX.** Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective
 - 4.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management
 - Management Arrangements
 - Work planning
 - Finance and co-finance
 - Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems
 - Stakeholder engagement

¹² The Report length should not exceed 40 pages in total (not including annexes).

- Reporting
 - Communications
- 4.4 Sustainability
- Financial risks to sustainability
 - Socio-economic to sustainability
 - Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability
 - Environmental risks to sustainability
5. Conclusions and Recommendations (4-6 pages)
- 5.1 Conclusions
- Comprehensive and balanced statements (that are evidence-based and connected to the MTR's findings) which highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project
- 5.2 Recommendations
- Corrective actions for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project
 - Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project
 - Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives
6. Annexes
- MTR ToR (excluding ToR annexes)
 - MTR evaluative matrix (evaluation criteria with key questions, indicators, sources of data, and methodology)
 - Example Questionnaire or Interview Guide used for data collection
 - Ratings Scales
 - MTR mission itinerary
 - List of persons interviewed
 - List of documents reviewed
 - Co-financing table (if not previously included in the body of the report)
 - Signed UNEG Code of Conduct form
 - Signed MTR final report clearance form
 - *Annexed in a separate file:* Audit trail from received comments on draft MTR report
 - *Annexed in a separate file:* Relevant midterm tracking tools (*METT, FSC, Capacity scorecard, etc.*)

5.8 ToR ANNEX C: Midterm Review Evaluative Matrix Template

evaluative Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results?			
(include evaluative question(s))	(i.e. relationships established, level of coherence between project design and implementation approach, specific activities conducted, quality of risk mitigation strategies, etc.)	(i.e. project documents, national policies or strategies, websites, project staff, project partners, data collected throughout the MTR mission, etc.)	(i.e. document analysis, data analysis, interviews with project staff, interviews with stakeholders, etc.)
Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?			
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far? To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation?			

Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?			

ToR ANNEX D: UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators/Midterm Review Consultants¹³

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: _____

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at _____ (Place) on _____ (Date)

5.9 ToR ANNEX E: MTR Ratings

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.

Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.

Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project’s closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

5.10 ToR ANNEX F: MTR Report Clearance Form

(to be completed by the Commissioning Unit and UNDP-GEF RTA and included in the final document)

Midterm Review Report Reviewed and Cleared	
By: Commissioning Unit	
Name: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____
UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor	
Name: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____

Annex 2. Rating scales

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.

Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.

Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project’s closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future

3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

Annex 3. MTR Evaluative Matrix

Evaluative Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results?			
To what extent are lessons from other relevant projects incorporated into the project design?	Lessons learned identified and appearing in project documents.	Project documents; UNDP CO	Document analysis
To what extent does the project address country priorities and is country-driven? Is the project concept in line with national development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)?	Policy, legislation and safeguard analyses	Project documents; UNDP documents; Government documents; Inception report	Document analysis
Were stakeholders thoroughly consulted?	Stakeholder analysis	Project documents; stakeholders	Document analysis;; Stakeholder consultation
How well are gender issues identified and addressed?	Gender strategies	Project documents	Document analysis
How thoroughly were environmental and social risks – including externalities – identified, and addressed with mitigation strategies?	Risk management strategies; Sustainability plan	Project documents	Document analysis
Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?			
By each Outcome, to what progress has been made towards the Mid-Term target?	Progress towards project indicators	Project documents; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; APRs; PIRs; GEF Tracking Tool; Stakeholders in Project Team and implementing partners	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation; Site visits

What are the reasons for success in reaching/ exceeding Mid-Term targets? What are the reasons/ challenges in slower-than-expected progress?	Candid and useful project commentaries	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; APRs/ PIRs; GEF TT; Stakeholders in Project Team and implementing partners	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation; Site visits
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far? To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation?			
Management arrangements			
How do current management arrangements compare with those originally outlined? Have changes been made and are they effective? Are reporting and responsibility lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and timely?	Clear and effective project implementation manual, management arrangements	Project documents; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; UNDP/ Project team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Is there appropriate focus on results, by Partner Agency and Implementing Partner? Is reporting candid and realistic?	Results-based, cogent reporting by UNDP and BEDO	Project documents; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports	Document analysis
Is technical support by UNDP and consultants to Implementing Partner adequate?	Form and results of support provided	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; APRs/ PIRs; Stakeholders	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Are risks to progress – environmental, social, administrative – identified and mitigated in a timely manner?	Risk management approaches and outcomes	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; APRs/ PIRs	Document analysis
Work planning			
Were there any delays in project implementation" If so, what were the reasons and have they been solved?	Achievement of project implementation milestones	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation

Are work-planning processes results-based? How is the Results Framework used as a management tool, (including any changes made)?	Quality of work planning; "Correct" Results Framework	Project documents; Results Framework; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; APR/s PIRs	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Finance and co-finance			
Are financial controls, allowing transparent decision-making and timely flow of funds, well established?	Effectiveness of financial controls	Inception Report; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; Audit reports	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Are funds well-managed? Have there been any well-justified budget revisions, based on evidence from reporting?	Effectiveness, efficiency of financial management	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; Audit reports; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
What co-financing has been mobilised since inception, and what (if any) additional funds have been leveraged?	Co-financing sustained and extended	Project documents; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Project level Monitoring & Evaluation			
Has the M&E plan been appropriate, sufficiently funded and well-implemented?	Active implementation of M&E plan	Project documents; Inception Report; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Has adaptive management been implemented in response to PIRs?	Adaptive management applied	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; APR/s PIRs; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Are monitoring tools and systems relevant, cost-effective and inclusive of stakeholder concerns?	Monitoring tools developed and in use	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; Project Team; Stakeholders	Document analysis;

			Stakeholder consultation
Are risks identified and managed via the M&E system?	Risks identified and mitigated	Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; APR/s PIRs; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Stakeholder engagement			
Has the project engaged local and national stakeholders effectively in support of project objectives and sustainability?	Stakeholders at different levels engaged	Project Team; Stakeholders	Stakeholder consultation; Site visits
Reporting			
How has adaptive management been reported by the Project Team and shared with the Project Board? How have any lessons from adaptive management been documented and incorporated into project management?	Regular reporting to Project Board, used for decision-making	Project Annual Reports; Minutes of Project Board meetings; Project Board members	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
How well does the Project Team fulfil GEF reporting requirements?	GEF reporting requirements satisfied	APRs/PIRs; UNDP CO	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Communication			
Is internal and external communication with project and national stakeholders regular and effective? Does this communication contribute to sustainability?	Communications by project active and engaging	Communication material; Stakeholder reports	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Are there ways to extend the communication aspects of the project?	Communication strategy in place	Project documents; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation

Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?			
What risks or opportunities are there for financial sustainability once GEF financing ends? Are there plans, or steps taken, for establishing mechanisms for financial sustainability?	Financial sustainability plans and actions	Project documents; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
What are the social or political risks to stakeholder ownership allowing sustainability of project outcomes? Are the project's successful aspects being transferred to appropriate parties for replication or scaling up?	Social and political risk mitigation strategy, with actions taken	Project documents; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Are there institutional or governance structures or processes that pose risks to sustainability of project outcomes, or is the project putting such structures/ processes into place to encourage sustainability?	Institutional sustainability plans and actions	Project documents; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation
Has the project developed appropriate institutional capacity that will be self-sufficient after the End of Project date? Has the project identified "champions" in government or civil society who will promote sustainability of outcomes?	Institutional capacity built and/or identified and encouraged.	Project documents; Project Annual & Quarterly Reports; Project Team; Stakeholders in government and local areas	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation; Site visits
Does the project have a sustainability strategy?	Sustainability strategy developed	Project documents; Project Team	Document analysis; Stakeholder consultation

Annex 5. List of persons interviewed and consulted

SN	Name	Title/Designation	State	Institution	Email
1.	Engr Abdullahi G. Abubakar	National Project Coordinator	Abuja	Federal Ministry of Agriculture	agad1965@yahoo.com
2.	Rhoda Dia Zira	National Project Manager	Abuja	Federal Ministry of Agriculture	rzdia4@gmail.com
3.	Habib Zangina Diso	National M&E Specialist	Abuja	Federal Ministry of Agriculture	habibzangina@gmail.com
4.	Pius Birdling	State Desk Officer	Adamawa	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	piusndumari1330@gmail.com
5.	Ode Itolo	State project Manager	Benue	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	odeitolo@gmail.com
6.	Ene Oche	State M&E Officer	Benue	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	enode1@yahoo.com

7.	Jonathan Maina Awan	State M&E Officer	Gombe	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	mjonathan154@yahoo.com
8.	Auwalu Isa Kila	Jigawa	Jigawa	kilaisahauwalu@gmail.com	07035210372
9.	Ado Ubaya Turaki	State M&E Officer	Jigawa	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	adoubayaturaki@gmail.com
10.	Sunusi Bichi	State M&E Officer	Kano	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	sunusibichi945@gmail.com
11.	Aminu Ali	State Media Officer	Kano	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	aminuabichi@gmail.com
12.	Ibrahim Dandela	State M&E Officer	Katsina	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	dandelaibrahim@gmail.com
13.	Yusuf Isheleku	State M&E Officer	Nasarawa	State Ministry of Agriculture (ADP)	ishalekuyusuf92@gmail.com

Stakeholders Consulted at project sites

	Adamawa	Benue	Gombe	Jigawa	Kano	Katsina	Nasarawa
STATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER							
Name	Pius N. Birdling	Ode Itolo	Maina J.Awan	Zubairu Y. Muhammad	Sunusi Dankawu		Alanana M. Emmanuel
Phone Number	08066826878	08082604255	08029973667	08035177396	08068986227		08065522449
MALE PROJECT BENEFICIARY							
Name	Suleiman Njobdi	Ameë Kershima	Gideon Ali	Surajo Dahiru	Abdullahi Ali		Likita Abimiku
Phone Number	08035346115	09025498854	09022098188, 07067941024	08063481493	08032287220		08095438075
FEMALE PROJECT BENEFICIARY							
Name	Hauwa Drambi	Comfort I. Unoro	Hanatu Joseph	Rabi Uba	Muhammad Tijjani		Ruth June
Phone Number	08125052777	08108787342	08082776227, 07037901501	07037389600	08034626950		08064646984

Annex 6. List of documents reviewed

1. PIMS-5541
2. 2018-GEF-PIR-PMS5541-final
3. Year End Annual Report for 2018 final
4. Output verification report
5. PIF
6. GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool Midterm
7. Financial report tracking (Excel spreadsheet)
8. PIR-2018; PIR-2019
9. UNDP Initiation Plan
10. UNDP Project Document
11. UNDP Environmental and Social Screening results
12. Project Inception Report
13. All Project Implementation Reports (PIR's)
14. Quarterly progress reports and work plans of the various implementation task teams
15. Audit reports
16. Finalized GEF focal area Tracking Tools at CEO endorsement and midterm (Tracking Tool for Climate Change Mitigation Projects)
17. Oversight mission reports
18. All monitoring reports prepared by the project
19. Financial and Administration guidelines used by Project Team
20. Project operational guidelines, manuals and systems
21. UNDP country/countries programme document(s)
22. Minutes of the Creating Opportunities for Municipalities to Produce and Operationalize Solid Waste Transformation Project Steering Committee Meetings and other meetings (i.e. Project Appraisal Committee meetings)
23. UNDP Discussion Paper on Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results, dated 05 Nov 2013
24. UNDP-GEF Midterm Review Terms of Reference
25. GEF/C24/Inf.5 2004. GEF Project Cycle Update: Clarification of Policies and Procedures for Project Amendments and Drop/Cancellations. Washington, D.C. October 2004.
26. GEF (2015) OPS3: Progressing toward Environmental Results. Third Overall Performance Study of the GEF. ICF Consulting & Office of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Global Environment Facility, Washington, D.C. June 2005.
27. GEF (2010) The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy 2010. Global Environment Facility, Evaluation Office. Evaluation Document No.4, November 2010.
28. GEF (2017) Guidance for conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed projects. UNDP-GEF Directorate
29. United Nations Common country programme document for Ethiopia

Annex 7. UNDP-GEF Mid-Term Review Audit Trail

To the comments received on 11 Dec 2020 from the Midterm Review of **Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria** (UNDP Project ID-PIMS# 5578)

Author	No.	Para no./ comment location	Comment/Feedback on the draft MTR report	MTR team response and actions taken
Habib Zangina	1	Page 61-62	Make the recommendations clear. Suggest the emerged indicators	Done. The consultant merged the indicators and came up with a new indicators to be revised in the result framework.

To the comments received on 18th Dec 2020

Comments on draft MTR report for PIMS 5578 received on 18 th Dec 2020				
Author	Page #	Section	Comment	MTR team response and actions taken
Hiwot Gebremeskel	5	List of abbreviations and acronyms	"UNDP-GEF" is no longer the name of our unit. We are the Nature, Climate and Energy team but this MTR process may have started before the name change.	Revised
	8	Table 1. Project Information Table	Change "UNDP-GEF PIMS ID" to "UNDP PIMS ID"	Revised
	14	2.1 Purpose of MTR and objectives	In the sentence, "For all UNDP-GEF full-sized projects..." change "the text to, "For all UNDP-supported GEF-financed full-sized projects..." This would be consistent with how we refer to GEF-financed projects supported by us.	Revised
	15-16	2.2. Scope and Methodology	Were any gender-responsive tools and/or methodologies used? If so, describe them here.	Revised

26	Table 2. Project milestone dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date is blank for “Project Designed” Consider changing this to “PIF Approval” In the line for “GEF Approval”, specific if this is approval of the PIF (concept) or the full project. I believe it is for the PIF. Therefore, you could use “GEF Concept Approval” or “GEF PIF Approval” Change “Agency Approval” to “GEF CEO Endorsement” (which was in June 2017) 	Revised
32	4.1.2 Design of Results Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the indicators SMART? 	The result framework indicators SMART description added
49-50	4.3.3 Finance and Co-finance	<p>Include a table that shows planned co-financing and actual co-financing at the time of the MTR.</p> <p>Also, please complete the attached Co-financing template which must list actual co-financing at the time of MTR for each co-financing source. For the ‘investment mobilized’ column, refer to the below definitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Investment Mobilized</i> means Co-Financing that excludes recurrent expenditures (Different governments, companies and organizations may use different terms to refer to “recurrent expenditures”, such as “current expenditures” or “operational/operating expenditures”.) <i>Recurrent expenditures</i> can generally be understood as routine budgetary expenditures that fund the year-to-year core operations of the entity (they are often referred to as ‘running costs’ - they do not result in the creation or acquisition of fixed assets). They would include wages, salaries and supplements for core staff; purchases of goods and services required for core operations; 	Table Added

			and/or depreciation expenses. Some of the typical government co-financing we have previously included (such as routine budgetary expenses for Ministry of Environment operations) will no longer meet this new definition of investment mobilized for these specific countries).
Annexes	Annexes	<p>Include in the Annexes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Questionnaire or Interview Guide used for data collection -<i>Annexed in a separate file:</i> Audit trail from received comments on draft MTR report -<i>Annexed in a separate file:</i> Relevant midterm Core Indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Questionnaire data collection tool is already in the report as Annex 3. MTR Evaluative Matrix. - Audit trail from received comments on draft MTR report has been annexed - Relevant midterm Core Indicators annexed by PMU

Annex 8: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Forms

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: Muyambi Fortunate.

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at _____(Place) on _____(Date)

Signature:

Evaluators/Consultants:

8. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
9. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
10. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
11. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
12. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
13. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
14. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: Abila Nelson

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at _____ (Place) on _____ (Date)

Signature:

Annex 9. Signed MTR final report clearance form

Midterm Review Report Reviewed and Cleared By:	
Commissioning Unit	
Name: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____
UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor	
Name: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____