**Management Response to the Midterm Review of**

**STRENGTHENING FRAMEWORK FOR NTFP | BRAZIL**

**Project Title:** “Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into NTFP and AFS production practices in multiple-use forest landscapes of high conservation value” – Bem Diverso (BRA/14/G33)

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**Context, background and findings**

1. The purpose of the Mid-term Review (MTR) was to assess progress towards the achievement of the objectives and reach of the Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into NTFP and AFS production practices in multiple-use forest indicators landscapes of high conservation value, as set out in the Project Document (PRODOC), and assess the signs of success or failure of the Project, with the aim of identifying the changes or adaptations necessary in the implementation of activities to more efficiently achieve the objectives. indicators proposed in addition to ensuring the sustainability of activities in the field.

2. The MTR's review presents the main conclusions, conclusions and recommendations to be adopted by the Project, based on the evaluation of the 4 years of project execution (2015-2019), in which the UNDP implemented the project under the technical coordination of EMBRAPA, together with interested parties, in the Amazon, Cerrado and Caatinga biomes.

3. The results identified in the MTR are very relevant for evaluation by the Project Management Unit (UGP), Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on the progress achieved so far, and all the challenges encountered in seeking ways to improve the processes of implementation and execution.

4. In addition, the final conclusions and recommendations will not only help in the adequacy of the Bem Diverso Project to ensure the best performance to be achieved by the end of its implementation but, above all, point out direct actions that will guarantee the sustainability of the activities and technologies developed for the conservation of biodiversity through sustainable use in the 6 territories where the Project operates.

5. It was demonstrated in the MTR that the NTFP and AFS produce conservation benefits, but require scaling up to provide significant impacts at the landscape level.

6. According to the Consultant, this is currently limited by a series of governance and market constraints that the Project seeks to overcome, by developing safeguards for harvesting, production and incentives that optimize the contribution of existing policies to the conservation of globally significant ecosystems. In addition, by adopting a market / trade-based approach to improve the returns of NTFP and AFS and providing incentives for adoption at scale, conservation dividends will increase.

7. Regarding the progress of the indicators the project presented adequate progress in terms of the indicators related to the surface area of ​​forests in multiple use landscapes (MUL) with sustainable production of BD product: the heat foci have decreased in all territories; the project's work on restoration and management has guaranteed the propagation of populations of species targeted by extractivism; EMBRAPA increased its capacities for mainstreaming NTFP and AFS; and producers have been directly trained in management and sustainable production through workshops for the adoption of the practices promoted by BEM DIVERSO. Some implementation gaps were identified in the case of results related to the NTFP species that are under the General Policy of Guaranteed Minimum Prices (PGPMBio) in each biome and producers that adopt sustainable production of NTFP and AFS.

8. The Report also indicates that the application in high-conservation value forest landscapes of market and financial frameworks improved the production chains of species with the aim of increasing their market value and access, and families have reported an increase in the participation of socio- biodiversity products in their income. However, the challenges persist in the access to financing of producers (eg credits, grants) for NTFP and AFS production and management subject to environmental criteria, and some implementation gaps (products' quality and quantity) were identified in the associations / cooperatives that maintain contracts for supply of products with the same buyer (s) and increase in the share of BD products in family incomes.

9. In view of the institutional changes that have occurred with the government transitions since the signing project’s beginning, it is important to highlight the great effort that has been made by the team for the adaptive management of the project, in order to respond to the external and internal changes through which the Bem Diverso has been passing. All the risks predicted at the risk matrix have occurred.

Conclusions:

10. According to the MTR, the Bem Diverso Project based its strategies well on priorities and correct public policies for biodiversity conservation and achieved a good degree of national ownership of the Project, which led by EMBRAPA managed to bring together other important institutions and worshipers.

11. The Project made it possible to respond to national priorities and also positioned Brazil on a good path to fulfill its biodiversity commitments. In addition, EMBRAPA took the lead and developed ownership of conceptual design and project activities at the regional level, which is a condition for contributing to sustainability.

12. The Consultant highlights the need to build a formal exit strategy for the BEM DIVERSO Project.

13. The successive changes in the Government of Brazil presented some difficulties in communicating with the members of the Project Advisory Committee, formed by several Ministries. According to the Consultant, political instability at the federal level was reflected negatively at the local level and in the progress of the project. However, the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) has helped to ensure implementation during politically unstable times.

14. NGOs with a long-term presence are a good opportunity for the BEM DIVERSO project, however, the lack of specific experience in the development and implementation of agribusiness can be adverse. The acceptance of small-scale agricultural production projects by EMBRAPA was a challenge, as it required specific knowledge and a new culture within the institution.

15. The Report also highlights that the development of local plans is time consuming, given the specificity and particularity of the TCs, which is also a challenge due to the extension of the territories and the distances, which made the role and presence of the coordination more challenging.

16. Finally, the Consultant pays special attention to what he calls the development of agribusiness, which would be related to PRODOC Result 2, in relation to production chains and access to markets. According to the Consultant, this development of agribusiness requires a whole methodology and not just some activities related to it. The Report also highlights the importance of EMATER as a positive role and one of the project's additional stakeholders, adding value to the project activities that participated in the states of Pará and Minas Gerais. The implementation of project activities proved to be moderately efficient in meeting the agreed goals of the project. The current coordination of the project has been working to promote better efficiency and effectiveness of its actions.

17. As a final note, it’s important to mention that after the field visit in 2019 by the external evaluation consultant, the Project’s coordination have started to implement several recommendations that were presented as initial findings.

**Important Note:** Due to the pandemic of the new coronavirus (Covid-19) and following the guidelines of WHO and local governments in Brazil, the Bem Diverso Project suspended all activities involving displacement and meetings of people. Bearing in mind that field activities are essential due to the nature of the Project, this suspension will have a direct impact on the deadlines for responding to the present recommendations.

**Recommendations and Management Response**

**A – Project Objective**

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation A1.**There should be a measurable and realistic strategy of sustainability operated by EMBRAPA. The Escola Família Agrícola (EFA) can be a strategic player in some territories to multiply the local capacity as a business incubator. Additional external expertise is advisable to build the capacity and expertise of at least 2 EFA professors (staff) and an initial group of 18-20 student leaders (selected competitively), on how to prepare and implement agribusiness plans. The adopted methodology would be replicated year after year. It would build a more sustainable approach. The approach recommended for territories where EFA has no presence is to use the teachers and students of EFA to replicate the methodology, which as well can generate some income to the EFA. |
| **Management response:** Indeed the Escola Família Agrícola (EFA) can be a strategic player to multiply the local capacity , which is fundamental to the commitment and engagement of the youth (and their families) to the Project´s objectives, as demonstrated with the good results achieved in the Cerrado CTs, where the school program was prepared according to the contributions from the Bem Diverso Project.Besides the recommended “business incubator” preparing and implementing business plans efforts will be made to expand our work to, at least, one EFA in each territory, replicating what has be done in Nova Esperança and Monte Santo EFAs and strongly investing on capacity building of EFAs staff using an array of tools such as on-line training platform facilitating individualized learning at distance, teachers training in different Embrapa´s Units and partners NGOs, developing and disseminating teaching methods and promoting networking and exchange of experience and good practice between EFAs and others reference centers.This strategy will also be applied in the Reference Centers driven by the project: Sustainable Management of Açaí (Amazonic Forest) Environmental Restoration in Cerrado biome and the Sustainable Management of Native Species in Caatinga biome.Moreover, following the field visit of the European mission (Project Dialogues EU/Bem Diverso, first week of March 2020) to the North of Minas Gerais, an agreement is being prepared to allow secondments of students from the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in the Nova Esperança Rural Family School to work on those subjects |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking[[1]](#footnote-1)** |
| **Comments** | **Status[[2]](#footnote-2)** |
| A1.1. Consultancy for training EFA’s teachers and multipliers on business management (Agribusiness)  | August 2020 / March 2021 | EMBRAPA, UNDP and partners | Negotiations have already started. | Pending |
| A1.2. Create a working group composed by EFA’s teacher from different regions and promote exchange visits and knowledge sharing between the different regions.  | July /December 2020 | EMBRAPA, UNDP and partners | Negotiations have already started. | Pending |
| A.1.3. Build different partnerships in order to create incubators for rural producers, and to build an online platform to connect buyers and producers (with the consultant support) | May 2020/May 2021 | EMBRAPA, UNDP and partners | Negotiations have already started. | Pending |

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation A2.** EMBRAPA should plan an internal workshop to assess the Letters of Agreement and prepare an exit strategy from BEM DIVERSO and how EMBRAPA will keep supporting the existing initiatives and new initiatives. |
| **Management response:** The Project has already taken the necessary steps regarding this recommendation, as a senior consultant has been recently hired for the preparation of the exit strategy. Assessing the results of the Letters of Agreement and starting discussions with our partners is expected to be done during the suggested workshop, in the second semester in 2020, via videoconference or presential, depending on Covid-19 sanitary recommendations. Additionally, local Ematers, NGOs, EFAs and technical people trained by the Project whom are based at the reference centers under consolidation within the territories, will be invited to take part of the discussions.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| A2.1. Organize an internal Workshop to assess the Letters of Agreement and to discuss the Exit Strategy for the Bem Diverso Project with the different stakeholders (by videoconference or presential, if possible) | May -Oct 2020 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | Discussion of Exist Strategy is being done trough virtual meetings with partners since May 2020.The internal workshop to assess the Letters of Agreement should take place virtually by Webinar during second semester 2020  | Partially completed. |
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| A.2.2. Elaborate and Execute the Exit Strategy Plan for Bem Diverso Project.  | July 2020 – June 2021 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | A senior consultant has been hired on March 2020 to prepare this strategy, taking into account the inputs and recommendations discussed in the referred workshop.  | In progress  |

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation A3.**EMBRAPA is a key partner that should continue replicating and escalating the Bem Diverso good practices and methodologies adopted and provide additional investments to strengthen local capacities in the targeted CTs and other CTs. |
| **Management response:** EMBRAPA is indeed fundamental for the replication of good practices and technologies within the project’s framework. Besides the activities already stated in Management Response A1 with EFAs and Bem Diverso’s Reference Centers, the project is strengthening its relations with others Institutions, notably the Brazilian Enterprise for Technical Assistanceand Rural Extension – EMATER and rural financial institutions such as Banco do Nordeste and Banco da Amazonia (Public Banks) for rural credit access. In this case, regarding credit access, more than two million Reais has been already conceived by the Amazon Bank for communities that have been involved in the Project’s activitiesIn this regard, the project is hiring a consultant to coordinate the preparation of didactic material in different medias, containing good practices and lessons learned, focused to these financial and rural extension stakeholders and training courses for this specific public.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| A3.1. Select and hire a Knowledge Management consultant to systematize good practices and lessons learned. | July 2020 / Dec 2020 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | The Technical Advisor is already preparing the ToR | Pending |
| A.3.2. Elaborate technical material from the best practices, in different formats (videos, publications, etc) for broader dissemination, targeted specially to the Reference Centre’s, as well to EFA’s staff, which will replicate and multiply the knowledge to neighboring regions.  | Sep 2020/ May 2021 | Consultant, EMBRAPA, UNDP  | Embapa will provide technical support and constant monitoring to the dissemination process.  | Pending |
| A.3.3. Expand the youth communicators network with local Embrapa units to other regions (such as Sobral and Médio Mearim), as well as to strengthen the existing ones (Alto Rio Pardo, Marajó, Sertão São Francisco and Alto Acre e Capixaba) and promote a comprehensive training to the whole network | April 2020/May 2021 | EMBRAPA, UNDP | The youth communicator network developed in the TCs has been playing a very important role to the information dissemination.  | In progress  |

**B – Outcome 1**

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation B1.** Prepare and disseminate training plans and not just isolated training activities. Every training activity should be part of a strategic training plan. Include qualitative indicators to asses training outcomes and how these add value to the overall project interventions, many productive activities in part can be improved thanks to new techniques learned during theoretical and practical trainings. It is required through the SISUC to measure the added value of the trainings at the outcome level. |
| **Management response:** After the first recommendations presented by the evaluation consultant during the field visit in 2019, the Project has improved its activities monitoring, including qualitative indicators to the training’s questionnaires, which has enabled some changes in response to the answers. However, due to the variety of territories and stakeholders, it was not yet possible to implement a unique monitoring system to all Project’s trainings. In this regard, the knowledge management consultant that is to be hired, as stated in A.3.1, will support on the systemization of training’s outcomes. In what concerns the broader and strategic training plan, the Project coordination is taking the recommendation into account in the workplan for 2020/2021. The Social-environmental Indicator System for Conservation Units (SISUC), which is expected to be conclude in first semester 2020, will be of great value for assessing the results so far, and trainings workshops will be held in the different territories for its application. |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| B1.1. Improve the training plans and monitoring of the results of each training | April /December 2020 | Focal Points, Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | The Project Coordination has already started to review the work plans, in order to contemplate this recommendation.  | In progress |
| B1.2. SISUC application workshops | September 2019 / March 2021 | NSC Institute, Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | The SISUC Workshop was held in the Alto Rio Pardo Territory, but due to the suspension of field activities by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are pending to carry it out in other territories. Activity will resume as soon as possible | Partially Completed |

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation B2.** A good practice is the formal inclusion from community co-financing, whether in kind or monetary, improves accountability, ownership and sustainability. |
| **Management response:** In what concerns the in kind co-financing, the Project team understands it has being already done as the communities are engaged in the Project’s activities with their collective work, the time dedicated (that could be counted as “technical hours”), the transport displacements, as well as acting as multipliers of the good practices to other communities. Regarding the cash co-financing, there are two important experiences developed by the Project in two territories – *Fundo do Açai*, in the Amazon biome, and *Fundo de Restauração,* in the Cerrado biome, where the members of the communities invest in the Funds with the revenue’s profits from their work. These experiences should be expanded, and knowledge exchange promoted between the different regions.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| B.2.1. Bring the co-financing topic to the Project’s Local Committees and to the focal points and propose a calculation of the contributions already made.  | July / December 2020 | Focal Points, Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | No comments | Pending |
| B.2.2. Use the methodology developed from the Fundo do Açaí (Amazônia) and Fundo de Restauração (Cerrado) and adapt to the other regions, taking into account the potentialities of each territory.  | August 2020 / February 2021 | Fundo do Açaí e o de Restauração teams, EMBRAPA, UNDP | No comments | Pending  |

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation B3.**Primary and Secondary school Teachers should be part of the training related to biodiversity, to later disseminate among young students the importance of the local and global environment. |
| **Management response:** Besides the EFA’s secondary teachers’ trainings, there are some very interesting examples that included Primary and Secondary school teachers and students in the Project´s training programs, for instance, in the Marajó II CT. There, the Project helped to organize the Fourth Science Fair where teachers and students from 22 schools were engaged in Project´s activities developed exclusively for the meeting (see link below).(<https://www.embrapa.br/amapa/eventos/-/evento/408780/oficina-de-boas-praticas-de-fabricacao-para-batedeiras-artesanais#sec-programacao>)(<https://novo.ufra.edu.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2310:iv-feira-de-ciencias-do-acutipereira-a-ufra-transpondo-os-muros-e-gerando-novas-praticas-de-sustentabilidade&catid=17&Itemid=121>)(<https://www.folhadeportel.com.br/2019/10/iv-feira-de-ciencias-do-acutipereira.html>)Though there are some cases where primary teachers are being involved to the project’s trainings and activities (in Marajó and Alto Rio Pardo), it’s important to highlight that the Project does not have the capacity to implement this recommendation at the fullest. That’s why the Project has prioritized and focused on the EFA’s model as a strategy to disseminate the importance of biodiversity to the youth. Those schools are mainly oriented to educate farmers’ children based on alternance methodology (where the students alternate some periods at home and some periods at the school). The alternance school regime allows knowledge sharing to the other young people when the students return to their rural communities.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| B3.1. Reinforce the invitation and participation of Primary and Secondary school Teachers in the Project Trainings, whenever possible.  | April / December 2020 | Focal Points, Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | It has been implemented since the beginning of the Project | Partially Completed |

**C – Outcome 2**

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation C1.**It is necessary to seek specialized expertise to ensure feasible agribusiness plans for all the economic initiatives. The existing attempts lack real expertise in such area. Consultants who have practical and proven experience in setting-up agribusiness, would make a difference |
| **Management response:**After the first findings presented by the evaluation consultant, the Project has sought specialized expertise for setting-up business plans for agroforestry/extractive products and two initiatives are under negotiation: (i) partnership with Institute Conexsus (MOU will be signed between UNDP and the Conexsus Institute) and (ii) hiring two consultants with previous experience in the Green Markets and Sustainable Consumption Project, for business management and institutional markets access. It’s important to highlight that Conexsus Institute have a pragmatic and hands-on approach to building solutions to (1) scale up sustainable value chains, (2) maximize social and environmental impacts and (3) improve the viability of community enterprises. Alongside a large number of partners and co-creators, Conexsus creates Labs and initiatives to develop business prototypes, business models, scaling-up solutions, financial solutions and market access. (<https://www.conexsus.org/>)In addition, the project coordination considers very important to learn from the Central do Cerrado experience, which was reflected to Central da Caatinga learning process for its organization. Another action is to take the good examples of their experience for adaptation to other areas. <http://centraldacaatinga.com.br/cecaat/><http://www.centraldocerrado.org.br/> |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| C1.1. Hire specialized consultancy in Business Plan for socio-biodiversity projects | April 2020 / March 2021 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | The Technical Advisor is elaborating the ToR | In progress |
| C.1.2. Formalize partnership with Conexsus Institute and implement joint activities within the Project’s framework. | April 2020 / March 2021 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | MOU and Workplan are under development. | In progress  |
| C.1.3. Gather good practices from Central do Cerrado and Central da Caatinga to replicate as a pilot in other regions.  | June 2020 / March 2021 | Central da Caatinga, Central do Cerrado, EMBRAPA, UNDP | No comments.  | Pending |

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation C2.**For some products, local partners have included the communities in the commodity market, a risk that should have been assessed better by taking into account the negotiating power of these communities. In some sectors, products have been introduced into large markets, but without a feasible business plan for the producers that would ensure competitive and sustainable participation. |
| **Management response:** It’s important to mention the changes occurred in the political and economic context in Brazil since the project’s design. A large variety of business plans for local products were elaborated with a focus on the institutional markets, when public policies such as PAA (Food Acquisition Program) and PNAE (School Feeding Program) were more available and easily accessible. The focus on local conventional markets has been the strategy adopted in view of the shrinking institutional market. Therefore, the Project coordination is seeking advice for the re-elaboration of business plans in the actual context, as stated at the previous answer (C.1).  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| C2.1. The Consultancy of the previous recommendation will work on this topic of negotiations to build feasible business plans for local communities according to their specificities.  | April 2020 / March 2021 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | The Technical Advisor is already preparing the ToR | Pending |

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation C3.**It is recommended to enhance the insertion of products in the local market, with prospective operations at regional, national and international markets, since it has been proved to be more efficient for some of the partners’ learning process of the market operation logic as part of a productive alliance. |
| **Management response:** The Project has been working the insertion of sociobiodiversity products in local, national and international markets improving their quality and ensuring compliance with standards and phytosanitary requirements (through an array of activities such as the evaluation of the fabrication procedures of our partners´ plants and elaboration of guidelines for improvement; promoting Best Practices Courses and providing technical assistance).The project has also supported and provided assistant to commercialization centers as Central do Cerrado and Central da Caatinga, reaching the regional and national markets as well as organizing and giving support to local farmer´s markets.   Within the framework of the partnership between Bem Diverso Project and the EU – Brazil Sectorial Dialogues, partnerships are being negotiated with European institutions for the international commercialization. A specialized consultancy will be hired to support these activities. Additionally, a partnership is already under negotiation with the Ministry of Citizenship, and GIZ (German Cooperation) to promote business platforms to stimulate local purchases. |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| C3.1. Hiring Consultancy to conduct business platforms (workshops), bringing together buyers and producers, in addition to nutritionists and chefs.  | April 2020 / March 2021 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | The Technical Advisor is already preparing the ToR | In progress |
| C.3.2 – Build partnerships and use methodologies already developed and tested (specially by Conexsus Institute) to enhance the market access. - | April 2020 / March 2021 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | No comments. | Pending  |

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| **Midterm Review Recommendation, Specific Recommendation 1.**It would be advisable to extend the closing date of the project for 12 months, to ensure the effective finalization of the work plan and some ongoing activities that demand more technical assistance to ensure their self-sustainability by exercising more productive and competitive agribusiness. To prepare a Project Strategy might demand around 6 months, the exit strategy include specific plans for each agreement to ensure good finalization of the Bem Diverso support, though more important the continuity of their business plans on their own. A well-designed exit strategy is an opportunity to raise additional funds from other donors who can take the Bem Diverso Project as a successful pilot and replicate and upscale the good practices and methodologies adopted under Bem DiversoLessons learned and best practices must be systematized and reflected in the project activities to improve continuously. The Socio-environmental Indicator System for Conservation Units (SISUC) despite coming late, is still a good opportunity for it.There is a need to invest in the development of local capacities, so that they appropriate the necessary tools for the promotion of local development. The monitoring and evaluation function should be strengthened taking into account the following points: (I) Planning a monitoring strategy of the expected outcomes of the project from this point until the end of the intervention with a critical route that will follow the sequence of activities to be implemented to strengthen the monitoring process, and (II) Improvement of the descriptive and analytical content of the project progress reports. Training activities need to include qualitative indicators, that will contribute to better understand the added value of all training activities across the Bem Diverso Project and how these activities have contributed to the project outcomes. |
| **Management response:** The project extension for another 12 months has been requested and approved by GEF. The workplan 2020/21 is being reviewed in order to include the present recommendations, considering the exit strategy and sustainability of the actions.In this sense, we have also started a series of meetings with the Government and partners interested in supporting the continuity of the actions and lessons learned from the Project's successes.SISUC and the improvement of the Project's quantitative indicators will be very positive at this stage.Therest of recommendations have been discussed in the previous answers.  |
| **Key action(s)** | **Time frame** | **Responsible unit(s)** | **Tracking** |
| **Comments** | **Status** |
| Request for a 12-month Extension of the Project and Review of the Work Plans, with a view to meeting the recommendations | Dec/2019 – July / 2020 | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | The project extension was approved and is being formalized by counterparts.  | In progress |
| Elaboration of Concept Note for a Project’s second phase to be presented to potential donors and partners.  | June September - 2020  | Project Management Unit (PMU) – EMBRAPA and UNDP | Negotiations have been started with some potential partner for scaling up such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Science and Technology, European Union, among others.  | Pending  |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)