

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Caatinga Ecosystems Conservation II (Sergipe)**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 3066 |
| GEF ID | 5276 |
| Title | Sustainable Land use Management in the Semi-arid Region of the North-East Brazil (Sergipe) |
| Country(ies) | Brazil, Brazil |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | BRA10 (Brazil) |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| This project will address land degradation (LD) in the state of the Sergipe in the Brazilian Northeast with a view to scaling up to the entire Semiarid region. It is designed to optimize and coordinate existing programs to engender sustainable land management (SLM), reverting land degradation in a state where 74.2% is susceptible to desertification (ASD) and only 13% the original Caatinga vegetation remains. It will strengthen the state environmental governance framework to better address the main drivers of land degradation and desertification, focusing primarily on the escalating conflict of land uses and unsustainable agriculture practices where LD is causing soil erosion, soil nutrient depletion, damaging hydrological system integrity and undermining ecosystem services. Key elements that will be strengthened include land use planning and appropriate environmental licensing and oversight to avoid, reduce and mitigate LD. Through strengthened institutional and smallholder capacities and facilitation of access to funding, uptake of SLM practices will be increased and on-the-ground actions will be tried and tested in the Alto Sertao Sergipe (SAS), where LD is highest. This territory is a state priority and is targeted nationally in a program to reduce hunger and poverty. By reducing LD and maintaining vital ecosystem services, the project will improve livelihoods in an area with high poverty and social hardship, particularly in agrarian reform settlements. Strategic action at the national level through the Department to Combat Desertification in the Ministry of Environment's Secretariat of Extraction and Sustainable Rural Development and the National Commission for Combating Desertification will enable this state's SLM governance model to be disseminated to other states, thereby facilitating replication across the entire Brazilian Semiarid region and evoking further global environmental benefits the middle and long term. |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

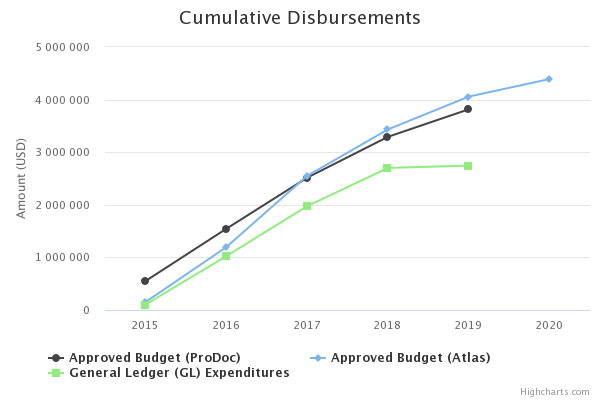
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Strengthening SLM governance frameworks to combat land degradation processes in Sergipe ASD in NE Brazil** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Area (ha) of rural properties in which recommended SLM practices are implemented in Sergipe. | 1. No recommended SLM practices disseminated to date. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. 70,000 ha on 2,000 rural properties, including replication areas. | The Instituto Dom Jose Brandão de Castro (CDJBC) and the Socio-Environmentalist Cultural Support Society (SASAC) were selected and contracted (via Request for Proposal No. JOF-0231/2017) to implement field interventions in the four focal areas of the project (3 settlements and a community in the region of Alto Sertão in Sergipe). The two institutions are from the state of Sergipe and have an excellent track record in the ASS region.    The contracts were signed on 09th September 2017 and the work began in October 2017.    In November 2017, in agreement between the technical coordination of the MMA and SASAC, CDJBC and UNDP it was decided to replace three of the four field intervention areas of the project in Sergipe. Three (3) agrarian reform settlements were defined as new areas, including a quilombola area. According to the MMA (in the Technical Note No. 51277/2017-MMA and annexed terms of agreement of SASAC and CDJBC) the new areas selected are more vulnerable to land degradation. According to the MMA with the implementation of the Units of Recovery of Degraded Areas and Reduction of Climate Vulnerability (URADs) in these areas the environmental results will be more effective in the control of soil erosion and recovery of springs. In addition, the communities involved will benefit more effectively from social and productive actions. The substitutions did not imply changes in the scope of the agreed actions. Although investments had been made in training and meetings with the three communities that were later substituted, there was no significant impact on the project’s budget since: the initially trained multiplying agents also worked in the new communities; the selection process for URAD implementation was based on the study of good practices that was elaborated by CFAC; and the devaluation of the Brazilian real during this PIR period resulted in savings in payments for contracts that had already been hired.    The URADs are part of the strategy proposed by the Department of Sustainable Rural Development and to Combat Desertification (DRSC / MMA) and are implemented in three main lines of action: environmental, social and productive interventions, with parallel training activities involving the families of each community.    In this context, in the municipality of Canindé of San Francisco, the agrarian reform settlements Valmir Mota and Jacaré Curituba (dry land) were replaced by the João Pedro Teixeira and Modelo settlements, respectively, whose actions are being implemented by the CDJBC. In the same municipality, the Florestan Fernandes settlement was maintained as an intervention area whose activities are under the coordination of the SASAC institution. In the municipality of Poço Redondo, the community of Poço Preto was replaced by the Flor da Serra Settlement and Quilombo Serra da Guia, also under the responsibility of SASAC.    The project's field intervention actions are carried out through the implementation of 4 (four) URADs, directly covering 2 (two) municipalities of Alto Sertão de Sergipe (Canindé de São Francisco and Poço Redondo), 144 beneficiary properties / families (30 in the Florestan Fernandes Settlement, 30 in the João Pedro Teixeira Settlement, 30 in the Modelo Settlement, 10 in the Flor da Serra Settlement and 44 in Quilombo Serra da Guia).    The total area of the settlements and the quilombo comprises a total of 15,195.15 hectares and the direct intervention area covers 2,852 hectares. The perimeter of the direct intervention areas will be checked in the field and registered in the next PIR.    Although the expected results of the four URADs implemented are still below the Projeto Sergipe’s target, it is important to note that the scope of interventions exceeds the URADs´ boundaries and benefits more families than those directly involved in the URADs. Several practices are being implemented in collective areas of the communities that host the URADs, such as the recovery of springs, erosion preventing dams, and agroforestry systems. In addition, training is being offered to families outside the communities where URADs are being implemented, with more multiplying agents being qualified. Therefore, the numbers registered in the PIR refer only to the results agreed for the implementation of the four URADs. Those numbers should be expanded in the next PIR period with the replication of URADs in Sergipe and other states of the Semi-arid region of Northeast Brazil.    There was a delay in the execution of the field actions because the partner institutions, following MMA´s guidance, made a brief diagnosis and adjusted the Executive Plan of the work. In this regard, through an Additional Term added to the contracts with the institutions hired to implement the four URADs, CDJBC and SASAC, the implementation period was extended from 9 to 11 months. Interventions will be finalized by early September 2018, which will not impact the conclusion of the project.    In addition to the four areas reported upon above, the project is supporting the implementation of 6 URADs in 4 municipalities in other states of the Brazilian Northeast: States of Maranhão, Piauí, Pernambuco and Bahia. The project’s methodology, practices, studies and lessons learned have been used in both the design and in the implementation of those additional URADs. Also, MMA has used the project’s results as a reference to showcase, which has allowed for URAD adoption in synergy with other cooperation projects and policies implemented by the ministry. The best example is the adoption of the URAD strategy by IBAMA in its environmental fines conversion program, which could benefit up to 5,000 families in the Brazilian Northeast.    The project has also contributed directly to the replication of URADs in the Brazilian semi-arid region since a consultant was hired to undertake a rural diagnosis of the aforementioned states (Maranhão, Piauí, Pernambuco and Bahia). In total, the interventions will directly benefit 180 families in an area of approx. 42, 000 hectares in these states. These planned interventions will be funded by Government resources managed by IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on AgricultureInstituto), for a total of USD 865,000.00. In addition, a URAD has been implemented with the support of the National Climate Change Fund (MMA) (Fundo Clima), in partnership with the State Government of Pernambuco with resources of around USD 173,000.00    A synergy with Project GCP/BRA/085/GFF has already been established in cooperation with FAO and GEF resources entitled "Reversing the Desertification Process in the Brazilian DSA: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Conservation of Biodiversity - REDESER". Based on the studies and successful processes and methodologies developed by the Projeto Sergipe, this FAO project foresees the installation of URADs in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Piauí and Rio Grande do Norte. The total amount contributed by the GEF to GCP / BRA / 085 / GFF is USD 3,930,155. The project is in the initial stage of execution.    A Cooperation Project with the OEI (Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture) entitled "Strategies for the Program to Neutralize Land Degradation (LDN) and the UNCCD 2018/2030 " is in the final phase of resource mobilization. The project aims to expand processes of knowledge management, exchange of innovative experiences; and development of national capacities to implement national strategies for preventing, controlling and combating desertification by pursuing the goals of the LDN Program (ODS 15.3) by promoting the implementation of the UNCCD strategic framework (2018/2030). The actions will be implemented in the Brazilian areas susceptible to desertification.    In addition, IBAMA (Instituto Brasileiro para o Meio Ambiente) has approximately USD 88 Million for conversion of environmental fees into environmental recovery activities covering the basins of the São Francisco River and the Parnaíba River Basin. As a result, in April of 2018 a public call (nº001/2018) was launched by Ibama to select environmental recovery projects. To support the dissemination of URADs throughout Brazil, MMA transferred to Ibama the URAD implementation methodology applied by Projeto Sergipe, which was used in the elaboration of the aforementioned public call, which is expected to reach 5,000 families. However, the amount for URADs is still undefined, because it depends on the number of projects that will be selected for support.Recently, the deadline for submission of proposals was extended to September 29th, 2018. The ToRs define an amount up to approx. USD 17,000 per family, totaling approx. USD 44 million.    As the Municipal Action Plans to combat desertification will guide the performance of the municipality in the implementation of SLM practices, it is important to mention here the development achieved so far in their elaboration. The Municipal Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Reduce Climate Vulnerability (PAM) in the municipality of Poço Redondo was presented and a participatory workshop was held on the 30th August 2017 involving local communities and municipal and state institutions. Among the communities participating in the workshop, the Garrote do Emiliano Community, also located in Poço Redondo, stands out and presented the SLM best practices experiences it implemented with the support of the Institute of Population and Nature Society (ISPN) through the Small Grants Program- PPP-ECOS (GEF / UNDP).    The six (6) MAPs of the other municipalities of the Alto Sertão region in Sergipe are in the process of being drafted and are expected to be finalized in the second half of 2018. The MMA has been coordinating the actions in the field so that the process of preparing the MAPs coincides with that of implementing the URADs, so they could be used as a reference and incentive for gathering support for the development of the MAPs, which is why the MAPs were not developed in the second half of 2017, as reported in PIR / 2017. In this sense, it should be noted that MMA and Semarh / SE planned on using resources that the Brazilian Climate Fund had set aside for Sergipe to implement URADs in the other municipalities of the in the areas susceptible to desertification. However, this action will only be effective after reactivation of the agreement through which the resources are transferred from the Climate Fund to Sergipe. In order for that to happen, the project coordination in MMA has helped the government of Sergipe with negotiations with the Climate Fund, which will determine whether all the conditions for the reactivation of the agreement have been reached.    The proposal is that the municipal policy under construction (MAPs) already presents its results in the field. It is expected that the positive impacts resulting from the URADs will be disseminated and will contribute to municipal policy and the expansion of SLM adoption to the other ASD / SE and the semi-arid areas of the Brazilian NE.    MMA has put forward the issue of URADs as a starting point for the establishment of partnerships. It will be necessary to advance a little more in the actions of the URADs´ establishment so that the new partnerships are defined and consolidated. In this context, partnerships with ISPN and Sebrae are still awaiting outcomes and other partnerships are being discussed with IBAMA and other agencies.  In this context, the coordination of the MMA project has been managing to effectively involve the co-financing partner institutions, formalizing new partnerships.  Therefore, in addition to its direct interventions, the project will also achieve results through the dissemination of knowledge and will support the replication of URADs throughout the Brazilian Northeast. As a result, the project is expected to exceed its target in terms of the area (ha) of rural properties in which recommended SLM practices are implemented. Nevertheless, it is necessary to note that the reversal of land degradation in the Brazilian semi-arid may take more time than that of the project, due to the soil and climatic characteristics of the region. | 1. Area (ha) of rural properties in which recommended SLM practices are implemented in Sergipe    Currently, the project’s intervention areas total 15,195.15 ha in Sergipe and 11,133.29 ha in replication areas in the Brazilian Northeast, totaling 26,328.44 ha. Also, 486 families will receive training to apply SLM practices on their properties, 168 families in the already installed intervention areas in Sergipe and 318 more families in replication areas.    Field interventions in the project´s focus areas were completed in November 2018. The intervention was based on the URAD (Units of Recovery of Degraded Areas and Reduction of Climate Vulnerability ) strategy, developed by the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA), which combines social, environmental and productive management and soil, water and biodiversity conservation, using simple and low-cost technologies, with the participation of local communities.    The project implemented URADs in 2 (two) municipalities of Alto Sertão Sergipe (de São Francisco and Poço Redondo) and directly benefited 168 families from Florestan Fernandes (32 families), Modelo (35 families), João Pedro Teixeira (30 families), Flor da Serra and Quilombo Serra da Guia (71 families) communities.    These 168 families use SLM practices on their properties and, with the support of the project, today have 08 (eight) recovered springs, 97 (ninety-seven) successive dams to contain the sediments resulting from soil erosion and avoid its transport to rivers and reservoirs, as well as areas for crop, livestock and forest integration (ILPF, in Portuguese) and Agroforestry Systems (ASF). They also received 105 (one hundred and five) ecological stoves, 90 (ninety) cisterns for capturing and storing water for human consumption and also for production, and 125 (one hundred and twenty-five) sanitary units with septic tanks were also built and / or recovered.    The project has demonstrated that it is possible to recover degraded areas using low-cost social/environmental technologies, and this has contributed to the dissemination and replication of good SLM practices. MMA itself has invested in the replication of the URAD strategy into other states in the semi-arid region of Northeast Brazil, with its own resources, using the pilot experience of Sergipe as a reference, as described below:  - State: Piauí (PI)  • 01 URAD  • Number of families: 30  • Municipality: Santo Antônio de Lisboa  • Community: Sítio Salvador  • Institution contracted through IICA / MMA Public Notice: Foundation for the Protection of the Environment and Ecotourism (FUNPAPI)  • Implementation period: 02/05 to 11/2/2018 - Extension: 07/25/2019  • Phase: under implementation  - State: Bahia (BA)  • 01 URAD  • Number of families: 30  • Town or City: Sento Sé  • Community: Fartura  • Institution contracted through IICA / MMA Call Notice: Regional Institute of Appropriate Small Farmers (IRPAA)  • Implementation period: 24/07 to 24/12/2018 Extension: 07/24/2019  • Phase: under implementation  - State: Maranhão (MA)  • 03 URADs  • Number of families: 90  • Town or village: Chapadinha  • Communities: Canto do Ferreira, Cercadinho and Rodeio  • Institution contracted via IICA / MMA Call for Proposals: Training and Development Center (CETREDE)  • Implementation period: 28/08 to 25/12/2018 Extension: 07/24/2019  • Phase: under implementation    The five URADs mentioned above were financed by federal government resources (co-financing) from the National Climate Change Fund (Fundo Clima), and are implemented in partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), through Project BRA / 14/001, with a total budget of R$ 2.3 million.    In this context, it should be noted that currently there are 9 (nine) URADs installed and / or in implementation under the coordination of MMA and with the support of partners, directly benefiting a total of 318 families:  • Sergipe: 168 families in 04 URADs  • Maranhão: 90 families in 03 URADs  • Piauí: 30 families in 01 URAD  • Bahia 30 families in 01 URAD    As recorded in PIR 2018, due to technical issues, there was a change in the areas of direct intervention of the Sergipe project. These changes ended up impacting the project’s capacity to achieve the target results, especially because of the withdrawal of the Jacaré Curituba settlement, which implied a reduction of about 21,000 ha and 800 families from the planned targets. Besides Jacaré Curituba (20,940 ha, 700 to 800 families), the project's initial intervention areas proposal (22,943 ha and 914 families) also included the communities of Poço Preto (750 ha, 50 families), Valmir Mota (429 ha, 33 families) and the Florestan Fernandes (824 ha, 31 families). With the change of areas of intervention, only Florestan Fernandes settlements remained and the Jacaré Curituba and Valmir Mota settlements were replaced by the Modelo (791ha) and João Pedro Teixeira (3,701ha) settlements. The Poço Preto community was replaced by the Flor da Serra settlement (302.16ha) and the Quilombo Serra da Guia community (9,013.18ha).    Considering the total area of the settlements and communities in which recommended SLM practices are implemented, as specified in the PRODOC, an area of around 15,195.15 ha is recorded in Sergipe. These numbers will be expanded with the replication areas of URADs in other states totaling about 11,133.29ha, thus distributed:  • Maranhão / municipality of Chapadinha: 6,038.54ha, encompassing the Rodeio communities (1,948.24 ha), Canto do Ferreira (2.110,87ha) and Cercadinho (1,979.43 ha).  • Piauí / municipality of Santo Antônio de Lisboa: 3,661.43ha, in the Sitio Salvador community.  • Bahia / municipality of Sento Sé: 1,433.32 ha, community Fartura.    It is worth mentioning that the data referring to the extension of replication areas indicated above will be confirmed by the MMA when interventions in Maranhão, Piauí and Bahia are concluded    Adding the areas of Sergipe (15,195.15 ha) with those of the other states (11,133.29ha), a territory corresponding to 26,328.44 ha is recorded.    The planning of project execution for the period 2019 considered the expansion of these areas. However, progress has not been achieved yet because, since January 2019, the Sergipe project remains without a national director due to recent structural changes within the federal government, including MMA, which also means that the strategy and initiatives to be adopted jointly by UNDP and the MMA to reach the final results of the project are still uncertain.    A public call was launched in March 2018 with a view to financing new URADs in the Parnaiba River Basin via the national program for conversion of environmental fines into environmental services, a program that is coordinated by Ibama. The preliminary selection results were published in December / 2018. With the inauguration of the new federal government, all the calls under the fines conversion program were suspended sine die. A presidential decree published in April 2018 determined that fines conversion via public calls is subject to subsequent regulations, which have not been published to date.  The other cooperation projects referred to in PIR / 2018, with the possibility of synergies and the provision of resources for the improvement of SLM governance and the development of good practices, are also being reviewed in the current institutional context.    As recorded in PIR / 2018, the implementation of SLM practices in municipalities will be guided by the Municipal Action Plans to Combat Desertification (MAPs). It should be noted that the MMA changed the methodology of elaboration of the MAPs and created a tutorial to guide projects in the implementation of URADs, including the MAPs (see document uploaded to the PIR Library). The methodology was applied in the development / updating of the MAPs for Canindé and Poço Redondo / SE, in November 2018. However, it was not possible to carry out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the methodology applied to the MAPs due to the electoral process and the resulting changes in federal and state government structures. |
| 2. Average tree density in forest patches; 50 ha | 2. 800 tree/ha. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2. 1,500 tree/ha | The technical coordination of the project in the MMA held two meetings with desertification specialists to discuss desertification indicators, baseline and proposals for monitoring - Teresina / PI (03 th and 04th August 2017) and Brasilia / DF (20th and 21st November 2017).    At the second meeting, a Desertification Working Group (desertification specialists and geospatial tools) was set up and, under the coordination of the MMA, it will conduct the discussions and mark the decisions on the theme.    Considering the results of the expert meetings, the MMA proposed a partnership with the MapBiomas Project (see Attachment No. 601/2018-MMA) and a MoU was signed with Associação Plantas do Nordeste - APNE (03/29/2018), an institution designated by MapBiomas Project for the management of resources. The partnership aims to develop a monitoring system for degraded areas at risk of desertification in Brazil whose pilot will be the area of activity of the project in Sergipe.    MapBiomas involves a collaborative network of specialists in biomes, land uses, remote sensing, GIS and computer science with technical expertise in the framework of participating researchers.    The MoU will monitor the Project indicators and LDN / UNCCD indicators.    A meeting of the GT-Desertification (17th and 18th May 2018) was held in Recife / PE to present and discuss the pilot project of the monitoring system of degraded and desertification areas with respective indicators, baselines and goals.    The studies of the National Forest Inventory of Sergipe (IFN-SE) were completed by SFB, but the data were not yet available. The MMA requested the Inventory data from the SFB Forest Information Management. The SFB has an interest in monitoring the use of data, which is the reason it gave for the restriction of access. As a strategy it was decided that the SFB will participate in the process of discussing the indicators to define joint action in relation to the indicators proposed by the project. A meeting will be held in June between MMA, UNDP, SFB and the MapBiomas team to discuss access to data.    As informed in the Agreement Letter signed with APNE/MapBiomas, the technical experts are proposing the mapping/monitoring of vegetation biomass variation instead of average tree density. The proposal is based on the following justifications: the original indicator would have to be necessarily measured based on field sampling, which is technically inaccurate and not financially viable. According to the technicians of MMA and the MapBiomas project, remote sensing observation will detect vegetation canopy (communities) rather than individuals. However, an empirical relationship will be established between biomass estimation and individual density. The baseline and equivalent target were structured at the WG-Expert Meeting.  The platform that will store and analyze the data is already under construction and should be available by March, 2019, when the first measurements of this project indicator will be taken. It is important to note that the measurements will be based on 30 years of data. | Progress on the indicator was also greatly impacted by changes in the Brazilian government since the new national government took office, last January, once the Secretariat in the Ministry of Environment (MMA) that was responsible for the project was dismantled in January 2019 and no national director for the project was appointed. As a result, the development of the online platform that will register progress on indicators needed to be halted.    As registered in 2018, verification of the indicators will be carried out by means of a platform for monitoring the degradation of lands and risk of desertification in the semi-arid region of Brazil, under development by MapBiomas / APNE. In 2018, the workspace and dashboards of the monitoring platform, named MapBiomas Árida, were built and published in MapBiomas’ cloud (http://arida.mapbiomas.org/). Additionally, the following thematic maps were developed and integrated into the platform:  • Map of Water Surface (2000-2017) delimited by the official border of the Brazilian Northeast, including Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo.  • Map of Plant Cover and Land Use (2000-2017), adapting the classes of use and coverage to those that are applied worldwide in the LDN (land degradation neutraly) indicator.  • Plant Cover Transition Map (2000-2017), based on the official limit of the Brazilian semi-arid, allowing for the quantification of the areas for a better understanding of the landscape dynamics.  • Carbon flux mapping delimited by the official Brazilian semi-arid boundary, allowing quantification of carbon dynamics and its relation to vegetation through satellite image using the CO2Flux index.  • Map of net primary productivity (2000-2017), delimited by the Brazilian semi-arid official border, reflects the amount of biomass present in the photosynthetically active vegetation.    The five thematic maps are available on the platform dashboard, based on the year defined by the GT - Desertification (2000), until the year 2017. There are eighteen maps for each theme, a total of 90 (ninety) maps available for monitoring.    In November / 2018, the version of the monitoring platform was presented at the “National Conference on Neutrality of Land Degradation (LDN): Strategies, Results and Perspectives”. The event was conducted by MMA in Brasilia-DF, with the support of the Project and the UNCCD, including the presence of a UNCCD representative. Also during the LDN Conference, the set of maps was presented and endorsed by the GT-Desertification Experts (GTED) and other specialists present.    The entire platform part for data storage and analysis was completed in December / 2018. The availability of the system, measurement of indicators and training workshops were planned for 2019. However, due to the reform of the federal government's public administration, with significant changes in the organizational structure of the MMA, it was necessary to suspend the activities of the Letter of Agreement until the new national technical coordination in MMA project is defined.    As for data on soil carbon, the studies of the National Forest Inventory of Sergipe (IFN-SE) were completed and published by the Brazilian Forest Service (SFB), in the Technical Report Series - IFN. However, there were no data available for the Carbon Flow mapping (needed for indicator 2.1, “Reduced land degradation over 8,000 ha in 4 field sites”). With the new structure of the Ministries the SFB was integrated the structure of the MAPA, thus requiring new coordination to obtain the carbon database on the soil of IFN-Sergipe.  In regard to project actions related to this indicator, the project carried out field interventions via the URAD strategy area based on two sets of measures that contribute to an increased tree density: revegetation and crop-forest integration systems.  Revegetation was achieved both by planting native trees in URAD areas, but also with water and soil conservation technologies, such as water springs restoration, installation of water reservoirs for animal and human consumption, and building of successive stone dams (barrage base zero, BBZ) and stone strands (cordões de pedra).  Additionally, production practices in the intervention areas were based on forest integration systems. Agroforestry systems and crop-livestock-forestry integration systems were set up in individual and collective plots, where producers planted corn, beans and forage palms along with leucena and gliricidia trees. Producers also received training on native vegetation sustainable management practices.  For 2019, actions were planned to encourage the productive sectors of the Alto Sertão (agriculture and livestock) to adopt good practices in their properties, using URADs as demonstration areas. Knowledge dissemination should begin as soon as the Ministry of Environment designates a project director and approves the project’s work plan. |
| 3. Loss of vegetation coverage in SE-ASD (48 municipalities). | 3. Projected rate of deforestation without the project 0.29% per year. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3. Rate of deforestation reduced to 0.14% per year. | The Drought and Desertification Early Warning System (SAP, in Portuguese) consultancies have been completed and the products approved by the MMA.    MMA is negotiating the integration of SAP with Funceme’s existing Brazilian Northeast Drought Monitor, which would be a key achievement for the Project, since the Drought Monitor is the main tool for continuous drought monitoring in Brazil. The SAP contains information with a higher level of detail than the Drought Monitor. However, the MoU with Funceme has not yet been defined by MMA, since it is still necessary to determine whether the systems will be compatible.    There has not yet been progress on this indicator related to reduced loss of vegetation coverage. Once the actions in the field are implemented, this will be measured in the second semester of 2018. However, some progress has been made towards the structuring of the monitoring process. The MMA, in a technical meeting with monitoring experts, decided that the MapBiomas Project should become a partner of the project, since it is currently the only possibility to carry out the monitoring of data within the project’s timeframe. As informed in the Agreement Letter signed with APNE/MapBiomas, after analysis by the technical coordination of the project at MMA, it was concluded that the indicator presented in the PRODOC (Loss of vegetation coverage in SE-ASD (48 municipalities) is not an ideal indicator for measuring land degradation processes considering the history and impacts of recent drought years in the region. In this way, it is not possible to differentiate, in semi-arid areas, what would be the result of deforestation processes or the result of the sequence of years of drought. To provide a proper measurement of the extension and impacts of desertification process in SE, it was agreed to have MapBiomas quantify gains and losses of the vegetation cover in the period of 2000-2018 as well as define estimation of transitions for different types of land coverage, with trend calculation adopting categories of use and coverage as proposed by the UNCCD.    In the second half of 2018, once the field intervention actions are implemented, the initial results will be measured in Sergipe through the actions agreed under the Agreement-Letter APNE / MapBiomas.  The original indicator would be obtained from IBGE data by municipality. However, the last IBGE agricultural census is from 2006 and another database provided by the IBGE system, the Municipal Agricultural Survey, does not provide the most recent data demanded by the Project.    In this sense, the technical coordination of the project in accordance with APNE/MapBiomas opted for the use of an agrometereological-spectral model to estimate productivity (Vegetation index and water surface map). This model is based on the correlation between agronomic parameters and spectral variables. Data will be available in the second semester of 2018. | In order to achieve the targeted reduction in deforestation rates, the project has prioritized exchange of experiences, training and dissemination of practices for the efficient use of natural resources. Sustainable management of soils, vegetation and water reduce the impact on native vegetation and help diminish deforestation. Nevertheless, progress in the indicator was also impacted by changes in the Brazilian government, since activities have had to be postponed until the appointment of a National Director for the project.    As registered in the 2018 PIR, verification of the indicators will be carried out through the monitoring platform of land degradation in the Brazilian Northeast semiarid. The platform is being developed via Letter of Agreement, formalized with Association of Plants of the Northeast (APNE) and MapBiomas network. Verification was supposed to occur after the field interventions via URADs were completed, which happened in November 2018.    Yet due to the elections and transition period, field tests of the monitoring platform were held only in In March / 2019, when the MapBiomas / APNE team along with UNDP and the Ministry of Environment, visited the four intervention sites and tested the uploading of information to the platform. Demands for minor adjustments in the platform and in the data gathering methodology were identified and need MMA’s endorsement to be put in place. Also, governance on data gathering itself and progress measurement and verification needs to be defined. Yet, as explained in the previous indicator, due to the federal government's reform of the public administration, with significant changes in the organizational structure of the MMA, it was necessary to suspend activities within the Agreement Letter signed with APNE/MapBiomas, until the new national technical coordination of the MMA project was defined. |
| 4. Production of small-scale farms for the four field sites. | 4. Projected rate of productivity 0.7 t/ha of main subsistence crops (manioc, beans, corn). | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4. 30% increase of productivity of crops by end of project. | The original indicator was to be obtained from IBGE data by municipality. However, the last IBGE agricultural census is from 2006 and another database provided by the IBGE system, the Municipal Agricultural Survey, does not provide the most recent data demanded by the Project.    In this sense, the technical coordination of the project in accordance with APNE/MapBiomas opted for the use of an agrometereological-spectral model to estimate productivity (Vegetation index and water surface map). This model is based on the correlation between agronomic parameters and spectral variables. Data will be available in the second semester of 2018.  In terms of the contribution of Projeto Sergipe to increased crop productivity, this should be properly measured during the next year. The URAD implementation process contemplates the adoption of productive systems, such as agroforestry systems (SAFs in Portuguese) and crop, livestock and forest integration systems (ILPFs in Portuguese), associated with management practices and conservation of soil, water, and biodiversity. This will help to improve the productivity of agricultural crops in the medium and long term.. | During the implementation of the four URADs, concluded last November (2018), communities were not only offered training courses on best practices for sustainable land management and the use of environmental assets, but also received solutions on apiculture, agroforestry systems and crop-livestock-forestry integration systems that were meant to provide producers with tools to increase crop productivity.  Nevertheless, in registering progress on this indicator, the effect of rainfall irregularity on productivity must be considered, although it can be partly mitigated as communities received water cisterns.    As mentioned previously, and registered in the 2018 PIR, verification of the indicators will be carried out through the monitoring platform for land degradation under development by the MapBioms / APNE Letter of Agreement (LoA). The consolidation of this action, together with progress on other activities related to the LoA, is conditioned to the guidelance of the new national technical coordination of the project within MMA. |
| 5. Increase in the general score of LD Tracking Tool. | 5. General score of LD Tracking Tool: 1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5. General score of LD Tracking Tool: 3 | The interventions were initiated in October 2017 in 4 communities (Settlements Modelo João Pedro Teixeira, Florestan Fernandes, Flor da Serra and Quilombo Serra da Guia, with an average of 30 families, which will cover a total of 144 families and about 15,195.15 hectares (MMA / 2018).    An MOU was signed with APNE / Map Biomas to elaborate the monitoring system for SLM / LDN indicators with Sergipe being a pilot. The data from this monitoring system is expected to feed into the LD tracking tool.    Replication actions are underway in the states of Maranhão, Piauí and Bahia, through MMA / IICA cooperation. New edicts will be published by MMA and partners aiming to replicate the URAD strategy in other areas of the Northeastern Semi-arid region with implementation planned for the 2019 period.    Also relevant will be the replications in the Parnaíba River Basin due to the public call of the IBAMA Fines Conversion Program, with prospects for hiring for execution starting in the second half of 2018. With this initiative, it is estimated that approximately 5,000 families will be assisted, involving territories of the states of Maranhão, Piauí and Ceará, in the Parnaíba Rive Basin.    Overall score on the LD Tracking Tool - 2 (tracking tool applied at the beginning of the Project’s interventions). | The tracking tool was updated by the project's technical team during PIR 2018. A general score of "2" was calculated.    As a result of the limited progress in this reporting period due to the elections period and the structural changes in the Ministry of Environment (MMA) since the new federal government took office in January, it was not possible to increase the general score. It is expected that before the Midterm Review, with the definition of the project’s location within MMA’s new structure, the score will be updated.  It should be noted that the project’s field interventions via URADs should result in better scores for LD1 – Ecosystem services in production landscapes (agriculture, rangeland) / “Improved agricultural management”, especially in regard to productivity and community vulnerability, and “Sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems”, as agroforestry systems and crop-livestock-forestry integration systems were set up in individual and collective plots of the beneficiary communities. Interventions and knowledge dissemination and training also contribute to improving the score on LD3 – SLM in wider landscapes (integrated management) / “Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities”, which can also be improved once federal and state legislation on land restoration and combatting desertification are approved. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Strengthened governance framework contributes to avoiding, reducing and reverting land degradation in Sergipe ASD.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Improved norms and directives on SLM at State level. | 1. LD norms and technical directives are not in place at state level.  2. 01 State level Action Plan to Combat Desertification (PAE) and no municipal Action Plans (MAP) at the SE-ASDs. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. LD norms and technical directives developed and submitted to NCCD.  2. Revised PAE and 07 MAPs at the SE-ASDs prepared, approved with operational plans and budget for implementation. | In 2015, the Brazilian government established the National Policy to Combat Desertification and Mitigation of the Effects of Drought (PNCD, Law nº 13.153). To regulate that law, a decree was elaborated and further underwent new adjustments in the Department of Sustainable Rural Development and Combating Desertification (DRSD / MMA)..    The draft of the decree is being processed in MMA / SEDR, since the contents of LDN, SDGs and NDCs have been incorporated into the text. URADs were also included in the PNCD implementation strategy.    With support from the project, the draft of the state forestry policy was updated according to the Law 12.651 / 2012 which established the new Brazilian Forest Code. The proposal of the draft of the State Law is being processed in the Legislative Assembly of Sergipe.  The draft of the State Policy to Combat Desertification was prepared with the support of the project and is back with SEMARH, in order to carry out adjustments requested by the State Attorney's Office. As it is a legal instrument, its approval requires the involvement and analysis of several government institutions outside Semarh – which has delayed the process.  With the approval of the proposed State Policy to Combat Desertification, there will be a change of status of the GPCD, which would change fro being just an advisory group to becoming a Committee, with a more deliberative role, like the National Commission to Combat Desertification. During this period of the PIR, no progress has been made in this process.    It is expected that the consolidation of the revision of the final document of the SAP / SE with the insertion of issues related to the SLM and the LDC (UNCCD) will be carried out in the second half of 2018. This will represent an important advance for the project.  In 2015, the Brazilian government established the National Policy to Combat Desertification and Mitigation of the Effects of Drought (PNCD, Law nº 13.153). To regulate that law, a decree was elaborated and further underwent new adjustments in the Department of Sustainable Rural Development and Combating Desertification (DRSD / MMA)    The draft of the decree is being processed in MMA / SEDR, since the contents of LDN, SDG and NDC have been incorporated into the text. URADs were also included in the PNCD implementation strategy.    With support from the project, the draft of the state forestry policy was updated according to the Law 12.651 / 2012 which established the new Brazilian Forest Code. The proposal of the draft of the State Law is being processed in the Legislative Assembly of Sergipe  The draft of the State Policy to Combat Desertification was prepared with the support of the project and is back with SEMARH , in order to carry out adjustments requested by the State Attorney's Office. As it is a legal instrument, its approval requires the involvement and analysis of several government institutions outside Semarh – which has delayed the process.  With the approval of the proposed State Policy to Combat Desertification, there will be a change of status of the GPCD that will stop being just an advisory group and will become a Committee, with a more deliberative role, like the National Commission to Combat Desertification. During this period of the PIR, no progress has been made in this process.    It is expected that the consolidation of the revision of the final document of the SAP / SE with the insertion of issues related to the SLM and the LDC (UNCCD) will be carried out in the second half of 2018. This will represent an important advance for the project .    Regarding the MAPs, this planning instrument was included in the proposed Technical Cooperation Agreement (ACT, in Portuguese ) that will be signed between the MMA and the municipalities involved in the implementation of the URADs in Sergipe and in the other states of the ASD. The ACT commits the Ministry to providing assistance in the implementation of the URADs for a period of five years and increases the sustainability of the project. Furthermore, this ACT requires the preparation of MAPs as a prerequisite for implementation of URADs in participating states, which will ensure that the MAPs have a practical application. The ACT is in the final stages of internal elaboration and processing in MMA.  Currently, a consultancy is undergoing the elaboration of MAPs for the municipalities where URADs are being implemented. It is important to note that, within the scope of this consultancy, the Project successfully mobilized municipalities, especially Poço Redondo and Canindé, for the discussion of MAPs. The first drafts are under analysis by the MMA, with the support of the state and local governments. The goal is to ensure that the final products have been validated by key stakeholders and are feasible for municipalities to implement. | The election process in the second half of 2018 and the fact that new governments took office in January, at the national and state levels, resulted in delays in decision-making and changes in leadership that have greatly impacted the execution of activities planned in the last 12 months.    During this period, Ministry of Environment (MMA) published a “tutorial” with a methodology aimed at supporting Brazilian states and municipalities in the design of URAD implementation projects, including guidelines for the development of Municipal Action Plans (MAPs). Two workshops were carried out in Sergipe in November 2018, aiming at developing and/or updating MAPs for the municipalities of Canindé de São Francisco and Poço Redondo. The MAPs proposals generated in the workshops were delivered to the focal points of the municipal governments for evaluation, possible adjustments and due formal endorsement.    However, it was not possible to carry out an evaluation of the methodology’s effectiveness, due to the electoral process and the changes in the government structures. The project’s Work Plan for 2019 includes the execution of this assessment, however, a decision on whether the methodology will still be applied in the elaboration of MAPs is subject to guidelines to be defined by the new project’s national director, yet to be appointed.    As noted in 2018, support for the development of MAPs was included in the Technical Cooperation Agreement (ACT) signed by MMA with the municipalities of Canindé de São Francisco and Poço Redondo, in Sergipe, involved in the implementation of URADs. However, due to the changes in the organizational structure of the MMA, the procedures for executing cooperation agreements with municipalities are under revision and the ACT is yet to be implemented.    Also as noted in 2018, between 2016 and 2017, the project made contributions to the review of Sergipe’s Action plan on Desertification (PAE/SE), as Sergipe’s pluriannual plan for 2016-2019 did include as a goal the "Implementation of PAE-SE, with the elaboration and implementation of municipal plans". Nevertheless, during the last twelve months, there was no progress towards the consolidation of the final document for the PAE/SE. Similarly, the draft document of the State Policy to Combat Desertification in Sergipe, prepared with the support of the project, is still under review at the state level. Due to the administrative reform in the Government of Sergipe, the Secretariat of Environment and Water Resources (SEMARH) was extinguished and its competencies were absorbed by the Secretariat for Urban Development and Sustainability (SEDURBS), which includes both the Special Superintendence of Water Resources and Environment (SERHMA) and the State Administration of Environment (ADEMA) in its structure. As a consequence, follow up on state policy and the action plan to combat desertification was delayed. Also, the work of the Permanent Group to Combat Desertification (GPCD), which functions as the state’s center on SLM and LD issues (Indicator 1.2, “Level of capacity of staff at SEMARH […] where appropriate)”, is subject to guidelines to be defined within this new structure of the public administration of Sergipe. Thus, the actions planned in the scope of the project that involve the GPCD and the establishment of the technical core of SLM management in Sergipe, will also need to be adjusted.    In regard to national policies, the National Commission to Combat Desertification (NCCD ) held only two general meetings (12/2015 and 09/2018) during the execution of the project so far. The commission is responsible for promoting the National Policy to Combat Desertification, in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The Sergipe Project was presented to the NCCD in December 2015. In September 2018, seeking to resume the activities of the NCCD, the MMA held a meeting to foster reflections on the impacts of climate change in the Northeastern semi-arid region, as well as the inauguration of new member federal and state governments. The URAD strategy and activities implemented in the Alto Sertão Sergipanao (SSA) region were also presented.    Since the last meeting, in September 2018, no new NCCD resolution has been published. Due to the restructuring of the MMA, still in progress, there has not been progress in what regards the work of the commission within the new national government. Similarly, there has been no progress regarding the approval of the decree that should regulated the national policy on desertification. Policy decisions on those matters are subject to guidelines that are still under development within the new national government.    As part of the strategy to optimize the monitoring of land use and support government decisions on SLM and LD norms and directives, the project published the following studies in a digital version (and added to the PIR 2019 Library):  - Biomassa para Energia no Nordeste: Atualidade e Perspectivas (Biomass for energy in the Northeast: actuality and perspective). Available at: http://www.mma.gov.br/phocadownload/gestao\_territorial/desertificacao/Livro\_APNE\_NE\_AGO20.pdf.  - Importância Atual e Potencial do Uso da Biomassa para Energia em Sergipe (Current and potential importance of the use of biomass for energy in Sergipe). Available at: http://www.mma.gov.br/publicacoes/gestao-territorial/category/79-combate-a-desertificacao.html?download=1445    Considering that desertification is yet to find its place within the Ministry of Environment’s new structure and policy guidelines, it is not possible to indicate, at the moment, which strategies should be put into place to achieve the targets for this indicator. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the proposal for the new federal government pluriannual plan (PPA) does include a budget for desertification that includes management / governance actions (regulation of the National Policy to Combat Desertification, implementation of UNCCD commitments and the elaboration of the Brazilian Plan of Action) and promoting good practices for combating desertification and reversing land degradation. Therefore, synergies already exist between the project’s targets (and work plan) and the new Brazilian government on those areas and should be further explored in meetings with the project’s National Director, as soon as he/she is designated.    Special attention should be given to MAPs, as MMA’s tutorial on the tool , based on URAD implementation and within a participatory framework, do have the potential to be easily transformed into municipal policy. An evaluation of the methodology’s effectiveness should be carried out in partnership with the first municipalities to receive it, Canindé de São Francisco and Poço Redondo, which should also include discussions on elaborating multi-municipality action plans, based on the successful consortium framework that was developed for waste management. |
| 2. Level of capacity of staff at SEMARH, key municipalities in SE-ASD and IBAMA, where appropriate, related to: SLM and LD issues; licensing of agriculture/livestock and forest management activities; and land use oversight/enforcement. | 2. Number of staff who are knowledgeable on SLM practices is nearly null. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2. Nuclei of SLM and LD issues established and trained in SEMARH, with participation of key municipalities in SE-ASD, IBAMA and ADEMA. | In order to provide better results in terms of training and capacity building, the methodology was adapted to use URADs as the focal methodology for continuous training – including training in activities such as intervention planning, inspections and implementation. The strategy adopted was to link knowledge and experience to the training of multiplying agents involving both technicians and farmers. Therefore, the training was not focused on Semarh, Ibama or the municipalities , but offered in the process of URAD implementation. As there are elections coming up, it was not deemed beneficial to invest extensively in training of Semarh or municipalities, however, this training will take place in 2019 once the new governments are in place.  In the period of the PIR, the institutions SASAC and CDJBC carried out training on SLM themes (soil recovery and conservation, water and biodiversity, water capture and storage, energy efficiency and production units). The training was carried out in the communities in parallel to the practical activities of implementing the URADs for the family farmers and extension workers who work in the region.    From July 2017 to May /2018, the project trained 589 people on issues related to SLM, land degradation and desertification, including family farmers, technicians, public managers (at the federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society (state, municipalities and communities). Around 298 women participated in workshops, seminars and courses.    Through the MoU signed with APNE / MapBiomas in the second half of 2018, workshops and training / training of technicians, public, private and civil society leaders (state, municipalities and communities) will be held to use the monitoring system for degraded areas and areas at risk of desertification, to appropriate this information as a support for environmental management and monitoring the effects related to desertification and mitigation strategies. It seeks to provide a means to monitor the possible expansion or reduction of areas susceptible to desertification in the region of the Alto Sertão Sergipano.    In order to improve capacity for state and local level government to implement and enforce public policy to combat desertification, the Permanent Group to Combat Desertification (GPCD) will play a key role as a platform to create the technical chambers and the SLM nuclei. In order for that to happen, the GPCD needs to be strengthened, which is expected to be achieved through the State Policy to Combat Desertification, or, conversely, with the consolidation of the revision of the Program of State Action to Combat Desertification and Mitigate the Effects of Drought (PAE / SE).  The capacities will be expanded with the implementation of URADs in other states of ASD. | From July 2018 to June 2019, the project trained about 667 people on issues related to SLM, land degradation and combating desertification, including farmers, technicians, public managers and civil society. Some 363 women participated in workshops, seminars and courses. It should be noted that representatives from SEMARH, Ibama, Incra, DNOCs and ASS city councils participated in the MAP workshops held in Poço Redondo and Canindé do São Francisco. These organizations were also present at the field intervention (URAD) results presentation seminars and in the National Land Degradation Neutrality Conference (LDN). For Adema, the project organized field visits to the URADs in December, 2018.    In 2018, the Sergipe Project also supported the National Conference on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), held from November 26 to 27 in Brasilia The event, organized by MMA with support from UNCCD, gathered together communities, local and state governments (mayors, state vice-governors, heads of state level institutions), as well as government institutions responsible for formulating and/or executing policies on desertification, such as DNOCS (National Department of Public Works against Drought) and the National Commission to Combat Desertification, the Working Group of Specialists in Desertification (GTED), and UNCCD itself. About 100 people attended the conference and were trained in LDN, implementation of URAD (social, environmental and production practices), and monitoring indicators related to combating desertification. In addition to the communities haring their experiences and workshops on URAD practices, a speech on " Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Land Degradation Neutrality" was offered by UNDP within a panel on LDN monitoring that also brought together Brazil’s institutes on geography and statistics (IBGE) and on applied economic research (IPEA).    In 2018, GTED provided support to decisions regarding both project targets and LDN indicators monitoring, as this group was responsible for proposing the partnership of the project with MapBiomas. As noted in the previous year, GTED is comprised of desertification specialists from MMA, from the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), the Foundation of Meteorology and Water Resources of the state of Ceara (FUNCEME), the Federal University of Pernambuco (FPE), the Brazilian Forest Service (SFB), the State University of Feira de Santana (UEFS) and the University of Brasilia (UnB). GTED members participated in a field visit to the URADs of Sergipe, conducted by MMA and MapBiomas, in July 2018.    Also regarding capacity strengthening, during this PIR period, professionals from ADEMA, IBAMA and the city of Canindé de São Francisco participated in the training offered by MMA on the URAD strategy in December 2018.    Considering the recent organizational changes in national and state governments, and the delay in bringing into force updated federal and state level policies, is it necessary to review the project’s initial strategy regarding setting up SLM and LDN nuclei in Sergipe. In order to do so, the project’s 2019 work plan foresees coordination with the Sergipe Government, co-financing partners, and municipalities in the Alto Sertão Sergipano, so as to establish formal attributions and training actions including the use of the MapBiomas Arida platform to monitor SLM and LDN targets.    In this context, for the next year of the project, as soon as the new national director/coordinator is designated, the project’s team will propose action on reconnecting with local partners and strengthening institutional coordination with the state of Sergipe, including incorporating new partners who were involved in the process of implementing the project actions. Nevertheless, strategies under this indicator may be further delayed as they may depend on decisions regarding new national guidelines on desertification. |
| 3. Number of state licenses taking into account SLM criteria and practices for Alto Sertí£o Sergipano (SAS) | 3. Existing licenses do not take due account of SLM criteria in SAS. | *(not set or not applicable)* | By end year 2: revised licensing criteria for multiple uses designed and proposed to ADEMA, GPCD and NCCD.  By end year 4: revised licensing criteria for forest use designed and proposed to IBAMA, ADEMA, GPCD and NCCD. | The activities foreseen for this indicator did not take place given that the DRSD / MMA mandate does not cover licensing issues that are now under the coordination of the SFB, since it is an attribution of ADEMA and IBAMA and that the legal framework, which deals with environmental licensing, is being discussed by the Brazilian government. Nevertheless, the project plans to develop a strategy for SEMARH to approach ADEMA on this issue in a way that is feasible.  MMA also believes that the successful implementation of URADs in Sergipe and the Brazilian Northeast will increase awareness about the need to include SLM criteria in environmental licensing. | As recorded in the previous PIR, after changes in the national government in 2016, MMA indicated that intervention on the issue of licensing criteria was not the mission of the Department of Sustainable Rural Development and Combating Desertification (responsible for implementing the project within the Brazilian government), but a legal attribution of ADEMA (in Sergipe) and IBAMA (in the national level).    Once the official elections period in Brazil started July 7th, it was not possible to carry out the project’s strategy of reaching Adema via Semarh. After October 2018, Sergipe’s government, as well as the national government, were focused on transitioning to the new leaders. Additionally, as the project has yet to be assigned a National Director/coordinator within MMA, it was still not possible to reach out to the new Sergipe government in order to discuss including SLM criteria in state level environmental licensing. Thus, there was no progress on this indicator. |
| 4. % of compliance with rural licensing processes in 2 SAS municipalities. | Baseline for compliance will be determined when final deliberation on CAR is made. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 10% increase in licenses with SLM criteria per year, post year 3 | The State Environmental Administration (Adema) took on the responsibility for the management of the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) in the State of Sergipe. At the moment, Adema is waiting for the authorization of the SFB to initiate the procedures of analysis and validation of the CAR of the rural properties registered in Sergipe. All agrarian reform settlements and special areas (quilombola communities and traditional communities), under the responsibility of INCRA, have their perimeters registered in the CAR. This action was carried out by the Federal University of Lavras with resources from INCRA.    Considering the implementation of the CAR in settlement areas, progress in its implementation in Sergipe has been recorded.    Regarding the decentralization of environmental management to municipalities, the municipality of Canindé de São Francisco submitted a proposal to Adema for licensing small enterprises in the municipal area and still awaits a response from the institution. | Regarding actions related to CAR (rural environmental registry), it should be noted that in 2019, due to the reform of the federal government's public administration, the national Forests Service (SFB), responsible for CAR in Brazil, was incorporated into the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA).    According to information provided by SFB, under MAPA, the state of Sergipe presented the following CAR progress in May, 2019:  • Area subject to registration: 1,482,437 ha (IBGE)  • Total registered area: 1,540,555 ha  • Percentage of registered area: Above 100%  • Number of properties registered: 70,648    It is observed that there has been progress in the application of this environmental management tool (CAR) in Sergipe.    The Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) was established by Federal Law 12,651/2012. It is a country-wide public, electronic, registration system, where all rural landowners must record how they use their land, that is, how much of their land is dedicated to agriculture and what areas are classified as Permanent Preservation Areas (APP), restricted use areas, legal reserves, forest remnants and other forms of native vegetation. The CAR is expected to become the government’s consolidated database for controlling, monitoring, environmental and economic planning and also combating deforestation.    The CAR is the first step for rural properties to obtain compliance with environmental requirements, which should be implemented by landowners via the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA). The PRA comprises a set of actions or initiatives, such as recovery, reconstitution, regeneration or compensation of vegetation loss, that are carried out by landowners with the purpose of adjusting their areas to comply with environmental regulations. Thus, it is expected that adherence to PRA by rural properties in the project coverage area can contribute to the achievement of goals related to the reduction of deforestation, recovery of degraded areas and increase of native vegetation cover.    Regarding negotiations between the municipality of Canindé do São Francisco and ADEMA in order to decentralize environmental management to municipalities, ADEMA has indicated that discussions are ongoing and depend on restructuring of the Municipal Tax Office, which is underway. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Uptake of SLM/SFM practices increased in Alto Sertí£o of Sergipe (SAS), with replication in rest of SEASD** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Number of farming households implementing sustainable subsistence and commercial agricultural practices, improved grazing systems and integrated SLM practices in SAS | 1. Fewer than 50 farms with recommended SLM practices adopted in SAS. Legal requirements for LRs and APPs not enforced. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. At least 2,000 farming households in SAS adopt sustainable agricultural practices, improved grazing systems and integrated SLM practices by end of project. | With regard to SLM practices, the following progress has been achieved:    Two partner institutions were selected through the public call for interventions in the focus area (Alto Sertão de Sergipe) and these are implementing actions on  144 properties.    In addition, institutions are in the selection phase by the MMA to implement URADs in the ASD of 4 NE states (Bahia, Maranhão, Piaui and Pernanbuco) in 6 communities and 180 properties.    As mentioned at the Objective level, IBAMA (Brazilian Institute for the Environment) has approx. USD 88 Million for conversion of environmental fees into environmental recovery activities. However, only part of these resources will be used for URADs. The amount for URADs is still undefined, because it depends on the number of projects that will be supported. A “call” for implementation of URADs in the basin of the Parnaíba River (States of Piauí, Ceará and Maranhão), with the expectation of reaching 5,000 families, was launched in April 2018. The ToRs define an amount up to approx. USD 17,000 per family, totaling approx. USD 44 million.    Four courses / URADs are being carried out in each of the intervention areas totaling 480 people trained in conservation practices, productive activities, basic sanitation and construction of ecological stoves.  There will be 4 courses in each URAD of the States of the MA, PI, PE and BA, with the expectation of training about 720 people.    Total results for capacity building of the project during this PIR period (June 2017/ June 2018)  - 601 participants (courses, field days, workshops and seminars) for farmers, extension workers; project partners.  - 480 people trained in the 4 Project intervention areas.  - Expectation of 720 people to be trained in the 6 URADs (in 4 ASD states) in conservation practices, productive activities, basic sanitation and construction of ecological stoves.    Families:  - Trained: 144 families in the four areas of intervention in Sergipe’s Alto Sergão region  - To be trained from 2018 and 2019: 180 families in the 6 URADs in 4 states (MA, PI, PE, BA and CE) and 5,000 families from IBAMA's Environmental Fines Conversion Program.  The total number of expected households to adopt sustainable agricultural practice will be defined by the end of 2018, when Ibama selects the interventions that will receive support from the fines conversion program. | In November 2018, the project completed field interventions that resulted in the implementation of four URADs in Sergipe, in the municipalities of Canindé de São Francisco and Poço Redondo, directly benefiting 168 families / properties. The actions were carried out by two NGOs hired via competitive process (SASAC and CDJBC). As noted elsewhere in this PIR, the URAD strategy combines environmental, social and productive measures, associating practical and capacity building activities ("doing and learning").    With respect to sustainable production practices, URADs include environmental interventions aimed at soil and water management and conservation, such as recovering water springs and building successive stone dams (barrage base zero, BBZ) and stone strands (cordões de pedra) that prevent soil loss. With regard to production itself, the project’s interventions make the most of the environmental assets of the communities via the implementation of agroforestry systems, integrated crop-livestock-forest systems and by fostering beekeeping / meliponiculture. In addition, social interventions to improve the quality of life of communities are carried out, with the construction of water cisterns for human consumption and production, ecological stoves and health facilities.    The MMA, using budgetary resources, through a technical cooperation with IICA, has been executing the URAD strategy with 5 additional communities, directly involving over 300 families / properties in the states of Maranhão, Piauí and Bahia. In that regard, the project has fulfilled its role of fostering the dissemination of good practices on sustainable land management, showing both the effectiveness and large-scale replication potential of the low-cost social technologies adopted in the URAD strategy.    Given that changes in the national and state government have halted decisions on important SLM practice dissemination strategies, such as Ibama’s environmental fine conversion program, the project has to change its strategy regarding this indicator and mobilize partnerships for capacity building. Therefore, in order to replicate the SLM good practices on a larger scale, the project’s work plan for 2019 includes a proposal to intensify knowledge dissemination within the productive sectors (agriculture and livestock) in the Alto Sertão Sergipano region. It is also important to intensify efforts to negotiate partnerships and raise funds for sustainable land management actions, involving government and private initiatives, to reach other regions in Sergipe and in other semi-arid states. Therefore, progress in this indicator will require extra efforts and the approval of the proposed strategy by the new national government. |
| 2. Reduced land degradation over 8,000 ha in 04 field sites. | 2. Nearly 50% of the land area in 04 field sites is under accentuated and/or severe land degradation (soil loss by water erosion = 10 t/ha; and loss of soil carbon = 3 t/ha) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2. By the end of year 3: 500 families in 4 field sites with SLM strategies developed & implemented. By end of project 25% of land degradation in these 04 field sites (2,000 ha) reduced ( soil loss by water erosion < 5 t/ha; and loss of soil carbon < 2 t/ha\* ; \*\*) | As informed in the Agreement Letter signed with APNE/MapBiomas, to address and monitor this indicator the technical experts are proposing to elaborate a map of the land use and coverage as well as to create a biophysics index of desertification.    The biophysical index is the result of the chemical and vegetation sampling and soil analysis, based on data from the national forest inventory of Sergipe (IFN-SE). The technical coordination of the project and the technical experts of MabBiomas Project are negotiating with the Brazilian Forest Service to access Sergipe’s inventory data. As an alternative, if access to the IFN-SE data is not possible, MapBiomas will develop algorithms to obtain the CO2 Flux index, widely referenced in the literature and that can be used to estimate the carbon dynamics in the landscape. This is a relative index, not representing carbon sequestration/ emission quantification, since it is neither calibrated nor validated by analytical data.    Partner institutions were selected to implement Sergipe (SE) interventions and URADs in the state of Maranhã (MA).  Process of interventions in the implementation phase in SE 144 families benefited directly (30 in Florestan Fernandes settlement, 30 in João Pedro Teixeira settlement, 30 in Modelo settlement, 10 in Flor da Serra settlement and 44 in Quilombo Serra da Guia). Actions to recover degraded areas currently in progress:  • 11 springs recovered;  • 101 “Base Zero” dams (BBZ) (an innovative social technology that utilizes rocks that surface as a result of erosion in rural areas in the construction of dams to avoid erosion in water courses) built with the involvement of communities;  • 31 leveling of built level stones;  • 08 collective dams cleaned and suitable for use  • 39 cisterns for production built with productive yards;  • 62 cisterns for human consumption built and / or reformed;  • 124 basic sanitation units constructed and / or adapted or reformed  • 105 ecological stoves built and / or renovated  • 19.33 ha with crop, livestock and forest integration (ILPF, in Portuguese);  • 9.87 ha with agroforestry systems (AFS) implemented.    These numbers may still be adjusted as a result of the monitoring that will be carried out with the platform under construction by MapBiomas. Also the resources of the contracts with SASAC and CDJBC may be re-allocated during the execution of the interventions, such as Florestan Fernandes. In this settlement 03 families gave up the implementation of ILPF and as a result the resources destined to this action will be relocated to other actions in the community itself. | As explained in the previous PIR, the project sought mechanisms to provide adequate information on this indicator and signed a Letter of Agreement with the MapBiomas initiative to develop an online platform through which progress would be registered and communicated. The platform would not only serve the project, but would register progress on all the Brazilian government initiatives regarding land degradation neutrality, as a tool to promote transparency on national policy and the results of international commitments.    Nevertheless, even though the platform was built, definitions on data entry methodology and system governance were never reached as the new national government has yet to designate a director/coordinator for the project.    Currently, the project’s intervention areas include 15,195.15 ha in Sergipe and 11,133.29 ha in replication areas in the Brazilian Northeast, totaling 26,328.44 ha where sustainable land management practices have been applied via the URAD strategy. Considering all URADs implemented or under implementation, currently 168 families are involved in Sergipe, 30 in the State of Piauí, 30 in Bahia and 90 in Maranhão, totaling 318 families in nine field sites with SLM strategies developed and implemented.    It should be noted that the area covered and the number of field sites is higher than expected, although the number of families involved in SLM strategies is lower due the substitution of the Valmir Mota and Jacaré Curituba settlements by the João Pedro Teixeira and Modelo areas.    Regarding loss of soil carbon indicator, data released by the Brazilian Forest Service (SFB) was insufficient. Thus, in order to properly analyze progress towards this target, as registered in last year's PIR, MapBiomas developed algorithms to obtain the CO2 flux index. Therefore, a carbon stock in the soil map was designed and represents the indicative of the carbon flux intensity, making it possible to verify where the carbon content is more critical. |
| 3. Percentage of agricultural extensionists active in SAS delivering targeted support that includes recommended SLM directives | 3. Practically none (0%) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3. 100% of extensionists active in SAS deliver targeted support that includes recommended SLM directives, with replication in SEASD | INCRA launched a call for proposals in December 2017 and selected partners to carry out extension and technical assistance (ATER) activities in agrarian reform settlements in the State of Sergipe. The contracts have not yet been implemented as INCRA is awaiting the release of financial resources for the start of activities, which is expected to happen during the next months. In the meantime, MMA is negotiating with Incra support to capacity building initiatives. The Alto Sertão region will be included in the rural extension program to be carried out by Incra, but the number of extensionists to be hired and to deliver targeted SLM support is yet to be determined, as it depends on the amount of resources directed to Incra.  The project is in dialogue with INCRA to include SLM training in the scope of the institution’s work with extension agents.  The planning for a training course for extension employees working in Sergipe´s Alto Sertão region is being prepared using as a practical reference the URADs implemented in the state of Sergipe involving the partner institutions of the project, especially SEMARH, EMDAGRO and INCRA and the municipal governments of the Alto Sertão region in Sergipe. | As recorded in previous PIRs, by force of federal law, rural extension in the project’s intervention area is to be provided by INCRA (the national agency that supports rural settlements resulting from agrarian reform). INCRA was expected to hire partners to provide rural extension and technical assistance services, but budget constraints delayed decisions on the matter. Currently, INCRA is focusing on analyzing the status and providing property titles to people living in the settlements. Thus, progress on this indicator could not be achieved.    As informed in the 2018 PIR, in December, 2017, INCRA issued a public call to hire technical assistance for Sergipe’s settlements, including those in the project's intervention areas. By the time of the submission of the 2018 PIR, INCRA was still awaiting the release of financial resources to start providing the services. As a consequence, MMA started negotiations with the General Coordination of Environment and Natural Resources of INCRA (Central Administration), for the formalization of cooperation between MMA and INCRA to strengthen local capacities. However, due to changes in INCRA's presidency and MMA's directions since the elections, it was not possible to follow up.    Therefore, since the project’s field interventions were concluded, no technical assistance/rural extension services have been provided for the communities. However, the project’s work plan for 2019, which needs to be approved by the national director/coordinator who is yet to be designated, includes a strategy to build on capacities already installed in Sergipe by offering SLM training to extension workers from other organizations in the region, including support for the development of training initiatives aimed at municipal and state agricultural technicians, students and independent rural extension professionals. The goal is to strengthen local capacity so communities can seek partners or hire professionals to access rural extension services. |
| 4. Investments in SLM practices in Sergipe | 4. Financing through commercial banks without SLM criteria. -US$18Million in financing through PRONAF to SAS in 2012 (nearly 12 thousand contracts) with limited SLM criteria. -US$995k through environmental funds to Sergipe (0.2% of total investment). | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4. 20 % increase in investment in SLM practices in Sergipe. By year 2: SLM technical guidelines to support decision making by credit agents. | Little progress has been achieved on this indicator since the last PIR period. Formal measurement of the progress towards this target will be carried out during the next PIR period.  Currently, MMA is working on the development of a resource mobilization mechanism focused on increasing investments in SLM.  In terms of the guidelines for investments in SLM practices, MMA is finalizing a governmental decree that will guide the mobilization and use of resources for URAD implementation.  In addition, it is worth mentioning that the project played an important role in the expansion of URADs to other states, both through the partnership between MMA and IICA, as well as the partnership with IBAMA for the conversion of environmental fines into resources for URADs in the basin of the Parnaíba River. | Due to last year’s general elections and the organizational changes in the national and state level governments, initiatives to insert SLM in programs aimed at increasing investments in good practices have not yet been consolidated. Also, due to both the economic crisis Brazil has faced in the last five years as well as changes in the credit market regulations, the rural credit offer has decreased in Brazil: according to the Brazilian Cooperatives Organization (OCB), R$ 34.2 billion were reduced from rural credit within the Ministry of Agriculture food production plan, “Plano Safra”, in the 2018/2019 period alone.    It is necessary to highlight that progress on this indicator was also delayed due to the strategy of the national coordination of the project in MMA to prioritize the implementation of field interventions in Sergipe, Bahia, Piauí and Maranhão, as highlighted in the previous PIR, to leverage SLM initiatives in areas susceptible to desertification. MMA also channeled the project’s efforts into seeking funding sources for the implementation of new URADs, such as IBAMA's environmental fines conversion program. However, it is expected that greater investments in rural credit, announced by the new federal government, should allow actions in this regard. Synergies with another GEF funded project, Bem Diverso (PIMS 4659), were identified regarding increasing investment in sustainable management practices and the development of technical guidelines for credit agents, and should be explored as soon as the new project direction in MMA is selected.    Government support and extra effort regarding negotiations with credit agents will be required to achieve progress in this indicator. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 71.97% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 71.97% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,745,646 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 84,886 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,815,192 |
| Co-financing | 17,333,016 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Apr 12, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Oct 22, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jun 8, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Apr 27, 2016 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Apr 1, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jan 8, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jun 8, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-07-05 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Political | - State and presidential elections resulting in political changes at the different levels may compromise project implementation schedules and arrangements  The impact of national elections and the resulting political changes was especially adverse to the project as the secretariat responsible at the Ministry of Environment (MMA) was dissolved and its competencies partially transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA). Also, issues related to desertification were not included in the MMA new organizational structure, launched by January 31st, which meant that the project did not fall into any of the newly created MMA secretariats. As a consequence, although the project's team spent December 2018 developing a updated work plan for 2019, all activities for 2019, including steering committee and tripartite meetings, had to be paused as, to date, the project has yet to have a designated director/coordinator.    Consequently, in addition to keeping in contact with members of the former project teams in MMA, UNDP was able to hold two meetings with the ministry’s leadership in 2019 to discuss the execution of the projects in the Planet Cluster portfolio, including the Sergipe project. The first meeting was held on April 4th with representatives of MMA's Secretariat of International Relations, and the second meeting was held with the Environmental Quality Secretary (SQA), Mr. André França, which, due to the Secretary's busy schedule, was only held on June 12th. During the first meeting, UNDP was informed of where most of the its projects should be localized within MMA’s new structure but was also told that discussions were being held regarding a subsequent reorganization in the Ministry. On the other hand, during the meeting with SQA, progress was achieved for the projects under that secretariat, although it was told that the priority was the urban environment, which meant that desertification was supposed to be transferred to another secretariat, yet to be defined. |
| Financial | - Co-financing partners may not be able to contribute with amounts agreed during the negotiation phase of the project due to the current political and economic crisis in Brazil.  The economic crisis, which reached its lowest point in the second quarter of 2016 (when President Roussef's impeachment process was concluded and Brazil's GDP was decreasing by 4.5%/year), has also affected the Brazilian government ability to provide co-financing. To overcome these limitations, the project's team has been monitoring news and decisions on public policy of interest to the project and has made efforts to engage stakeholders in alternative ways (i.e. in kind contributions). MMA has also offered financial resources to implement new URADs in replication areas, as registered in this PIR.  It is necessary to note that Ibama's environmental fines conversion program, which was supposed to support URADs replication in the states of Maranhão and Piauí, did not suffer from the economic crisis, but awaits revision within the new national government guidelines. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Since 2018 was an election year and presented limitations regarding the mobilization of key stakeholders, the MTR that was supposed to take place by July was transferred to early 2019. After reviewing and seeking approval for the MTR TORs, the project launched three calls to hire the MTR consultant with no success, as candidates did not present the necessary GEF evaluation experience and technical expertise required to perform the MTR adequately. Currently, the project team is analyzing the regional evaluator roster in order to identify better suited candidates. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The Mid-Term Review (MTR) was planned to be carried out by early 2019 due to the election period. After 3 unsuccessful hiring processes, the evaluator will be selected through the regional roster. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| There has been a substantial delay in carrying out the Mid-Term Review (MTR), which was scheduled for the first semester of 2018 but has still not been carried out in 2019. This is due to the decision to postpone the MTR in 2018 due to the difficulty mobilizing stakeholders in advance of the national elections, and then in 2019, due to problems finding suitable candidates. The consultancy for lead evaluator was readvertised without success, and the team is now trying to identify a suitable candidate from the regional M&E roster. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | During the last 12 months, Project Sergipe's execution was particularly impacted by the elections campaign period and the subsequent organizational changes within the national and the state governments. . Therefore, the rating is the same as last year’s, that is, moderately unsatisfactory.    It should be noted that most of the project’s progress within the last twelve months was achieved in Outcome 2, as field interventions were concluded. During both the “National Conference on Neutrality of Land Degradation (LDN): Strategies, Results and Perspectives”, organized in November,2018, and a follow-up visit to the communities where URADs (Degraded Areas Recovery and Reducing Climate Vulnerability Units) were implemented, local producers declared that the productive, environmental and social technologies implemented by the project have increased their quality of life. Given both MMA’s decision to concentrate efforts on field interventions as a strategy to leverage URADs as a showcase to foster public decision-making on sustainable land management, and the economic crisis that reduced federal and state governments investments, little or no progress was achieved with regard to training extensionists on SLM directives and increasing investments in SLM practices. It should be noted that the online platform that will provide data on progress regarding several project and outcome indicators has been developed in partnership with the collaborative network on land use monitoring, MapBiomas. It is still necessary to train communities, as well as government representatives (at all levels, from national to local) to collect and upload data to the platform, as well as define the appropriate governance for the platform, so it can be adopted by the Brazilian government as a tool to monitor land degradation neutrality initiatives.    Progress on Outcome 1 indicators is off track as most of its targets are subject to legislation change/approval or to the approval of the National Commission to Combat Desertification (NCCD), which held only two general meetings (12, 2015 and 09, 2018) during the execution of the project. To accelerate MAP development, MMA requested the termination of the consultancy hired by the project on the matter and took over the development of a MAP elaboration methodology that was applied in the development / updating of the MAPs in Canindé and Poço Redondo in November 2018. Follow-up on the implementation of those MAPs and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the methodology should be carried out but were delayed due to the eliminiation of the department in MMA responsible for the project.    The project’s overall execution experienced severe delays due to the elections campaign period and the following government changes at national and state levels. During the elections campaign (August-October 2018), decision-making was delayed as attention was given to the political debates, particularly at the national level, since the party in power had no candidates and therefore there was no expectation of continuity. In order to lessen the impact of the electoral campaign season, the project focused its attention on concluding field interventions, reviewing and testing the Municipal Action Plan (MAP) development methodology, and organizing a national conference on land degradation neutrality (LDN) that sought to disseminate best practices, communicate results and mobilize support for sustainable land management in the national and state governments. After the LDN national conference, the project concentrated efforts on reviewing progress and updating the 2019 work plan to overcome delays and achieve results, especially with regard to strengthening capacity on SLM and LDN within state and local government and extension services, elaborating and implementing MAPs, disseminating the adoption and increasing investment in SLM practices.    Nevertheless, the new national government issued a decree that reorganized the Ministry of Environment (MMA) by January 30th, dissolving the secretariat that was responsible for coordinating Project Sergipe. As desertification was not formally identified as part of the responsibilities of any of the newly created departments in MMA, the project had no director/coordinator designated after January 30th and, thus, all activities for 2019 had to be paused, including defining the monitoring platform governance, knowledge dissemination actions, elaboration of MAPs, and Steering Committee meetings.    In addition to keeping in contact with members of the former project team in MMA, UNDP was able to hold two meetings with MMA in 2019 to discuss the execution of Project Sergipe. During the first meeting, held on April 4th with representatives of MMA's Secretariat of International Relations, UNDP was told that the project would likely be located in the Territorial Management Department of the Secretariat on Environmental Quality (SQA). Part of the project's former technical team in MMA was indeed transferred to SQA and, on May 16th, the IICA's managed URAD replication project was designated a director from that department. As no director was designated for Project Sergipe, UNDP requested a meeting with SQA's Secretary, Mr. André França, which was held on June 12th. At the meeting, Mr. André França informed that the project would indeed be coordinated by the Territorial Management Department, but also stressed that the focus of the secretariat was the urban environment. Later in June 2019, the project was informally communicated that further changes in MMA's organization were under negotiation and that Project Sergipe could be transferred to a yet to be created department on climate change and desertification within the Secretariat of International Relations.    Thus, progress towards end of project results have been negatively impacted by the economic crisis and also by policy changes and delays in decision making caused by general elections and the resulting restructuring of the national and state governments. Most of 2018’s work plan could not be delivered, especially regarding Outcome 1 and, although the project team developed a workplan to deal with delays in progress in 2019, especially regarding disseminating the adoption of SLM practices, developing MAPs and strengthening state government and extension services capacities, given that it still may take a few more weeks for the project to have a designated director/coordinator, it is uncertain whether the project will have the necessary support and resources to reconnect and strengthen partnerships in order to deliver the results as expected. Even if efforts to engage higher levels of decision-making within the national and state governments in project execution are successful, an extension in the project’s duration may be needed since important targets, such as those related to implementing MAPs, improving SLM norms, and fostering the adoption of integrated SLM practices, entail the mobilization of several institutions and the design of capacity building frameworks that will take longer than the available time. In this regard, the Mid-Term Review, scheduled to take place the second semester of 2019, will support decision making. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | During the reporting period, some progress has been made regarding partnerships with civil society organizations in order to implement field interventions and to develop the monitoring platform for the project objective targets.    Under Outcome 1, the project has contributed to the review of Sergipe’s Action Plan on Desertification (PAE/SE) in previous years. However, no progress was made towards the consolidation of the final document. Likewise, the project supported the elaboration of the draft document of the State Policy to Combat Desertification in Sergipe, which is still under revision at the state level. The administrative reform in the Government of Sergipe has eliminated the Secretariat of Environment and Water Resources (SEMARH) and its competencies were absorbed by the Secretariat for Urban Development and Sustainability (SEDURBS). Therefore, follow-up on the state policy and the action plan to combat desertification was delayed.    Outcome 2, the field interventions were concluded and have inspired local youth to take the URAD best practices to their school in the city of Canindé do São Francisco. It is worth mentioning that the methodologies and forms of mobilization of the beneficiary families developed in the field fostered the involvement of women and young people in the implementation of URADs. There were substantial results, as women represented 54% of the 667 participants of all training activities offered by the project during the last 12 months.    Unfortunately, the project has not progressed under Outcomes 1 and 2 as expected. The project is off track and demonstrates difficulties to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The progress toward the development objectives is rated Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU).    Project results have been affected by government changes due to delays resulting from the election period and to the new federal government structure and policy competencies. The Ministry of Environment (MMA) was restructured and the Secretariat responsible for coordinating the project was eliminated. The theme of desertification was not formally identified as part of the responsibilities of the new departments in MMA and all project activities for 2019 had to be paused, including defining the monitoring platform governance, knowledge dissemination actions, MAP elaboration, and steering committee meetings.    Several meetings were undertaken between high-level representatives of UNDP and MMA. The project perspectives were discussed with the Secretary of International Relations and with the Secretary on Environmental Quality of MMA. The Minister of Environment has personally confirmed to the UNDP Resident Representative his recognition of the project’s relevance and the interest of MMA to visit the project’s intervention sites and to move forward with its implementation.    Despite all efforts undertaken by UNDP to ensure project implementation, the delay associated with the government’s restructuring has considerably impacted the achievement of project results and adaptive management will be necessary to allow the achievement of expected project results by project closure. In this sense, measures must be taken to accelerate implementation this year. The project’s team already developed a workplan to deal with progress delays, as reported by the project manager, especially regarding disseminating the adoption of SLM practices, developing MAPs and strengthening state government and extension services capacities. Therefore, the project can offer the Brazilian government speedy results, which may encourage immediate adoption of the workplan. Also, in order to both accelerate implementation and minimize the impact of the main risks for the project, that is, political changes and reduced co-financing, the project should make efforts to engage higher levels of decision-making within the national and the Sergipe governments in project execution. In order to do that, the project’s team has already identified key people in the new Sergipe government and partner institutions, such as IBAMA and INCRA, noting that most of them were previously involved in the project. Additionally, the project team has identified organizations in Sergipe that could not only support activities but help ensure sustainability of results, such as Senar (rural training organization linked to the private sector), Sebrae (small and medium business support service), and the Sergipe state university campus in the Alto Sertão, which specializes in agriculture and cattle raising. Although time and effort should be deployed in order to accelerate implementation, the project’s team is expected to have access to the Sergipe government and new partners with no major problems since UNDP has a good reputation in Brazil and will receive all necessary support from the Ministry of Environment.    The cumulative delivery rate is 71.97% although the project delivery suffered a reduction during this reporting period. For this reason, the rating for implementation progress is Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU). | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | (the Ministry of Environment filled out this section)    Overall, the project’s execution within the last 12 months can be considered to have been moderately unsatisfactory as the electoral period and changes in the governance structure of the Ministry of the Environment and of the Sergipe State government hampered the implementation of the planned actions. However, despite the changing scenario, the project completed field intervention actions, generating contributions to replicate SLM practices in other Northeastern states in Brazil.    We present a brief analysis of the achievement of the objectives and results of the project from July, 2018 to June, 2019.  On Outcome 1 (Strengthening governance to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation in Sergipe's ASD), we evaluated this as moderately unsatisfactory, in view of the achievement of the results listed below:  a) RESULTS 1.1 (Sergipe state policy and planning supports the integration of SLM with DSA):  As described in PIR/2018, thanks to the project's action, the State of Sergipe has made progress in updating proposals for legislation and planning and management (PAE/Sergipe) tools related to forest policies and desertification.  However, there was no progress since the draft legal instruments (proposals of the state forest policy and to combat desertification) were not sanctioned and are being analyzed and reviewed by Sergipe´s government.  Regarding the elaboration of the Municipal Plans to Combat Desertification (MAPs), we evaluated that the goal was not totally reached, in view of the delivery of two PAM proposals (Canindé de São Francisco and Poço Redondo), resulting from workshops with the application of the MMA tutorial on the preparation of MAPs. Due to the electoral period and the changes in the structure of the state and federal public administration, it was not possible to assess the effectiveness of the methodology that was used to develop the first two PAMs, which still needs to be done in the remainder of the current year. The result of the evaluation will enable planning for the elaboration of the other MAPs, incorporating the new guidelines of the Ministry of the Environment, as the body responsible for coordinating the implementation of the National Policy to Combat Desertification, in coordination with states and municipalities .  b) Output 1.2 (State land use licensing processes encourage appropriate measures to reduce land degradation). We evaluated this as moderately unsatisfactory considering the advances in the implementation of the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) in the State of Sergipe, which already reaches all of the state’s rural area. However, there is still a future challenge for the implementation of the PRA, an instrument that will favor the development of actions for the environmental recovery of rural properties and may even generate opportunities to implement SLM practices.  Regarding the implementation of activities related to environmental licensing, specifically, on the number of environmental licenses with SLM criteria, it should be noted that actions related to environmental command and control go beyond the scope of the project´s authority, being the responsibility of IBAMA and the State Environmental Administration (Adema). Thus, the project has focused on environmental awareness activities.  c) Output 1.3 (Monitoring of land use encourages appropriate measures to reduce land degradation). Significant advances have been made in the development of a monitoring system for degraded areas at risk of desertification, in line with the new recommendations of the UNCCD, adopting the concept of LDN and using as a pilot for the field data collection the 4 URADs set up in Sergipe. In addition, the contributions in the elaboration of the platform of the Expert Working Group, structured with the support of the project through a Letter of Agreement signed with APNE / MApBiomas, are significant. However, we note that some adjustments to the monitoring system are needed to make it operational. Therefore, we evaluate this result as moderately satisfactory.  d) Output 1.4 (Reinforced national knowledge management and governance to increase the adoption of SLM in Sergipe and facilitate replication in the Northeast).  The main contributions to improve local, regional and national governance are the result of the implementation of SLM good practices in URADs, both in Sergipe and in the replication areas. In this sense, the positive impact for the technical staff of the local institutions should be highlighted when implementing the interventions with URADs. Thanks to the training and technical surveys with the participation of representatives of local and state-level institutions, it is assessed that this result was moderately satisfactory.    It should also be noted that activities were developed under communication and knowledge management, such as: production of promotional material (video, folder, media articles, interviews, etc.); organization of knowledge and successful exchange of experiences (LDN Conference and XI National Congress of Agroforestry Systems, SDG and LDN Workshops, URAD Results Presentation Seminars); and the elaboration of the URAD and URADE manuals. Studies were also conducted to support decisions and guide project actions.    2. Regarding OUTCOME 2 (Adoption of SLM practices in Alto Sertão de Sergipe, with replication in the other ASDs), we must observe that the successful activities of the implementation of the URAD strategy of the MMA in Sergipe, with practical actions and capacities using the methodology of "learning and doing", has yielded satisfactory results.  In addition to the contributions to the dissemination of good practices in soil management and conservation and use of the environmental assets of the communities involved, the implementation of the interventions served to form multiplier agents, including as a means for replication.  a) As for the Outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, which deal with the best practice guidelines for the environmental licensing process and technical assistance and rural extension services, in addition to the increase in investments in credit and credit lines, we note that these will be strengthened in the project execution process. In order to do so, efforts to establish partnerships, including the reestablishment of links with the new heads of the federal and state public administration, are indispensable. In this way, we evaluate that, due to the positive impacts of the implementation of the interventions in Sergipe and in the replication areas, the themes (reversion of land degradation and combating desertification) have contributed to the structuring of new partnerships. Thus, we evaluated the set of Outputs (2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) as moderately satisfactory.  Due to federal and state governmental elections and following the transition period and reform of state and federal public administration, the implementation of project activities was affected. This also led to the temporary suspension of some activities planned for the period of the present analysis.  In addition, the changes of authorities in the public agencies involved in the project also influenced the implementation of the activities of this project. It should be noted that changes in public administration structures at the three levels of government should be considered as constant risks, which significantly interfere in the implementation of the project. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | Progress toward Development Objectives- Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)    The project´s objective is to strengthen sustainable land management (SLM) governance frameworks to combat land degradation processes in Sergipe´s areas susceptible to degradation (ASD) in the Northeast of Brazil, which form part of the Caatinga biome. The rating for progress toward the project´s Development Objectives is Moderately Unsatisfactory, given that the project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with the potential for significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. This coincides with the rating given by the Project Manager, the UNDP Country Office and the Ministry of Environment as well as with the rating I gave last year for the previous reporting period.    Outcome 1, Strengthening governance to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation in Sergipe's ASD, has seen limited progress. The draft legal instruments (proposals of the state policy to combat desertification and the action plan to combat desertification) for Sergipe, which had been prepared during the previous reporting period, have not been approved yet over the last year, so the policy framework is not yet in place to support the mainstreaming of SLM considerations. Two draft Municipal Plans to Combat Desertification (MAPs) have been prepared for Canindé de São Francisco and Poço Redondo, however, the target is to have 7 MAPs prepared as well as approved with operational plans and budget for implementation, and this by project end, which is supposed to be in one year, so this activity is not currently on track. The other MAPs will be developed once the methodology for preparing these Plans is evaluated, which will enable the new guidelines of the Ministry of Environment to be adopted.    Staff capacity was increased with substantial training activities that were carried out this year as well as through project support for the National Conference on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The project has worked on developing a monitoring system for degraded areas at risk of desertification to advance toward LDN, which involves the piloting of field data collection in the project´s four target URADs, with some further work being required to operationalize this system (such as capacity building). The technical staff of local institutions have increased their capacity on best practices in SLM, which will facilitate replication in Sergipe and beyond.    There have been some advances in the number of properties registered under the CAR system (Rural Environmental Registry) but it is not yet clear to what extent the program of environmental recovery will be supported under the current government. Moreover, there has not been any progress in terms of modifying state land use licensing processes to take SLM into consideration and thereby encourage reduced land degradation as this is considered outside of the mandate of the implementing partner. As was the case last year, I strongly recommend that the project build a partnership with IBAMA and ADEMA as the agencies responsible for state land use licensing in order to advance on this issue.    Communication and knowledge management activities were carried out, such as the production of promotional material (a video, folder, media articles, interviews, etc.); organization of events to exchange information (LDN Conference and XI National Congress of Agroforestry Systems, SDG and LDN Workshops, URAD Results Presentation Seminars); and the elaboration of the URAD and URADE manuals, among others.    For Outcome 2, adoption of SLM practices in Alto Sertão de Sergipe (SAS), with replication in the other ASDs, four URADs (Units for the Recovery of Degraded Areas and Reduction of Climate Vulnerability) were put in place in Sergipe by November, 2018, benefitting 168 families. The practices promoted were well received by local producers. While budgetary resources from the Ministry of Environment (MMA) supported the establishment of URADs for an additional 300 families, the project is planning to promote further replication to meet the target of 2000 families implementing SLM by working more closely with productive sectors and building partnerships to mobilize more resources and support for this work. This will be essential for results to be achieved at the scale required to truly tackle degradation in the semi-arid region of Brazil.    The project is still a long way off from ensuring that 100% of agricultural extensionists in the SAS deliver support that includes SLM recommendations, as INCRA did not hire partners to deliver these services due to budgetary constraints. The project plans to put in place an adaptive management strategy to work with extension workers from other organizations in the region. Another area where the project will need to make a concerted effort quickly is to work with credit agencies to increase the percentage of investment in SLM, with the support of government.    The project should be commended for having concluded a gender analysis during this reporting period. Furthermore, the project has effectively been incorporating a gender perspective in its activities, with positive results. Women have been motivated to participate in the URAD approach, in part because of the inclusion of social and productive aspects. It should be noted that women constituted 54% of the 667 participants of all training activities provided by the project during the last 12 months.    The project continued to engage in partnerships during this reporting period, particularly with the NGOs Instituto Dom José Brandão de Castro (CDJBC) and the Socio-Environmental and Cultural Support Society (SASAC), which implemented the field activities in the URADs, and with MapBiomas/Associação Plantas do Nordeste (APNE), which has been developing a monitoring system for degraded areas at risk of desertification, starting in the project´s intervention areas in Sergipe.    Implementation Progress- Unsatisfactory (U)    The rating for Implementation Progress is Unsatisfactory, given that implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Delays in key milestones are evident. This represents a significantly lower rating than the Moderately Satisfactory rating I gave last year, due to the fact that there has not been any real project implementation since December, 2018. It is somewhat lower than the ratings provided by the Project Manager, Country Office and Project Implementing Partner of Moderately Unsatisfactory, for the reasons explained in the following paragraphs.    The cumulative project delivery is 72% four years into this five-year project. The delivery in 2018 was 82% and the delivery in 2019 by mid-year was only 7%. The project continues to be managed as a DIM project by the UNDP Country Office, however, after the national election, the government structure that housed work on sustainable land management in the Ministry of Environment was dissolved, and desertification has not yet been included in the new organizational structure. As a result, the project has no designated director from government and there is as of yet no clear government ownership of the project. The general elections in 2018 caused delays in decision making and since the new election, the project has effectively been at a stand-still over the last 6 months. A great deal of 2018´s work plan could not be delivered, especially as it relates to Outcome 1. The 2019 workplan, which was developed to accelerate progress, has not been implemented yet. As a result, activities such as further dissemination of SLM practices, development of MAPs and strengthening of state government and extension service capacities have been delayed.    As the Implementing Partner for this DIM project, UNDP is maintaining a results-based orientation and project management is satisfactory. Adaptive management has been ongoing since the beginning of the project, for example, in terms of making the necessary adjustments after the government decision to adopt the URAD methodology and more recently, the new methodology to develop MAPs, to name a few. In terms of monitoring, UNDP regularly monitors project progress against the set indicators. However, the Mid-Term Review, which should have been carried out in early 2018 has still not initiated, so it is already 1.5 years past schedule. The main reasons for this delay are the national elections in 2018 and difficulties procuring suitably qualified consultants. The consultancy has already been advertised twice, without success.    In terms of project governance, though the Project Advisory Committee is meant to meet twice a year, the project has not been able to convene a meeting of the PAC since July, 2018 in large part due to uncertainty over the government structure. This is, of course, particularly unfortunate due to the need for guidance to address the severe bottlenecks to implementation. While representatives of the PAC have attended, it is important to engage higher decision-making levels from the member institutions in project meetings to facilitate more efficient decision-making.    The project has been monitoring two critical risks, namely, the impact of the national elections late last year and the country´s economic crisis. The project has tried to address the impact of the national elections on government structures by holding meetings with the Ministry of Environment´s new leadership, but thus far, it is still not clear where the project will be housed. It should be noted, though, that the Ministry of Environment has expressed its interest in the project and in visiting the intervention sites. In terms of the risk associated with financial restrictions, the project is trying to engage stakeholders in alternative ways, such as with in kind contributions.    It is clear that UNDP will need to continue to set up high-level meetings to request a decision on the location of this project in the new government structure, since project implementation cannot proceed without this. Once this decision is taken, hopefully within the next month or two, the project team will need to devise a workplan that accelerates delivery. Given the limited time period remaining in project implementation, this will require the development and consolidation of partnerships and possibly, the identification of responsible parties to carry out some of the pending project activities in order to increase delivery and increase the likelihood that the main project objectives can be met.  In order to promote the sustainability of the project´s interventions, further work on promoting the policy changes under Outcome 1 will be vital. In addition, the identification of sources of investment for SLM will be critical for financial sustainability. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** [PIMS 3066 LD Sergipe GenderAnalysis\_Product01.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/3066/212323/1729409/1744570/PIMS%203066%20LD%20Sergipe%20GenderAnalysis_Product01.pdf) |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| [GenderAnalysis\_PIMS3066\_PIMS4659\_PIMS4675\_Product01.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/3066/212323/1727911/1742097/GenderAnalysis_PIMS3066_PIMS4659_PIMS4675_Product01.pdf)  [GenderAnalysis\_PIMS3066\_PIMS4659\_PIMS4675\_Product02.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/3066/212323/1727911/1742097/GenderAnalysis_PIMS3066_PIMS4659_PIMS4675_Product02.pdf)  [GenderAnalysis\_PIMS3066\_PIMS4659\_PIMS4675\_Product03.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/3066/212323/1727911/1742097/GenderAnalysis_PIMS3066_PIMS4659_PIMS4675_Product03.pdf) |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN0:** no noticeable contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| NA |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| As expected, in 2018, a gender analysis was carried out and concluded by August 2018. In the report the gender consultant made recommendations to improve the gender approach in four projects: PIMS 3066 (Caatinga Ecosystems Conservation II - Sergipe), PIMS 4659 (Strengthening Framework for NTFP), PIMS 4675 (Brazil Charcoal) and PIMS 3280 (Mangrove Ecosystems in Brazil).    Recommendations for Project Sergipe were presented to the project's team, which sought to include gender-sensitive strategies within the project's 2019 work plan.    As expected, the gender analysis identified that Sergipe's PRODOC emphasizes the importance of women's &quot;inclusion&quot; in project actions but does not include gender-specific activities, indicators or targets. The theme is treated in a cross-cutting way and is especially addressed when it comes to social inclusion and sustainability. The actions proposed by the project, especially those involving field interventions, focus on the processes of mobilization and empowerment of the farming families, reinforcing the role of women in social and productive activities, especially in an environmental context of water scarcity and the use of firewood for cooking.    The gender assessment identified that the &quot;URAD&quot; approach, with interventions aimed at the recovery of degraded areas, combined social, environmental and productive components. The environmental, social and productive activities implemented in the rural communities benefiting from the project motivated women to be participants in SLM practices and the construction of low-cost social technologies. The assessment also noted that methodological approaches in the field (workshops, training) sought to incorporate gender approaches, albeit in a timid manner, but allowed communities to discern the importance of the roles played by men and women in the field of agro-extractive activities.    The SLM practices and technologies were approached in an integrated way, so that the families that accessed water through the cisterns were also encouraged to discuss and participate in the process of recovery of the springs and of the management of the soil, besides participating in the practices of construction of ecological stoves and cisterns, always actively involving the family unit as a whole.    In the implementation of the interventions, it is worth highlighting that the methodologies and forms of mobilization of the beneficiary families carried out in the field by the NGOs hired by the project, CDJBC and SASAC, fostered the involvement of women and young people in the implementation of URADs. The results achieved were substantial, as women represent 54% of the 667 participants of all training activities offered by the project during the last 12 months. When considering solely the training sessions conducted during the implementation of the field activities (SASAC and CDJBC) in this period of the PIR, of the total of 409 participants, women represent 63% of the participants.    \*\*The GEN marker rating was updated to GEN1, but at the closing deadline of the PIR this has not been reflected yet\*\* |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| Project Sergipe has implemented activities that stimulated social awareness and women´s participation, such as discussions and experiments of technological innovations that directly affect women's daily lives and their relationship with their environment. The gender perspective was taken into account during the implementation of SLM practices and in the training offered to communities and multipliers in the project focus area, as women play an important role in food production and strengthening their capacity on the matter is pivotal to ensuring sustainability of the project's results.    Women’s participation in the training sessions stood out as they accounted for 54% of participants. They also actively participated in field interventions planning meetings and contributed to the joint efforts to implement the URADs. This participation can be illustrated by testimonials in journalistic articles, meetings, exchange events and other initiatives. Josefa Gouveia da Silva, first to receive the ecostove, stated that women were very active in raising awareness about the importance of firewood management. She told the project that all the women in her community attended the trainings offered and gave their opinion regarding the stove building. Geldino Cassiano de Lima, resident of the Florestan Fernandes settlement, declared that women's participation was essential in all activities organized by the project in his community. He said that the women were not there to “help”, as they really work in the fields, take care of the house, the children, and they are able to do this manual labor together with their husbands. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| N/A |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| N/A |

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 3066 Brazil LD Sergipe Safeguards 03Oct14.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/3066/212323/1615057/1725570/PIMS%203066%20Brazil%20LD%20Sergipe%20Safeguards%2003Oct14.doc)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| Social and Environmental Screening will be updated with the support of the Mid-Term Review. |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| N/A |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Projeto Sergipe seeks to strengthen the Brazilian sustainable land management governance structure to combat land degradation and desertification processes in semi-arid areas of the Brazilian Northeast, starting with the state of Sergipe. As a result, it seeks not only to optimize and coordinate existing programs and policies for sustainable land management, but also to foster field interventions that combine environmental, social and productive tools to reverse land degradation and improve the quality of living for people living in rural areas.    To this end, the project put in place the first Units for the Recovery of Degraded Areas and the Reduction of Climate Vulnerability (URAD) in Brazil, in two municipalities of Alto Sertão region in Sergipe. Four URADs were put in place by November, 2018, comprising soil, water and biodiversity management and conservation actions via simple, low-cost technologies, with the participation of local communities. The project also contributes to the dissemination and replication of URADs in other states of the Brazilian semi-arid region.    The project’s activities in the region were divided into three integrated axes: environmental, productive and social. In the environmental axis, actions such as recovery of springs, building of dams (called zero-based dams) and installation of strings of rocks to avoid soil erosion stand out. In the productive area, the project offers support to small farmers to adopt appropriate soil management practices using tools and methodologies such as crop-livestock-forestry integration systems (ILPF, in Portuguese) and agroforestry systems (SAFs, in Portuguese). Finally, in the social axis, actions included the installation of toilets with ecological pits to enable basic sanitation, installation and recovery of cisterns for water storage, construction of ecological stoves and training so that the population adopts the technologies and good practices used and can replicate them opportunely.    The project´s success in the field interventions has inspired the local youth to take URAD best practices to their school in the city of Canindé do São Francisco, where they not only created a 50 meter squared garden with coriander, lettuce, chives and many other foods that go straight to the school lunch, but also planted trees that will help the school to become a green belt in the middle of the urban area where it is located.    As reported by the Fundação Telefônica, Maria Nilza de Santana Ferreira, a teacher in the school that underwent the changes introduced by three young women from the Florestan Fernandes settlement where one URAD was implemented by the project, everyone learned from the initiative. According to her, “teachers saw that a simple project can be transformative and bring much learning, students found that unity and the exchange of ideas work miracles. Our school was very beautiful! ”.    The school initiative drew the attention of the Ministry of Environment, which created a program derived from the URAD strategy, called URADe (Degraded Areas Recovery Unit in Schools), which aims to expand the tree planting and garden creations to other schools in the region. Also, the initiative was one of the winners of the 2018 School's Creative Challenge, sponsored by the Alana Institute in Brazil.    The project is aligned with Agenda 2030 and seeks to support the Sergipe Alto Sertão region for sustainable development. Several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are integrated in a cross-cutting way, such as Objective 1, eradication of poverty, and Objective 2, zero hunger, with agrarian reform families working to promote sustainable agriculture while conserving the Caatinga. In addition, other SDGs are contemplated, such as Objective 6, clean water and sanitation, to which the project contributes by installing sanitary units made up of a sanitary shelter and a septic tank, and Objective 15, life on land, because it is a project involved in combating desertification and promoting biodiversity conservation. The project also achieves cross-cutting themes, such as gender equality, with the empowerment of peasant women, thus encompassing the implementation of SDG 5. And for all activities to be implemented in an integrated manner, partnerships between agencies from the municipal and state levels, the Federal Government, local NGOs and UNDP as the implementing agency are established, thus observing the importance of SDG 17. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| PROJECT'S UNDP PAGE:  http://www.br.undp.org/content/brazil/pt/home/projects/manejo-do-uso-sustentavel-da-terra-no-semiarido-do-nordeste-brasileiro/    PROJECT'S EXPSOSURE:  https://pnudbrasil.exposure.co/recuperacao-de-areas-degradadas-em-sergipe-ajuda-no-combate-a-desertificacao    MEDIA COVERAGE:  10/07/2018  Recuperação de áreas degradadas em Sergipe ajuda no combate à desertificação  https://nacoesunidas.org/recuperacao-de-areas-degradadas-em-sergipe-ajuda-no-combate-a-desertificacao/    10/07/2018  Recuperar áreas degradadas em Sergipe ajuda no combate à desertificação ( 1) - TV Aracaju (replicação de matéria da ONU  http://www.tvaracaju.com/index.php/news/73/recuperar-%C3%A1reas-degradadas-em-sergipe-ajuda-no-combate-%C3%A0-desertifica%C3%A7%C3%A3o/    05/07/2018  Visita de Campo às URADs – SE – MMA  https://www.flickr.com/photos/mmeioambiente/albums/72157668601616898    09/08/2018  Estudo inédito sugere ações para tornar a oferta totalmente legal e ambientalmente correta  – Brasil Energia  https://brasilenergia.editorabrasilenergia.com.br/nordeste-tem-biomassa-de-sobra-mas-maior-parte-da-extracao-e-ilegal-e-insustentavel-diz-pnud/1/3    17/08/2018  Estratégia fortalece conhecimento sobre os biomas  http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15037-noticia-acom-2018-08-3113.html    21/08/2018  Projeto MapBiomas Árida tem lançamento nacional  http://www.uefs.br/2018/08/1975/Projeto-MapBiomas-Arida-tem-lancamento-nacional.html    10/09/2018  Ministério vai recuperar áreas degradadas no MA  http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15083-minist%C3%A9rio-vai-recuperar-%C3%A1reas-degradadas-no-ma.html    13/09/2018  Brazil sets up a novel model to reverse desertification  https://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/unccd-science-policy-weblog/brazil-sets-novel-model-reverse    18/09/2018  Link para o Exposure PNUD, matéria em destaque By PNUD BRASIL  https://pnudbrasil.exposure.co/e70b2bf8d02b16df211d7104c9a7541d    20/09/2018  MMA apresenta ações contra a desertificação - Comissão Nacional de Combate à Desertificação  http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15111-mma-apresenta-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-contra-a-desertifica%C3%A7%C3%A3o.html    20/09/2018  Aquecimento eleva risco de desertificação no Nordeste ()  https://sustentabilidade.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,aquecimento-eleva-risco-de-desertificacao-no-nordeste,70002510467    22/09/2018  Ministério do Meio Ambiente Fomenta Reflexões Sobre os Impactos da Mudança do Clima no Nordeste  http://www.geraldojose.com.br/index.php?sessao=noticia&cod\_noticia=107858    04/05/2018  Estratégia para conviver com a seca no sertão  http://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/14759-noticia-acom-2018-05-2986.html    13/02/2019  Escola pública de Sergipe vira inspiração pelo trabalho com meio ambiente http://fundacaotelefonica.org.br/noticias/escola-publica-de-sergipe-vira-inspiracao-pelo-trabalho-com-meio-ambiente/    27/11/2018  Conferência debate ações para enfrentar a seca no semiárido)  http://www.mma.gov.br/component/k2/item/15265-confer%C3%AAncia-debate-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-para-o-semi%C3%A1rido.html    27/11/2018  Vice governandora do estado do Piauí participa da Conferência Nacional de Neutralidade da Degradação da Terra  http://www.pi.gov.br/materia/vice-governadoria/vice-governadora-participa-da-conferencia-nacional-de-neutralidade-da-degradacao-da-terra-6628.html    27/11/2018  Prefeito Magno Cumpre Agenda em Brasília e anuncia Investimento na Zona Rural de Chapadinha Maranhão    https://alexandre-pinheiro.blogspot.com/2018/11/prefeito-magno-cumpre-agenda-em.html  http://agenciaeconordeste.com.br/estrategias-para-combater-a-desertificacao-sao-discutidas-em-brasilia/    27/11/2018  Estratégias para combater a desertificação são discutidas em Brasília  http://agenciaeconordeste.com.br/estrategias-para-combater-a-desertificacao-sao-discutidas-em-brasilia/    06/12/2018  Desertification trends in the Northeast of Brazil over the period 2000–2016 ( Article, cientific magazine International Journal Applied Earth Obs Geoinformation)  https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jag.2018.06.012    Visit of Ministry of Agriculture to the project's intervention area  https://istoe.com.br/ministra-tereza-cristina-visita-municipios-do-nordeste/  https://www.dinheirorural.com.br/ministra-tereza-cristina-visita-municipios-do-nordeste/  https://www.comprerural.com/no-nordeste-ministra-afirma-que-assistencia-tecnica-e-uma-prioridade/  http://www.folhacg.com.br/destaque/tereza-cristina-reafirma-prioridades-da-cadeia-produtiva/  https://www.noticiasagricolas.com.br/noticias/agronegocio/232633-tereza-cristina-vai-a-sergipe-e-alagoas-em-sua-segunda-viagem-ao-ne-pelo-mapa.html#.XT-q2uhKjIU  http://www.agricultura.gov.br/noticias/tereza-cristina-vai-a-sergipe-e-alagoas-em-sua-segunda-viagem-ao-ne-pelo-mapa |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

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| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 3066 Brazil LD Sergipe CEO Endorsement 17Oct14 final version.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/3066/212323/1615072/1615353/PIMS%203066%20Brazil%20LD%20Sergipe%20CEO%20Endorsement%2017Oct14%20final%20version.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| Project Sergipe has made special progress regarding partnerships with civil society organizations in order to implement field interventions and develop the monitoring platform for the targets of the project objective.    Organizations responsible for field interventions were hired via a competitive process that was adapted by UNDO to the project's needs. The two winning bids were from CDJBC and SASAC:    1. Instituto Dom José Brandão de Castro (CDJBC) and the Socio-Environmental and Cultural Support Society (SASAC):  CDJBC and SASAC were hired on September 29th, 2017, to implement the field interventions in the four focal areas of the project in the region of Alto Sertão in Sergipe. SASAC's work was completed by August, 2018, and CDJBC required three more months to finish the field interventions. Capacity building activities were carried out in the supported communities based on the &quot;learning and doing&quot; methodology. Their work contributed to the dissemination of good SLM practices and the formation of multiplier agents for the replication of actions in other states.  The institutions produced folders, videos, T-shirts, banners, plaques, as well as disseminated the URADs in social networks, fora and networks of agroecology and coexistence with the semiarid conditions. In addition, the following are the main results achieved by the project through the activities of NGOs:  • Involvement of local people in the execution of field interventions, who are qualified to carry out environmental recovery activities;  • Training of multipliers for action in the surrounding communities of Alto Sertão Sergipe and areas of replication of good practices in other states;  • Protagonism of women in the direct actions of the project;  • Participation of representatives of Sergipe's Alto Sertão communities in events focused on the relevance of the Caatinga biome;  • Organizational strengthening, perception of the environmental deterioration caused by the accumulation of garbage, with the accomplishment of garbage collection at the Florestan Fernandes settlement;  • Implementation of garbage collection in the Flor da Serra and Quilombo Settlement Serra da Guia, taken over by the municipal management of Poço Redondo, which contributed to reducing the environmental impacts that litter causes in the community with soil losses and water sources, although there is no selective garbage collection yet, since the municipality of Poço Redondo does not have sanitary landfills;  • Construction of the collective vision in the communities to coexist with the semi-arid, the appreciation of simple techniques and local knowledge;  • Increased opportunities for income generation.    2. MapBiomas/Associação Plantas do Nordeste (APNE)  Associação Plantas do Nordeste - APNE (03/29/2018) is the institution designated by MapBiomas network for the management of resources in the Brazilian Northeast. The partnership aims to develop a monitoring system for degraded areas at risk of desertification in Brazil starting at the project's intervention areas in Sergipe.  MapBiomas involves a collaborative network of specialists in biomes, land uses, remote sensing, GIS and computer science. The objective of the Letter of Agreement signed with MapBiomas as part of the project was to provide effective, cost-effective tools to monitor project indicators and also LDN / UNCCD indicators. Progress verification will be carried out by local agents by means of an online platform based on satellite images and on maps that were specifically developed for the project.  In 2018, the workspace and dashboard environments of the monitoring platform, named MapBiomas Árida, were built. The following thematic maps were developed and integrated into the platform:  • Map of Water Surface (2000-2017) delimited by the official borders of the Brazilian Northeast, including Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo.  • Map of Plant Cover and Land Use (2000-2017), adapting the classes of use and coverage to those that are applied worldwide in the LDN (land degradation neutrality) indicator.  • Plant Cover Transition Map (2000-2017), delimited by the official borders of the Brazilian semi-arid, allowing for the quantification of the areas for a better understanding of the landscape dynamics.  • Carbon flux mapping delimited by the official borders of the Brazilian semi-arid, allowing for a quantification of carbon dynamics and its relation to vegetation through satellite image using the CO2Flux index.  • Map of net primary productivity (2000-2017), delimited by the official Brazilian semi-arid official limit, reflecting the amount of biomass present in the photosynthetically active vegetation.    The five thematic maps are available on the platform dashboard (arida.mapbiomas.org), based on the year defined by the GT - Desertification (2000), showing modifications until the year 2017. There are eighteen maps for each theme, with a total of 90 (ninety) maps available for monitoring.    In November, 2018, this version of the monitoring platform was presented at the National Conference on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN): Strategies, Results and Perspectives. The event was organized by MMA in Brasilia-DF, with the support of the project and the UNCCD, including the presence of a UNCCD representative. During the LDN Conference, a meeting with the Working Group of Desertification Experts (GTED) was held and the set of maps was endorsed by the group and other specialists present. Also, the development of an app to facilitate (off line) data gathering and registration in the field was proposed and preliminarily approved by MMA.    The entire platform was completed in December / 2018. Testing of the system via data gathering and training workshops was planned for 2019. However, due to the reform of the federal government's public administration, with significant changes in the organizational structure of the MMA, it was necessary to pause activities within the Letter of Agreement until the new national technical coordination of the MMA project is designated.    3. Xokos Association  Indirectly, the dissemination of the successful results of SLM practices brought about the proposal for public resources to be directed, via parliamentary amendment to the national government budget, to serve the Xokós indigenous community, located in the municipality of Porto da Folha. The purpose of this parliamentary amendment is to fund appropriate soil management and conservation practices via the purchase of agricultural machinery and implements. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.