

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**SLM Dryland Ecoregions in NW Argentina**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4841 |
| GEF ID | 5044 |
| Title | Sustainable land use management in the drylands of North-west of Argentina |
| Country(ies) | Argentina, Argentina |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The project will promote the sustainable management of land in the arid and semi-arid ecosystems of the northwest of Argentina to address increasing loss of ecosystem functions and services in an area characterised by high land degradation and poverty levels. It will promote the incorporation of sustainable land management into on-going government programmes to improve rural livelihoods by implementing sustainable land management (SLM) practices within targeted landscapes and developing provincial and national capacities and governance frameworks for replication at scale. This will include incorporating SLM approaches and integrated natural resources management (INRM) into provincial landuse plans and setting up multi-sector platforms to facilitate coordination between competing environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so it will reduce conflicting land-uses and improve the sustainability of land management so as to maintain the flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain the livelihoods of local communities. Further it will develop an effective and comprehensive decision-support system for planning, monitoring and evaluation of SLM at the provincial and nationals providing critical information to influence investment and increase efficiencies. |

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

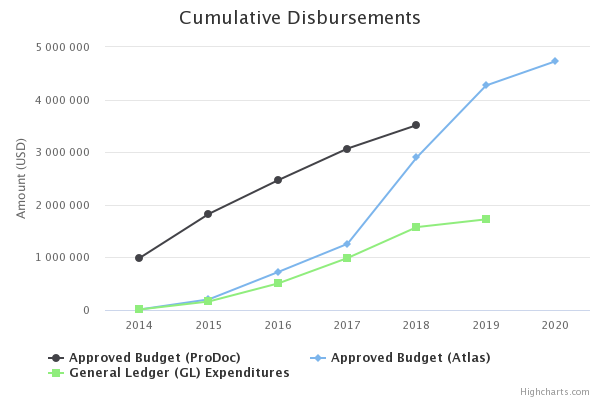
# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **A framework for Sustainable Land Management implemented to mitigate land degradation, maintain ecosystem services and improve the quality of life of the rural populations of the drylands of Northwest Argentina** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Area (in ha) in which SLM measures are being applied in the three target dryland ecoregions in NOA and Cuyo. | Area covered with some form of SLM is 744,232 ha in the three target dryland ecoregions in NOA and Cuyo | *(not set or not applicable)* | SLM measures are applied in 1,480,000 ha to avoid and reduce LD in the 3 dryland ecoregions of NOA and Cuyo:  Puna: 450,000 ha  Dry Valleys Scrub: 750,000 ha  Plains and Plateaus Scrub: 280,000 ha). | In 2016, three Letters of Agreement were signed with the provinces that form part of the specific sites of intervention (SSI), Jujuy, Catamarca and Mendoza, by which the transfer of funds for implementing sustainable land management (SLM) practices was formalized. In the Inception Workshop the practices were validated by producers, technicians and officials of municipal, provincial and national institutions. In January 2017, practices began to be implemented in Jujuy and Catamarca. In Mendoza there was no implementation since the funds transferred by the project were not available until June 2018. The first advance received by the project will now be spent, however, given the administrative difficulties experienced by the province in being able to disburse funds from international projects, henceforth, the remaining funds will be transferred to the province of La Rioja (and possibly other provinces) for field activities.    All the practices were preceded by a specific training in which local producers and technicians participated, even in SSI Mendoza. In addition, the training for managing funds started through the Revolving Funds system in Catamarca and Mendoza.    The following practices were put in place in Catamarca over the last reporting period:  - Vertical tillage and cover crop in more than 100 ha, involving 250 families. The tractor and the agricultural tools bought with project funds are used for working the soil. Alfalfa or vicia seeds are provided by the Municipality of Fiambalá (this benefited 375 families, 250 of which implemented vertical tillage). Fuel is paid by small producers or Municipal Delegations where the practice is carried out (Fiambalá, Medanitos, Taton, Palo Blanco, Punta de Agua, Antinaco and Chuquisaca.)  - Training for forestry management of windbreaks in the North, Center and South zones of the Bolsón de Fiambalá with the participation of 90 small producers.  - Value added to carob fruits through the production of flour and other byproducts for direct consumption.  - Establishment of a forest nursery with a production capacity of 80,000 plants/year to restore degraded areas, install windbreaks in the lands of small producers and fruit tree plantations in agroforestry systems by way of inner windbreaks within the lands.    The following SLM practices were implemented in Jujuy over the last reporting period:  - Vermiculture in Yavi Municipal Plant Nursery, as a production center of Californian red worms for its distribution in North Puna.  - Composting in Yavi, Chalguamayoc, Ojo de Agua, Suripugio and El Cóndor.  - Restoration of municipal plant nurseries in La Quiaca and Yavi and the school nursery in El Cóndor.  - Plantation of windbreaks and drip irrigation in the lands of livestock producers (llamas Lama glama and cows) in La Intermedia and Abra Pampa  - Building of kitchens with wood-saving stoves and water heaters.    The target surface of 1,480,000 ha will not be reached if other areas are not incorporated. Thus, the incorporation in La Rioja, Tucumán and Salta was analyzed. In La Rioja the Center-South of the area of Antinaco - Los Colorados Valley was identified and prioritized. The SLM practices were prioritized and validated at the meeting of the Multi-sectoral Committee, and in June 2018 a Letter of Agreement was signed incorporating the province, which has SSI to implement SLM practices.    In Tucumán, an area of intervention was given priority and a document is being created with a proposal to implement SLM practices in the Calchaquíes Valley, through a Letter Agreement if the Recommendation 2 of the Mid-Term Review is carried out. This possibility will be proposed to the NSC during the next meeting at the end of 2018, as well as the possibility of working with the Salta province. | Sustainable Land Management Practices (SLMP) are still being implemented on 2,200,000 hectares (ha) in six provinces. On the one hand, SLM practices are being implemented in Catamarca and Jujuy, despite the low level of compliance with the disbursement of funds, established in the Letters of Agreement (about 50% in both cases). On the other hand, SLMP are also being implemented in other four provinces: Tucumán, San Juan, San Luis and Mendoza. These provinces were incorporated as areas where SLMP should be implemented, in order to achieve the expected target, according to the 2nd recommendation of the Mid Term Review (MTR).    Puna: 327,000 ha  DryValleysScrub: 389,000 ha  Plains and Plateaus Scrub: 1,500,000 ha    In Catamarca, people are still working on vertical tillage with the tractor and the agricultural tools bought with the project funds. Tractors belonging to the agronomy office of the area were also added from the Ministry of Production Area of Catamarca and of ACAMPA NGO. In addition, the plant nursery of Anillaco continues producing plants, though in small amounts, due to the limited experience of workers that are employed at the Municipality of Tinogasta. That is why workers were trained at the Native Species Provincial Nursery of Colonia del Valle of the Secretary of Environment of Catamarca.    In Jujuy, the following SLMP are being implemented: windbreaks with drip irrigation and use of growboxx (system of water collection) in Puesto del Marquéz and Santuario; water harvest at Tambillos; plantation of trees in the nurseries of Abra Pampa, Yavi, La Quiaca, restored with Project funds; production and use of compost and biological inputs for Andean crops at Yavi, Escobar, Suripugio, El condor; vegetable cultivation at school nurseries (El Condor); vermiculture in Yavi and other areas of La Puna; wood saving stoves with water heater in Abra Pampa.    In both provinces, training is being carried out related to the implemented SLMP, apart from agroecology in Medanitos and small hydraulic works in Saujil and Medanitos. In Catamarca, tractor use and maintenance with agricultural tools for vertical tillage. In addition, in Jujuy, training was provided on spray irrigation and drip irrigation in Abra Pampa, and composting for producers of other places that are constantly joining in the Project. In La Rioja, training was also carried out on agroecology and small hydraulic works in Vichigasta, with the participation of producers and technicians of INTA and FAS (Family Agriculture Subdepartment) of Vinchina, Villa Unión, Los Colorados, Aimogasta and La Rioja.    As indicated in the first paragraph, according to the 2nd recommendation of the MTR, with the agreement of the Steering Committee, two public calls were conducted in order to finance SLM projects. The first call was issued in December 2018 in the provinces of Salta, Tucumán, San Juan, Mendoza and San Luis, and eleven projects were financed for a total amount of USD 550,000 to be paid with project funds in four installments. The projects consist of systems of water collection for wetlands recovery and livestock systems, restoration of natural vegetation (forest and pastures) with small producers, livestock in natural pasture and drip irrigation systems. The projects involve 1000 small livestock and agricultural producers and Diaguita Calchaquí communities of the Tucumán and Huarpes communities of Mendoza and San Luis. In June 2019, the second call was issued for the eight provinces that are part of the Project. In October, new projects will begin to be implemented. |
| % of area with bare ground in 3 provinces | Bare ground surface area is 3,188,905 ha in the 3 provinces in the project | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5% reduction in the area with bare ground in at least 3 provinces | This indicator will be measured at the end of 2018 once more windbreaks and agroforestry systems are established and restoration carried out. | The Geographic Information System (GIS) nodes based on the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of Jujuy and Catamarca were formalized in June 2019. Thus, they will be able to conduct the monitoring by the end of 2019.  % reduction: not measured. To be measured and reported in 2020, when the GIS nodes will have their own measurement capacities in the intervention areas.  However, as stated in the first indicator, Sustainable Land Management Practices, including windbreaks and agroforestry systems, are being implemented in Jujuy, Tucumán, Catamarca, San Juan, San Luis y Mendoza. |
| % of producers associated with agriculture/ livestock organisations that support SLM (NGOS; Cooperatives etc)    Ranking Values:    5: 100% to 76 %    4: 75% to 51%    3: 50% to 26%-    2: 25% to 10 %    1: less than 10% | Catamarca: 2    Mendoza: 1    Jujuy: 2    La Rioja: 2    Salta: 2    San Juan: 1    San Luis: 1    Tucuman: 2    Baseline values currently defined on data at provincial level | *(not set or not applicable)* | Value increases at least one category in each Province    (more specific targets per ecoregion/area of intervention will be defined once interviews are completed in the first semester) | Even though the results were not measured, the project is expected to have a low impact on the target established for the end of the project, since producers are very dispersed and have a high degree of informality in their work. Given the large distances and difficulty reaching rural areas, this goal is challenging, nevertheless, the project is providing training to promote higher levels of association among producers and to increase the level of active participation of producers in the decision-making of such organizations. The issue of insufficient vehicles is also a challenge which is currently being analyzed by the project.    As in the previous indicator, the project is working to increase the number of families of involved producers, which requires that funds from the project itself be applied in La Rioja and Tucumán, and eventually in other provinces.    The measurements were not made but will be made in the second semester of 2019. | Catamarca: 2    Mendoza: 1    Jujuy: 2    La Rioja: 2    Salta: 2    San Juan: 1    San Luis: 1    Tucumán: 2  There are no baseline increases since we need a large number of producers implementing SLMP, such as the practices promoted by the Project.  Even when the relationship with other institutions and organizations allow us to work with a large number of producers, as established in the Partnership Section, that is still not enough to change baseline values.  Since the provinces involved have budgetary restrictions to move to the field, the project bought three trucks that have not been released yet, which also makes it difficult to incorporate more producers.  In Catamarca and Jujuy, the organizations are willing to carry out SLMP and train producers. Both calls issued through the Project led to awareness raising and to the implementation of new SLMP, the incorporation of more producers and organizations, and an increase in the intervention area. However, even when there is a certain level of replication in the territory, as in the case of composting and use of biological inputs in the Puna of Jujuy, and cover crop (alfalfa) with vertical tillage in Fiambalá, it is unlikely that these provinces will continue replicating them once the financing ends, due to the lack of specific funds to promote them. |
| Increase in equitable access to water as measured by % of small farms that access surface water for irrigation (with or without pumping)    Ranking Values:    5: 100% to 76 %    4: 75% to 51%    3: 50% to 26%-    2: 25% to 10 %    1: less than 10%) | Catamarca: 4    Mendoza: 5    Jujuy: 4    La Rioja: 4    Salta: 4    San Juan: 4    San Luis: 2    Tucuman: 3    Baseline values are data at provincial level and are skewed upwards due to high % of large farms with access to water | *(not set or not applicable)* | Disaggregated values will be determined through interviews in year 1 to define % small farmer with access to water and specific targets for each intervention area (AGI) | In order to promote fair access to water among small producers, different practices and training sessions for producers and technicians were designed and implemented, which allow producers to have water and to increase its efficient use. Among them: drip irrigation and forest windbreaker units were introduced in La Intermedia and Abra Pampa, Jujuy. A two-day training event to improve water management was carried out by means of small water works in Vichigasta, La Rioja and an agroecological transition day that includes the use of water in productive systems was held at Medanitos and Fiambalá.    The promotion of crop-alternation cycles sown in winter and of other winter crops, such as vicia and wheat contribute to the better use of water in a period when there is excess.    However, so as to achieve a significant impact, small water works to harvest, conduct and distribute water are required. In the project these works are only planned under exceptional circumstances.    Therefore, no infrastructure works were carried out on small water works and due to the size and number of producers, the drip irrigation works carried out in Jujuy have an impact at the farm level. Structural works that will not be carried out within the framework of the project due to budgetary issues are required to achieve the goals. In any case, the measurements will be made at the end of the project. | Catamarca: 4    Mendoza: 5    Jujuy: 4    La Rioja: 4    Salta: 4    San Juan: 4    San Luis: 2    Tucumán: 3    In five provinces, training sessions and SLMP were carried out related to water access. The indicator was not measured but is unlikely to have decreased or increased in this short time period as it requires longer interventions. The indicator will be measured next year.    In Catamarca, a survey of farms was administered to implement pressurized irrigation in Antinaco through a project that will be implemented in 2019-2020, and training sessions on small hydraulic works in Saujil and Medanitos were provided.  In Jujuy, drip windbreaks were deployed in Santuario and growboxx in Puesto del Marquéz, collection of water in Tambillos and spray irrigation in Abra Pampa.  In Mendoza, pumping systems and water collection were put in place in Telteca, water accumulation systems were implemented in Telteca and San José, and “diversion dams” were built in El Forzudo and San Luis.  In Tucumán, spray irrigation for alfalfa sowing is being implemented at Encalilla, in the Indigenous Community of Amaicha del Valle. |
| % of population with Unmet Basic needs compared to the national average (NatAv)    Ranking values    5: Below NatAv    4: 0 to 25 % above NatAv    3: 26 - 50 % above NatAv    2: 51 - 75 % above NatAv:    1: 76 -100% above NatAv | Catamarca: 1    Mendoza: 4    Jujuy: 1    La Rioja: 1    Salta: 1    San Juan: 1    San Luis: 3    Tucuman: 1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 6 of the 8 provinces increase at least one rank | It is unlikely that project activities will have a significant impact on this indicator, given that the project scope does not include working on various issues related to unmet basic needs. Therefore, the impact of project activities on this indicator will be very low or insignificant. Nevertheless, the indicator will be measured in 2019. | Not applicable (MTR).  The Mid Term Review found that this is one of three indicators that is not relevant now. This indicator is determined every ten years in the National Population and Housing Census. It is based on a set of variables that exceed the project scope. The next census will be carried out in 2020. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **SLM practices implemented to avoid and reduce soil degradation in the environmental hotspots of the three target arid ecoregions covering 1,480,000 ha.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of families implementing any of the SLM practices. | 1440 families | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5000 families implementing at least one SLM practice by the end of the project (3560 additional families), representing a 347% increase. | - Catamarca: 345 families implement vertical tillage with appropriate agricultural tools (tractor with chisel plow) along with cover crops (alfalfa, vicia, wheat) to avoid soil blowing away after the tillage (250 families were directly supported with the tractor to carry out soil conservation practices and 95 additional families received only seeds. In addition, forestry management in Alamo plantations (forest windbreaks) is carried out to improve their function as windbreakers. In the farms, intercropping is promoted, combining fruit trees (peach, plum and apple trees) with medium-sized trees (vineyards) and perennial alley cropping such as alfalfa, vicia and wheat.  Flour producers are trained to expand their expertise to other families of the Bolson de Fiambalá and to add value through the production of food, such as alfajores, cakes and chocolates. A forest and fruit nursery was created, where 76,000-80,000 forest and fruit trees will be grown per year to restore degraded areas and to improve windbreaks and intercropping (alley cropping). “Country days” (half a working day) were also carried out to train producers on crop management techniques to avoid soil degradation.    - Jujuy: 200 families received wood-saving stoves and water heaters in the Quebraleña community. In La Quiaca and Yavi a forest nursery was repaired for tree production. In Yavi, a vermiculture was built for the production of worms. In Yavi, Chalguamayoc, Escobar, Suripugio and El Condor compost was produced and a compost bin was built. In Abra Pampa and La Intermedia, forest windbreaks with drip irrigation were deployed on the land of livestock producers.    - Mendoza: 50 producers were trained in the recovery of postfire grassland management and Forest Management with Integrated Livestock (MBGI). | 2500 families have benefited from the project. Moreover, the area of intervention covers more than 2.2 million ha.  In Catamarca, about 900 families have benefited from the project by means of alfalfa sowing associated with common vetch (vicia sativa) and wheat with vertical tillage, windbreaks, training in the production of carob flour, small hydraulic works, agroecological crops and production of plant nurseries for forest and fruit windbreaks.  In Jujuy, about 600 families of small producers and three schools benefited from compost bins, production of compost and biological inputs, forest windbreaks, tree plantations in nurseries, wood-saving stoves and water heaters.  In the provinces of Tucumán, San Juan, Mendoza and San Luis, approximately 1000 producers benefited from spray irrigation practices, control of irrigation water, restoration of natural vegetation, forest management in livestock lands and collection of water with dams and wells. They are included in eleven financed projects as a result of a first call for proposals carried out in 2018.  In the 2nd Recommendation of the Mid Term Review, it was proposed that the project directly fund the implementation of sustainable land management practices in the other provinces, to achieve the five indicator targets. As a result, in December 2018, a call was carried out and we obtained the results indicated in the previous paragraph. In June 2019, another call was carried out with the same purpose.  In this way, we can achieve the project target in relation to the number of involved producers and intervened area by ecoregion. |
| Level of cross-sectoral coordination capacity for promotion of SLM and INRM as measured by Question 3.1 on the LD Tracking Tool (Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management- capacity strengthening). | One point scored in GEF LD Tracking Tool Question 3.1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 3 points are obtained in the GEF LD tracking tool Question 3.1 | At the level of SSIs, the creation of an inter-institutional network made up of producer organizations and NGOs is being promoted to improve and to increase the coordination through the CMS and Work Commissions that will be developed SET UP?. Besides, local capacities have improved due to advances in the inter-sectoral coordination to promote SLM and Integrated Natural Resources Management through training on the desertification evaluation methodologies, indicators in GIS IDE nodes and in the framework of the specific training relating to SLM practices.    The project plans to apply the tracking tool (TT) in the second half of 2018. | At the level of Multisectoral Committees (MSC) and in the GIS nodes, networks are being generated to promote Sustainable Land Management and Integrated Natural Resources Management. However, there are no measured results yet, since the MSCs are still focused on the creation of the Provincial Action Programs (PAPs), and the GIS nodes are at an initial stage. The tracking tool has not been applied during this reporting period. |
| Funding in US $ allocated through revolving funds, microcredit programs and/or other financial mechanisms to facilitate SLM and INRM. | There are not any funds specifically earmarked for this purpose at the moment. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Revolving funds, small credit schemes and/or other financial instruments allocate $ 10 million to productive sectors or activities that incorporate SLM or INRM by the end of the project.  (amount to be confirmed in the first semester of the project) | In Mendoza, livestock producers of La Sureña Cooperative were trained to improve the system of Revolving Funds by which the funds received from FOMICRO are administered.  It involves 36 families of livestock producers in lands with low carrying capacity (20 Livestock Units/ha) where cows and goats are produced in current conditions with scarce pasture production and lack of small works for harvesting, collecting and distributing water.    In Catamarca, producers from the Agro-livestock Association of La Herradura (Asociación de productores Agroganaderos de La Herradura) were trained so that they can learn how to manage Revolving Funds.    In 2017, the Livestock Producers Association of La Herradura was created at the request of the project. Currently, there are 11 partners, but it assists all the producers of the Bolsón de Fiambalá who keep a transhumance livestock system. The assistance to producers is conducted through a system of “community purchases” of fodder to deal with unsatisfactory supply during the Autumn- Winter- Spring period, as rains occur during the summer and in that season, pastoralism takes place in natural highlands (“summertime in the hills”.)    Both organizations receive technical advice to determine the amount of the loan according to the reimbursement capacity, the type of work or supply to be bought, the activity to be carried out, and to improve the records and the process for monitoring producers.  The project has not yet determined the total amount of funding allocated to productive sectors or activities that incorporate SLM or INRM, but this will be reported upon in the next PIR. | In Catamarca and Mendoza, two SLMP proposals were formulated from the Revolving Funds that were submitted to FOMICRO. The projects were not selected.  The second call for proposals issued by the project includes an optional component of Revolving Funds that are also aimed at the implementation of SLMP. Through this second call, USD 600,000 will be available, of which USD 90,000 will be allocated to Revolving Funds.  The Kakan Cooperative, ACAMPA, the Agro-livestock Association, El Puesto de Catamarca, La Sureña cooperative of Mendoza and the Civil Association of Producers of Bermejo of San Juan will submit projects incorporating the Revolving Funds method. Besides, a Revolving Fund Guide is being planned in order to implement SLMP in arid zones. The project will disburse the money allocated for Revolving Funds.  The FOMICRO and “Creer y Crear programs” from the Ministry of Social Development use the revolving funds method for several types of activities in rural areas, but despite the attempts made by the project, no financing for SLMP was obtained.  It is expected that funds for SLMP will be made available annually by the provinces as a result of the PAPs, which will outline financing needs. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Enabling framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management at the ecoregional level developed.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Level of replication of SLM practices in drylands of the three target ecoregions of the project | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 20% of farm households in hotspots and high risk areas of 75 % NW dryland provinces replicate best SLM and IEM practices. | The replication degree is low since there are no specific funds from the Government to implement SLM practices, even among SSI producers who do not have the financial support to implement them, as indicated in the MTR.    Only in Jujuy, some practices are being replicated due to the interest of the producers (compost) and the Government of Jujuy (“Jujuy Verde” program), though on a small scale, as increasing funds are required.    To achieve this goal, as recommended in the MTR, the incorporation of other SSI where SLM will be implemented will be considered. Tucumán already has an advanced document and Salta began to work on a proposal for the Puna ecoregion. | Replication level: 10%  Even though the replication level of SLMP is still low due to the lack of funds, there is a network of local institutions and organizations that are technically capable of replicating the--- actions that have been implemented in the field. Among others, these include: INTA, the Family Agriculture Subdepartment (SAF), the universities and the producers’ organizations. In Catamarca, the producers’ organizations, the Fiambalá Municipality and Municipal Delegates facilitated the planting of cover crop with alfalfa in ¼-hectare plots, since the productive lands are between 1 and 3 hectares, and water is limited.  In Jujuy, compost bins were replicated in a large part of the territory and the Ministry of Environment is promoting their replication outside the project area. The wood saving stoves, on the other hand, are no longer replicated outside the project area due to a lack of fund availability.  New projects funded by the GEF project also allowed the replication of SLMP in the provinces of Tucumán, San Juan, San Luis and Mendoza. Besides, new SLMP were put in place, as in the case of water collection with tanks and dams, natural pasture management, and natural vegetation restoration. |
| Area monitored, with respect to the implementation of SLM through provincial GIS systems that are integrated with the national node. | Observatory currently monitors 865,516ha,in NOA y Cuyo | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1,480,000 ha (Puna: 450,00 ha, Dry Valleys scrub: 750,000 ha, and Plains and Plateaus scrub: 280,000 ha) of the ecoregions of the drylands of NOA and Cuyo are monitored by the National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification with respect to the implementation of SLM, with the results being stored in provincial GIS systems that are integrated with the national node. | Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja and Mendoza are committed to generating some layers (shapes) that allow for the measurement of land degradation and the result of the practices, although greater local capacity is required so that the created GIS nodes can generate information.    During this year the baseline for the 3 SSIs foreseen in the PRODOC will be completed and will begin to be monitored in the second semester of 2019. Delays in the collection of the baseline occurred. As a result, the continuity of the contract with IADIZA is being analyzed and a new organization may be hired to complete the work if necessary. Since there is no specific information on each ecoregion, a monitored area cannot be reported yet. Once the monitored area is determined, it will require regular updating. | The Observatory currently monitors 865,516 ha in NOA and Cuyo. Updated information on this indicator will be gathered and reported in the 2020 PIR. The monitoring of areas will be carried out by the provincial GIS nodes.  IADIZA finally completed the collection of the baseline information for the three Specific Sites of Intervention based on socioeconomic and environmental criteria.  After the delivery of computer equipment to the provinces, in 2017, a training process took place in order to strengthen provincial capacities. Eight provincial workshops were carried out related to the Production of Geographical Databases, as well as three ecoregional workshops on the Design and Implementation of Variables and Indicators of Degradation and Sustainable Land Management and three ecoregional Workshops on the Design of Metadata Profiles for Geographical Databases. Thanks to these workshops, 221 technicians were trained. They belong to 95 divisions and institutions of the participating provinces of the project.  After the training period, support activities were carried out to create the GIS nodes. Thus far, GIS nodes were created in La Rioja, Jujuy and Catamarca. 167 biophysical and socioeconomic layers were generated, a third of which correspond to variables and indicators of degradation and sustainable land management. In addition, 159 sites were assessed, which correspond to SLM beneficiaries in Catamarca and Jujuy.  As regards the release of the generated geographical information, work is being done with the Geonode software, a free and open source web platform. Three platforms of geographical data visualization are active (Catamarca, La Rioja and Tucumán), with the possibility to access the information of 51 released layers. Another two provinces are in the implementation process (Jujuy and San Juan). The type of platform that will be used in Mendoza, Salta and San Luis has not yet been defined. |
| Percentage of staff in the environmental, production (agriculture and livestock management) and water management sectors working directly or indirectly on LD issues that have been trained on SLM at the provincial level | Specific training on SLM is only provided in the provinces of Catamarca and San Luis and the staff is not applying any SLM/INRM guides or protocols as these are not available | *(not set or not applicable)* | 100% of staff involved in LD issues trained on SLM in the three sectors of environment, agriculture and hydrological management and all employ the SLM guides and protocols to assist in the development, implementation and evaluation of sectoral plans, programs and activities in the drylands of NOA and Cuyo. | 20% of staff working directly or indirectly on LD issues have been trained on SLM at the provincial level.    Through different stages of the project more than 1,130 producers and technicians acknowledged the importance of land degradation and of the implementation of practices to mitigate, reverse or avoid negative consequences.    In the eight provinces, environmental technicians as well as other production, irrigation and planning technicians were trained in the elaboration of layers through GIS systems.    Likewise, producers learned the techniques to implement SLM practices and the importance of generating strategic information such as: irrigation techniques and management, soil management and integrated management of natural resources.    In all cases, the training activities involved small local producers from the intervention sites , though some larger producers also got involved, such as the producers’ partnerships in Salta, Tucumán and La Rioja. In the calls for consultants and in the training quotas, the equitable participation of women and men is promoted to enable access to knowledge.    In 2019 guidelines will be developed for the implementation of SLM practices for technicians working in the public sector. | GIS: 221 professionals of 95 provincial, national and municipal institutions of the 8 provinces were trained. 75% of staff was trained.  SLMP: 1966 producers and technicians of 195 national, provincial and municipal agencies, universities and organizations were trained. The information does not include the trainings carried out within the first call for projects in December 2018. 25% of staff was trained.  In order to reach the target established in the indicator, training continues for technicians belonging to public institutions from the following areas: environment, agriculture and water resources. SLM guides have not yet been developed but are planned if the project receives an extension. |
| Number of Provincial Action Programs developed and beginning to be implemented. | There is one PAP developed for La Rioja. | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least three additional provinces have developed PAPs and are beginning to implement them by the end of the project (Catamarca, Mendoza and Jujuy). | Currently there are no functional PAPs.    CMSs were created in the provinces of Catamarca, Tucumán, La Rioja and Mendoza. After the process of integration and operationalization, we will begin to work on the development of PAPs. The program of La Rioja is expected to start this year.    In the four provinces, the presidency and the secretary of the CMS are in charge of the environmental areas of the provinces, and they include the following representatives:  - Secretary /Ministry of Environment of the province  - Other Secretaries/ provincial Ministries (production, agriculture, livestock, planning, irrigation)  - Institutions of the Agroindustry Ministry (INTA, SAF)  - National Universities in the province.  - Organizations of Small and Big producers and of Indigenous Peoples.  - NGOs | Multi-sectoral committees (MSC) were created in six provinces. There is one PAP developed (La Rioja) and four PAPs are in the process of creation (Tucumán, Catamarca, Salta and Mendoza).  The provinces of La Rioja, Catamarca, Tucumán, Mendoza, Salta and Jujuy established MSC, while San Juan is in the final stages of the process. As part of this process, a total of 29 workshops were carried out and 924 people belonging to the production, education, tourism, mining and social development Ministries of each of the provinces attended, as well as INTA, SAF, universities, research institutes, producers’ organizations and Indigenous Peoples participated.  Within the scope of SLM, each province began to create a Provincial Action Program (PAP). The province of La Rioja finished the updating of the PAP.  La Rioja created a PAP in 2006, but this could not be implemented due to institutional issues.    PAPs are under development in Tucumán, Catamarca, Mendoza and Salta. To that end, this activity was given priority this year from the Project Coordination, even without the help of an expert. |
| Number of baseline programs that integrate SLM and INRM criteria and apply them in the field. | Sector investment baselines programmes have some partial mention of SLM and INRM. | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least two baseline programs formally incorporate SLM and INRM criteria in their operational manuals | Currently there are two ongoing programmes.    In Catamarca, the Pro Huerta Program of INTA includes criteria that incorporate SLM and INRM practices, such as the production of carob flour. In Jujuy, the Jujuy Verde Program also include SLM practices.    In the two programs, sustainability and holistic approach criteria were included through the incorporation of practices (such as Jujuy in the Yungas ecoregion) that contribute to the fight against land desertification and degradation.    In Catamarca, innovative criteria such as “added value” and “production and commercialization costs” were added to the production of carob flour that is carried out through ProHuerta and the ACAMPA organization. It was also highlighted that the production area constitutes one of the most significant relicts of carob tree forests in Argentina.  Formal operational manuals for these two programs have not yet been updated. The project plans to work on this in 2019. | As a result of the project actions, three programs incorporate SLM criteria and Integrated Natural Resources Management. These include Jujuy Verde, implemented by the Ministry of Environment of Jujuy and the Pro Huerta program in the interventions carried out in the project area in the province of Catamarca. Finally, the Secretary of Environment along with the Education and Planning Ministries in Catamarca are implementing an Environmental Education Program at a provincial level, which includes SLM, degradation and desertification.  Jujuy Verde and the Environmental Education Program of Catamarca incorporate SLMP and INMR in their operational manuals. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 49.03% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 49.03% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,723,556 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 94,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,515,091 |
| Co-financing | 19,730,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Nov 15, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Jun 12, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Nov 17, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Dec 3, 2014 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Mar 31, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Mar 30, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | May 17, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Nov 17, 2019 |
| 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)** |
| 2018-12-04 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Operational | Within the reported period, established changes began to be implemented in terms of the different provisions and regulations of the National Government.  This makes it impossible to hire consultants to perform specific actions, such as the one planned in the SLM PAP and Gender guidelines, among others, due to the “optimal staffing” criterion.  The provinces have budget restrictions, which makes it difficult to maintain a presence in the territory. This is the case for Catamarca. Mendoza and Salta, which have a limited participation in the Project, focused only on SLM PAP. San Luis did not carry out any activity, despite the efforts undertaken by the Executive Unit.  The Letter of Agreement with Mendoza was cancelled by mutual consent, subject to the commitment that, by October 2016, the funds that had been transferred had to be applied to SLMP. Nevertheless, the funds have not yet been repaid or spent on SLMP. The project will make a final attempt to resolve this issue before the end of 2019. The Letter of Agreement with La Rioja was signed in June 2018 but the funds have not yet been transferred due to institutional issues.  The CRICyT /IADIZA was hired to gather the baseline information on the three Specific Sites of Intervention and other related activities, but could only complete the baseline work. The Agreement was terminated by mutual consent. |
| Political | The national, provincial and municipal elections of 2019 limit the implementation of activities in the provinces, which requires special attention. In order to avoid or mitigate the impact, as in previous years, the activities are planned and shared in advance with the authorities. Except for national elections, each province has its own electoral calendar, which adds some complexity. |

# 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.** |
| - The first recommendation of the MTR refers to a one-year extension, without cost, to carry out an efficient fund application and reach the indicator targets. The project will request an extension until November 2020. This is to make up for delays in spending project funds, including as a result of institutional changes in the national government, reduced budgets for plans and programs, the lack of vehicles to travel to the specific intervention sites and the decision of the implementing partner to establish the Sectorial Plans and Programs Coordination (Unit) of the Secretariat of the Environment (COPROSE). |

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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.** |
| Due to the initial project delays, a project extension will be requested for a period of 18 months. Besides, the expected delays associated with the national elections later this year will cause a considerable delay in the execution. |

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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.** |
| As highlighted in the comments of the Project Manager, the project will be requesting an extension until November 2020. This is due to a serious of factors that have affected project implementation negatively and that are outside of its control. These include reduced budgets for plans and programs, extreme currency devaluation and inflation, the decision of the implementing partner to establish the Sectorial Plans and Programs Coordination (Unit) of the Secretariat of the Environment (COPROSE), institutional changes in the national government, as well as the lack of vehicles to travel to the specific intervention sites. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | During the assessed period, 40 % of the budget was used, thus, the Annual Operational Plan was not entirely executed, due to institutional and macroeconomic issues.    Although only 49% of GEF funds were spent by June 30, 2019, the progress made toward the objectives and outcomes is greater than the amount of funds spent.    By way of synthesis, 11 Programs of Sustainble Land Management were implemented with 2500 families of producers in 7 provinces, covering an area of 2.2 million hectares. A total of 1,996 producers and technicians were trained in SLMP.    Multi-sectoral Committees were established in 6 provinces (Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja and Mendoza). La Rioja finalized the formulation of its Provincial Action Program (PAP) and four provinces are formulating their PAPs  (Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca and Mendoza). A total of 996 government workers, producers and technicians have participated in this process.    Five GIS nodes have been established (Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca and La Rioja). The process of establishemnt and integration of the GIS nodes involved 221 technicians and 95 institutions. The nodes generated 167 layers, with 33% of these being related to land degradation and SLM. In addition, a layer with the 159 sites in which SLMP are being implemented was generated.    Below, there is a description of the progress made and difficulties encountered.  Letters of Agreement  Catamarca and Jujuy disbursed a little less than 50% of the funds set forth in the Letters of Agreement for the implementation of SLMP during the 2016-2019 period. Mendoza, in turn, neither executed nor reimbursed the funds to the Project, despite the support provided. La Rioja entered into the Letter of Agreement in June 2018, but no disbursement has been made.  SLMP  SLMP in Catamarca continue to be implemented, with new beneficiaries being incorporated, particularly putting in place cover crops using vertical tillage. In addition, new practices were incorporated, such as the production of agroecological crops and training of producers on small hydraulic works, use and maintenance of the tractor. The nursery establishment was difficult, but, at present, it has been regularized, and it has begun to produce. Due to budgetary and operational difficulties, provincial technicians have little presence in the territory. Nevertheless, the Ecoregional Consultant accompanied all the activities carried out. The Municipal Delegates of Medanitos, Antinaco, Punta de Agua, Chuquisaca, Mesada de Zarate and the Production Secretaries of Fiambalá and Tinogasta played an active role. There is also a close cooperation with the producers’ organizations (Kakan Cooperative, Agro-livestock Association of La Herradura, ACOPACh, ACAMPA) and the NGO BePe. The Anillaco nursery receives the technical assistance of a nursery specialist, in charge of the Native Species Provincial Nursery of Colonia del Valle, owned by the Secretary of Environment. This nursery is operated by workers of the Municipality of Tinogasta, including the person in charge.  In Jujuy, the province has active participation through an ad hoc group made up of technicians of different areas of the Ministry of Environment and the Ecoregional Consultant. In addition, there is a close cooperation with the INTA and SAF technicians, along with the producers and some municipalities and schools in the Puna. Sustainable land management practices are being implemented, as well as training on the production of compost, building of compost bins, control of production in vermiculture, planting of forest windbreaks with drip irrigation and use of the groboxx, and the building of wood-saving stoves and water heaters. There were also two producers’ markets in Abra Pampa and El Condor, which served to spread the word about the SLMP being promoted by the Project.  Call for the submission of SLM projects in arid zones:  Within the framework of the first public call carried out in December 2018 to finance SLM projects, 11 projects in Mendoza, San Luis, San Juan and Tucumán were selected. All of them took part in an Inception Workshop; and the projects are being executed with different levels of progress. Through this strategy, we could achieve the replication of sustainable land management practices, increase the number of beneficiaries by 1000, and expand the intervention area and the level of co-financing. In June, the Second call was issued including eight provinces. The funds are provided by the GEF project.    Multi-sectoral Committee (MSC) and Provincial Action Plans (PAPs)  The creation and implementation process took about 2 years, based on the Letters of Agreement, the implementation of SLMP, the GIS training and the creation of a relationship with the provinces. This enabled different actors to be identified, and competencies, interests, as well as current and potential conflicts to be assessed. During this time, five Multi-sectoral Committees were formally implemented, and another two are in process.  After the formal creation of each of them, we began to work on the development of Provincial Action Plans (PAPs). La Rioja was the first province that finished its new PAP. Catamarca, Tucumán and Mendoza are creating the PAP. In all these cases, the PAP was associated with the National Action Plan for the Fight Against Desertification Updated for 2030 (PAN 2030) that is driven by the Argentinian Government.  GIS  After the delivery of tools to the provinces, the process was implemented through several steps: a) identification of local agents with thematic competence and the status of the situation in each province; b) creation and discussion with different institutions on indicators, protocols, and metadata related to Land Degradation (LD) and desertification in all the provinces, and the prioritization by ecoregions; c) creation and formalization of GIS nodes in the provincial environmental area; d) generation of strategic information; e) monitoring and assessment of LD.  At present, La Rioja, Jujuy, Catamarca, Tucumán and San Juan formally established GIS nodes. Moreover, information strategies on LD and partial surveys of beneficiaries were generated in Jujuy and Catamarca.  In December 2018, the Project acquired basic tools to strengthen the established GIS nodes and those that are in process of creation.  Vehicles  The intervention areas are vast, isolated and far from large urban centers, which is why land route connection is a significant issue to advance with established activities with the producers’ support and participation. Therefore, the lack of availability of vehicles for the exclusive use of the project constitutes one of the main problems. Consequently, in December 2018, the Project, through the UNDP, acquired three pick-up vehicles. However, due to the administrative processes set forth in the SAyDS, these vehicles are not available yet. We are working with the different areas of the Environment Secretary to finish the delivery, which has been delayed due to the administrative procedures of the Secretary of the Environment.    In order to adhere to the AWP, the project plans to continue with the activities by monitoring the implementation of SLMPs and finalizing the steps to deliver the three vehicles to the provinces. In addition, the work of the project with the GIS nodes will be maintained at a distance (due to current restrictions on activities in the field during the electoral campaign) to generate specific thematic layers so that in 2020, it will be possible to monitor the area of degraded soils and the area under recuperation. Finally, the project will support from afar the formulation of the PAPs that are at this stage.    In terms of operational risks, both those that are institutional and budgetary, these are outside of the scope of the project. In the same way, the Letters of Agreement with Mendoza and La Rioja are outside of the project scope, as these are dependent on the relationship between the implementing partner and the provinces and in addition in the case of Mendoza, on administrative procedures to manage these types of funds.    The political risks that are linked to the elections to be carried out at the end of October, can be mitigated in part through an approach of little intervention in the field as explained in previous paragraphs, except in terms of the monitoring of the implementation of SLMP. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | During the assessed period the project has had enormous external difficulties. As described in other sections, the local currency devaluation and the inflation process in Argentina have had a direct impact on the fulfillment of the planned activities. With this scenario, complying with the initial planning is a difficult task which presents multidimensional challenges. Following this PIR, a budgetary revision will be requested to the Coordination Team in order to replan the second period of 2018 and 2019. This will have to include a new updated version of the multi-annual AWP until the project closure date. Also, the 2018 AWP planned for the second half of the year was partially achieved.    The Coordination Team has had an outstanding performance considering the political and economic context, and on many occasions were the only reason why some on-the-ground activities have been implemented. In this kind of project, the personal link between the Coordinator and the local governments and beneficiaries is vital, and this has been a critical element of this project over the last years.    The project relies on Letters of Agreement in order to implement many activities at a provincial level. Nonetheless, many activities included in these letters have presented delays and replanning. Such is the case of the provinces of Mendoza and La Rioja. In the first case, it was agreed in the 2017 Steering Committee that Mendoza would cancel the LoA and retransfer the funds to the Project, considering that the activities to be implemented in that province would be directly financed and coordinated from the Project. As of July 2019 this retransfer of funds has not taken place despite the formal consultations.    In the second case, La Rioja, a LoA was signed in 2018, and despite the agreed commitment between the two parties, the first payment never materialized even though it was formally requested from the Province to the National Director of the Project. This is not due to insufficient national ownership but due to political disagreements.  As of June 30, 2019 no formal justification has been given on this delay. The impact of this situation is very significant since it implies at least a 30% annual delay in theproject´s execution. UNDP CO has held meetings with the national counterpart in order to unlock the situation but there has still not been a positive response. It is suggested to discuss this topic in the next Steering Committee.    Similarly, the remaining signed LoAs have presented delays, mostly linked to the limited resources the provinces have when it comes to committing resources and making the consequent expenses associated with these commitments. A strong capacity development plan is highly recommended in order to address this weakness. It would be wise to concentrate on using the resources made available by the project but there have been delays spending these funds as previously explained. UNDP CO has implemented a capacity development plan not only for the national counterpart but for the provinces as well,    Another example of the impact that political issues are having is regarding the acquisition of vehicles. As per the request of the provincial counterparts in a 2018 Steering Committee, three vehicles were bought through a UNDP process requested by the National Director in December 2018. As of June 30, 2019, these vehicles are still at the retailer waiting for the official paperwork to be finished. As explained to UNDP, the administrative team of the Secretary of Environment is responsible for this paperwork.    Finally, as indicated and described by the NC in the DO section, and despite the negative external context, the project has been able to produce important outcomes at provincial level that are gradually being integrated in the local agenda. Examples of these are the Provincial Action Plans and the Multi Sectoral Committees. These important actions are expected to continue throughout the project´s lifespan and beyond the project´s closure date. | |
| **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** | *(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** |
| **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 Satisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | DO Progress- Moderately Satisfactory (MS)    The project objective is to put in place a framework for Sustainable Land Management to mitigate land degradation, maintain ecosystem services and improve the quality of life of the rural populations of the drylands of Northwest Argentina. My rating for progress toward the project´s Development Objectives is Moderately Satisfactory, meaning that the project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only. This rating is consistent with the Country Office and the Project Manager, as well as with the rating I provided last year. If the project continues to employ strong adaptive management (and receives the project extension recommended in the MTR), it is expected that it will play an important role in promoting sustainable land management (SLM) in NW Argentina, thus reducing land degradation, as well as improving the livelihoods of rural producers.    In terms of Outcome 1 (SLM practices implemented to avoid and reduce soil degradation in the environmental hotspots of the three target arid ecoregions covering 1,480,000 ha, the project has surpassed the spatial target and SLM practices are being implemented over 2.2 million hectares. The number of families implementing SLM has now reached close to 4000 so the project will need to incorporate a little over 1000 more families to reach the project target. There have been some delays in implementation in Jujuy and Catamarca, coupled with no implementation in Mendoza or La Rioja, for the reasons set forth elsewhere in this PIR (funds have not been transferred from the central government to La Rioja despite the Letter of Agreement, and Mendoza has not executed the funds nor returned them to the project). To increase project impact, an important achievement of this reporting period was the issuing of calls for proposals in the provinces of San Juan, San Luis, Tucumán and Mendoza for the implementation of SLM, with various projects already under implementation. If necessary, the project may wish to add additional calls for proposals for the remainder of the project.    Various practices have been put in place, such as vertical tillage, native pasture management, windbreaks, agroforestry systems, vermiculture, and composting, to name a few, and these are expected to positively impact the project´s environmental indicators, such as percentage of bare soil and an increase in the equitable access to water. However, the level of impact will ultimately depend on the extent to which funding can be made available to facilitate SLM and integrated natural resource management (INRM). While some progress has been made with regard to revolving funds, for example, further work is essential in terms of securing the funding required for impact at scale.    Outcome 2, an enabling framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management at the ecoregional level developed, has seen continued progress this past year. Multi-sectoral committees (MSC) have now been created in six provinces (La Rioja, Catamarca, Tucumán, Mendoza, Salta and Jujuy) with San Juan in the final stages of the process. This is a significant increase from the four MSCs that had been put in place by the end of the previous reporting period. The process of forming these Committees was highly participatory and involved multiple stakeholders and over 900 people. Tucumán, Catamarca, Mendoza and Salta are now in the process of developing Provincial Action Programs (PAP), with La Rioja being the first province to complete its PAP.    Another key element of the enabling framework for sustainable land management at the ecoregional level is capacity development. To that end, 75% of total staff involved in land degradation (LD) work from the environmental, production (agriculture and livestock management) and water management sectors were trained on GIS and 25% of total staff were trained on SLM practices. It will be important for the project to accelerate these trainings and develop the SLM guides in order to meet the indicator targets. Three programs incorporate SLM and INRM criteria, thus surpassing the target. The project has also continued to support the establishment of GIS nodes and training of staff so that monitoring of LD can hopefully commence in the coming year. One of the most challenging aspects of this Outcome is related to the level of replication of SLM practices in drylands of the three target ecoregions of the project as there are very serious funding restrictions that are limiting spontaneous replication. It is hoped that once the Provincial Action Programs are in place, funds will be allocated annually to facilitate replication and therefore broader project impact beyond the environmental hotspots.    The project should be commended for the large number of partnerships it has formed with a variety of stakeholders, such as community organizations, NGOs, producer organizations, Indigenous Peoples organizations, and with national, provincial and municipal agencies from different sectors and universities, to name a few. In terms of gender mainstreaming, government hiring restrictions have meant that the project has not been able to meet the demand in the project´s Specific Intervention sites for greater work on this issue. The project may wish to explore whether there are any existing organizations or individuals working on gender issues in the different provinces with which the project could work in order to advance this agenda.    Implementation Progress- Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)    The rating for implementation progress is Moderately Unsatisfactory. This is primarily because the project is facing several implementation issues, such as the lack of implementation of the Letters of Agreement in two of the provinces; cumulative financial delivery being off track; and delays in key implementation milestones, most notably proposed project closure. This rating is slightly lower than the rating provided by the Country Office, but has been granted for the reasons explained in this section.    It should be noted, however, that the project has been facing several factors that are wholly outside of its control and that have negatively impacted delivery, including but not limited to: significant currency devaluation; the establishment of the Sectorial Plans and Programs Coordination (Unit) of the Secretariat of the Environment (COPROSE), a separate unit responsible for administrative management of externally-funded projects, which is causing delays; budgetary constraints imposed by the government even for externally funded projects; and administrative delays.  The annual workplans have not been implemented in their entirety. Delivery in 2018 was 38% and thus far this year is 11%. This is reflective both of implementation problems and the extreme currency devaluation. Cumulative delivery is 49% at this point, with only months remaining until the original project closure date. It is evident, then, that the project is extremely delayed in its implementation of the GEF resources. However, the project is in the process of requesting a no-cost extension, a move which may be critical given the very serious external factors that have significantly affected implementation.    Project management is strong as has been the case from the outset with a project coordinator who maintains a results-based orientation. Monitoring continues to be carried out, and the ecoregional coordinators play an important role in this respect. However, as was the case last year, there are still several indicators that need to be measured and data gaps which will need to be filled in the short term on some indicators. Project governance is satisfactory, with one Steering Committee meeting held in December, with good levels of participation. Nevertheless, despite these factors, the ability to implement activities and progress toward the project´s objectives is hampered by various administrative issues, as highlighted above. By way of example, the ability to reach producers in isolated regions is limited by lack of vehicles, and even though these were purchased in December, 2018, the administrative paperwork to liberate the vehicles and enable them to be used has still not been finalized.    Adaptive management continues to be employed by the project team, but this is not always effective due to external factors. For example, the inability of the province of La Rioja to make use of the resources promised to it in the Letter of Agreement is a political issue. In terms of critical risks, the previous operational risks related to institutional changes and inability to ensure adherence to the Letters of Agreement in two of the provinces, remain valid and are ones with which the project is attempting to grapple. An additional critical risk has emerged, which relates to the upcoming national elections, and associated impacts- specifically, due to the electoral ban, the project has been instructed not to carry out activities in the field over the coming months until the elections, as the activities could (erroneously) be seen as a way to sway votes. The only way the project can address this risk is by focusing on activities that can be carried out centrally and supporting only the monitoring of implementation of field activities.    Moving forward, I advise the Project Management Unit, together with the implementing party and responsible party to take into consideration the following recommendations:    - Set up high-level meetings as needed in order to try to address the issues being faced in the provinces of La Rioja  and La Mendoza;  - Plan for expedited delivery after the elections have passed, especially given the restrictions that have been  imposed on projects over the coming months to limit activities in the field (due to electoral rules);  - Linked to the previous point on accelerating implementation of activities in 2020, if necessary, consider contracting  NGOs or other organizations as responsible parties to support accelerated delivery in the final stage of project  implementation;  - Submit the documentation to request a project extension, as recommended in the project´s mid-term review, as  soon as possible, in order for the project to be able to meet its end-of-project targets, given the multitude of  external factors that the project has had to face and that have undermined timely implementation. | |

# 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:** *not available* |
| **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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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.** |
| Not applicable. |

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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.** |
| After the awareness activities carried out in 2017 with the Gender Unit of UNDP, and due to the current hiring restrictions in government, we could not proceed with the hiring of specialists to continue with other actions related to gender equality. Since there was a need for a dedicated staff member to accompany gender mainstreaming in the field, no further work was carried out with the Gender Unit of the UNDP. However, the work implemented in the SLM PAP allowed women’s participation to be strengthened, making decisions on an equal basis, and making women’s presence visible in organizations and agencies in the provinces. There is a good level of women’s representation on the technical teams and in the Multi-sectoral Committees.    \*\*The Gender Marker Rating has been updated to GEN1, but as of the closing deadline of the PIR this has not been reflected yet in the PIR.\*\* |

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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.** |
| From the project, we note the following:  - Local actors and provincial technical teams are aware of the mainstreaming of gender approach in the activities carried out. This is perceived in the SLMP training, work on MSCs and in the formulation of PAP.  - In the territory there is an appreciation of the involvement of women in rural work, especially in places where there was knowledge prior to the activities carried out by the project. In this sense, the provinces that have Specific Intervention Sites have asked the project for more support to introduce the gender equality approach in everyday rural tasks, a demand that cannot be met because of the lack of an expert. |

# 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.** |
| Not applicable. |

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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.** |
| Not applicable. |

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 4841 Argentina LD High Andes\_Environmental and social screening.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4841/213603/1717844/1724545/PIMS%204841%20Argentina%20LD%20High%20Andes_Environmental%20and%20social%20screening.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.** |
| Not applicable. |

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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.** |
| Not applicable. |

# 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.)** |
| THE VOICES OF ARID LANDS    The project is supporting the implementation of SLMP in three dryland ecoregions located in 8 provinces of the Northwest of Argentina, directly benefiting 2,500 families of small agricultural and livestock producers, maintaining ecosystem services and contributing to improving the ways of life of the people who inhabit the arid regions. These are peasant and indigenous families from the Kolla, Diaguita Calchaquí and Huarpe villages.    The SLMP that are carried out allow the natural vegetation and the associated fauna to be conserved, to make better use of the water that is the most scarce good, to reduce erosion, compaction and salinization of the soil and to improve agricultural and livestock production through drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, storage of water in tanks and ponds, wood-saving stoves, forest windbreaks, production and use of compost, the recovery of natural grasslands and patches of native forests. At the same time, it reduces the permanent migration of young people and the seasonal migration of adults who move to other regions to carry out seasonal tasks for the harvesting of fruits and vegetables.    The testimonies (quotes) below were collected at different times while the training and implementation of SLMP was carried out,    “We don’t want our young people going to the cities to perform tasks they do not know. They are producers since their birth, they learn from us and from their grandparents, as we did. We want them to stay, and that is why, we need this project and others like this one”.  Carlos Sosa, President of the Huarpe Community Council of the Telteca Natural Reserve, province of Mendoza.    “These projects help our community to keep taking care of our Pachamama (Mother Earth), to have more work and to produce healthy food”.  María Eva Pastrana, Council of Elders of Amaicha del Valle Indigenous Community, province of Tucumán    “Having pasture and water for the animals is very important, and learning other techniques that we hear about but do not know how to use, is very good;… we do not have to overexploit the land because when there is little pasture, animals walk a lot, stop getting fat, and they also eat whatever they find, which impoverishes the land”.  Alfredo Reta, producer from Paraje Las Lagunitas, province of San Luis    “We cannot afford to waste water. We collect the water after rinsing, doing the dishes, cleaning the cutlery or after hand washing or the last washing of clothes. We put it in a container, and give it to the trees, to the scarce trees we have here, the elm trees, the elms are treasures in the Puna of Jujuy”.  Carmen Ceares, producer from Santuario, province of Jujuy. |

**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.** |
| The project communicates all the activities carried out in the region through different local media, including radios and newspapers. Nationally, the website of the SAyDS and sometimes the UNDP website allow the project to reach a large audience in the provinces involved. Every month, a Gazette is prepared containing a summary of the activities carried out in the region, and it is distributed through a mailing system.  In addition, material is generated to raise awareness about land desertification, degradation and their social, environmental and economic impacts. Guides, posters, bookmarks, radio spots, videos and a monthly newsletter are produced among others.      June 2018  Forest Windbreaks in El Puesto, Catamarca.  Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    http://www.radionacional.com.ar/vivero-forestal-de-anillaco-en-tinogasta/  http://www.radionacional.com.ar/ignauguracion-de-vivero-anillaco/  http://www.ambiente.catamarca.gov.ar/2018/07/02/inauguran-importante-vivero-junto-a-lucia-y-bergman/  https://www.portal.catamarca.gob.ar/noticias/lucia-y-bergman-en-la-apertura-de-un-importante-vivero-3287/  https://www.elancasti.com.ar/politica-economia/2018/6/28/corpacci-inauguro-un-hogar-para-mujeres-375333.html  https://www.elancasti.com.ar/politica-economia/2018/6/27/corpacci-bergman-inauguraron-un-viviero-en-la-reserva-de-anillaco-375281.html  http://www.elesquiu.com/politica/2018/6/27/lucia-bergman-en-la-apertura-de-un-importante-vivero-290011.html  https://primeraslineas.com.ar/inauguraron-vivero-forestal-en-anillaco-tinogasta/  http://soloperiodismo.com.ar/bergman-visito-catamarca-y-desarrollo-una-amplia-agenda-ambiental/  http://www.periodicolea.com.ar/2018/06/29/la-gobernadora-corpacci-habilito-obras-en-tinogasta/  http://www.diariorepublica.com.ar/politica/2018/6/28/corpacci-inaugur-obras-tinogasta-29574.html  Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación  Instagram y Facebook - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación  28 de junio - Firma Carta Acuerdo La Rioja  https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-rioja-acuerdo-para-conformar-un-sitio-de-manejo-de-tierras-secas-en-vichigasta  http://www.elindependiente.com.ar/pagina.php?id=178853  http://fenix951.com.ar/nuevo\_2013/noticia.php?id=109789  27 y 28 de junio - Agroecología en el Bolsón de Fiambalá  Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación  Julio 2018  12 y 13 de julio - Microfinanzas Rurales en el Bolsón de Fiambalá    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    25 de julio - Aspectos fitosanitarios y acondicionamiento a tener en cuenta en la recolección de material de propagación en vid, higuera y membrillo    http://radiovalleviejo.com.ar/interior/ambiente-con-jornada-de-formacion-en-fiambala/  26 de julio - Taller de inicio del PAP de La Rioja  http://www.ar.undp.org/content/argentina/es/home/presscenter/articles/2018/comenzo-el-proceso-de-formulacion-del-plan-de-accion-contra-la-d.html  http://www.noticiasagropecuarias.com/2018/07/28/nacion-y-provincia-trabajaran-por-la-desertificacion-y-manejo-sustentable-del-arido-riojano/  http://eldiariodelarioja.com.ar/2018/3433-acuerdan-trabajo-conjunto-en-la-lucha-contra-la-desertificacin-y-para-un-manejo-sustentable-del-rido-riojano  http://www.elindependiente.com.ar/pagina.php?id=181436  http://impactorioja.com.ar/index.php/locales/7363-diversos-organismos-unidos-en-la-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion-y-la-sequia  http://radiolibertadlr.com.ar/index.php/2018/07/27/acuerdan-trabajo-conjunto-en-la-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion-y-para-un-manejo-sustentable-del-arido-riojano/  http://nuevarioja.com.ar/ver\_noticia.asp?id=25357  https://www.unlar.edu.ar/index.php/in/90-medios/noticias/1590-unlar-trabaja-en-plan-de-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion  31 de julio - Reunión de consolidación SIG-IDE en Salta  Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación  http://www.salta.gov.ar/prensa/noticias/avanza-el-trabajo-para-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-aridas-en-salta/60065  http://amanecerrural.com.ar/es/nota\_tecnica/04454-avanza-el-trabajo-para-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-aridas-en-salta  Agosto 2018  14 y 15 de agosto - Formación en gestión de agua con pequeñas obras hídricas en Medanitos, Catamarca  https://www.catamarcactual.com.ar/informacion-general/2018/8/23/jornadas-formacin-para-gestin-agua-pequeas-obras-hdricas-161948.html    Twitter - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación  29 y 30 de agosto - Formación en enfoque agroecológico para productores frutihortícolas de tierras secas de La Rioja - Vichigasta, La Rioja  http://ambiente.larioja.gov.ar/?p=2394  Septiembre 2018  6 de septiembre - Taller teórico práctico sobre compostaje y construcción de composteras de madera en Abra Pampa    http://prensa.jujuy.gob.ar/2018/09/19/manejo-adecuado-de-tierras/    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    7 de septiembre - Segundo Encuentro de actualización y formulación para la implementación del Programa de Acción Provincial (PAP) de La Rioja    http://ambiente.larioja.gov.ar/?p=2421    27 y 28 de septiembre - Formulación participativa de proyectos en Catamarca    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Octubre 2018  9 de octubre - 1º Reunión para la formulación del Programa de Acción Provincial de lucha contra la desertificación, sequía y degradación de tierras de Tucumán    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    http://www.producciontucuman.gov.ar/proyecto-de-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-en-el-noa-y-cuyo/    http://www.producciontucuman.gov.ar/proyectan-politicas-publicas-para-el-manejo-del-suelo-tucumano/    http://www.tucumanoticias.com.ar/noticia/tucuman/proyectan-politicas-publicas-para-el-manejo-del-suelo-tucumano-186096.html    http://www.agritotal.com/nota/36829-proyectan-politicas-publicas-para-el-manejo-del-suelo-tucumano/    http://agrolinkweb.com.ar/proyectan-politicas-publicas-para-el-manejo-del-suelo-tucumano/    http://lv12.com.ar/nota/48403/proyectan-politicas-publicas-para-el-manejo-del-suelo-tucumano    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6RkcMNOqSg    10 de octubre - Encuentro de trabajo tendiente a la formalización del Nodo SIG-IDE provincial para monitoreo y evaluación de la degradación y manejo sustentable de tierras secas      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    http://www.producciontucuman.gov.ar/avanza-la-formalizacion-del-nodo-sig-ide-para-el-monitoreo-y-la-evaluacion-de-la-degradacion-y-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas-en-tucuman/    http://comunicaciontucuman.gob.ar/2018/10/un-nodo-de-informacion-geografica-controlara-el-uso-del-suelo/    15 de octubre - Día Internacional de la Mujer Rural      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    30 de octubre - Tercer encuentro de actualización y formulación para la implementación del PAP La Rioja    http://fenix951.com.ar/nuevo\_2013/noticia.php?id=119970    http://www.elindependiente.com.ar/pagina.php?id=191774      Twitter - Secretaría de Ambiente de La Rioja / Noticias del Ambiente - SAyDS    Noviembre 2018    1 y 2 de noviembre - Segundo encuentro de formación en microfinanzas rurales y formulación participativa de proyectos    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Uso de bioabonos en Jujuy    http://prensa.jujuy.gob.ar/2018/11/05/comunidades-de-la-puna-jujena-se-benefician-con-el-uso-de-bioabonos/    http://www.jujuyaldia.com.ar/2018/11/06/comunidades-de-la-puna-jujena-se-benefician-con-el-uso-de-bioabonos/    http://www.pregon.com.ar/vernota/32828/comunidades-de-la-puna-se-benefician-con-el-uso-de-bioabonos.html    20 y 21 de noviembre - Microfinanzas Rurales y formulación participativa de proyectos en Mendoza      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Diciembre 2018    Primera convocatoria para proyectos de manejo sustentable de tierras secas    https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/mas-de-1600-familias-beneficiadas-traves-de-practicas-de-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Twitter - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Cortinas forestales en Jujuy    http://www.ambientejujuy.gob.ar/2018/12/27/plantacion-de-arboles-para-cortinas-forestales-en-jujuy/    http://www.elindependiente.com.ar/pagina.php?id=181436      Twitter - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación      26 de diciembre - Firma de convenio SIG en Catamarca      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Enero 2019    Jujuy en el Manejo Sustentable de Tierras    http://www.pregon.com.ar/vernota/34806/jujuy-en-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras.html    Bioabonos en la Puna      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/capacitacion-en-el-uso-de-bioabonos-para-mejorar-los-cultivos-en-jujuy    http://prensa.jujuy.gob.ar/2019/01/13/biofertilizantes-para-mejorar-los-cultivos-de-la-puna/    https://www.eltribuno.com/jujuy/nota/2019-1-14-1-0-0-biofertilizantes-para-producir-hortalizas-en-pueblos-de-la-puna    Febrero 2019    Talleres de inicio de los proyectos seleccionados en la convocatoria para proyectos de MST      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Marzo 2019    8 de marzo - Primera reunión del Comité Multisectorial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, Sequía y Degradación de Tierras de Catamarca    https://inta.gob.ar/noticias/primera-reunion-del-comite-multisectorial-de-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion-sequia-y-degradacion-de-tierras-de-catamarca      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    13 y 14 de marzo - Talleres de inicio de proyectos de MST en San Juan y San Luis    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    20 de marzo - Segunda reunión de consolidación del Nodo SIG-IDE de Catamarca / 22 de marzo - Segunda reunión para la formulación del Programa de Acción Prov. de Tucumán    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    25 de marzo - Reunión de inicio de actividades de la Comisión Multisectorial de Tierras Secas de Mendoza      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    26 de marzo - Segunda reunión para la formulación del Programa de Acción Provincial de Tucumán en el marco del Comité Multisectorial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, la Sequía y la Degradación de Tierras de Tucumán    http://suenaacampo.com/2019/03/26/avanza-el-plan-provincial-para-el-uso-eficiente-del-suelo/    27 de marzo - Segunda reunión de consolidación del Nodo SIG-IDE de Salta  Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    27 de marzo - Taller de inicio de proyecto de manejo sustentable de tierras en Tucumán      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Abril 2019    8 y 9 de abril - Formación para labranza vertical de la tierra en Catamarca    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    10 de abril - Segunda reunión de consolidación del Nodo SIG de La Rioja      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    15 de abril - Reunión de inicio de actividades del Comité Multisectorial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, la Sequía y la Degradación de Tierras de San Juan    https://sisanjuan.gob.ar/noticias-ambiente-y-desarrollo-sustentable/item/13947-comenzaron-las-actividades-del-comite-de-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    25 de abril - Módulo demostrativo de Prácticas de MST en Jujuy      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    http://prensa.jujuy.gob.ar/2019/04/25/productores-de-la-puna-reciben-equipamiento-para-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-mst/    https://www.eltribuno.com/jujuy/nota/2019-4-27-1-0-0-equipos-para-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras    http://www.jujuyaldia.com.ar/2019/04/26/productores-de-la-puna-reciben-equipamiento-para-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-mst/    http://ambienteradio.info/manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-en-la-puna/    http://zerojujuy.com.ar/productores-de-la-puna-reciben-equipamiento-para-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-mst/    26 de abril - Proyecto MST NOA Cuyo en la orden del día de la XXII Sesión Plenaria Ordinaria del Consejo Provincial de Ordenamiento Territorial    http://www.prensa.mendoza.gov.ar/se-desarrollo-la-xxii-sesion-plenaria-ordinaria-del-consejo-provincial-de-ordenamiento-territorial/    Mayo 2019    9 de mayo - Creación del Comité Multisectorial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, la Sequía y la Degradación de Tierras de Jujuy      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    http://prensa.jujuy.gob.ar/2019/05/09/quedo-constituido-el-comite-multisectorial-de-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion-la-sequia-y-la-degradacion-de-tierras-secas/    https://viapais.com.ar/jujuy/1014545-conforman-un-comite-para-luchar-contra-la-desertificacion-y-la-sequia-en-la-puna-jujena/amp/    http://www.pregon.com.ar/vernota/37420/conformaron-el-comite-multisectorial-de-lucha-contra-la-desertific.html    10 de mayo - Encuentro para la conformación del Comité Multisectorial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, la Sequía y la Degradación de Tierras de la Provincia de Salta      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    http://www.salta.gov.ar/prensa/noticias/un-comite-trabajara-en-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-de-la-puna/64348    21 de mayo - II Reunión para la Formulación del Programa de Acción Provincial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, la Sequía y la Degradación de las Tierras de Mendoza      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    http://vinasfm.com/noticias/se-formulo-el-programa-de-accion-provincial-de-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion/    https://alvearmendoza.gob.ar/se-realizo-en-alvear-la-reunion-para-la-formulacion-del-programa-de-accion-provincial-de-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion/    http://lavallemendoza.gob.ar/public/noticias/noticia/idnoticia/1620/titulo/Lavalle+participa+del+Proyecto+de+Manejo+Sustentable+de+Tierras+en+el+NOA+y+Cuyo    31 de mayo - II Reunión del Comité Multisectorial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, la Sequía y la Degradación de Tierras de Catamarca      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    https://inta.gob.ar/noticias/ii-reunion-del-comite-multisectorial-de-lucha-contra-la-desertificacion-la-sequia-y-la-degradacion-de-tierras-de-catamarca    https://vallecalchaqui.com/noticia/119517/continua-la-formulacion-del-programa-provincial-del-comite-de-lucha-contra-la-se    Growboxx en la Puna    http://www.jujuyaldia.com.ar/2019/05/08/jujuy-utilizan-innovador-sistema-para-plantar-900-arboles-en-la-puna/    https://www.paginacentral.com.ar/sociedad/adoptan-nuevo-sistema-para-plantar-900-arboles-en-la-puna/    http://www.ahora-jujuy.com/sistema-growboxx-para-plantar-900-arboles-en-la-puna/    Escuelas comprometidas con el manejo sustentable de tierras en Jujuy    http://prensa.jujuy.gob.ar/2019/05/23/escuelas-comprometidas-con-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras/    http://www.jujuyaldia.com.ar/2019/05/24/escuelas-comprometidas-con-el-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras/    Junio 2019    19 de junio - Primera reunión para la formulación del PAP de Salta      Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    Formalización Nodo SIG-IDE de Jujuy    https://www.ambientejujuy.gob.ar/2019/06/25/quedo-constituido-el-nodo-sig-ide-desertificacion-sequia-y-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas/    http://prensa.jujuy.gob.ar/2019/06/20/quedo-constituido-el-nodo-sig-ide-desertificacion-sequia-y-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas/    https://www.periodicolea.com.ar/2019/06/21/jujuy-formalizo-la-creacion-del-nodo-desertificacion-sequia-y-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas/    https://jujuyeconomico.com.ar/index.php/jujuy/item/769-se-formalizo-la-creacion-del-nodo-sobre-desertificacion-sequia-y-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas    http://www.jujuyaldia.com.ar/2019/06/21/quedo-constituido-el-nodo-sig-ide-desertificacion-sequia-y-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas/    https://palpalainforma.com/en-sequia-y-manejo-de-tierras-secas/    Segunda convocatoria para proyectos de manejo sustentable de tierras secas    Noticias del Ambiente - Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación    https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-lanzo-la-segunda-convocatoria-para-proyectos-de-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas    https://www.argentina.gob.ar/manejo-sustentable-del-suelo/segunda-convocatoria    https://twitter.com/AmbienteNacion/status/1143544944042360838    https://www.casarosada.gob.ar/informacion/eventos-destacados-presi/45695-segunda-convocatoria-de-ambiente-para-manejo-sustentable-de-tierras-secas    http://www.nativa1015.com/noticia/2021432109/ambiente\_lanza\_la\_segunda\_convocatoria\_para\_proyectos\_de\_manejo\_sustentable\_de\_tierras\_secas/    http://noticias-ambientales-argentina.blogspot.com/2019/06/tierras-secas-segunda-convocatoria-para.html    26 de junio - Primer Seminario de Reflexión y Concientización de la Desertificación (Catamarca)    https://www.catamarcactual.com.ar/informacion-general/2019/6/27/catamarca-tendra-su-1-congreso-nacional-de-desertificacion-182501.html    https://www.elancasti.com.ar/info-gral/2019/6/24/seminario-de-reflexion-concientizacion-sobre-la-desertificacion-407156.html    http://yoamocatamarca.com.ar/noticia/1212/primer-seminario-de-reflexion-y-concientizacion-de-la-desertificacion    Uso sustentable de la madera en Jujuy    http://www.jujuyaldia.com.ar/2019/06/26/desarrollan-un-uso-sustentable-de-la-madera-en-jujuy/    https://jujuydespierta.com.ar/2019/06/26/uso-sustentable-de-la-madera-decomisada/    \*\*&quot;Due to a glitch in the system, it was not possible to remove the file on knowledge management erroneously attached below in the geo-reference information section (which is also available in the Project Library)\*\* |

# 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 |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |
| Yes |

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4841 Argentina LD SLM CEO Endorsement Resubmission May22.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4841/213603/1673260/1673541/PIMS%204841%20Argentina%20LD%20SLM%20CEO%20Endorsement%20Resubmission%20May22.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.** |
| Community organizations, NGOs, producers’ organizations, public agencies of national, provincial and municipal governments and Universities are part of the five Multi-sectoral Committees that are formally established and creating the Provincial Action Plans (PAPs).    All of them also participate in the implementation of sustainable land management practices, and, to a lesser extent, in the GIS nodes, due to the thematic specificity.    In addition to the Secretary and Ministry of Environment and other provincial units working with production, mining, tourism, hydrological resources, the following are associated and participate in the different project activities: national agencies, such as INTA, SAF, and universities, producers’ cooperatives and associations, irrigation boards, and indigenous peoples organizations (to a lesser extent). Below, there is a summary on the relationship and the scopes of intervention of the main agencies.    A sustained working relationship was established both with the communities and producers’ and Indigenous Peoples organizations, and with the NGOs and public agencies at the national, provincial and municipal level with presence in the field, which facilitates the implementation of activities.    The implementation of SLM in six provinces enables the project to link with social and institutional actors with experience in local development. Likewise, the process for the creation of GIS nodes applied to drylands in each province contributed to their incorporation, as did the process of MSC development for the creation of PAPs to fight against land desertification, drought and degradation.    In the 2016-2019 period, more than 220 organizations and institutions were involved in the project, and approximately 3,500 persons participated in SLMP activities, GIS, MSC and PAP creation.    Even though the UNDP/GEF projects Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (USUBI) y Nagoya Protocol are not being implemented in the project region, experiences related to their management are being shared.    Below, the institutional stakeholders network associated with the project are outlined:  The participation of the interested parties is outlined below by organization and by province.    - Environment and Sustainable Development Secretary of Argentina: the project is directly related to the Secretary office since the Natural Resources Environmental Policy Secretary is the national Director of the project. In addition, the project is related with different topics of the National Direction of Planning and Territorial Environmental Management, especially to the Multi-sectoral Committees and the Provincial Action Programs due to the relation they have with the National Action Plan of the Fight against Land Desertification, which was approved by Resolution in February 2019.    -Provincial environmental authorities: the project maintains a direct relationship with the provincial authorities and technical teams, with whom it agrees and shares all joint activities. This relationship could not be maintained with the authorities of San Luis, as a result of their decision.    -Other provincial authorities: there is a working relationship with other agencies like the Agricultural Direction, Livestock Direction, Irrigation Direction and Planning Ministry, among others, which participate in the implementation of Sustainable Land Management Practices, Multi-sectoral Committees and Geographic Information Systems, according to their thematic competency.    - GIS Nodes: within the scope of the training and creation of provincial nodes, the project is working with most of the provincial agencies, which are in charge of producing data. It is also working with the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the SAyDS and the Data Infrastructure of the Argentine Republic.    -Ministry of Agroindustry: agencies in charge of the Ministry, like INTA, Family Agriculture Subdepartment, and programs like Pro Huerta and PROFEDER participate in different project activities.    - Jujuy:    Communities of El Condor, Chalguamayoc, Escobar, Ojo de Agua, Suripugio, Quebraleña, la Intermedia, Puesto del Marquéz. INTA Abra Pampa, AER INTA Abra Pampa, Family Agriculture Subdepartment, Abra Pampa and La Quiaca Municipalities; Municipal Commissions of Yavi, El Cóndor and Quebraleña, School of Agricultural Sciences of the National University of Jujuy.    - Catamarca    Cooperatives and NGOs: Kakan Cooperative, Agro-livestock Association of La Herradura, Farmers Association of el Abaucán and Association of Chuquisaca producers; Bienaventurados los Pobres (BePe). INTA Catamarca, INTA IPAF NOA, Ministries of Production, Planification and Education Chamber of Deputies, Fiambalá and Tinogasta Municipalities, Municipal Delegations of Medanitos Saujil, Palo Blanco, Punta de Agua, Antinaco, Mesada de Zárate and Chuquisaca.    - Mendoza:    La Sureña Cooperative, Group of Producers Pro Huerta &quot;Los Huarpes&quot;, Indigenous Peoples of Telteka, El Rosario Community, El Cavadito Community, NGOs Caxi and EISA, INTA Santa Rosa and Rama Caída, Institute for Rural Development (IDR), National Institute of Water (INA), La Paz Municipality, Santa Rosa, Lavalle and General Alvear and the Provincial Board for Territory Regulation (CPOT).    - La Rioja:    Water Users Partnership of Vichigasta and Villa Unión, Los Colorados and La Riojana Cooperative, INTA Chilecito, INTA La Rioja, ProHuerta, AER INTA Aimogasta, Provincial Water Institute (IPALAR), Ministry of Planning, National University of La Rioja (UNLAR) headquarters, Chamical and Villa Unión; National University of Chilecito (UNDEC) and Institute of High Mountain and Arid Lands of the Argentine Republic of UNDEC (IAMRA) and CRILAR.    - Tucumán:    Indigenous Communities of Tafí del Valle, Amaicha del Valle (CIAV), Quilmes, Colalao del Valle, Siambón, Council of Elders of CIAV, Los Zazos Cooperative, Los Zazos Irrigation Board, Tucumán Wine Route, Irrigation Board, Spatial Data Infrastructure of Tucumán (IDET), INTA Famailla, AER INTA Amaicha del Valle and Trancas, Provincial Executive Unit UEP of the Ministry of Production, National University of Tucumán (UNT), Miguel Lillo Institute (UNT).  -  San Juan:    Association of El Bermejo Producers, Huarpe People of Laguna de Guanacache (4), Association of Livestock Producers of Laguna de Guanacache, Cerro Valdivia Cooperative, Irrigation Board of Colonia Sarmiento, INTA San Juan, Family Agriculture Subdepartment, INTA IPAF Cuyo, National University of San Juan (UNSJ), CEFOCCA (Photogrammetry, Cartograph and Cadaster Center) of UNSJ.    - San Luis:    Association of Livestock Producers of Los Naranjos and Naranjo Esquino, EEA INTA Villa Mercedes, AER INTA San Luis.    - Salta:    INTA Salta Regional Center - Jujuy, APN NOA Regional Center, Family Agriculture Subdepartment, National University of Salta (UNSa), Fundapaz NGO, Mining Secretary, Water Resources Secretary, Tolar Grande Municipality. |

# 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.