

## Executive Summary

### TRI The Global Learning, Finance and Partnerships Project Mid-Term Review

The Global Learning, Finance and Partnerships Project is responsible for overall Program coordination of The Restoration Initiative (TRI) to ensure coherence and promote integration of 12 national child projects in 10 countries to restore ecological functionality and conserve human well-being in degraded landscapes. The TRI Global Project supports, strengthens, and adds value to the work of the TRI national projects working to increase national commitments to Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR); improving the national policy environments to support FLR; promoting restoration with government and private sector actors; strengthening institutional capacities; increasing the effectiveness of investments; and improving knowledge of FLR. It plays an essential role in ensuring that the TRI Program delivers enhanced programmatic benefits, provides support that facilitates enhanced learning, partnership, technical support, and tools through a coordinated delivery system that captures efficiencies of scale.

The Project coordinates the delivery of benefits to the TRI Program by establishing management structure, monitoring & evaluation, and technical support to the countries in policy identification and uptake, knowledge generation

and dissemination, and mobilization of finance for FLR, in support of country FLR objectives.

The TRI Global Project is implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with components co-implemented of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) working collaboratively with 12 national project teams, and external partners.

The IUCN executed an independent Mid-term Independent Evaluation that concluded that the project is on-track to achieve End-of Project targets.

Project Financing	<i>At CEO endorsement (US\$)</i>	<i>At MidTerm Review (US\$)</i>
GEF	3,519,725	2,379,333
Co-Financing	3,900,000	3,051,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,419,725</b>	<b>5,430,833</b>

IUCN and partners have successfully and efficiently deployed the Project's programmed finances (67% GEF, 78% co-financing) to December 202.

#### Summary MTR Ratings

**Relevance is Highly Satisfactory:** The Project's design is Relevant to the TRI Program, International and sector priorities, aligned vis-à-vis Child Project alignment with national priorities, and the design elements are internally aligned with the Project's and Program Objectives

**Effectiveness is Satisfactory:** 74% of the outputs were completed and 83% (DO) of the expected midterm targets were achieved.

**Efficiency is Satisfactory:** 100% of the budget programmed to year 3 was executed producing 83% of the expected mid-term targets.

**Sustainability is Likely:** The financial risk is **Moderately Likely and trending upwards;** The socio-economic risk is **Likely;** The institutional and Governance Sustainability is **Likely;** The environmental sustainability is **Likely**

**Overall Project Rating is SATISFACTORY**

## Key achievements

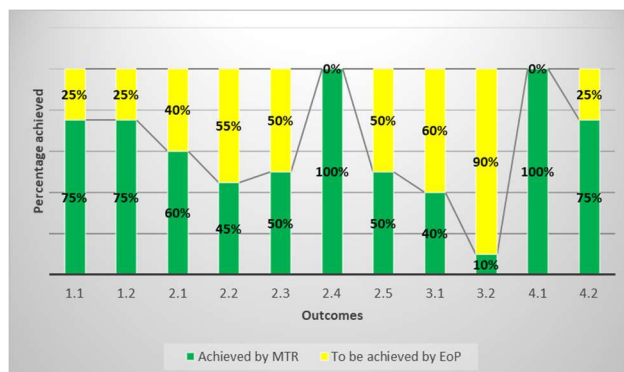


Fig. 1: Progress to EOP Targets

Figure No.1 illustrates the level of achievement of the outcomes at MTE (green) and the projected level for the Terminal Evaluation (yellow)

- ✓ A Global Coordination Unit provides program level coordination
- ✓ A Program Advisory Committee and a Steering Committee provide guidance and linkages to global fora on FLR.

- ✓ An enhanced Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework based on learnings from years 1 and 2
- ✓ Multi-level fora for knowledge management, dissemination and training on FLR topics established
- ✓ Establishment and deployment of the Restoration Factory and Beta testing of Enabling Investments Rapid Diagnostic Tool and adaptations
- ✓ COVID response successful
- ✓ Policy Influence Action Plan guidance and trainings provided; case studies and policy briefs developed
- ✓ Site testing and deployment of landscape diagnostic and decision support tools: Species Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) methodology, TerraView tool for mapping FLR changes, and Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)

## Challenges

- Project indicators do not tell the full story of the project
- COVID 19 restrictions on interactions
- Coordination amongst diverse agencies, systems, and partners
- Limited national capacity to implement FLR finance tools
- Changes in project and national administration

## Key recommendations and Lessons Learned

- A One-year costed extension that to support extended child projects in policy, sustainable financing and knowledge management and dissemination.
- Align the Project's indicators to better tell the story of the project.
- Increase GCU managerial resources and improve planning and reporting processes.
- Undertake a participative process to identify and promote synergies with child projects.
- Use IA experience to link thematic needs of national child projects to successful projects within and outside of TRI

Lessons learned suggest that implementation by multiple agencies is an opportunity for specialized technical expertise. An effective Coordination Unit can recognize and coordinate these opportunities; capture learning, ideas and disseminate information; and translate them to the national child projects. A "big-picture" knowledge is facilitated through strong international-national relationships. The concepts of "Bankability" and improved policies are drivers for upscaling FLR and key to financial and institutional sustainability. Investors and producers are willing to dedicate land and resources to ideas that have proven returns and clear policies in similar situations. This leads the way for public institutions, such as agricultural banks, small business lenders, etc. become more willing to commit public resources to environmentally sound production or early-stage processing.