

[Central African Forest Initiative-CAFI]  
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM 08 DECEMBER 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

<p><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: <b>Development of Equatorial Guinea's REDD+ National Investment Plan (PIN-REDD+)</b></li> <li>Programme Number UNJP/EQG/010/UNJ</li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> <b>00103594</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>Country: <b>EQUATORIAL GUINEA</b></p>
<p><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO</li> </ul>	<p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i> <b>UNDAF 2014-2017 - Strategic area 3: Sustainable Environment</b> <b>UNDAF 2019-2023 – Strategic priority 4: Towards a sustainable environment</b></p> <p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning (MHEP) - previously Ministry of Economy, Planning and Public Investments</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment (MAGBOMA)- previously Ministry of Forests and Environment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>: USD 1 087 500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable) Agency Contribution 0</li> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable) 0</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) 0</p> <p><b>TOTAL: USD 1 087 500</b></p>	<p><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration 18 months Start Date<sup>5</sup> 08.12.2016</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> 07.06.2018 Actual End date<sup>7</sup> 31.12.2019</p> <p>Has agency operationally closed the Programme in its system? Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Expected Financial Closure date<sup>8</sup>:</p>
<p><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b></p>	<p><b>Report Submitted By</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

<sup>4</sup> The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>7</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

<sup>8</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Evaluation Completed  
 Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*  
Evaluation Report - Attached  
 Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

o Name: Fatima ESPINAL MERCEDES  
o Title: FAO Representative in Equatorial Guinea.  
o Participating Organization (Lead): FAO  
o Email address: [fatima.espinal@fao.org](mailto:fatima.espinal@fao.org)

## ACRONYMS

CAFI:	Central African Forest Initiative
EB:	Executive Board
EN-REDD+:	REDD+ National Strategy of Equatorial Guinea ( <i>Estrategia Nacional de REDD+ de Guinea Ecuatorial</i> )
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF:	Green Climate Fund
GEF:	Global Environmental Fund
MAGBOMA/:	Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment ( <i>Ministerio de Agricultura, Bosques y Medio Ambiente</i> )
MAGBMA	<i>Medio Ambiente</i> )
MHEP:	Ministry of Taxes, Economy and Planning ( <i>Ministerio de Hacienda, Economía y Planificación</i> )
MPTF:	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NDC:	National determined contribution
NFMS:	National Forest Monitoring System
NGO:	Non-governmental organization
PIL:	Integrated Local Programme ( <i>Programa integrado local</i> )
PN:	National Programme ( <i>Programa nacional</i> )
PNDES:	National Plan for Social and Economic development ( <i>Plan nacional de desarrollo económico y social</i> )
PNDS:	National Plan for Sustainable Development ( <i>Plan nacional de desarrollo sostenible</i> )
PNI-REDD+:	REDD+ National Investment Plan of Equatorial Guinea ( <i>Plan Nacional de Inversión REDD+ de Guinea Ecuatorial</i> )
REDD+:	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries; the role of conservation, sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks
R-PP:	Readiness Preparation Proposal for REDD+
UNDAF:	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNGE:	National University of Equatorial Guinea

## **FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT FORMAT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The project was launched in December 2016 through a multi-stakeholders workshop opened by the Minister of Taxes ,Economy and Planning (MHEP) and the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MAGBOMA), with over 60 participants from the government, the academic sector, the civil society, the private sector and UN agencies.

The project has significantly contributed to advance the REDD+ process of Equatorial Guinea's, specially in terms of communication, awareness raising, and engagement of multiple actors and sectors in REDD+.

The project has generated a solid basis for strategic decision making about REDD+, through the publication of the "[Study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014](#)" and the "[Historical analysis of deforestation and forest degradation 2004-2014](#)". Both documents have enhanced much needed information and data about the country's forests, forest change trends and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Based on this updated data, the project supported the development of the "[REDD+ national strategy \(EN-REDD+\)](#)" through a participatory process involving multiple stakeholders. Subsequently, the REDD+ National Investment plan (PNI-REDD+) was developed and validated at national level, as a solid tool to plan and mobilize resources for the implementation of the EN-REDD+. The PNI-REDD+ was first presented to CAFI Executive Board in April 2019; then reviewed as per comments received from CAFI and two indepent evaluators in April 2019, October 2019, and March 2020; and the final version submitted to CAFI Executive Board in March 2020.

The project was guided and monitored by a Steering Committee for the PNI-REDD+, headed by the Ministry of Taxes, Economy and Planning (MHEP), co-headed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MAGBOMA) and composed of representatives of the government institutions, academy, civil society and the private sector. The project Steering Committee met in December 2016, June 2017, June 2018 and February 2019. A smaller technical committee met more regularly to support technical decision-making for project implementation.

The initial duration of the project was 18 months, from December 2016 to June 2018. The project was extended up to December 2019 to overcome the delay in the finalization of the drivers' study, and allow sufficient time for the development, independent evaluation, review and finalization of the PNI-REDD+.

The project has played a catalytic role in mainstreaming environmental aspects in the development model of Equatorial Guinea, enhancing its contribution to the global fight against climate change. It is expected that the new National Plan for Sustainable Development 20135 (PNDS 2035) will reflect this green approach, incorporating national REDD+ and climate change objectives.

Beyond the project, Equatorial Guinea will continue the political dialogue with CAFI's Executive Board, as well as country's efforts to mobilize funding for the effective implementation of the PNI-REDD+ .

## I. Purpose

- The project has supported Equatorial Guinea to move forward its national REDD+ process, including: stakeholders engagement, awareness raising, generation of update data through a [study on drivers of forest loss](#), development of the [REDD+ National Strategy](#) and the REDD+ National Investment Plan (PNI-REDD+).
- **UNDAF** 2014-2017 - Strategic area 3: Sustainable Environment. UNDAF 2019-2023 – Strategic priority 4: Towards a sustainable environment
- **Project impact:** Equatorial Guinea’s forests are preserved; their resources are managed sustainably and contribute efficiently to the mitigation of climate change, the reduction of poverty and to sustainable development.
- **Project Outcome:** The Equatorial Guinea’s REDD+ National Investment Plan, of a multi-sectorial nature, based on updated data and studies supported by a broad consensus, is presented to the CAFI Board for its possible financing and future implementation. The plan provides guidance and support to the efforts of all the parties involved in the implementation of REDD+ with the aim of reducing emissions and increasing carbon sequestration in the country’s forests, improving the management of the country’s forest resources, as well as contributing to mobilizing and coordinating the international financing.
- **Project Output 1.** Consultation, outreach and participation plan defined and applied during the preparation of the REDD+ National Investment Plan, and its implementation. As a result, the involved parties are consulted and participate in an active and informed manner.
- **Project Output 2.** Complete spatial and qualitative study of the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation of the forests of Equatorial Guinea identified in a participatory manner, including a historical analysis of the deforestation rate, with information broken down by mainland and insular regions.
- **Project Output 3.** Strategic, sectorial and crosscutting options, (in line with the Horizon 2020 Economic and Social Development Plan and the R-PP) for confronting deforestation and degradation, as well as opportunities for increasing carbon sequestration at a national scale, analyzed and defined in detail.
- **Project Output 4.** Design of 2–3 REDD+ pilot investment projects in priority zones designed and focused on the application and experimentation of actions to reduce forest emissions and to increase carbon sequestration. The pilot investment projects will constitute the integrated local programmes of the PNI-REDD.
- **Project Output 5.** [Finalized REDD+ National Strategy, based on the Horizon 2020 Economic and Social Development Plan, the R-PP, as well as the several studies carried out during the execution of the project.](#)
- **Project Output 6.** Finalized, validated and nationally approved REDD+ National Investment Plan presented to the CAFI Board and other possible sources of funding.

Deleted: The f

## II. Assessment of Programme Results

- *This section is the **most important in the Report** and particular attention should be given to reporting on **results / and changes** that have taken place rather than on activities. It has three parts to help capture this information in different ways (i. Narrative section; ii. Indicator based performance assessment; iii. Evaluation & Lessons learned; and iv. A specific story).*

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

From December 2016 to December 2019, the project has completed its expected outcomes and outputs, as described in detail below.

*From December 2016 to December 2019, respond to the guiding questions, indicated below to provide a narrative summary of the results achieved. The aim here is to tell the **story of change** that your Programme has achieved over its entire duration. Make reference to the implementation mechanism utilized and key partnerships.*

- **Outcomes:** The project has contributed to the conservation of the country's forests, so that they can effectively mitigate climate change, reduce poverty and foster a sustainable development model; specifically the project has contributed to move forward the national REDD+ process. Progress has been particularly significant in terms of cross-sectoral planning and coordination, availability and access of data for decision making, development of strategic and planning documents, awareness raising, capacity development and enhanced participation of multiple stakeholders. The main beneficiaries are government institutions from all sectors, forest stakeholders including local communities, and the overall society as the forest will be better preserved to generate environmental and socioeconomic benefits. The project has played a key role in changing national institutional and strategic approaches and raise awareness about the potential of forests to diversify the economy while generating environmental benefits. This change is expected to be reflected in the new National Plan for Sustainable Development 2035, which would integrate forests, environment and climate change aspects; a major transformation, departing with the previous development path. These achievements are aligned with the national determined contribution (NDC) and the United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF).

### • Outputs:

#### 1. Project Output 1- Consultation, outreach and participation.

The project has undertaken wide consultation and outreach activities in relation to REDD+. Public national and provincial authorities, opinion leaders, media professionals, and men and women in rural communities were reached through project activities, with the following results.

- 2017: Elaboration of a **REDD+ consultation plan** and a **communication strategy**, which describe the different dissemination and participation mechanisms, as well as the relevant actors.
- 2017: Development of a **gender action plan for REDD+** in alliance with gender focal points from different institutions.
- 2017, September: Two **workshops for journalists and communicators** with 32 participants, 21 women and 11 men. Concepts related to climate change, forests, REDD+, deforestation and forest degradation and biodiversity were explained, emphasizing the role of communication in the conservation of natural resources and the global fight against climate change.
- 2017: Distribution of **REDD+ communication/ visibility materials**: 5 000 flyers, 4 000 posters, 350 t-shirts, vest and caps.
- **Media coverage** through international and national press releases, as well as national television and radio.

- February 2019: Public launching of the Study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and the EN-REDD+, and national validation of the PNI-REDD+ <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/1179599/>; <http://www.fao.org/redd/news/detail/en/c/1179576/>; <https://www.cafi.org/content/cafi/en/home/all-news/equatorial-guinea-launches-national-redd-strategy.html>.
  - June 2018: Validation of the EN-REDD+ by the 3rd Steering committee: <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/1140214/>
  - October 2017: Field mission to Annobón island for the study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/en/c/1040948/>
  - September 2017: Workshop on climate change and REDD+ for national journalists <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/en/c/1036177/>
  - July 2017: Field work to validate key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in 400 plots <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/en/c/1024566/>
  - June 2017. Second steering committee <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/898080/>; <https://www.cafi.org/content/cafi/en/home/events/technical-events/Equatorial%20Guinea%20nd%20meeting%20of%20the%20NIF%20steering%20committee.html>
  - June 2017. Capacity development and REDD+ vision. <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/896345/>
  - May 2017. Drivers study and consultations with key stakeholders <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/885872/>
  - April 2017. Capacity development and validation of the deforestation and degradation map. <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/881134/>
  - March 2017. Seminar on Gender mainstreaming in FAO projects in Equatorial Guinea <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/852425/>
  - February 2017. Capacity development and validation of tools and products related to the National Forest Monitoring system (NFMS) for MRV <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/472142/>
  - February 2017. Annual meeting of REDD+ national coordination. <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/471921/>
  - January 2017. Capacity development in relation to forest monitoring with MRV functions. <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/468575/>
  - December 2016. Launch of the CAFI project and first meeting of the steering committee : <http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/461171/> (Spanish); <http://www.fao.org/afrika/news/detail-news/en/c/461167/> (French); <http://www.fao.org/forestry/news/92790/en/> (Spanish)
- Development of a **video on REDD+** for national television (<https://youtu.be/sfpCJHEIRuQ>) explaining climate change concepts and describing through a local story the effects of climate change in the country and the importance of REDD + to preserve forests for the benefit of the population of Equatorial Guinea.
  - **Consultations** with multiples stakeholders for the development of the study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (530 people of which 40% were women; May-October 2017) and the development of the EN-REDD+ and PNI-REDD+ (more than 450 people, of which 37% were women; June 2018- February 2019).

## 2. Project Output 2 -Spatial and qualitative study of the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Equatorial Guinea

The “[study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014](http://www.fao.org/3/CA0399ES/ca0399es.pdf)” (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0399ES/ca0399es.pdf>) was finalized and validated in 2017, printed in 2018, and publicly launched in February 2019.

The study “[Historical analysis of deforestation and forest degradation in 2004-2014](http://www.fao.org/3/CA3007ES/ca3007es.pdf)” (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA3007ES/ca3007es.pdf>) was finalized in 2018 and adds additional technical information to the drivers study.

## 3. Project Output 3 - Study on strategic REDD+ actions

A first draft of the study on strategic actions to address deforestation and degradation was presented and consulted with different stakeholders in 2017, and used in 2018 to define the main axes of the EN-REDD+.

## 4. Project Output 4. 2–3 REDD+ pilot investment projects

In 2018, five pilot investment projects were selected based on the following criteria:

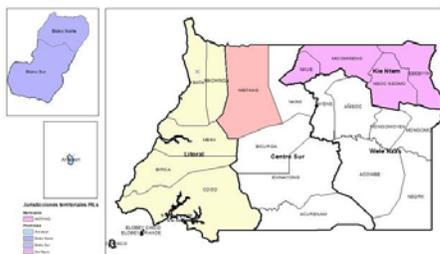
- i. High deforestation and/or forest degradation in 2004-2014

- ii. Risk of future losses of forest cover as per modelling described in the drivers' study (MAGBOMA and FAO, 2018).
- iii. Multiple land uses.
- iv. Presence of human settlements.
- v. Representativeness of all country regions.
- vi. Interest and conformity of the social agents, assessed during consultative processes.

The five pilot investment projects were integrated in the PNI-REDD+ as “integrated local programmes” (PIL), where drivers in a specific jurisdiction will be addressed with an integrated and inter-sectoral approach, so as to reduce forest loss and promote sustainable development.

The PILs are:

- PIL I: Litoral province (Continent)
- PIL II: Niefang municipality (Continent)
- PIL III: KieNtem province (Continent)
- PIL IV: Bioko island
- PIL V: Annobón island



#### 5. Project Output 5 – REDD+ National Strategy

The REDD+ National Strategy (EN-REDD+) was developed and validated at national level in June 2018, and publicly launched in February 2019 (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA2911ES/ca2911es.pdf>).

The EN-REDD+ builds on technical discussions with national experts and public officials, on international agreements signed by Equatorial Guinea related to climate change and biodiversity, as well as on national development plans and studies, such as the National Plan for Economic and Social Development 2020, the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) (MBMA, 2014), the study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (MAGBMA y FAO, 2018), and the study of strategic options.

The EN-REDD+ defines the country's REDD+ vision as follows:

“To contribute through REDD+ to the fight against climate change and to the development of the country for the wellbeing of the people of Equatorial Guinea, focusing on sustainability, integrated land management, food security, social equity and gender”.

#### 6. Project Output 6 – REDD+ National Investment Plan

The REDD+ National Investment Plan (PNI-REDD+) was developed in 2018, nationally validated in February 2019 and first presented to CAFI Executive Board in April 2019. The initial version was reviewed as per comments received from CAFI Executive Board and the two independent evaluators in April 2019, October 2019, and March 2020; and the final version submitted to CAFI Executive Board in March 2020.

The PNI-REDD+ has been developed with broad consensus, has a multi-sectorial nature and is based on updated data and studies. It includes:

- National Programmes (NP): 1. Land-use planning; 2. Sustainable forest management; 3. Agriculture and Food security; 4. Mining, energy and construction; and 5. REDD+ governance.

- Integrated Local Programmes (PILs): I. Litoral province; II. Niefang municipality; III. KieNtem province; IV. Bioko island; and V. Annobón island.

The plan will guide and support the efforts of all the parties involved in the implementation of REDD+, mobilizing and coordinating sources of finance.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

The project has been successful in developing the two REDD+ strategic documents that will guide and facilitate the REDD+ process: the [REDD+ national strategy](#) (EN-REDD+) and the REDD+ national investment plan (PNI-REDD+).

Other project achievements to be highlighted are:

- Political and institutional support and engagement at high level: The project, as well as the national REDD+ process, has benefited from the mobilisation of strong political and institutional support, reflected in the involvement of multiple ministries under the leadership of the Ministry of Taxes, Economy and Planning (MHEP), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MAGBMA). These two ministers attended the workshop to launch the project, and provided high-level support to key projects events, such as the country presentations to the CAFI Executive Board.
- Extensive, participative and open consultative process: Despite previous limited experience in participatory decision making in Equatorial Guinea, the project has mobilised extensive, participative and open consultations. The project has made a significant contribution to enhancing public awareness about REDD+ and to promoting the engagement and participation of multiple actors. The project reached representatives of the public sector, private sector, civil society, academia, and local communities, making specific efforts to ensure active and free participation of women.
- Consolidation of the steering committee as a multi-stakeholders consultative platform: The project has been guided by a Steering Committee (created by a Presidential Resolution in 2016), with representatives of a wide range of stakeholders and sectors, contributing to the good governance of the project.
- Significant improvement of the available information on forests and deforestation processes: The project has generated and reinforced much needed information and data about the country's forest cover, forest change trends and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Project outputs represent a significant improvement of sectorial information, statistics and maps, which constitute a solid basis for the REDD+ process. New data and information have been generated with the involvement of national experts, contributing to national capacity development and ownership.
- Increased recognition of the value of the forests of Equatorial Guinea and their potential contribution to the national objective of diversifying the economy.
- Catalytic role of the project on mobilising complementary funding; i.e. the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- Inclusive approach to sustainable development reflected in the EN-REDD+, and expected to be reflected in the future national development plan 2035.

***Contribution of the EN-REDD+ and the PNI-REDD+ to addressing and respecting Cancun safeguards***

The EN-REDD + establishes the guidelines for the development of the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and the related information summary. The SIS will provide information on how REDD + safeguards are addressed and respected during the implementation of the actions proposed in EN-REDD +.

The PNI-REDD + establishes as a priority investment, within its national program 5 “Governance for REDD”, the development of a SIS that will collect information on the social and environmental impacts of the REDD + process and the mitigation of possible negative effects, taking into account the specific impacts on men and women.

The PNI-REDD + analyses the risks related to the implementation of REDD +, including the risks related to the lack of respect for the Cancun safeguards and the mitigation measures against these risks.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p><b>Outcome 1<sup>9</sup></b> The Equatorial Guinea REDD+ National Investment Plan, of a multi-sectoral nature, based on up-to-date data and studies, and backed by a broad consensus, is presented to the CAFI Board for its possible funding and future implementation.  <b>Indicator: Presentation of the REDD+ NIP to the CAFI Board</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 1</b></p>	<p>Finalized</p> <p>PNI-REDD+ presented to CAFI EB 15</p>	n.a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes and decisions of CAFI Executive Board 15</li> <li>Independent evaluations of PNI-REDD+</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Consultation, outreach and participation plan defined and applied during the development of the REDD+ National Investment Plan and its eventual implementation.  <b>Indicator 1.1. Consultation, outreach and participation plan development process</b>  <b>Baseline:0</b>  <b>Planned Target:1</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2. Number of workshops in which stakeholders are consulted and actively participate in the REDD+ NIP.</b>  <b>Baseline:0</b>  <b>Planned Target:10</b></p>	<p>Finalized.</p> <p>1.1 Consultation plan developed.</p> <p>1.2 More than 50 consultation groups organized</p>	n.a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation plan <a href="http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/885872/">http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/885872/</a></li> <li>Consultations listed in the annexes of the <a href="#">driver study</a>; and of the PNI-REDD+.</li> <li>Minutes and press releases of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> steering committees (Dec 2016, June 2017, June 2018, February 2019).</li> <li>Workshop with journalists (September 2017): <a href="http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/1036177/">http://www.fao.org/guinea-ecuatorial/noticias/detail-events/es/c/1036177/</a></li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p><b>Output 2.</b> Complete spatial and qualitative study of the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation of the forests of Equatorial Guinea identified in a participatory manner, including a historical analysis of the deforestation rate, with information broken down by mainland and insular regions.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2. Document “Study on the causes of deforestation and degradation”</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 1</b></p>	<p>Finalized.</p> <p>Documents finalized, nationally validated, and publicly launched.</p> <p>Two documents were produced: the “<a href="http://www.fao.org/3/CA0399ES/ca0399es.pdf">study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation 2004-2014</a>”; and a complementary document with more technical details about methodology and data “the historical analysis of deforestation and forest degradation 2004-2014”.</p>	<p>Output successfully achieved, but it took more time than initially planned due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to strengthen technical capacities on Remote Sensing.</li> <li>• Difficult access to, and crosschecking of, data versus importance of the study as base information for REDD+ process.</li> <li>• Challenging consultation in Annobón island</li> <li>• Public launching initially foreseen in July 2018 had to be postponed to early 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/CA0399ES/ca0399es.pdf">Study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation 2004-2014: http://www.fao.org/3/CA0399ES/ca0399es.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/ca3007es/CA3007ES.pdf">Historical analysis of deforestation and forest degradation 2004-2014 http://www.fao.org/3/ca3007es/CA3007ES.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 3.</b> Strategic, sectoral and cross-sectional options (in line with the Horizon 2020 Economic and Social Development Plan and the R-PP) to tackle deforestation and degradation, as well as opportunities for increasing carbon sequestration at the national scale, analyzed and defined in detail.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3. Study on strategic REDD+ options</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 1</b></p>	<p>Finalized.</p>	<p>Output successfully achieved. Its finalization was delayed due to Presidential elections, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad-interim counterparts from November 2017, and new counterparts nominated in April 2018.</li> <li>• Limited formal/official events or consultations.</li> <li>• Temporary restrictions of movement and communications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working document, approved by 3<sup>rd</sup> steering committee of the project (June 2018).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 4.</b> Design of 2–3 REDD+ pilot investment projects in priority zones designed and focused on the application and experimentation of actions to reduce forest emissions and to increase carbon sequestration.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.4. Pilot project proposal documents</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 3</b></p>	<p>Finalized.</p> <p>5 PILs were developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five pilot investment projects were selected, and they will constitute the integrated local programmes (PILs) of the PNI-REDD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See 5 PILs in the PNI-REDD+.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 5.</b> Finalized REDD+ National Strategy, based on the Horizon 2020 Economic and Social Development Plan, and the draft of the National Investment Plan, the R-PP, as well as the several studies carried out during the execution of the project.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.5. REDD+ National Strategy</b></p>	<p>Finalized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed finalization related to the time required to finalize the previous studies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/ca2911es/CA2911ES.pdf">National REDD+ strategy: http://www.fao.org/3/ca2911es/CA2911ES.pdf</a></li> </ul>

<b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 1</b>			
<b>Output 6.</b> Finalized, validated and nationally approved REDD+ National Investment Plan presented to the CAFI Board and other possible sources of funding. <b>Indicator 1.6. Presentation of the REDD+ NIP to the CAFI Board</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 1</b>	PNI-REDD+ finalized, validated in February 2019, and initially submitted to CAFI Executive Board in April 2019.  The document was reviewed to incorporate recommendations of independent evaluators and CAFI Executive Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed finalization related to the time required to finalize the previous studies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNI-REDD+.</li> </ul>

### iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- *Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no programme evaluation have been done yet?*

Due to the nature and size of the project, it is not foreseen a specific project evaluation.

Two independent evaluators assessed the PNI-REDD+ as the key project output They provided observations and recommendations in April 2019, October 2019 and March 2020, which helped in improving and finalizing the PNI-REDD+.

- *Explain challenges such as delays in programme implementation, and the nature of the constraints such as management arrangements, human resources etc. What actions were taken to mitigate these challenges? How did such challenges and actions impact on the overall achievement of results? Have any of the risks identified during the project design materialized or were there unidentified risks that came up?*

Some of the identified risks such as “limited institutional coordination” or “limited representation of civil society” did not materialized. The project benefited from cross-sectoral institutional mobilization, high level support from the two key Ministries, and active participation in the steering committee of NGOs, Universities, Private Sector (oil and timber companies), representing the civil society. Consultations with local communities resulted in a good collection of views from different actors, which were reflected in the development of the documents.

The project document initially identified the risk that national political priorities could be in conflict with REDD+ objectives, but such risk was successfully mitigated. The project contributed to raise awareness among the different sectors, and lobby about the relevance of forests for the national economy, triggering a change of development model, which is expected to be reflected in the new national development plan.

Some of the risks initially identified caused certain delays in project activities, i.e. time required for capacity development and for consultation process, or political processes (e.g. legislative elections in 2018). Those risks were mitigated to the extent possible, and a project extension was requested to properly finalize project activities.

Three different experts played the role of chief technical advisor (CTA) of the project. Still, the transition was done smoothly, with technical support and supervision from FAO headquarters, and it caused limited impact on project implementation and duration.

The table below describe some additional challenges encountered through project implementation and how they were addressed.

Challenges	Actions
a. Delayed finalization of drivers study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult access to, and crosschecking of data versus importance of the study as base information for REDD+ process.</li> <li>• Challenging consultation in Annobón island due to irregular transportation services.</li> <li>• Need to strengthen national technical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts to compile and systematize of information from different national and international sources.</li> <li>• Consultation in Annobón island could be finally undertaken in September 2017, with unforeseen difficulties related to the return of</li> </ul>

capacities and engage actively national experts in the development of the study.	<p>staff from the island.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity development was considered key for sustainability, despite it may lead to some delays.</li> </ul>
<p>b. Legislative elections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad-interim national counterparts from November 2017, and new counterparts from April 2018.</li> <li>• Limited availability for formal/official events or consultations.</li> <li>• Temporary restrictions of movement and communications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination and communication maintained with national counterparts during transition period until new officials were appointed.</li> <li>• Direct consultations with national experts during transition period.</li> </ul>
c. Time required for much needed capacity development and consultations to enhance ownership and transparency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous capacity development of national experts, including workshops and on-the-job training.</li> </ul>
d. High and variable logistic costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of budget flexibility without compromising project delivery or planned outputs. Establishment of synergies with other related projects.</li> </ul>

- *Report key lessons learned and best practices that would facilitate future programme design and implementation, including issues related to management arrangements, human resources, resources, etc. Please also include experiences of failure, which often are the richest source of lessons learned.*

- The selection and recruitment of international and national experts in Equatorial Guinea, with the required availability, expertise and language skills, was challenging. Future programme design may take this into account these difficulties, and consider flexible approaches (e.g. shorter missions from international experts, recruitment of young national experts with limited expertise but much potential for capacity development, etc.)
- The capacity development processes are particularly time consuming, especially in complex technical aspects. Sufficient time needs to be included in future project plans.
- Consultation processes also require enough time and space, especially if there are conflicts linked to a lack of understanding regarding REDD +, excessive high expectations, or conflicts of interest.
- Some country regions, particularly Annobón island, have very specific characteristics to be considered and addressed. Consultation processes in the island are particularly relevant, but travelling there may be costly and time consuming as communications are very irregular. Future project design may consider specific budget and time allocation for that purpose.
- Data availability and access is a major obstacle both in project formulation and implementation. The PNI-REDD+ and several project proposals suggest activities to address this, improving the generation, access and dissemination of updated information on land and forests.

#### iv) A Specific Story (Optional)

- *This could be a success or human story. It does not have to be a success story – often the most interesting and useful lessons learned are from experiences that have not worked. The point is to highlight a concrete example with a story that has been important to your Programme.*
- *In ¼ to ½ a page, provide details on a specific achievement or lesson learned of the Programme. Attachment of supporting documents, including photos with captions, news items etc, is strongly encouraged. The MPTF Office will select stories and photos to feature in the Consolidated Annual Report, the GATEWAY and the MPTF Office Newsletter.*

**Problem / Challenge faced #1:** *Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).*

Equatorial Guinea has had limited access to international funding to support its REDD+ process, and the economic recession has limited the mobilization of national funds. This resulted in REDD+ progress, particularly comparing with other countries in the region.

**Programme Interventions:** *How was the problem or challenge addressed through the Programme interventions?*

The project has supported the development of the REDD+ National Investment Plan (PNI-REDD+), aiming at mobilizing and coordinating all potential sources of funding for REDD+ under a single framework.

**Result (if applicable):** *Describe the observable change that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?*

Even before the PNI-REDD+ was finalised, it has played a catalytic role in mobilising climate change and REDD+ funding for Equatorial Guinea, specifically:

- GCF readiness support funds to complete the REDD+ readiness phase, specifically the development of the forest reference emission level, the design of the NFMS and the NFL.
- GEF6 funds to support community-based land and forest management as a climate change mitigation option.
- GEF-CBIT funds to enhance transparency

**Lessons Learned:** *What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?*

The process of developing the PNI-REDD+ was already an achievement by itself. The solid process included a multistakeholder process to raise awareness and develop consensus, an exercise of prioritization including multiple sectors, as well as the generation of base information. As a result, the country increased its capacity and credibility to convey its priority needs and make solid requests for support based on sound data and strong consensus, enhancing funding mobilization capacities.

CAFI support to Equatorial Guinea has had indeed a catalytic role in moving forward the REDD+ process, and mobilising related funding.

Deleted: 1

**Problem / Challenge faced #2:** *Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).*

Women are essential in the whole national REDD + process, given the role they play in land management, in addition to their knowledge and capacities. Women are the engine of the rural economy in Equatorial Guinea, and the main agricultural labor force; as such they are called to play a key role in halting and reversing forest loss trends, and throughout the REDD + process in general.

The project aimed to properly reflect the views and concerns of women in REDD+ studies and strategic documents, and ensure that the REDD+ process contribute to reduce gender inequalities and strengthen women empowerment. Consequently, the key project outputs, EN-REDD+ and PNI-REDD+ have mainstreamed a gender perspective, both in its design and its implementation.

Project methodology incorporated a transversal approach of gender: women participation was promoted in interviews, workshops and consultations, specific discussion fora of women were established, and when possible, women played the role of facilitators.

Most consultative process had a percentage of women around 40%. Still, during project implementation, it was not always easy to ensure equal participation or properly collect the views of women:

- When organizing consultations in local communities, women were often not available despite previous information efforts. They could not neglect their multiple daily tasks under their responsibility (agriculture crops, children, cooking, etc.) and there was not tradition of women's participation in consultative processes.
- In workshops and technical discussions, women were often a minority, endangering their free and open participation, and the extent their views were properly reflected or hidden in the middle of the group discussions.

**Programme Interventions:** *How was the problem or challenge addressed through the Programme interventions?*

- Consultations in local communities required that facilitators sought and contacted women, insisting about the importance of their participation for the overall process. Awareness raising was particularly important for the women themselves.
- The project established discussion groups composed of only women, facilitating free and open discussion among themselves. The presence of national female experts was also promoted.

**Result (if applicable):** *Describe the observable change that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?*

Women in Equatorial Guinea have proven to have very strong capacities and the potential to play a key role in the country development process, and specifically in REDD+. Because of cultural traditions, their role is not always recognized, and those unequal perceptions were sometimes raised during REDD+ workshops. The project contributed to raise gender awareness and highlight the important contribution of women. The impact of the CAFI project on gender has had a catalytic role in subsequent projects related to climate change, in which a women-only workshop was organized in July 2019 for the first time in the country.

**Lessons Learned:** *What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?*

- In future consultations, project should assess and consider different alternatives to favor the participation of rural women, taking into account the cultural constraints, as well as how difficult it is for women to neglect their daily obligations. Examples may be the provision of catering or child care support in related villages. Those alternatives should be discussed in advance with the targeted women.
- Considering the limited number of women experts, project shall use any opportunity to raise their voices and to provide spaces for exchange, discussion and empowerment. The CAFI project has contributed to empower women, but follow up support is key in continuing such process.



