

## **FP026: Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar 2021 APR Summary**

In 2021, the GCF-SLEM project made significant progress on many of its key indicators, despite travel restrictions in Madagascar due to COVID-19 lockdowns from March to June 2021. To adapt to travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 response, the project opened small satellite offices adjacent to project landscapes to better facilitate the coordination of field activities. It is anticipated that these offices will better allow the project to respond to the needs of beneficiary communities in remote locations regardless of whether COVID-19 disruptions continue.

The rise in emissions reductions from 774,175 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020 to 4,447,901 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021 brought the project's total emissions reductions to 6,283,531 tCO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>1</sup>, exceeding the 4MtCO<sub>2</sub>e target set for the project's entire implementation timeline. Compared to 2020, the area patrolled by the project in 2021 increased by 30% in 2021 and the number of patrols increased by 69%. The 174,700ha patrolled was achieved through a mixture of drones and human patrols in the CAZ and COFAV areas. Control missions lead by the DREDD in these areas apprehended 131 offenders found to be clearing forest, mining, or otherwise illegally using the land.

In close partnership with Government of Madagascar institutions, training on climate change issues, sustainable agriculture production, and ecosystem-based adaptation was provided to 10,598 households (~63,000 individuals) in 2021. The project also provided 4,709 households (~28,000 individuals) with tailored in-kind grants including agricultural inputs to allow beneficiaries to put into practice the knowledge gained through Project-delivered trainings and build communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change. Farmers in beneficiary communities also benefited from improved access to markets, improved market information, and facilitation of collective marketing strategies and buyer agreements. GCF-SLEM trained 87 sales committees through 33 producer associations in 2021. Partnerships facilitated by the project have resulted in the development of 113.62ha of vanilla production in the Commune of Tolongoina and a first batch of ~10 tonnes of green vanilla was produced and sold by members of 10 local associations for forest management (VOI). Although the last few months of 2021 were characterized by droughts affecting the cultivation of cash crops, 26.3t of crops (ginger, rice, beans, groundnuts, and Bambara pea) were harvested in 2021 by 322 households (subset monitored by the project). These households, sold 11.6t of crops, providing each household with an average of 98,000 Ariary (~\$25 USD) of much needed cash income. The remainder of the harvest was consumed by beneficiary households or stored to increase future food security and provide seed for future planting.

Throughout 2021 the project ensured that efforts on the gender responsive elements of the project were prioritized. The project exceeded its annual target of 7,000 individuals trained on gender issues and supported 30 women's associations with grants and technical support to develop and implement sustainable agriculture practices (SAP).

To increase awareness of and preparedness for drought occurrences and other extreme weather events, training tools on climate change mitigation and adaptation were distributed to 63,878 individuals in 2021. Communication efforts over the past year included distributing 1,000 copies of the Soanala Magazine (June 2021 edition). This local magazine in Malagasy is used for sharing local best practices on CC mitigation and adaptation. For communication to local communities and authorities, the project published three articles on climate change adaptation and mitigation

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<sup>1</sup> This amount has been updated from the submitted APR, which reported these results as pending.

activities in newspapers. Furthermore, in collaboration with the SOS Lemurs project, 1,500 calendars for 2022 with messages on climate adaptation and mitigation were provided to stakeholders as a communications tool. The project has also made a concerted effort to disseminate climate change mitigation and adaptation information to Malagasy youth. Three pilot schools General Education College (CEG) Anjahamana, Public Primary School (EPP) Ambalarondra, and EPP Ambodibonara, were engaged. Tree planting around schools and the creation of vegetable gardens allowed 2,640 individuals to begin to support sustainable landscape activities.

Particularly in the time of movement restrictions, the project identified contactless means to communicate climate change information. In 2021 the project reached more than 66,000 communities through 96 radio broadcasts via six radio stations in CAZ and six radio stations COFAV. Through these broadcasts, messages about CC awareness activities, the harm caused by deforestation, developing and maintaining tree nurseries, the agricultural calendar, meteorological updates, and adaptation techniques to respond to climate change were transmitted. Social media was also deployed effectively and through 97 articles posted on Facebook the project reached 202,021 persons, had 5,441 interactions, received 6,413 reactions, 613 comments, and articles were shared 447 times.

To achieve reforestation targets, in 2021 the project produced 416,354 tree seedlings. Over the reporting period forest restoration was implemented on 235ha of land with 118,954 forest trees and 121,706 agroforest and fruit trees planted in 13 municipalities of CAZ and 6 municipalities of COFAV. 539 protected area demarcation signs were also installed by the project in 2021. Throughout the year communities remained engaged with the project, and 14 forest management contract agreements (TG) were renewed, signed, and implemented.

The project encountered challenges and delays in 2021, many stemming from the COVID-19 travel restrictions which were in place from March-June. Just under 25% of the project's indicators are below 50% or delayed. A contributing factor has been ongoing negotiations with government partners the creation of the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF), which has delayed the development of the CCTF and related activities. The project, will request to the GCF a 2-year No Cost Extension of the project implementation period to address the significant COVID-related delays encountered in 2020 and 2021.

## **Financial overview:**

### **Budget and Expenditure<sup>2</sup>**

	Budget Y4	Expenditure Y4	Expenditure Rate Y4	Budget Project Total	Expenditure Project Total	Expenditure Rate Project Total
<b>GCF financing</b>	\$ 6,797,286	\$ 1,598,229	24%	\$ 18,500,000	\$ 6,138,003	33%
<b>Co-financing</b>	\$ 187,307	\$ 35,575	19%	\$ 771,318	\$ 771,318	100%
<b>Project total</b>	\$ 6,984,594	\$ 1,633,804	23%	\$ 19,271,318	\$ 6,909,321	36%

<sup>2</sup> Expenditure figures exclude reported commitments

**Disbursements**

<b>Number of Disbursements Y4</b>	<b>Disbursement Amount Y4</b>	<b>Number of Disbursements Project Total</b>	<b>Disbursement Amount Project Total</b>
1	\$2,600,000	5	\$8,600,000