



Increased climate resilience of rural households and communities through the rehabilitation of production landscapes in selected localities of the Republic of Cuba

EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

BACKGROUND

The project seeks to increase the climate resilience of agricultural production and ensure food security, through improved ecosystem services from agroforestry, silvopastoral systems, reforestation and assisted natural forest regeneration in seven municipalities that are vulnerable to climate change. The project expects to directly benefit 51 713 people and contribute to three Green Climate Fund (GCF) impact areas: reduce emissions from forestry and land use; increase the resilience of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions; and increase the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services. It is in the second phase and the third – a programme of countrywide scaling up – will be based on lessons learned.



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Key evaluation questions were framed around five overarching criteria: **1)** continued relevance and quality of project design; **2)** level and quality of implementation; **3)** progress towards expected results; **4)** gender equality, social inclusion and safeguards; and **5)** paradigm shift.

The questions were defined to ensure GCF evaluation criteria were addressed and to prioritize areas of interest.

EVALUATION METHODS

The evaluation design was guided by theory-based and utilization-focused approaches. Data collection methods included a desk and bibliographic review, semi-structured individual and group interviews, focus group discussions, field visits, estimates of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and removals, and a reporting analysis.



PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT CODE

GCP/CUB/021/GCF

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Cuba

START/END DATE

2020—2027

FUNDED BY

Green Climate Fund (GCF),
Cuban Ministry of Agriculture

PRIORITY AREAS

- Better environment
- Better life

PARTNERS

Government of Cuba



WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

The project remains highly relevant given renewed government commitments to combat climate change and address growing food security needs. Activities respond to agricultural producers' localized climate resilience and livelihood needs in highly vulnerable municipalities.

Targets are ambitious yet feasible, provided that an extended project time frame compensates for implementation delays. Evaluators observed high levels of stakeholder coordination, engagement and ownership. Adaptive management and the identification of local solutions advanced project implementation in a complex and dynamic environment. Early results demonstrate that the productive landscape restoration activities are triggering environmental recovery at the farm and landscape levels.

The project is on track to achieve the projected emissions reductions.



WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES?

The project launched in June 2020. This coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Activities on the ground did not begin until restrictions eased in April 2022.

The project faced distinct procurement challenges. Implementation depends heavily on the importation of equipment (tractors, irrigation systems, nursery structures) and inputs (fuel, lubricants) that are not available in Cuba. National providers are limited, and economic sanctions create unfavourable conditions for international suppliers, resulting in lengthy processes and delays in receiving equipment. Fuel shortages have presented a challenge since the end of 2023.

The implementation of an agroforestry, silvopastoral and forestry module is significantly behind schedule.



LESSONS LEARNED

Addressing socioeconomic needs, such as food production and short- and long-term income generation streams, in the design of climate-resilient practices helps motivate farmers to change behaviours. It also improves local ownership and the sustainability of results.

Adaptive management can help optimize resource allocation and advance project implementation in challenging and dynamic contexts. Adaptive learning, through the testing of new and innovative practices during project implementation, can inform ongoing improvements.

Gender committees are an important mechanism to foster coordination among key actors, provide training, raise awareness and implement municipal gender action plans.

Knowledge dissemination can foster the replication and scaling up of project activities. Including leadership qualities as part of the selection criteria for initial beneficiaries, and encouraging farmer-to farmer learning, can

Find out more in the full report, [here](#).



NEXT STEPS

Extend the project time frame.

Reinforce technical capacities in the area of climate change mitigation.

Strengthen capacity building and mechanisms to support women's leadership and economic empowerment.

Strengthen the project's monitoring tools to better capture strategic results.

Reinforce the project's sustainability and paradigm shift potential.

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