

**Project Evaluation Series**

# **Evaluation of the project "Integrated National Monitoring and Assessment System on Forest Ecosystems (SIMEF)"**

**Project code: GCP/CHI/032/GFF  
GEF ID: 4968**

**Follow-up report**

Follow-up report to the Evaluation of the project "Integrated National Monitoring and Assessment System on Forest Ecosystems (SIMEF)"							10/2022
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1	<p><b>The Ministry of Agriculture, to the Forestry Institute, to the Natural Resources Information Centre and to the National Forestry Corporation.</b></p> <p>For the second phase of the SIMEF as a government programme.</p>	<p>The Steering Committee should complete a self-assessment of its performance and use its results as a basis to consolidate its operation and composition. Some of the aspects that can be taken into account include the incorporation of new members such as the Ministry of Natural Assets.</p>	Accepted	<p>This analysis began in 2019 where a Governance and Sustainability Commission was formed with the leaders of the three institutions and the Executive Secretariat at FAO. From this, a modified Governance and budget structure was reached, to become an Official Program of the Chilean State financed by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>	<p>A Steering Committee situated in the Ministry of Agriculture, with participation of the Executive Directors of INFOR, CONAF and CIREN has been implemented, which meets twice a year to evaluate the work done and identify actions for the following period.</p> <p>In addition, an Executive Secretariat has been implemented in the Ministry, which is part of the technical committee, coordinated by INFOR.</p>	Excellent	<p>SIMEF has converted to a permanent program from the Ministry of Agriculture</p>
		<p>To ensure greater synergy and collaboration with the Ministry of Environment to make progress towards an interoperability between environmental databases and the SIMEF.</p>	Accepted	<p>A working group was formed between the Forestry Institute and Minagri, led by INFOR's Deputy Director to achieve this synergy.</p>	<p>The result of the working group convened is a collaboration agreement between Ministry of Environment and INFOR (SIMEF), that addresses the formalization of joint work in the following areas: participatory monitoring, biodiversity monitoring, cooperation between ministerial platforms, landscape restoration. This agreement is in its final review at the Ministry of Environment.</p>	Good	<p>Agreement drafted and approved by INFOR</p>
		<p>To strengthen the evaluation component of the SIMEF that will lead to the analysis and cross-checking of information contained in the Platform and endorses a positioning on the state of forest ecosystems in Chile.</p>	Accepted	<p>With funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, a permanent position was created in the Forestry Institute for this purpose, which is already working.</p>	<p>The biophysical inventory information has been analyzed with an analysis of the change in the state of the native forest over a 15-year period.</p> <p>Calculation of the Forest Reference Emission Level/Forestry Reference Level for degradation for the emissions reduction program area (ERP), comprised between the regions of Maule and Los Lagos; and its extension to a national scope incorporating the regions of Coquimbo to O'Higgins, Aysén and Magallanes.</p> <p>Contribution to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (INGEI) report, LULUCF sector (land use, land use change and forestry), time series 1990 - 2020.</p> <p>There are 4 Master thesis in elaboration and one scientific publication.</p> <p>Annually the new data from forest Inventory are analyzed and published in an institutional report.</p>	Good	<p>Report "The native forest in Chile: Results of the National Forest Inventory 2001-2015".</p> <p>5th Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2022, in revision.</p> <p>Annual report of the Forest Inventory:  <a href="https://ifn.infor.cl/index.php/descargas-recursos/descargas/send/2-documentos-inventario-forestal/37-informe-ifc-2020">https://ifn.infor.cl/index.php/descargas-recursos/descargas/send/2-documentos-inventario-forestal/37-informe-ifc-2020</a></p>

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		That the government authorities participating in the SIMEF, in accordance with their respective competences, continue to exert pressure to authorize or implement the legal proposals and land use or management instruments that are developed in the project, and therefore ensure the contribution to the impact expected in the mid and long term.	<b>Accepted</b>	Publication of the documents and proposals generated which will be presented in the Regional Committees and other corresponding instances.	21 documents with methodologies developed in SIMEF were published and a permanent meeting regime is maintained with the CRP at national level.  A Diploma Course is being executed in its 4th version, addressed to public officers and members of the CRP to promote the use of SIMEF information in the communal and regional planning instruments.	Good	Documents published and available on the SIMEF Platform.  240 civil servants with mastery of methodologies for integrating forest resources in planning and public instruments, developed in SIMEF.
		To establish and formalize the responsibilities and mechanisms for the validation of information products that are uploaded onto and presented on the SIMEF Platform.	<b>Accepted</b>	The interinstitutional technical committee has already generated and put this protocol into operation.	There are process protocols for updating the Platform, valid for all three institutions.	Excellent	The platform is constantly updated with information from the three institutions.
		To conduct a structured and broad survey of the needs for SIMEF products and types of maps among different public and private sector users, therefore strengthening the use of the vast amount of information that SIMEF has and that can be analyzed and configured into new maps and products.	<b>Accepted</b>	The mapping for the identification of products was carried out in the design phase of the platform. For the purposes of continuous improvement of the system, needs will continue to be raised through the Regional Participation Committees.	A continuous improvement of the Platform's tools has been implemented, which has improved the visualization of the information in the following tools: the Forests of Chile, including new indicators, the Statistical Reports, including two new reports, the Map viewer, which was improved and new information layers were added, and the digital library.	Excellent	New indicators, maps and reports available on the platform.
		To progressively generate the technical capacities for the field survey and analysis of information from the extended continuous forest inventory, in different headquarters of Chile's National Forestry Institute, by means of a specific training programme, suited to the institutional structure and that makes it possible to strengthen the institution at national level in the aspects related to the SIMEF.	<b>Rejected</b>	It does not correspond to the organizational structure of the Forest Institute. The National Forest Inventory Research line has collaborators in the Bio Bio and Los Rios Region, who are fully trained.	-	-	-
		To use the existing government protocols to include the opinions of the Mapuche community in the development of the individual management plans that will result from the masterplan prepared.	<b>Rejected</b>	There is no protocol that applies to what is requested.	-	-	-

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2	<b>The executor and co-executors of the project and FAO.</b>  In the time left of the project and in the face of another possible extension of the project due to the health crisis.	Include an introductory text that describes the SIMEF and its two components "monitoring and evaluation" in the SIMEF Platform; standardize the logotypes that appear on the Platform with the SIMEF logo and include the term "evaluation" in it.	<b>Accepted</b>	The text will be incorporated in the next graphical update of the platform. The word evaluation is not part of the acronym, so the logo will not be modified.	The text has been incorporated in the graphical update of the platform.	Good	<a href="https://simef.minagri.gob.cl/ques-simef">https://simef.minagri.gob.cl/ques-simef</a>
		Resume the activities that were left pending in Component 1 of the project relating to training; in Component 2 relating to the development of missing thematic maps; and in Component 3 monitor the management and planning instruments developed in the framework of the project to ensure the initiation of their implementation and to not lose the inertia the project has established.	<b>Accepted</b>	The design of virtual courses on biodiversity, climate change and carbon, sustainable forest management and the use of the SIMEF platform is under development. Regarding the missing maps at the end of the semester, there will be the land use change maps for the regions of Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá and Atacama. Currently, the process of incorporation of SIMEF information in PLADECOS of Municipalities of the O'Higgins region is being monitored.	Comp. 1: Virtual courses on biodiversity, climate change and carbon, sustainable forest management and the use of the SIMEF platform are available and currently in execution.  Comp. 2: All land use cartography were published on SIMEF Platform  Comp. 3: Pladecos, were definitely incorporated in the Development plans of the Municipalities Pinto and Doñihue.  The restoration pilot projects in Panguipulli and Cachapual are still operating and are formalized as:  i. The organization of South Cantillana intercommunal network.  ii. The interinstitutional restoration network, Panguipulli.  There are also 22 participatory monitoring projects in operation and there is an official agreement with CONAF for monitoring in the protected areas.	Excellent	1508 virtually trained persons. Coordinated restoration activities realized at >150 properties in Panguipulli.
3	<b>FAO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.</b>	Upon taking into account the importance of having a complete, robust and effective Framework of outcomes for the correct implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a project, it is suggested that the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit should not approve projects that have Frameworks of outcomes that are incomplete, lack indicators, assumptions and mid-term targets. Similarly, it is also recommended that the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, FAO-Chile and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean design projects with a Framework of Outcomes based on the conceptual and technical foundations to build logical framework matrices.	<b>Accepted</b>	Counterparts will be recommended to participate in the design of new projects, including indicators, assumptions and mid-term goals, in the context of a Results Framework based on the conceptual and technical foundations for the construction of logical framework matrices. The FAO field program has initiated an internal training process for the development of the logical framework, Smart indicators, targets and results to improve the quality of project design.	N/A	None/poor	

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4	FAO.	On considering the recurring lack of a monitoring and evaluation system in the implementation of the projects that, among other aspects, makes it possible to identify risks and implement mitigation measures in a timely manner, it is recommended that FAO explicitly include the development of a monitoring and evaluation system in the monitoring and evaluation plan table included in the project documents. This will make it possible to highlight the importance of this system and distinguish it from the monitoring and evaluation plan for the benefit of the executors of the projects.	Accepted	The field program of the regional office is already working on this project monitoring mechanism, as well as the generation of knowledge generated in them.	N/A	Good	
5	FAO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.	Given that in the mid-term and final evaluations an assessment is requested, in most cases, of the incorporation of the gender perspective in the projects prior to GEF-7, where its incorporation was not a requirement, it is recommended that the GEF-6 projects be encouraged to perform an assessment of the gender perspective and to contribute more effectively to the incorporation of this topic in their activities.	Accepted	FAO and GEF have gender strategies that are mandatory for the implementation of all FAO projects and programs. These should be done in a systematic way regardless of the date of approval or implementation of the projects. There are projects, such as the SIMEF case, that are not generically sensitive or that address the reduction of inequality gaps between men, women, boys, girls, young people and the elderly. Forcing these mechanisms is not advisable because it delegitimizes a process that is vital to FAO's mandate.	N/A	None/poor	
6	FAO, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and the Forestry Institute.	On considering that this project contains extremely ambitious targets, it is recommended that the design of the projects be accompanied by the preparation of a theory of change that makes it possible to more clearly visualise the logic of the outcomes and outputs, define and understand the possible complexity of the change desired and identify interactions, barriers and assumptions to be fulfilled to achieve the expected impact. Based on this analysis, the times and resources of the project could be adjusted or, vice versa, the outputs and outcomes proposed could be adjusted taking into account the resources and time available.	Accepted	It will be considered in future project designs.	INFOR hasn't presented other projects of this type yet.	None/poor	

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7	FAO and the Forestry Institute.	With regard to the development of capacities, improvements are recommended in the processes to select participants of the capacity-building activities, by defining and complying with the profiles of the participants and, if necessary, applying diagnosis tests and selecting stakeholders who would effectively apply the new knowledge acquired. It is also recommended that activities be included to support institutions to strengthen aspects that enable the people who have been trained, to apply the knowledge and skills acquired.	Partially accepted	The training activities implemented by SIMEF covered a wide spectrum of actors: a group of institutional actors where the selection was by areas of interest and affinity with the subjects to be taught, an area of civil society where there were no entry barriers, except the link with the work processes that the project itself promoted. From this point of view, although in a theoretical way it would be desirable to select the participants, which I know if it was done in several cases, for example: diploma, inventory brigadistas course, socioeconomic brigadistas course, among others, it is not convenient in all cases. cases, given the dynamics of the project that should be more to invite than to limit participation. This makes special sense in sensitive matters such as the inclusion of women, youth and indigenous peoples. The future virtual training program, currently being developed, will establish selection criteria within the framework of its training modalities.	SIMEF established selection criteria within the framework of its training modalities. These criteria consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Gender parity</li> <li>ii. Balance of institutions,</li> <li>iii. Priority of participants from regions (for decentralization)</li> <li>iv. Invitation through media focused on young people</li> </ul>	Excellent	The profile of the 1508 trained persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 48% female/52% male</li> <li>ii. 75% from regions</li> <li>iii. 35 yrs. average age</li> </ul>
8	The executor and co-executors of the project and FAO.	Given the uncertainty about when the mobility restrictions implemented due to COVID-19 will be lifted in Chile and the proximity of the end date of the project, it is recommended that a virtual strategy be designed to launch the SIMEF Platform and perform the training on how to use it online, in such a manner that it can be used by the stakeholders participating in the project and that the activities set forth in the project document can be fulfilled. To design and implement the virtual strategy, it is recommended that the project be extended by four additional months, until December 2020, at no extra cost for the project.	Accepted	The extension of the project has been requested, which has already been approved until 31 December 2020. The executing and co-executing institutions are currently working virtually, given the conditions imposed by the pandemic, disseminating and updating the platform.	A cycle of three online trainings per year was designed and implemented and is still in force.	Excellent	801 enrolled persons only to online courses that teaches how to use the SIMEF platform.

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