

Ex post evaluation – Madagascar

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Sector: Agricultural land resources (31130)
Project: A) Erosion Control Programme Phase I (2001 66 165)*
 B) Erosion Control Programme Phase II (2005 65 077)
Implementing agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock / Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage



Ex-post evaluation report: 2017

		Project A Planned	Project B Planned	Project A+B Actual**
Total costs	EUR million	5.91	4.68	9.78
Counterpart contribution	EUR million	0.88	0.68	0.71
Funding	EUR million	5.03	4.00	9.07
Of which budget funds (BMZ)	EUR million	5.03	4.00	9.07

*) Random sample 2016, **) The planned FC funds were increased by €100k from the Study and Consultancy Fund; the €61k of residual funds were transferred to the ongoing subsequent phase.

Summary: Projects A + B: Erosion control programme (2 phases) in five of 22 regions of Madagascar (Boeny, Amaran'i Mania, Atsimo Andrefana, Sava and Diana) with components for (i) erosion control measures and afforestation efforts, (ii) promotion of soil conservation agriculture, (iii) granting land rights titles, (iv) organising farmers' groups for implementing and maintaining the erosion control measures, as well as (v) forming and running operational project implementation units in the project intervention areas above. Implementation lasted from 2005 to 2013. A separate evaluation is not possible due to overlaps in time and space, as well as a lack of separation of cost accounting.

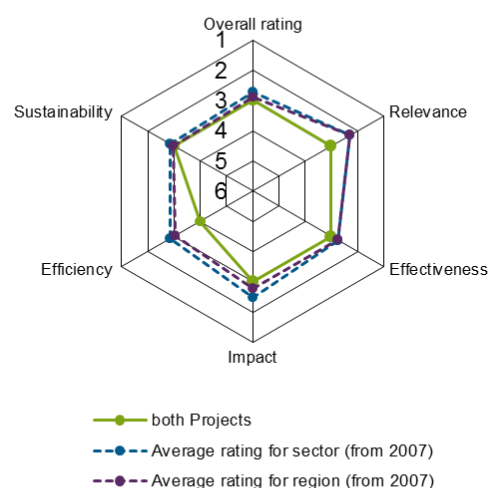
Development objectives: Projects A + B: Sustainable erosion control and management of water catchment areas by the local population in order to stabilise and, where necessary, increase their production potential; additionally, large-scale control and prevention of sedimentation in the relevant irrigated perimeters (outcome), thus making a sustainable contribution to the protection and management of water catchment areas and irrigated perimeters on a national scale (impact).

Target group: Projects A + B: Predominantly poor, smallholder farming families in the selected water catchment areas and irrigated perimeters.

Overall rating: still 3 (both projects)

Rationale: Both projects were only able to achieve the set objectives to a limited extent. The target objectives defined at the programme appraisal were unrealistic or far too ambitious, considering the funds available and measures planned. The underlying impact hypotheses and assumed causal relationships were incomplete and/or too optimistic. In particular, this was true for the objective of minimising sedimentation in the irrigated perimeters via erosion control and thereby improving rice production. Successful outcomes were achieved for the soil conservation agriculture. In terms of sustainability, considerable risks were only identified for the already afforested areas. The projects' implementation lasted almost twice as long as planned. However, this was mainly due to the particular conditions, given the political crisis between late 2008 and 2013, and was partly deliberately steered in this way to get through the crisis.

Highlights: Despite the limited target achievement, the projects have had positive developmental impacts, including some that had not been explicitly intended. Especially noteworthy impacts of this type are the continuity and visibility for the poor smallholding population of an important programme during the crisis years and politically embedding the significance of sustainable land use.



Rating according to DAC criteria

Overall rating: 3 (both measures)

General conditions and classification of the projects

Madagascar is one of the world's poorest countries. Both extreme poverty and absolute poverty¹ have increased further in recent years, and affected over 78% and over 91% of the country's population in 2012, respectively. In rural areas, where over 80% of the population lives, these poverty rates are significantly higher.

Agriculture is the most important sector, contributing over 30% of gross national product. Directly and indirectly, it provides jobs for over 80% of the population, produces the majority of food for urban and rural areas and accounts for the largest proportion of jobs and income. However, productivity in the sector is very low because of structural factors, both in rain fed and irrigated agriculture. More than 40% of productive agricultural land, around 1.1 million hectares, is irrigated. The staple crop is rice, which is grown on irrigated land in over 90% of cases. The returns, on the other hand, are relatively small; rice predominantly provides only 2-3 tons per hectare in the case of irrigation. The sector's development, including that of smallholder farming, is mainly hindered by the restricted availability of productive agricultural land, by unaltered land and soil management and by increasing soil degradation, which is principally caused by processes of erosion. The immediate impacts affect both rain fed and irrigated agriculture, with increased sedimentation of reservoirs and irrigation channels adversely affecting the operation of irrigated perimeters.

Madagascar ranks 56th out of 178 countries in the State Fragility Index² ("high warning" status), putting it in the top third; as such, the country is also classified as fragile by Germany's Federal Foreign Office. Although Madagascar has taken first steps towards a stabilised political system (parliamentary, presidential and local elections), its government structures have been considered fragile since the coup in late 2008. Overall, the functional capability of the public sector can be classed as rudimentary, as reflected (among other things) by an agricultural administration of only limited functionality and effectiveness with budgets that are meagre at best.

Relevance

The project followed an approach aiming to preserve the smallholder families' agricultural production bases in the selected water catchment areas, while at the same time also intending to protect important irrigated perimeters in Madagascar from sedimentation. This is in line with the objectives of national policy for the sector and those of German development cooperation. Likewise, these targets were consistent with the programmes of other donors in the sector.

In particular, to this day, it remains no less a valid necessity for soil to be a resource used sustainably and preserved as the rural population's most important production base and minimum means of subsistence. It is similarly clear that the development of irrigated agriculture is key to increasing agricultural production, employment and income in rural areas. The bottlenecks facing irrigated agriculture in this regard are multifaceted and are strongly related to aspects of individual farms, institutions, sectors and macroeconomics. The interplay of these factors results in insufficient use and upkeep of irrigated perimeters, among other effects. The sedimentation of reservoirs and irrigation systems is caused as a result of erosion in the water catchment areas. That is only one sub-aspect of this wider issue, especially with regard to the lack of system maintenance. The lack of commitment from farmers to use and tend to the systems also arises from the fact that a substantial share of the irrigated land is not managed by the owners themselves, but by tenants, usually under short-term tenancy agreements. These tenants have little interest in sustainably using and maintaining the perimeters or in any erosion control in the surrounding catchment areas.

¹ Those living at under \$1.25 and \$2.00 (US) per person per day, respectively

² <http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/rankings-2016>

The approach included the following components: 1) mechanical and biological erosion control at particularly critical locations in the relevant catchment areas, 2) promoting soil conservation agriculture, adapted pasture management and afforestation, 3) formalising land rights and 4) setting up groups of farmers to implement and maintain erosion control measures. This approach has helped the project to continue to have immediate and fundamental relevance for the core problems of the target group of farmers in the water catchment areas, in addition to those of the country as a whole. Likewise, reducing erosion and sedimentation is relevant in terms of the irrigated perimeters' use and sustainable management. However, as mentioned above, this is only a sub-aspect of the issue at hand.

The ability of erosion control to minimise sediments in the irrigated perimeters is a subsequent effect of the above mentioned measures within the theory of change, placing it on the next impact level. These desirable effects of this type maybe regarded as ultimately unachievable, considering the rather selective (aforementioned) interventions in relatively large water catchment areas, along with Madagascar's topography and soil morphology attributes. Sediment deposited due to erosion is a particular problem because the irrigation infrastructure, including the relevant reservoirs, is not regularly and properly maintained to the extent required. The input of sediment becomes a problem only when there is a lack of regular and proper upkeep, which includes removal of the sediments. In view of this situation, erosion control measures in the water catchment areas do contribute to reducing the input of sediment into the perimeters and reservoirs. Nonetheless, they cannot replace the necessary maintenance and other necessary structural measures. In Phase II of the programme, this explicit goal of securing sustainable irrigated perimeter use was no longer stated as part of the ultimate (impact) objective in this form, but instead was upheld as a concept and an impact indicator. We therefore rate the relevance of the measure as limited, specifically in terms of this problem or this partial aspect.

Relevance sub-rating: both measures 3

Effectiveness

The achievement of the outcomes defined in the programme appraisal (PA) can be summarised as follows³:

Measures A + B (indicator)	PA status	EPE
1) Sustainable stabilisation of erosion processes in selected water catchment areas;	Not quantified.	To a limited degree.
2) The local population is organised to sustainably maintain and manage the areas subject to (direct) intervention;	320 erosion control groups	Target value surpassed (495 groups, 9 networks).
3) Land use rights over the up-scaled areas are formalised.	Unknown.	1,700 titles (<i>certificats fonciers</i>) granted; target value (4,000) not achieved.

The outcomes originally formulated in the PA report (see above) must be deemed relatively unrealistic due to the extent and complexity of the problems in comparison to the limited area covered with interventions. In total, the programme was active in five regions. There is no baseline information regarding the full areas of the individual catchment areas. Extrapolating the figures for the size of the relevant areas (around 100,000 ha in each region), at least 500,000 ha were to be stabilised. Nationwide, the area of all the water catchment areas is more than 335,000 km² (33 million ha), according to FAO statistics. For the irrigated perimeters to be protected a target of at least 12,000 ha of directly protected irrigation area was set; this was later increased to 17,700 ha. By comparison, the entire estimated area of all the perimeters established by the FAO around the country was approx. 800,000 ha. In this instance, the indicator (1) is not specific, cannot be directly measured and so is of little use for evaluating the effectiveness, regardless

³ As explained in the "Relevance" section, the planned prevention of sedimentation from irrigated perimeters can be placed on the impact level.

of the missing baseline. The following evaluation of the measure's effectiveness specifically covers the target indicators stated above, although it also incorporates other criteria.

The original target values defined for the **stabilisation of erosion processes in selected water catchment areas and protection of relevant irrigated perimeters** were 1) the number of catchment areas immediately subjected to intervention (129) and 2) afforestation (600 ha). The quantitative requirements were fulfilled for both parameters (catchment areas subject to intervention: 140, afforestation: 630 ha). Likewise, soil-conserving land and pasture management practices were promoted, overall with success (670 ha no-till farming, 2,480 ha pasture management); no indicators had been defined for this. Afforestation efforts have been implemented in protection forests since the start of the project. As of 2010, as part of a concept shift in the context of the project, afforestation efforts began to be promoted in commercial timberland used to produce charcoal. This aimed to bring the overarching objective of erosion control in line with individual farms' objective of producing firewood. Groups of 10-30 farmers were formed for the afforestation efforts and future maintenance, albeit with areas under individual title being afforested. 630 ha were afforested in only two regions (Boeny, Diana), based on the circumstances being classified as favourable. This is largely in poor silvicultural condition and has hardly been used to date, according to observations during field visits. A lack of maintenance of the stands by the farmers is the main reason for this. The foreseeable ongoing degradation associated with this, as well as potential further losses from disease and fire, heavily restrict the intended production of firewood and, in turn, the effectiveness of the measure. The area stabilised by means of biological and mechanical erosion control measures is estimated to cover approx. 6,350 ha, based on an average multiplier value of 1:3.5, which was empirically determined as part of a project study. This area's calculation is methodologically questionable; nonetheless, taking it and the protected areas elsewhere (mentioned above) as a basis, the resulting area covers a total of around 10,000 ha in the water catchment areas. These spaces' protection from erosion can be attributed to the project. The areas in the respective project regions are 500-4,000 ha. The project is of limited effectiveness in terms of stabilising the erosion processes in the selected water catchment areas. Measured by the size of the water catchment areas and the dynamism of the erosion processes, the share of the areas selected to be stabilised and protected by the project proves to be small in relation to the total area of the water catchment areas. In the individual, small catchment areas, spaces characterised by serious and direct erosion problems were mostly cleaned up successfully, for example with stabilisation of deep erosion gullies (known as lavakas), escarpments or degraded slope faces. The programme's interventions represent a relatively small share of the combined area of the various water catchment areas and erosion-threatened areas. Measures with a considerably larger area impact than those within the project are necessary to protect water catchment areas from erosion extensively and sustainably. The World Bank also shares this assessment due to the experiences gained in the Irrigation and Watershed Management Project (cf. "Impact" section).

The project followed a maintenance approach for the erosion areas subject to intervention, which stipulated the formation of **local farmers' groups** (*organisations paysannes*) that were affected by the problem of erosion. The groups generally consist both of farmers of the irrigation perimeters (often only tenants; see above) and farmers from the surrounding area. **Overarching regional networks** were also formed, chiefly as non-governmental organisations, to reinforce the effectiveness, stability and sustainability of these groups. As part of a wider remit, these NGOs were also tasked with implementing erosion control measures and were financed from project funds. At the same time, they were responsible for independently carrying out ongoing maintenance of the erosion control measures. Based on the impressions obtained from the field visits, these groups overwhelmingly appear to maintain the shared areas subject to intervention to a satisfactory degree, according to necessity. Economic use of the stabilised areas is typically unforeseeable because of their degradation. Cases of tree planting and grass seeding in particular, however, often result in uncontrolled logging or feed use by third parties, causing the effectiveness of the erosion control measures to suffer. A major reason for this is apparent lack of utilisation plans, which would have had to be embedded and ensured within the municipal context. In fact, the groups often have shared, municipal land use rights. However, this is not a sufficient guarantee to preclude uncontrolled or illegal use of resources, due to the general insecurity in remote, rural areas. The project did not plan to involve local authority administration in area upkeep and utilisation plans, for the purpose of strengthening institutional protection of the land use. Overall, for this aspect of the objectives, we categorise the effectiveness of the project as satisfactory, albeit with risks for sustainability (see "Sustainability" section).

To safeguard the investments in erosion control, agricultural support measures and afforestation efforts, the original plan was to improve adherence to traditional, local resource use rules (*dina*) and government regulations, as well as applying sanctions effectively. Formulating and formalising village land use plans were envisaged as a means. This target was changed to **granting formal land use rights and land rights** within the scope of an intermediate evaluation – in our view, sensibly. The original indicator was therefore replaced by the “number of formal land use titles/titles of possession issued” (*certificats fonciers*) and granting a total of 4,000 *certificats fonciers* was set as the target value. In this context, distinction must be made between titles of ownership with a land register entry and the land use titles/titles of possession (*certificats fonciers*), which cover the spaces due to be afforested or protected and are issued by the municipality (*commune*). The *commune* administration was intended to grant the *certificats fonciers* (hereinafter often referred to as “titles”); to this end, the project included provision for *commune* offices (known as *guichets fonciers*) to be developed within the respective local authority administration. Establishing and developing 12 municipal *guichets fonciers* in the Boeny and Diana regions only resulted in a total of around 1,700 titles – instead of 4,000 – being granted. The main reasons for this outcome not being achieved were that the political crisis (2009-2013) led to a suspension of municipal granting of land titles, protracted application and granting procedures and the cessation of accompanying donor support (especially that of the World Bank). Information about the area of the 1,700 titles that were issued is unavailable, although it may range between 2,000-3,000 ha, based on the average estimated area sizes. Given this state of affairs, even though it was caused by external factors, we rate the effectiveness of achieving this target aspect as unsatisfactory.

In summary, we note that the main objectives of the project were only achieved to a limited extent. In particular, the extent of the measures made it unrealistic to achieve a widespread effect stabilisation of water catchment areas and prevention of sedimentation of the irrigated perimeters. The directly and indirectly implemented erosion control measures are active in the immediate catchment area. However, these are too small in terms of area to significantly and sustainably stabilise the erosion over larger expanses. The approach that the programme adopted, implementing erosion control measures via the individual involvement of farmers’ groups, was the only possible course of action in the existing circumstances. Despite the obvious shortcomings of the local authorities, we consider that the inclusion of local authority administrations from accepting more responsibility for the erosion issues in their jurisdictions should be considered for structural improvement.

Effectiveness sub-rating: both measures 3

Efficiency

For evaluating the production efficiency, the programme’s total costs were measured in relation to the areas of intervention, given that the joint recording of costs of both phases renders a differentiated appraisal by individual phase impossible. The total costs of €9.8 million correspond to a total intervention area of almost 10,000 ha (see “Effectiveness” section above). This results in average production costs of €980/ha. Factoring in the beneficiary target group’s own contributions, which are considerable but cannot be quantified in more detail, one can assume average production costs of around €1,200/ha of area subject to intervention. Spaces where no directly production-boosting investments were made and measures for erosion protection were prioritised account for over 80% of the total area (erosion control measures and pasture management). However, this calculation does not account for some of the project’s other measures, e.g. aforementioned *guichets fonciers* and granting titles. It is impossible to separately evaluate these measures for the reasons stated above. In this context, it is also necessary to note that implementation of the project lasted significantly longer than planned due to the political crisis in Madagascar between 2009 and 2013. This led to higher costs, especially for implementation and consultancy, without area coverage increasing in the process. Altogether, the production costs are fairly high, even when taking account of the accomplishments that were not area-based. We therefore rate the production efficiency of the project as no longer satisfactory.

The measure’s impacts, specifically irrigation areas sustainably protected from sedimentation and stabilised productive land, are used to evaluate the allocation efficiency. However, it is not possible to reach a sound quantitative estimate of these impacts because of a lack of data. We classify the impacts on avoidance of sedimentation in irrigated perimeters as small, based on observations and the current problems facing other perimeters in Madagascar. Similarly, the indirect erosion stabilisation impacts in the catch-

ment areas are very difficult to estimate reliably. The data the programme provides suggest that an approx. 40,000 ha total area was sustainably protected, around 9,600 ha of which was in the irrigated perimeters. However, these data are of low reliability and, as already mentioned, are based on the extrapolation of a multiplier value empirically determined within a study. As the area performance is used as a basis for evaluating allocation efficiency and production efficiency, this aspect must also be defined as low in efficiency.

Efficiency sub-rating: both measures 4

Impact

Effectively protecting at least 80% of the area of the irrigated perimeters from sand accretion is a target that must be regarded within the aforementioned context of erosion prevention being limited in its effectiveness in the surrounding water catchment areas. According to project statistics, a total of around 9,600 ha of irrigated land were protected from sedimentation, with a target value of around 17,700 ha. However, the related conclusion is entirely unreliable due to the weaknesses of this indicator/measured value. The input of sedimentation in irrigated perimeters does not first and foremost cause accumulation of sand, but particularly adversely affects irrigation infrastructure, which includes sedimentation of reservoirs and channels. This situation can usually be controlled by means of appropriate infrastructure maintenance. The erosion control measures have successfully assisted in controlling instances of sand accretion on slopes directly adjacent to irrigated land. Yet they did not extensively prevent the input of sediment into the perimeters. Sediment input is a complex process that not only occurs directly, but also in particular via reservoirs' sand accretion and withdrawal of water from rivers. More technically complex measures over a more extensive area, including reservoir management, would have been necessary to sustainably alleviate sedimentation of the irrigated perimeters. However, this was not part of the project plan. It is evident from the visit to the Betsiboka perimeter and interviews conducted with the users that input of sediment continues to pose a serious problem for effective operation and for the necessary distribution of water throughout the entire system and over the whole area. Definitively protecting the respective irrigated perimeters from sedimentation, thereby sustainably safeguarding their operation, was an outcome that was clearly not achieved. Specific indicators were to be created together with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) for the intended contribution to preserving predominantly poor population groups' agricultural minimum means of subsistence (Phase I) and sustainable resource protection and management (Phase II). However, this did not happen. The foundations are not in place for a specific and quantitative evaluation of the development policy impacts. The approach formulated during the PA, to "stabilise" around 500,000 ha of production space nationwide (see above), was also impossible to implement ex-post using the information available. The selective erosion control measures' impacts, which were small overall, corroborate impact analyses commissioned for the World Bank's Irrigation and Watershed Management Project in 2015. This is true both on the irrigated perimeter level and with regard to sustainable protection and management of natural resources in water catchment areas. That assessment also applies to this project. The larger intended impacts of protection and sustainable use of resources are prevented from occurring in full in the water catchment areas, in large part by the low area performance resulting from the interventions (see above). Although their spatial spread was restricted, the measures for conservation agriculture still evidently provided positive effects on income and time-saving for the relevant households. Moreover, the *organisations paysannes* established and supported by the programme are overwhelmingly active and continue to fulfil their functions. This fact implies that the measures implemented are attractive enough to the target groups, at least in the immediate catchment area.

An important positive impact is that the programme has definitively contributed to important development matters for the country; specifically, securing natural resources as a production basis for the rural population and strengthening the presence and continuity of government activity. This cannot be regarded as a small matter, considering the weakness of government institutions and the large-scale absence of public investments in this area. This positive aspect is reinforced by the project also being present – at least at a low level – during the crisis period of 2009-2013, in contrast with the projects of other donors. The measure's spill-over effect can be cited as another positive aspect of its development policy impact. The measure's erosion control, soil conservation agriculture and title granting measures were only of limited efficacy in terms of their extent. On the other hand, they certainly had signalling effects and showed that it is pos-

sible to implement resource and soil protection measures in consultation with the relevant population. These are also relevant to income directly and in the short term, and contribute to poor farming families' security of food supply, especially in the area of conservational agriculture, as the programme's own socio-economic research has demonstrated. This cannot be underestimated as a positive impact, taking into account the climate change in Madagascar and the measures that are necessary to adapt agriculture as a result, even if it was still unforeseeable at the time of the PA. The knowledge acquired within the scope of the project can act as a useful building block for formulating and implementing agricultural adaptation strategies. Furthermore, finding out that erosion control measures are not enough by themselves to ensure effective protection and sustainable use of irrigated perimeters on the lower reaches must be considered a relevant lesson learned. As stated, the targets set to this effect must be considered highly unrealistic in light of the complex causal network for the irrigated perimeter situation, which was already problematic.

In summary, we still rate the development policy impacts for both measures as satisfactory, even though they were geographically limited.

Impacts sub-rating: both measures 3

Sustainability

On the whole, we can assume that the performance potential the project created is predominantly sustainable, specifically in the cases of direct erosion control and soil conservation agriculture. Even areas where erosion was only controlled mechanically and biologically, which are therefore of little productive interest to the population, have also so far largely been maintained to a satisfactory degree, thus safeguarding their erosion control function. However, the fact that maintenance work exclusively depends on individual group members' motivation and initiative is viewed as a risk to sustainability. We view risks for sustainability in this area as relatively significant due to the differing interests and relatively frequent change of group members (in some cases, tenant farmers regularly changing in the perimeters as well as outside). Further risks stem from third parties asserting claims to use the resources available in the regenerated lands (wood, pastureland) and leading to "use versus protection" conflicts, although these have seemingly been limited to date. The farmers that were supported are predominantly continuing the soil-conserving agricultural cultivation methods (zero-tillage), although their impact is limited in extent. In this context, it is particularly noteworthy that these investments do not depend in any significant way for their sustainability on the ongoing presence of government or private advisory services, which generally do not exist.

It is not possible to make a conclusive evaluation of the *guichets fonciers*' sustainability. This depends heavily on the priority that the respective *commune* administration gives to it, as well as on national legal developments, as the closure of the *guichets* has shown over a longer period. As described above, distinction must be made between titles of ownership with an entry in the land register and land use titles or titles of possession, which cover the land plots due to be afforested or protected and are issued by the *commune*. Demand for titles of ownership is mostly for plots within the inhabited local authority boundaries, which is directly related to the value of these plots. The primary obstacles to wider acceptance and effectiveness of the *guichets fonciers* in rural areas seem to be the fees charged for processing and issuing the *certificats fonciers*, the necessity of giving title to arable or grazing land being subjectively perceived as low priority, and the fear of resultant property tax increases. At the same time, the beneficiaries need deeds of possession over land in the form of the *certificats fonciers*, since they would otherwise not receive logging permits.

We note considerable risks for the sustainability of the impacts with regard to the afforestation efforts (almost exclusively eucalyptus), whose condition is unsatisfactory in the spaces randomly inspected during the ex-post evaluation (see above). Worse still, there are no advisory services available to the farmers on silvicultural matters, which would be especially important due to the farmers' lack of expertise throughout the full production cycle. Alongside these generally adverse conditions, the time until achieving forestry income poses a further risk to sustainability, as this is a lengthy period from the smallholders' perspective. The farmers are personally discounting potential future income from afforestation with a high discount factor. This decisively demonstrates that the necessary maintenance and upkeep work is not being carried out on the afforested land.

In summary, we still rate the sustainability of the measure impacts as satisfactory overall, albeit with a negative trend to be expected for the afforestation efforts.

Sustainability sub-rating: both measures 3

Notes on the methods used to evaluate project success (project rating)

Projects (and programmes) are evaluated on a six-point scale, the criteria being **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency** and **overarching developmental impact**. The ratings are also used to arrive at a **final assessment** of a project's overall developmental efficacy. The scale is as follows:

Level 1	Very good result that clearly exceeds expectations
Level 2	Good result, fully in line with expectations and without any significant shortcomings
Level 3	Satisfactory result – project falls short of expectations but the positive results dominate
Level 4	Unsatisfactory result – significantly below expectations, with negative results dominating despite discernible positive results
Level 5	Clearly inadequate result – despite some positive partial results, the negative results clearly dominate
Level 6	The project has no impact or the situation has actually deteriorated

Rating levels 1-3 denote a positive assessment or successful project while rating levels 4-6 denote a negative assessment.

Sustainability is evaluated according to the following four-point scale:

Sustainability level 1 (very good sustainability): The developmental efficacy of the project (positive to date) is very likely to continue undiminished or even increase.

Sustainability level 2 (good sustainability): The developmental efficacy of the project (positive to date) is very likely to decline only minimally but remain positive overall. (This is what can normally be expected).

Sustainability level 3 (satisfactory sustainability): The developmental efficacy of the project (positive to date) is very likely to decline significantly but remain positive overall. This rating is also assigned if the sustainability of a project is considered inadequate up to the time of the ex post evaluation but is very likely to evolve positively so that the project will ultimately achieve positive developmental efficacy.

Sustainability level 4 (inadequate sustainability): The developmental efficacy of the project is inadequate up to the time of the ex post evaluation and is very unlikely to improve. This rating is also assigned if the sustainability that has been positively evaluated to date is very likely to deteriorate severely and no longer meet the level 3 criteria.

The **overall rating** on the six-point scale is compiled from a weighting of all five individual criteria as appropriate to the project in question. Rating levels 1-3 of the overall rating denote a "successful" project while rating levels 4-6 denote an "unsuccessful" project. It should be noted that a project can generally be considered developmentally "successful" only if the achievement of the project objective ("effectiveness"), the impact on the overall objective ("overarching developmental impact") and the sustainability are rated at least "satisfactory" (level 3).