

<p><b>STANDARD SECTOR INDICATOR CODE:</b> ENV-030</p>	<p><b>Tree Nurseries Maintained:</b> Number of tree nurseries, out of the total number of nurseries established with assistance from the Volunteer/partner that were still maintained after one year. (ENV-030)</p>	
<p><b>ENVIRONMENT SECTOR</b></p>	<p><b>Sector Schematic Alignment</b> <i>Note: This indicator belongs to the “Natural Resource Planning and Management” Project area and “Tree Planting and Nurseries” Project Activities/Training Package (PA/TP) within the ENV Sector but is borrowed by the following Project Activities/Training Packages within the ENV and AG Sectors.</i></p> <p><b>ENV Sector (“Home” of the SI)</b> <b>PA/TP:</b> Tree Planting and Nurseries</p> <p><b>ENV Sector</b> <b>PA/TP:</b> Soil and Water Conservation and Management, Agroforestry</p> <p><b>AG Sector</b> <b>PA/TP:</b> Soil and Water Conservation and Management, Agroforestry</p>	
<p><b>Type:</b> Outcome</p>	<p><b>Unit of Measure:</b> Tree nurseries</p>	<p><b>Disaggregation:</b> None</p>
<p><b>Definitions:</b></p> <p><b>Maintained tree nursery</b> – is one where individuals are successfully caring for seedlings and saplings, including providing sufficient water and fertilizer and controlling pests after one year</p> <p><b>Partner/s</b>—refers to the local counterpart who is co-facilitating tree nursery planting and maintenance activities with the Volunteer.</p>		
<p><b>Rationale:</b> An increase in the number of tree nurseries successfully maintained after one year will lead to more tree seedlings and saplings surviving in nurseries, until they are out-planted.</p>		
<p><b>Measurement Notes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use):</b> Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. A data collection tool to measure this indicator could be based on one of the following methods—survey, secondary data review of nursery records, observation, or interview—though there may be other data collection methods that are appropriate as well. For more information on the suggested methods, please see <a href="#">Appendix I in the MRE Toolkit</a>. Also be sure to check the intranet page as sample tools are regularly uploaded for post use. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot it, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.</li> <li><b>General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:</b> All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes—knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting</li> </ol>		

any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see “Frequency of Measurement”).

3. **Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection:** Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with tree nurseries. It provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same people. Volunteers should take a baseline measurement regarding the outcome(s) defined in this indicator (i.e. determine whether or not/how many tree nurseries already exist before working with the Volunteer) early in their work focused on establishing tree nurseries. The information for the baseline measurement will be the same or very similar to the information that will be collected in the follow-on measurement (see “Frequency of Measurement”) after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities and it is usually collected using the same data collection tool to allow for easy management of the data over time.

Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see the “unit of measure” above), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of where tree nursery activities are in their process of change instead of assuming that they are starting at “0.” It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the tree nursery activities they work with during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

4. **Frequency of Measurement:** For reporting accurately on this outcome indicator, Volunteers must take a minimum of two measurements for tree nurseries reached with their activities. After taking the baseline measurement (described above), Volunteers should take at least one follow-on measurement with the same nursery activities, typically after completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Please note that successful documentation of a behavior change or new practice may not be immediately apparent following the completion of activities and may need to be planned for at a later time. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one tree nursery has been established and survived for at least one year, they should report on it in their next VRF.

Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement with the same tree nursery activity for the following valid reasons:

- a. Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional tree nurseries initially reached with activities have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);
- b. Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;
- c. A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new activities achieving the outcome in their next VRF.

- 5. Definition of Change:** The minimum change to report against this indicator is a tree nursery being established and surviving for at least one year, as compared to what was measured initially at baseline. In the case of this indicator, if the community/individuals the Volunteer/partner works with already established a tree nursery before beginning to work with the Volunteer/partner, then the Volunteer would not be able to count him/her/them for this activity because the Volunteer's work did not actually lead to the desired change. However, if as a result of working with the Volunteer/partner, there was at least one new nursery established that survived at least one year, which would count because the Volunteer's work influenced the creation of that new nursery.
- 6. General Reporting in the VRF:** The Volunteer can only report on this indicator in their second year of service. The "number achieved" (or numerator) that Volunteers will report against for this indicator in their VRFs is the number of tree nurseries established that have survived at least one year with the Volunteer/partner's assistance. The "total number" (or denominator) that Volunteers will report on for this indicator in their VRFs is the total number of tree nurseries established in the activities designed to meet this indicator.
- 7. Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** There are no disaggregation requirements for this indicator. The Volunteer must only count the total number of tree nurseries planted.

**Data Quality Assessments (DQA):** DQAs are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

**Alignment with Summary Indicator:** ENV. IMPROVED NAT. RES. MGMT PRACTICES, & AG. NEW TECH/MGMT PRACTICES