



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Table of contents

1. BASIC PROJECT DATA	2
2. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) (DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE)	5
3. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP).....	11
4. SUMMARY ON PROGRESS AND RATINGS	25
5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS (ESS)	28
6. RISKS	30
7. FOLLOW-UP ON MID-TERM REVIEW OR SUPERVISION MISSION (ONLY FOR PROJECTS THAT HAVE CONDUCTED AN MTR)	35
8. MINOR PROJECT AMENDMENTS	41
9. STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT.....	42
10. GENDER MAINSTREAMING	48
11. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	50
12. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT	55
13. CO-FINANCING TABLE	56

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean
Country (ies):	Argentina
Project Title:	Governance Strengthening for the Management and Protection of Coastal- Marine Biodiversity in Key Ecological Areas and the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (<i>EEP in Spanish</i>)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/ARG/025/GFF
GEF ID:	5112
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
Project Executing Partners:	FAO-Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) and Federal Fisheries Council (CFP in Spanish)
Initial project duration (years):	66 months / 5,5 years
Project coordinates: <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> a) <i>Projects with 1st PIR;</i> b) <i>In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.</i>	N/A

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	16 September 2016
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	1 May 2017
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	31 December 2023
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	31 December 2023

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	3,534,786
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	15,821,620
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	2,551,563

¹ As per FPMIS

² If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

³ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD) ⁴ :	2,399,789
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023 ⁵	8,442,372

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	October 17 th 2022
Expected Mid-term Review date ⁶ :	June 2019
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	September 2019
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date ⁷ :	June 2023
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	YES

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	<i>Moderately satisfactory</i>
Overall implementation progress rating:	<i>Satisfactory</i>
Overall risk rating:	<i>Moderate</i>

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	<i>Low</i>
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Status

Implementation Status (1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	6 th PIR (Final)
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Antonio De Nichilo	ajdnichilo@ambiente.gob.ar
Budget Holder (BH)	Jorge Meza	jorge.meza@fao.org

⁴ The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

⁶ The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

2023 Project Implementation Report

GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Martin Illescas	millescas@ambiente.gob.ar
Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Alejandro Flores Nava (up to 31st March 2023) Hivy Ortiz Chour (Since 1st April 2023)	Alejandro.Flores@fao.org hivy.ortizchour@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Lorenzo Campos Aguirre	Lorenzo.CamposAguirre@fao.org

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹¹
The project's global environmental objective is to strengthen management capabilities and protection of marine biodiversity in environmentally significant areas by creating new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and applying the Ecosystem Approach to	Outcome 1.1: Improved protection of marine ecosystems with globally significant biodiversity in key areas by supporting the Namuncurá /Burdwood Bank Enforcement Authority for managing the Marine Protected Area (AMP in Spanish) and its transition zones, and creating a new protected area, established	Indicator 1.1.1: 9.000 km ² increase in the area covered by the MPA.	Area covered by AMP: approximately 4% of the total EEZ areas and territorial sea is preserved (65.000 km ²).	-	9.000 km ² along the Valdes Front are added as a new MPA.	To achieve this indicator, it is necessary to create a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) along the Valdes Front by law. To begin with that process, in December 2018, a scientific research campaign was conducted in the Valdés Front to evaluate oceanographic and biological information in order to build an environmental baseline. At the same time, a document with socioeconomic fishing information for the Valdés Front was prepared. With this previous information and in collaboration with the contributing researchers, the environmental and socioeconomic baseline document for the Valdes Front area was elaborated, which is a strong support for a new MPA. In 2021, the document was presented to the Federal Fisheries Council, which endorsed the proposal for the creation of the MPA of the Valdés Front. After a public consultation during January and February 2023, last May the Marine Protected Area (MPA) bill of Valdés Front was sent to the	MS

⁸ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹⁰ Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic co-benefits as well.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU). Refer to Annex 1.

<p>Fisheries (EAF). The project's development objective is to enhance knowledge on biological, ecological, social and economic aspects of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity, with a view to managing the protection of key biodiversity areas and minimizing the negative impact of fisheries on biodiversity by applying EAF.</p>	<p>beyond the 12 miles of Territorial Waters</p>					<p>Presidency for review and subsequent referral to the Congress.</p>	
		<p>Indicator 1.1.2: GEF Biodiversity METT score for the Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank Marine Protected Area (NBBMPA).</p>	<p>GEF BD METT score for Namuncurá: 21.</p>	<p>GEF BD METT score for NBBMPA: 26.</p>	<p>GEF BD METT score NBBMPA: 45.</p>	<p>100% of the Project goals were met in the second year of the project. GEF BD METT score NBBMPA: 54.</p>	<p>HS</p>
	<p>Indicator 1.1.3: GEF biodiversity METT score for the other new MPA to be created.</p>	<p>GEF biodiversity METT score for the other new MPA to be created: 0</p>	-	<p>GEF BD METT score for the other new MPA to be created: 33</p>	<p>This goal is linked to the creation of the VF MPA.</p>	<p>MU</p>	
	<p>Outcome 2.1: Those responsible for fisheries implement effective EAF practices.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of companies adopting EAF in their operations.</p>	<p>Regulatory frameworks include some ecological, social and economic aspects</p>	<p>At least two (2) industrial fishing companies (offshore and coastal) and one (1) artisanal fishing</p>	<p>At least two (2) industrial fishing companies (offshore and coastal) and one (1) artisanal fishing adopt</p>	<p>Two industrial fishing companies have been contacted and participated since the beginning of the Project: Glaciar Pesquera SA and Wanchese Argentina SRL. Both adopted selectivity practices developed in the project (LoA-INIDEP, 2018). Both operate in the scallop fishery and are MSC certified. Both are very active participants in the EAF Management Plan for the scallop fishery. The Project (LoA-IIMyC/UNMDP) began with a process of research and articulation of actions</p>	<p>S</p>

			in specific fisheries, but they need to be integrated	company identified and contacted. Active participation in workshops and meetings of the project.	selective practices developed in the project	with the industry to mitigate bycatch in the coastal anchovy fishery. Participated in the implementation of face-to-face and virtual workshops and personalized meetings with companies associated in the "Grupo Promotor Anchoita Bonaerense". These companies are working in the MSC recertification on the anchovy fishery. An agreement was signed with the Asociación de Pescadores Costeros, the Asociación de Armadores de Pesca Artesanal, the Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales and the Sindicato Argentino de Pescadores Artesanales (LoA-FVSA, 2018), which represent artisanal fishermen in Bahía Samborombón and Cabo San Antonio, in the province of Buenos Aires. A successful pilot plan was developed with them that consisted of placing pingers in their fishing nets, which emit an audible signal in a frequency that only dolphins can hear, so that when the dolphin is close to the net, it hears a signal that alerts it and avoids the net, avoiding bycatch without affecting at the same time the capture of fish targeted by the fishery. It is pending, with the government of the province of Buenos Aires, to advance in the regulation and implementation of the use of acoustic alarms. At the meeting held in September in Mar de Ajó, artisanal fishermen ratified the effectiveness of the acoustic alarms (pingers), adopting their voluntary use.	
		Indicator 2.1.2: Minutes of the Federal Fisheries		Development of a management plan with	At least one minutes in which the Federal Fisheries	The indicator was achieved, at least, as of CFP's Minute 8/2019 where it states: "7. BYCATCH. In order to continue with the analysis of measures to reduce bycatch in Argentine commercial fisheries, and in the framework of the actions that the	S

		Council (CFP in Spanish) spelling out the commitment to adopt EAF in its regulations.		Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	Council (CFP in Spanish) establishes its commitment to the general principles of the ecosystem approach to fisheries	Council develops from an ecosystem approach to fisheries, it is unanimously decided to create a working committee to strengthen bycatch reduction measures in fisheries, which shall be composed of members of the CFP, technicians of the Authority of Application, INIDEP technicians, representatives of the private sector, and other experts in the field. To this end, the Authority of Application is instructed to proceed with the creation of the Commission and to coordinate its activities.” Also, the principles of the EAF are contained in Law 24.922, Federal Fishing Regime, which creates the Federal Fishing Council, in its "ARTICLE 1°- The Argentine Nation will encourage the exercise of maritime fishing in pursuit of the maximum development compatible with the rational use of marine living resources. It shall promote the effective protection of the national interests related to fishing and shall promote the sustainability of the fishing activity, encouraging the long-term conservation of the resources, favoring the development of environmentally appropriate industrial processes that promote the obtaining of the maximum added value and the greatest employment of Argentine labor."	
	Outcome 2.2: An information and monitoring management system with required tools to provide socio-economic data and information on selectivity,	Indicator 2.2.1: Information management and monitoring system operational with the	Current systems don't have sufficient socio-economic information	The current systems do not provide enough socioeconomic information	CFP and monitoring committee decisions by fishery sector use information on ecosystem	The Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, as Authority of Application, that has the functions of conducting and executing the national fisheries policy established Provision No. 154/2020 - Approve the Integrated Fisheries Information System (SIIP), as a computer system for the storage, systematization and articulation of the information related to all fishing activity, replacing any other system in use. On the other hand, the Federal System of Information on	S

<p>best practices and mitigation measures, facilitating decision making on the application of the EEP in the public and private spheres.</p>	<p>necessary capacities.</p>	<p>on to guide the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. There isn't a monitoring system based on indicators of sex, age and vulnerable groups</p>	<p>n so as to guide the implementation of EAF. There is no monitoring system based on indicators disaggregated by sex, age and vulnerable groups</p>	<p>and socioeconomic indicators for their decision-making.</p>	<p>Fishing and Aquaculture (SiFIPA) has approved as an external platform for the management of procedures required by the Authority of Application to those administered, and for the secure exchange of information with the provincial jurisdictions. The SiFIPA will operate as an exchange node between the SIIP and the existing databases in the dependencies of the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture with the purpose of producing, obtaining, articulating and/or storing the information required from those administered. Since its inception, the Project has been working on the development of social and economic indicators, promoting the gender and vulnerable groups approach to be incorporated into the SIIP (LoA-UNMDP, UNPSJB; consultancies on social indicators and gender approach).</p>	
<p>Outcome 3.1: Project implementation is results-oriented and project outcomes and lessons learned will be applied in future operations.</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1: Percentage of activities carried out within the timeframe established by the work plan.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>48%</p>	<p>95%</p>	<p>Considering the years of project execution, many of the results have been achieved. However, institutional changes at different levels of government and in the executing agency, as well as mobility constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic, affected the original project implementation schedule.</p> <p>Nevertheless, a monitoring specialist joined the project team to ensure as many results as possible within the stipulated time frame. In addition, in 2022 the project team has prepared</p>	<p>MS</p>

						a work plan for the last 13 months and the pace of implementation has been very satisfactory.	
		Indicator 3.1.2: Percentage of budget lines implemented according to the work plan.	n/a	40%	80%	The difficulty in executing activities on time, plus the effect of the devaluation of the Argentinean currency (peso) had a direct impact on financial execution. However, in 2021, an administrative-financial assistant was added to the project team to try to achieve the execution of the budget lines on schedule.	MS

Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 1.1	Start lobbying with legislators about the Marine Protected Area (MPA) bill of Valdés Front (VF MPA). Organize an event to disseminate the bill of Valdés Front to influence the public agenda.	MAYDS Authorities	As soon as the bill is sent to the legislative
Outcome 3.1	Use and frequently update the tools developed under the project to support orderly programmatic and financial execution.	Project team	Continuously.

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
<p>Outcome 1.1 Improved protection of marine ecosystems with globally significant biodiversity in key areas by supporting the Namuncura /Burdwood Bank Enforcement Authority for managing the Marine Protected Area (AMP in Spanish) and its transition zones, and creating a new protected area, established beyond the 12 miles of Territorial Waters</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1.1: 9.000 km² increase in the area covered by the MPA.</p>	<p>9.000 km² along the Valdes Front are added as a new MPA.</p>	<p>After a public consultation during January and February, last May the Marine Protected Area (MPA) bill of Valdés Front was sent to the Presidency for review and subsequent referral to the Congress. Last June the bill has been introduced in the Congress.</p>	
	<p>Indicator 1.1.2: GEF Biodiversity METT score for the Namuncura-Burdwood Bank Marine Protected Area (NBBMPA).</p>	<p>GEF BD METT score NBBMPA: 45.</p>		
	<p>Indicator 1.1.3: GEF biodiversity METT score for the other new MPA to be created.</p>	<p>GEF BD METT score for the other new MPA to be created: 33</p>		
<p>Output 1.1.1 One (1) new MPA geographically designed and delimited, with a participatory management plan outlined for the “Chubut Front Corridor”, accounting for at least 25% of its total area (37.000 km²).</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1.2.1: Management Plan for the NBBMPA implemented through the Biennial Operating Plan approved through 2019.</p>	<p>A bill for the creation of the new MPA formulated.</p>	<p>During the last quarter of 2022, the Frente Valdés MPA law project was finalized and presented to civil society through a public consultation. The opinions received were incorporated into the law project and the new version was sent during last May to the Presidency for review and subsequent referral to the Congress. Document with the Environmental and Socioeconomic Baseline of Frente Valdés is available.</p>	
	<p>Indicator 1.1.2.1: Management Plan for the NBBMPA implemented</p>		<p>Between August and November, the first part of the management plan</p>	

Output 1.1.2: Support to the implementation of the Namuncurá Burdwood Bank MPA (NBBMPA) Management Plan.	through the Biennial Operating Plan approved through 2019.	1 (one) Management Plan implemented.	with an Ecosystem Approach for fisheries in the Namuncurá-Banco Burdwood MPA was designed. These works were interrupted in November until early January because the consultant was unable to complete them, but they are now back on track.
	Indicator 1.1.2.2: Percentage of the monitoring programme activities established in the new Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank I and II MPA Management Plan implemented	At least 50% of the monitoring programme established in the new Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank I and II MPA Management Plan to be implemented.	
Output 1.1.3: Document with tools for the sustainable financing of MPAs.	Indicator 1.1.3.1: Document with tools for the sustainable financing of MPA prepared	One (1) document prepared.	100% of the Project goal was met in the fourth year of the project. There are no additional achievements to report this period.
Output 1.1.4: Institutional and regulatory framework reinforced for the management of MPAs and surrounding areas	Indicator 1.1.4.1: Number of documents for the management of MPAs and surrounding areas promoted by the Project.	At least two (2) documents prepared for the management of MPAs and surrounding areas promoted by Project.	A technical document on methodological and operational tools for MPAs planning was prepared to support the training and guidance for future MPAs planning. In addition, with the support of governmental organizations, a document on strategies for the National MPA system has been prepared. Moreover, two technical training courses were held: one on strengthening the planning capacities of MPAs, with a special focus on government agents and
	Indicator 1.1.4.2: Public administration agents related to MPA administration trained in methodological and operational tools for management.	At least 40 trained agents.	

¹² Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹³ Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁴ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

			NGO personnel; and other about Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).	
<p>Output 1.1.5. Research organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies with enhanced capabilities for the exchange and joint analysis of scientific aspects of marine biodiversity to improve the effectiveness of the management of MPAs and key ecological areas of the Argentine Sea.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1.5.1: Geographic Information System (GIS) that holds information from oceanographic and biological campaigns, and environmental information available in key ecological areas of the Argentine Sea.</p>	One (1) Geographic Information System (GIS)	<p>100% of the Project goal was met in the third year of the project (http://geoportal.ddns.net/#/burdwood) and reported in previous PIRs. However, five workshops scheduled within the setting of the Federal Network for Marine Fauna Stranding Assistance were held with the aim of providing technical training on the management of stranded marine megafauna on the Argentine maritime coastline. In addition, on the Ministry of the Environment web page was made available diverse information of high oceanographic value on key areas of the Argentine sea.</p>	
	<p>Indicator 1.1.5.2: Government website that includes updated, visible, and accessible information at metadata level on the oceanographic and biological campaigns carried out in key ecological areas of the Argentine Sea until the end of the Project.</p>	One (1) government website.		
	<p>Indicator 1.1.5.3: Percentage of environmental information on key ecological areas of the Argentinean Sea collected by the end of the Project and incorporated in the website "Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales" of the National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Environmental IDE).</p>	100% of the environmental information of key ecological areas of the Argentine Sea gathered until the end of the Project and incorporated in the Environmental IDE.		
	<p>Indicator 1.1.5.4: Number of technicians involved in the management of MPAs and surrounding areas and trained in the use of GIS.</p>	At least 20 people involved in MPA management and trained in GIS and information systems.		

<p>Outcome 2.1 Those responsible for fisheries implement effective EAF practices.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of companies adopting EAF in their operations.</p>	<p>At least two (2) industrial fishing companies (offshore and coastal) and one (1) artisanal fishing adopt selective practices developed in the project</p>	<p>On September 27, 2022, a "Workshop on experiences in good practices in the artisanal fishery of the Partido de la Costa" was held in Mar de Ajó, Buenos Aires Province. An exchange was held between provincial and national government authorities and artisanal fishermen on the basis of the experiences made on bycatch mitigation of Franciscan dolphin and to discuss in a participatory manner possible lines of management to promote the use of acoustic alarms. The efficiency of the pingers was ratified by the fishermen after 2 years. Fifty people participated, including artisanal fishermen, national, provincial and municipal officials, NGO representatives, researchers and technicians.</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.1.2: Minutes of the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP in Spanish) spelling out the commitment to adopt EAF in its regulations.</p>	<p>At least one minutes in which the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP in Spanish) establishes its commitment to the general principles of the ecosystem approach to fisheries</p>		
<p>Output 2.1.1 Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan (EAFMP) for the Patagonian scallop fishery (<i>Zygochlamys patagonica</i>) adopted by all stakeholders (Patagonian scallop fishers and fishing companies, INIDEP, CFP, SSPyA, SGAYDS, and science institutions)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1.1: An EAFMP for scallop fisheries adopted, and at an initial stage of implementation during the last six months of the Project.</p>	<p>One (1) EAFMP for scallop fisheries.</p>	<p>The ecosystem approach to fisheries Management Plan (EAFMP) for the Patagonian scallop fishery has been presented to the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP). In accordance with Minute 28/2022, the EAFMP proposal for the Patagonian scallop fishery was discussed at the Commission for the Analysis and Monitoring of the Patagonian Scallop Species in October 2022 (Acta 28/2022). Based on the revisions made to the version discussed in the Follow-up Commission by the participants on</p>	

			<p>June 7, 2023, the Management Plan for the industrial fishery of Patagonian scallop (<i>Zygochlamys patagonica</i>) in the Argentine EEZ was approved within the framework of this Follow-up Commission. From there, progress was made in the drafting of the Final EAFMP document for the Patagonian scallop fishery .The EAFMP document has been finalized and its formal submission to the CFP is imminent. Then, all that remains is for the CFP to approve the EAFMP.</p>	
<p>Output 2.1.2 Good catch and management practices for the Patagonian scallop fishery, validated through a participatory process, including zoning and regulation of this activity, fishing techniques and selectivity devices_which minimize the impact on non-target species and the benthic community.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.2.1: Number of good catch, management and research practices, including zoning, adopted by the Patagonian scallop fishery.</p>	<p>At least three good research, catch and management practices for scallop fisheries validated.</p>	<p>Last May, a workshop on good catch, management and research practices was held in Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province. More than 100 people from the fishing sector, including governmental, fishermen, companies and academia, attended to discuss the topic. In the framework of this workshop, many other tasks (all planned in the work plan) were carried out at the same time.</p> <p>Through Provision 4/2023 published in the Official Gazette, Argentina seeks to reduce the impact on biodiversity of fishing gear lost, abandoned and/or discarded at sea. As of its implementation, trawling vessels operating in national waters must mark and identify fishing gear</p>	

			<p>and declare the amount of plastic crates before and at the end of the fishing trip.</p> <p>The CFP by means of resolutions 4/2023 and 6/2023 established the Maximum Allowable Catch of Patagonian scallops in management zones B and C until 2024.</p>	
<p>Output 2.1.3 Minimum EAF contents established and adopted by CFP and mainstreamed in the regulatory frameworks for fisheries management</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.3.1: Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) Resolutions supporting the adoption of EAF and its minimum contents as a supplementary instrument in managing fishing across all fisheries, agreed upon by consensus with key stakeholders (companies, trade unions, academia, fishery management units).</p>	<p>CFP issues resolutions to adopt minimum EAF contents (selectivity instruments and measures, discard reduction, fair and equitable labour for fishermen including a gender perspective)</p>	<p>A consultant was hired with the main objective of preparing a document that would include the minimum EAF contents for the Argentine fishery based on what was learned in the process of preparing the EAFMP.</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.1.3.2: Number of management measures that include some of the minimum contents of EAF in the different fisheries.</p>	<p>At least three management measures for the different fisheries mainstreaming EAF aspects.</p>		
<p>Output 2.1.4 Analysis of market incentive options (increase in business sector profitability) for applying EAF.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.4.1: Market study to increase the fisheries business sector profitability, including the gender approach.</p>	<p>Market study.</p>	<p>Based on the study carried out by the consulting to obtain a diagnosis of the global positioning of Argentine fisheries and the identification of positive experiences that could be considered for the design of a</p>	

			<p>campaign aimed at strengthening the dissemination and marketing of Argentine marine fishery products, a dialogue and training session was held on “the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF): incentives and market requirements” during last August. International experts were invited by the project, who participated by sharing their knowledge, as well as other 70 people from the academia, private sector, national and subnational government authorities, and the Federal Fisheries Council. After this event, the international expert traveled to Mar del Plata to train INIDEP officials and artisanal fishermen on the role of market incentives in the transition to an EAF, with emphasis on the challenges and opportunities generated by certifications to encourage the improvement of artisanal fisheries in Latin America.</p>	
<p>Output 2.1.5 Staff of the institutions involved in fisheries management (INIDEP, PNA, SSPyA and equivalent provincial authorities and provincial environment agencies) and fisheries trade unions have developed capacities in the practical application of EAF, including options for</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.5.1: Number of unionized fishery workers trained in the implementation of EAF, disaggregated by sex and institution they belong to.</p>	<p>Reinforced capacities (training, equipment) for at least 50 people from fishery trade unions (20%, women and 80%, men).</p>	<p>Meetings were held with The Under-Secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture and INIDEP to discuss the contents of a virtual training course on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries to be uploaded to the MAyDS training platform. General aspects were agreed upon and documents and audiovisual material generated by the Project and by some institutions were identified to</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.1.5.2: Number of government officials trained in the</p>	<p>Reinforced capacities (training,</p>		

<p>sustainable fisheries certification, from a gender perspective and with the participation of youth.</p>	<p>application of EAF, disaggregated by sex and institution they belong to.</p>	<p>equipment) for at least 50 government officials (60%, women and 40%, men).</p>	<p>be incorporated into the training material. As a result of these exchanges, work is already underway on the training modules.</p> <p>Training and dialogue workshop on "The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF): incentives and market requirements", Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata, August 2022. Training on the challenges, opportunities and requirements of international markets for fishery products, including independent certifications as one of the possible market instruments for the implementation of the EAF. Chambers of fishing companies, fishing companies certified and/or in the process of certification, representatives of the CFP, national and provincial fisheries management agencies, captains, artisanal fishermen, and representatives of scientific and academic institutions.</p>	
<p>Output 2.1.6 Fishery-related implementation authorities (SSPyA, provincial fishing authorities, PNA) have strengthened their capacity to implement efficient management, control and</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.6.1: Number of officials and technicians from INIDEP, the federal and provincial governments, trained and equipped to strengthen management, control and</p>	<p>At least 100 trained officials and technicians (40%, women; 60%, men).</p>	<p>Work is currently on the development of an application (in which inspections can be uploaded remotely and automated), as well as on the acquisition of tablets, with the objective of equipping inspectors of the National Directorate of</p>	

surveillance mechanisms (satellite system, landing control), by applying EAF	surveillance mechanisms, disaggregated by sex.		Fisheries Coordination and Inspection for the collection and compilation of information for the completion of the Fishing Vessel Unloading Record.	
Outcome 2.2 An information and monitoring management system with required tools to provide socio-economic data and information on selectivity, best practices and mitigation measures, facilitating decision making on the application of the EEP in the public and private spheres.	Indicator 2.2.1: Information management and monitoring system operational with the necessary capacities.	CFP and monitoring committee decisions by fishery sector use information on ecosystem and socioeconomic indicators for their decision-making.	Progress was reported in the previous section.	
Output 2.2.1 The SSPyA fisheries information system mainstreams easily accessible and relevant socio-economic variables for applying EAF	Indicator 2.2.1.1: Number of socioeconomic indicators included in the SSPyA fisheries information system on scallop and hake.	At least six socioeconomic indicators.	The LoA with UNPSJB for the development of SMART social and labor indicators for the hake fishery has been finished. The Undersecretariat of Fisheries will define the best way to incorporate it into the Integrated Fisheries Information System.	
Output 2.2.2 A monitoring and information system for applying EAF in the Argentine Sea	Indicator 2.2.2.1: A monitoring and information system established by SSPyA to facilitate managerial decision-making for implementing EAF in the Argentine Sea.	A monitoring and information system available.	The LoA with UNPSJB for the development of SMART social and labor indicators for the hake fishery has been finished.	
Output 2.2.3 National Evaluation of: i) efficacy of fishing techniques and selectivity devices; ii)	Indicator 2.2.3.1: A national evaluation on the implementation of EAF in the Argentine Sea.	A national evaluation.	We are working on the compilation of the different documents elaborated in the framework of the project that will make up the	

<p>mitigation of the impact of these techniques and devices on the ecosystem; iii) inclusion of the recommended measures for the implementation of EAF in the Argentine Sea</p>			<p>national evaluation of the implementation of the EAF in the Argentine sea. In the LoA signed with the National Institute of Fishing and Development (INIDEP) it was agreed to carry out a campaign for the reduction of bycatch of juvenile hake in the hake fishery and the selectivity of skates and rays. INIDEP, who was responsible for organizing the campaign, decided to carry it out in their Angelescus and Holmberg vessels. But, unfortunately, given that both the Angelescus and Holmberg vessels have broken down and could not be repaired in time, this campaign could not be carried out. Consequently, the LoA has been terminated and products linked to this campaign could not be delivered. The information that would have resulted from the campaign would have contributed to a more robust national evaluation of the implementation of EAF in the Argentine Sea. However, through other project outputs, we will be able to compensate for the indicator. Additionally, the different products delivered in the framework of this LoA, which have already been reported in previous PIRs, will nevertheless be taken into account for the National Evaluation of the implementation of the EAF in the Argentine sea.</p>	
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<p>Outcome 3.1 Project implementation is results-oriented and project outcomes and lessons learned will be applied in future operations</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1: Percentage of activities carried out within the timeframe established by the work plan.</p>	95%	<p>The entire execution for this period has been based on the 2022-2023 work plan. No tasks have been added, but an active follow-up of the work plan has been carried out by between the Project Executing Unit and the FAO Argentina Office.</p>
	<p>Indicator 3.1.2: Percentage of budget lines implemented according to the work plan.</p>	80%	
<p>Output 3.1.1 Dissemination of EAF notions and project objectives and outputs among different target groups, shaping the Project's communication strategy.</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1.1: Target groups (fishing companies, fisheries trade unions, CSOs, provincial and national fisheries and environmental agencies, and academia) identified as having participated in workshops and strategic meetings by the project's completion date.</p>	At least six target groups participated in workshops and strategic meetings by the Project's completion date.	<p>The previous communication consultant left the project team in June 2022. Consequently, a search for a new consultant was opened, and last February 2023 this position was filled. Now, the communication consultant has been working on the communication approach.</p> <p>We can mention as a success the dissemination of EAF notions in this year's workshop on Good Fishing Practices in Puerto Madryn. It was a 2-day event in which more than 10 presentations of different speakers were given on good practices and bycatch reduction. Participation reached included more than 80 people of different target groups (academy, national and provincial government, NGOs, CFP representatives and private sector)</p> <p>The communication challenges for the remainder of the year are mainly the preparation of the closing strategy, where all the actions carried out throughout the project can be effectively reported.</p>
	<p>Indicator 3.1.1.2: Number of articles that mention the EAF notion, and Project objectives and outputs in media related to the fishing industry (aimed at fishermen and fishing chambers).</p>	At least 60 mentions in the Argentine fishing industry media until project completion.	
	<p>Indicator 3.1.1.3: Number of articles that mention the EAF notion, and project objectives and outputs in the general local, national and international media.</p>	At least 40 mentions in general media until project completion.	
	<p>Indicator 3.1.1.4: Number of communication pieces (brochures, flyers, stands, videos, merchandising, banners) generated throughout the project including pieces that portray the situation of</p>	At least eight audio-visual products and one publication throughout the project. At least three of the eight	

	women in fishing or scientific research.	must portray the situation of women in fishing or scientific research.		
	Indicator 3.1.1.5: Number of mentions made to the Project in institutional channels of MAyDS, SAGyP (exMAGyP) (SSPyA and INIDEP), FAO and GEF.	28 mentions made throughout the project in institutional channels of MAyDS, SAGyP (ex-MAGyP) (SSPyA and INIDEP), FAO and GEF.		
Output 3.1.2: Gender perspective is included in the production of technical content for the Project.	Indicator 3.1.2.1: Percentage of women actively participating in activities organized by the Project.	At least 40% of the participants in the activities organized by the Project are women and LGTBI+.	As a part of the project, a comprehensive diagnostic document on women and diversity was prepared and presented to all stakeholders in September 2022. Currently, we are working on the development of two specific training on the subject aimed at national and provincial governmental counterparts (environment, fisheries, dock inspectors), academy and private sector with the objective of strengthening gender perspective in the fishing sector.	
Output 3.1.4	Indicator 3.1.2.2: Number of comprehensive diagnostic documents on the engagement and representation of women, vulnerable groups and LGTBI+ persons in the public and private fishing industry in the provinces with a coastline and that mainstream a gender perspective, diversity and intersectionality.	One (1) diagnostic document		
Output 3.1.2	Indicator 3.1.2.3: Number of agents from the target groups informed about the gender	At least 150 agents that belong to the reported target groups.		

	perspective in the activities carried out by the Project.			
	Indicator 3.1.2.4: Number of governmental and non-governmental organizations that, by October 2022, will include in their reports or strategic documents information generated by the project on the situation of women in fisheries.	Five organizations, including at least two governmental organizations by October 2022		
Output 3.1.3. Project planning and monitoring system operational and providing systematic information on annually scheduled activities and targets, and progress made in achieving project outcomes and outputs	Indicator 3.1.3.1: Number of reports submitted and approved according to the monitoring and reporting plan of the Project	One (1) Inception Report Four (4) annual work plans and budget submitted and approved. Four (4) Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR) submitted. Eight (8) Biannual Project Progress Reports (PPRs) on project activities and MML indicators submitted.	With approval of the new extension, in order to ensure that project implementation is as close as possible to the work plan, it was decided to create a new monthly report to present deviations from the work plan. The new report is discussed in monthly meetings with the participation of the Project's Executive team, and the program and operations areas of the FAO Argentina office.	
	Indicator 3.1.3.2: Percentage of co-financed implemented activities compared to those committed to	80%		

	by partner institutions in the PRODOC.			
Output 3.1.4 Mid-Term and Final Review / Evaluation.	Indicator 3.1.4.1: Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Project completed.	One (1) MTR completed	The final evaluation process was initiated on May.	
	Indicator 3.1.3.2: Final Review (FR) of the Project completed.	One (1) FR completed		

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

In general, in the last semester the project has managed to normalize the execution that had been affected mainly during the COVID-19 pandemic and due to some institutional issues of both the executing and the implementation agencies.

Regarding the progress of Outcome 1.1, last May the Marine Protected Area (MPA) bill of Valdés Front was sent to the Presidency for review and subsequent referral to the Congress. However, it is only the legislature that can pass a new Law that creates a MPA and this year is particularly complex due to presidential and legislative elections in both August and October. If the MPA bill of Valdés Front does not become a law, two of the three indicators for outcome 1.1 will not be achieved.

For Outcome 2.1, the document Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery (EAFMP) has been presented to the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) in August, and discussed in October, in the framework of the Vieira Follow-up Commission, in which INIDEP, members of the CFP, the project team and the fishing business sector participated. Based on the input obtained at the follow up committee meeting, the final version of the Patagonian scallop EAFMP document was drafted and is currently being submitted to the CFP for approval.

In relation to Outcome 2.2, progress has been made in the agreement with the Under-secretariat of Fisheries to strengthen the control and surveillance system in the Argentinean fishery. Specifically, we are working on the development of an application to systematize the information of the national fisheries inspectors. In addition, work has been carried out for the acquisition of equipment for the control and surveillance authorities and the province of Río Negro.

About the progress of Outcome 3.1 and as mentioned above, in this period the focus of implementation was to execute the activities scheduled in the work plan. To achieve this, the monitoring system was strengthened with the support of the entire FAO Argentina operations and programs teams. As regards the gender perspective, a diagnostic document on the status of the issue in the fishing sector was prepared as a key input for the training sessions that are being organized, along with gender awareness communication material.

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating¹⁵	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating¹⁶	Comments/reasons¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	MS	S	<i>As already pointed out in previous reports, the overall development of the project is MS, mainly due to the difficulties generated by the COVID-19, but also the political and institutional difficulties inherent to the Argentinean reality. Nevertheless, the execution of the period under report has shown that the project is making not only a great effort to achieve the committed objectives, but also an important contribution to sustainability.</i>
Budget Holder	MS	S	<i>Despite the issues that caused the need for extensions and the already reported challenges, the project has improved its execution pace and is on track to achieve its main results and objectives. Electoral year poses some risks but both the project team and FAO are acting on mitigating them.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point¹⁸	MS	MS	<i>The project has been of the utmost importance for the country. As a result of the work carried out for the project, on June 26th, 2023, the President sent to Congress the project for the creation of the marine protected area (National Park) Frente Valdes. This represents a very important milestone for the achievement of our country's conservation objectives.</i>

¹⁵ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁶ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

¹⁸ In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	S	S	<i>Component 1 presented the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Bill of Valdés Front to the National Congress of Argentina, after a public consultation; Component 2 contains the necessary elements to implement the ecosystem approach for coastal and marine fisheries management within the national regulatory frameworks and policies; and Component 3, Monitoring and Evaluation is satisfactory. This component also considered strategic communication and a gender approach in fishing sector in Argentina, which is set to be completed in the coming days. Project outcomes generated scientific information for decision making, brought key stakeholders together to achieve its objectives and strengthened environmental fisheries institutions. The biggest challenge for this project will be to ensure the sustainability of the results, which requires a high degree of political and institutional support and leadership from the project management team and all the actors involved throughout the project life cycle (private sector, NGOs, academy and others).</i>
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	MS	S	<i>During the present reporting period, the project has kept a good pace in the implementation of activities that have strengthened capacities in the country to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries. An important step has been taken by the current government administration in sending a bill for the creation of the Valdes Front MPA. The approval of said bill will impact the achievement of one of the main outcomes of the project. As the country is nearing general elections during the second semester of 2023, the support of the project will be crucial to keep the momentum during this period to facilitate the sustainability of the important results achieved to date.</i>

¹⁹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
	N/A			
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
	N/A			
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
	N/A			
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
	N/A			
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
	N/A			
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
	N/A			
ESS 7: Decent Work				
	N/A			
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
	N/A			
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
	N/A			
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				
	N/A			

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Low

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>
No grievance was received in the reporting fiscal year.

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	<i>Difficulty to reconcile the objectives of the many stakeholders in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).</i>	M	Y	The project’s preparatory phase has led to closer collaboration between environmental authorities and the fisheries sector, achieving agreements on the scope and adaptation of EAF to the Argentine context. Project implementation arrangements (see Section 4 below) will ensure an appropriate definition of roles and responsibilities, and the coordination and collaboration among the parties so as to efficiently implement activities. The Patagonian scallop was selected as the pilot fishery sector for applying EAF, and two of the companies involved have expressed their interest in the proposed approach. The project includes consultations for drafting the minimum EAF contents which will be mainstreamed in fishery	From the beginning, the project team has worked closely with the private fishing sector, as well CFP and APN and in the last year this work has intensified. The project has the active participation of various chambers of commerce, and the EAF for patagonian scallop was carried out with their support. As a result, the risk rating was downgraded from M to L.	

²¹ Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external, to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
				regulatory frameworks; and also training and awareness raising activities on the proposed approach.		
2	<i>Lack of appropriate resources to meet all actions of the Ecosystem-based approach and achieve an effective management of MPAs.</i>	M	Y	A gradual mainstreaming is envisaged of minimum EAF principles and contents in the regulatory frameworks of the different fisheries, and not a replacement of existing regulation mechanisms by EAF. This will allow a gradual inclusion of associated costs in the budgets of the concerned institutions. As regards MPAs, the project foresees the preparation of minimum budgets and sustainable financing plans to be included in MPA management plans.	The administration and implementation of the MPAs is the responsibility of the National Park administration, which has a budget for this task. In addition, last year employees were hired for this purpose. With respect to EAF, the specific budget will be included in the organizations that are responsible for implementing it.	
3	<i>Difficulty in accessing the necessary information to guide the implementation of EAF and MPA Management Plans.</i>	L	Y	The project, in its preparatory phase, included a sub-component 2.3 focused on information management and design and implementation of a monitoring system in support of the decisions made by FFC and the Committees to follow up on the application of EAF.	Through requests to the directors of the institutions that own the information, different meetings were organized and consensus was reached to obtain the information requested for the project.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
4	<i>Potential resistance within the fisheries sector to the implementation of catch methods, fishing techniques or selectivity devices related to EAF due to a lack of identification of EAF's benefits.</i>	L		<p>A pilot area was selected, in which fishing companies expressed their interest in the application of EAF to generate positive dynamics with the private sector.</p> <p>A special effort was made to identify market incentives to adopt EAF-related practices based on certification mechanisms and a better access to high-value markets.</p> <p>The definition of minimum EAF contents will be done through a collaborative and didactic process, with the participation of representatives from the fisheries sector and provincial governments.</p>	The project worked to integrate the fishing sector as an important part of the By catch Commission. Its results and progresses were presented in a recent workshop that took place in May 2023.	Different stakeholders have shown interest and willingness to cooperate in achieving EAF actions, as well as to share information and lessons learnt.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
5	<i>Difficulty to coordinate implementation of EAF with provincial governments.</i>	M	Y	Support will be provided to socioeconomic data generation relating to the fisheries sector, and awareness will be raised among provincial governments with regard to the expected contribution of EAF to maintaining the economic benefits in the medium run. One of the fields of interaction with leading provincial fisheries is the CFP. Work will be carried out therein to overcome any potential difficulties which may arise with regard to the application of EAF.	The project team has been interacting with the CFP, which has representatives from all provinces involved in the project, as a strategic partner to coordinate the implementation of EAF. In addition, activities such as the workshop on good Fishing Practices in Puerto Madryn, in which different provincial authorities participated, were essential to improve coordination among stakeholders.	
6	<i>Low Political support in the congress to achieve the creation of the AMP "Frente Valdés, Chubut</i>	S	N	Start lobbying with legislators and other relevant political stakeholders on the proposal, if the bill does not pass this year, the project team will include specific actions in the exit and sustainability strategy of to overcome this issue.	Lobbying with legislators has not begun yet because the bill has not yet entered the Congress. However, MAyDS authorities have started meeting with different governmental institutions, such as the National Parks authorities, with the main objective of making this project known. As soon as the bill enters the congress, lobbying will begin.	The process of elaboration of the MPA bill has been done in a participatory way, with the contributions of the Undersecretary of Fisheries and Aquiculture, National Parks Administration and the CFP.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
7	<i>Low Political support to create regulations with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).</i>	S	N	If the regulations of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries are not passed this year, the project team will include different alternatives to overcome this issue in the exit and sustainability strategy of the project.	The project team is currently working with the specific consultant in EAF and MAyDS authorities to achieve the necessary consensus to make this regulation a reality.	

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
S	S	The same rating as in the previous period is used, because although the project is well advanced in technical matters and only political approvals are missing, as the last year of the project is also an electoral year in the country, some of the results may be compromised.

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
<p>Recommendation 1: to MAdS and FAO. The recommendation is to supplement the project's implementation arrangements by setting up two working groups, within the structure of the Technical Consultative Committee. One to address Marine Protected Areas (MPA), and another to focus on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). These working groups would allow an open, ongoing, informed and transparent dialogue on the project, and would particularly allow the following:</p> <p>a) Inform and address project progress in Marine Protected Areas, as suggested at the high-level fisheries meeting held in April 2019, and in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. The outcomes of the oceanographic research cruises and other technical studies within the project could be presented and discussed, settling any disagreements and highlighting points of agreement. The Working Group on Marine Protected Areas could become a forum to hear the different voices of stakeholders in favour of and against the creation of Marine Protected Areas along the Chubut Front, start negotiations and agree on the boundaries and zoning.</p> <p>b) Sensitize key stakeholders, mainly those that can have a great impact on achieving the project's objectives (e.g., private sector fisheries) to reach a common understanding on Marine Protected Areas and their similarities and differences with other conservation strategies, as well as on the adoption of EAF, among other relevant topics.</p> <p>c) Discuss and agree on a work plan with coastal provinces</p> <p>d) Rebuild trust with the provinces and private sector</p>	<p>The MAdS adopted a different strategy. Thus, the project was presented to the Permanent Advisory Committee of the National System of Marine Protected Areas at the IV Ordinary Annual Meeting - September 19, 2022. This committee is made up of officials from national ministries with competence in marine issues.</p> <p>In the case of MPAs, political meetings were held with fishing chambers to discuss the Valdes proposal, with the participation of APN, members of the CFP, INIDEP and academia. These meetings guided the proposed categorization of the MPA and Article 3 of the Bill.</p> <p>In the case of the EAF, several meetings and workshops were held to present and disseminate the results and progress of the Project, with the active participation of government officials, representatives of the CFP, business chambers, fishermen and academia (Certification, Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata 8/2022, Franciscana Mar de Ajó 7/22, Selectivity, bycatch and good practices 5/23).</p> <p>Several meetings were held at the CFP and INIDEP, to raise the awareness of stakeholders who have a major impact on the achievement of the project's objectives.</p>

2023 Project Implementation Report

<p>The working groups would be made up of high-level or technical members, according to the kind of topics to be discussed and the current membership of the Technical Consultative Committee, and will include the participation of guest stakeholders and agencies that are key players in the topics to be addressed. Frequency of meetings will be defined as per the topics requiring dialogue and discussion.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 2: to MAyDS and FAO. The recommendation is to immediately start lobbying with legislators and other relevant political stakeholders on the proposal to create the new Marine Protected Area along the Valdes Front. The Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development and FAO should come into contact with decision-makers who can pass laws at the national and provincial levels. Dialogue could be informal and should start with awareness-raising on the importance and challenges of creating an MPA along the Valdes Front Corridor. The Working Group on Marine Protected Areas mentioned in Recommendation 1 could be harnessed for this purpose. This lobbying should be supported by Non-Governmental Organizations that are experts in the matter. This action would be even more relevant if the NGOs dealing with conservation are taken into consideration, particularly those that are a part of the international network known as Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea that has been supporting proposals and projects aimed at creating new ocean-related MPAs. This Forum has also been carrying out important efforts to sensitize key stakeholders within the National Executive and Legislative Branches, as a part of its mission to contribute to enhancing and strengthening the management of the national Marine Protected Areas in the region, and thus contribute to achieving Aichi Target 11. Furthermore, with a view to ensuring the timely and efficient attention of the Project's National Director and its Technical Coordinator (CNTP) to project activities, it is recommended that FAO comes into closer contact with the new authorities of the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development to endorse project-related commitments, including co-financing, and ensure rapprochement with the Argentine Under-secretariat of Fisheries and</p>	<p>Lobbying with legislators has not begun yet because the bill has not yet entered the congress. However, MAyDS authorities have started meeting with different governmental institutions, such as the National Parks Authority and INIDEP, with the main objective of making this project known. As soon as the bill enters the congress, lobbying will begin.</p>

2023 Project Implementation Report

<p>Aquaculture, the Federal Fisheries Council and other partners</p>	
<p>Recommendation 3: to GEF and FAO. Considering the importance of having a Results Framework that is complete, effective and robust for appropriate project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, the recommendation is for the Global Environment Facility not to approve projects that have Results Frameworks that are incomplete, lack indicators, assumptions and mid-term targets. Furthermore, it is recommended that the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, FAO Argentina and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean design projects having a Results Framework based on technical foundations for building a logical framework matrix.</p>	<p>There are no measures to report in this period.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: to PEU & FAO. The recommendation is to strengthen and again supplement the PRODOC's Results Framework and reinforce the project's monitoring, through a counter-proposal including SMART indicators and assumptions, in agreement with the targets established within the PRODOC's Results Framework for each output and outcome. In this regard, the support of the FAO Office of Evaluation could be requested, as well as that of the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit as a Liaison. Furthermore, to reinforce Project follow-up, the recommendation is to develop an Excel tool allowing: Project progress monitoring pursuant to the reinforced Results Framework; the follow-up of co-financing using a homogeneous and robust methodology; systematization of project outputs, workshops, meetings and training sessions; appropriate systematization and follow-up of the project's financial statements; and the follow-up of project risks as spelled out in the PIR, and documentation of the adaptive measures implemented. Additionally, the recommendation is to hire an expert in Monitoring & Evaluation to design and operate the tool in support of the Project's National Technical Coordinator (CTNP).</p>	<p>There are no measures to report in this period.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: to MAyDS, SSPyA & CFP (Federal Fisheries Council). The recommendation is</p>	<p>The implementation of a "document repository" is being finalized. Through this repository project</p>

2023 Project Implementation Report

<p>to formally institutionalize the management documents prepared in a participatory manner within the project, and agreed upon by consensus among the competent agencies, so that they are duly adopted through customary administrative procedures. For this purpose, it is necessary to have the Project Executing Unit design an effective strategy to promote this process with greater determination, which will directly contribute to the sustainability of project benefits. Among them, is the Output on "Guidelines for outlining Marine Protected Area Management Plans".</p>	<p>products will be made available on the MAYDS web page.</p> <p>The results of the spatial analysis of the use of marine space by megafauna have been incorporated into the SINIA National Environmental Information System, which increases the public information generated by the National State, with contributions from other institutions. The cartography can be freely consulted and each layer of information has its corresponding metadata.</p> <p>The manual "Good practices for the return of cartilaginous fish " has been finalized and is available on the internet.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: to PEU, FAO and MAYDS. With the purpose of making the review and authorization of project outputs more agile, the recommendation is to outline, agree upon and implement an effective mechanism to make this process more agile, ensuring the timely contribution of the Argentine Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SSPyA) and the LTO. This could be achieved by identifying specific stages at which the process experiences delays. According to the nature of the causes for delay, review times could be diminished, ensuring strict compliance therewith and/or the number of necessary reviewers or authorizations could be simplified.</p>	<p>There are no measures to report in this period.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: to PEU and MAYDS. The recommendation is to design and implement a comprehensive, effective communication strategy agreed upon by consensus, involving the new communications unit of the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development, to thus improve the project's visibility. Additionally, it must be confirmed whether, according to FAO communication regulations in force, the project can develop an exclusive, interactive website which is, overall, necessary to strengthen the implementation of Component 3.</p>	<p>The visibility of the project was strengthened thanks to an active interaction between the communication consultant and the Ministry's Communication area. The link between the project's communication and that of FAO was also strengthened.</p>

<p>Recommendation 8: to MAyDS and FAO. With a view to ensuring the effective mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the project, it is recommended that the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity be asked to provide their expert support in this field. Moreover, the suggestion is to consult with FAO Fisheries Division experts to draw lessons learned on the topic. This would reinforce progress made by the project in this field and would provide clarity on the activities to be carried out within each project output or outcome, so as to appropriately mainstream the gender perspective when deemed advisable.</p>	<p>Through the Country Office Gender Focal Point, FAO provided support and recommendations to the project on possible ways of improving gender considerations in Project actions and in the fishery sector. As a product of this and the work with the PEU, there is an ongoing consultancy to generate gender awareness communication material for different stakeholders of the sector, as well as to organize two trainings for different audiences on preliminary findings of gender aspects in the sector and how to improve gender considerations in different roles.</p> <p>Besides, content on gender perspective is being generated for an online EAF training course for agents in the fishing sector. These materials are based on a comprehensive diagnosis on participation and representation of women and LGTBIQ+ people in the maritime fishing sector, prepared by a gender consultant during 2022. The results of this diagnosis were presented to all stakeholders in the fishing sector during September.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: to MAyDS, FAO and PEU. The recommendation is to perform a financial analysis to determine whether, in fact, there will be any remaining resources stemming from the devaluation of the Argentine peso against the dollar and from savings in the disbursements foreseen in the PRODOC to pay the fees of consultants hired by the Project, which have been lower than expected; and, if so, outline a new plan for the forthcoming years of project execution and determine the use that could be made of the remaining resources.</p>	<p>There are no measures to report in this period.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: to MAyDS, FAO and PEU. It is suggested that no later than July 2020 the opportunity and convenience of managing an extension of the project be analyzed in accordance with the progress made to ensure the fulfillment of the projected objectives. Initially, an extension would be recommended at no additional cost for one year</p>	<p>A new 13-month extension was approved last November.</p>

<p>Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize</p>	<p>During the month of June 2023the project team has prepared a complete document that can be used as a guide for the exit strategy and sustainability of the project considering all the particularities and actions that need to be made. In this document, the project team summarizes the context in which the project started, how it is currently and how it is necessary to act for the sustainability of the results after the project finishes.</p>
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8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²². Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule	The 13-month extension requested and reported in the previous PIR was approved during the current year.	The new NTE of the project is 31 December 2023.	Project Technical consultant committee, FAO
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

²² Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government institutions			
Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)	Executing Agency	In all Project activities	Political commitment and support to achieve project outcomes
Ministry of Defense (MD) through the Naval Hydrography Service (SHN)	Co-financier	Participated by providing oceanographic information for the generation of the mapping of benthic species and habitats in four priority areas of the Argentinean Sea. Attends regularly the TCC meetings.	
Ministry of Security (MS) through the Argentine Naval Prefecture (PNA)	Co-financier	Attends regularly the TCC meeting and workshops organized by the project.	
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCyT)		The National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), that depends of this Ministry, is a TCC member. Some CONICET institutes have LoA linked to EAF; some of them ended in this fiscal year, and another one is currently in force.	Procurement of inputs necessary to carry out the activities included in the LoA timely.

2023 Project Implementation Report

Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (MMGyD)	Collaborator to Executing Agency	Participated in the elaboration of the gender analysis and the workshop in which the results of the diagnosis of women and gender diversity in the Argentine fishing sector were presented.	
The Under-Secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SSPyA)	Co-financier	In most of the Project activities. Attends the TCC meeting.	Political commitment and support to achieve project outcomes.
The Federal Fisheries Council (CFP)	Co-executor	In all Project activities. Attends the TCC meeting.	Political commitment and support to achieve project outcomes.
National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)	Co-financier	In most of the Project activities. A LoA to improve fishing selectivity and bycatch reduction ended during this fiscal year.	Procurement of inputs necessary to carry out the activities included in the LoA timely.
The National Park Administration (APN)	A TCC member	Activities related to Result 1.1 and its outputs are carried out in constant coordination with the National Directorate of Marine Protected Areas (DNAMP-APN), the authority responsible for MPA management. Attends the TCC meeting.	Political commitment and support to achieve project outcomes

2023 Project Implementation Report

<p>The Fishing and Environmental Directorate of the Buenos Aires province</p>	<p>A TCC member</p>	<p>Dialogue continued with the fishing authorities of the province of Buenos Aires and a proposal was made to create a voluntary program for the use of acoustic alarms in the artisanal fishery of Cabo San Antonio.</p> <p>In the last meetings, the provincial environmental authority, which is responsible for the category of Franciscan natural monument, participated.</p> <p>Also attends the TCC meeting.</p>	<p>It is expected that institutional strengthening will be achieved.</p> <p>Commitment and support to achieve project outcomes</p>
<p>The Fishing and Environmental Directorate of the Río Negro</p>	<p>A TCC member</p>	<p>Attends the TCC meeting.</p>	<p>The constant change of fishing authorities in the province and the lack of commitment made interaction with the project difficult.</p>
<p>The Fishing and Environmental Directorate of the Chubut</p>	<p>A TCC member</p>	<p>They participated in the presentation of the document “Marine recreational fishing in Argentina: Guidelines for monitoring and good practices” prepared by the project. They are committed to work together in the review of the draft resolution for marine recreational fishing permits that is being processed by the MayDS.</p> <p>Also attends the CCT meeting.</p>	<p>Commitment and support to achieve project outcomes</p>

2023 Project Implementation Report

The Fishing and Environmental Directorate of the Santa Cruz	A TCC member	They participated in the discussion and review of the draft resolution for marine recreational fishing permits that is being processed by the MayDS. Also attends the TCC meeting.	Commitment and support to achieve project outcomes
The Fishing and Environmental Directorate of the Tierra del Fuego	A TCC member	They participated in the discussion and review of the draft resolution for marine recreational fishing permits that is being processed by the MayDS. Also attends the TCC meeting.	Commitment and support to achieve project outcomes
NGOs²³			
Fundacion Natalie Goodall	Letter of Agreement	A LoA named “Assistance for the initial estimation of the impact of interactions between Commerson’s dolphin <i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii commersonii</i> and artisanal fisheries in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina” was carried out and finished during the first quarter of 2023.	
Fundacion Mundo Marino	Letter of Agreement	A LoA named “Technical assistance for the evaluation of sea turtle mortality on the coast of Buenos Aires, and for the preparation of a document on the current state of knowledge on the problem of marine debris in	

²³ Non-government organizations

2023 Project Implementation Report

		Argentina” finished during the last quarter of 2022.	
<i>Private sector entities</i>			
Fishing chambers/companies such as Council of Argentine Fishing Companies (CEPA)	Fishing Sector	They participated in a workshop on good catch, management and research practices held in Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province.	Support for the creation of the VF MPA.
Argentine Chamber of Jigger Shipowners (CAPA)	Fishing Sector	They participated in a workshop on good catch, management and research practices held in Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province.	Support for the creation of the VF MPA.
Chamber of Freezer Fishing Owners Argentina (CAPECA)	Fishing Sector	They participated in a workshop on good catch, management and research practices held in Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province.	Support for the creation of the VF MPA.
Chamber of the Argentine Fishing Industry (CAIPA)	Fishing Sector	They participated in a workshop on good catch, management and research practices held in Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province.	Support for the creation of the VF MPA.
Glaciar Pesquera and Wanchese Argentina.	Co-financier	Both companies have actively participated in the development of the EAF Management Plan for Patagonian scallops.	Articulate the relationship with the companies and improve the dialogue with those responsible for the Patagonian scallop fishery research and with the CFP.

2023 Project Implementation Report

Others²⁴			
University of Mar del Plata (UNMDP)	Letter of Agreement	A new LoA started in April 2023 to promote better fishing practices and responsible disposal of waste from recreational and artisanal fisheries.	.
National University of the Patagonia San Juan Bosco (UNPSJB)	Letter of Agreement	LoA for the assistance in the development and measurement of social and labor indicators for the hake (<i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>) fishery and the dissemination of good recreational fishing practices on the coast of the Province of Chubut finished during the first quarter of 2023.	
<i>New stakeholders identified</i>			
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²⁴ They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women’s groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	A comprehensive diagnosis on participation and representation of women and LGBTQ+ people in the maritime fishing sector was prepared by a gender consultant and presented to all stakeholders in the fishing sector.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	Within the framework of the project, audiovisual material is currently being designed with the main objective of raising awareness of the situation of women in the fishing sector. On the other hand, technical content on the state of women and diversities in the sector will be included in the EAF training for the fishing sector.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources		
b) improving women's participation and decision making	X	
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	X	Through the generation of socio-economic indicators in the hake and Patagonian scallop fisheries in order to include them on the respective management plans, it is expected that this information results in benefits for women.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	To achieve the indicators, each workshop or activity carried out by the project seeks to count the number of participants disaggregated by gender, to determine the impact of the project on the target audience. In addition, as mentioned in other section, a comprehensive diagnostic document on women and diversity was presented to stakeholders in September 2022.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	We made a content proposal for March 8 to provide a gender perspective on International

2023 Project Implementation Report

		<p>Women's Day. A Twitter thread was published on FAO's account mentioning the diagnosis on the role of women in the fishing sector, carried out within the framework of the project.</p> <p>We are also organizing an event focused on gender that will take place in August in Mar del Plata, where we will be able to address the gender issue in depth directly with the actors involved.</p>	
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11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
<p>Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.</p>	<p>The project does not have its own website, as stated in one of the objectives of Outcome 3.1.1, as FAO's policy on hosting project websites has changed since the design of the project. Currently, FAO encourages countries to develop their own project websites to promote the sustainability of the actions undertaken by the project. However, since 2022 MAYS has included a project section on its own website, according to the guidelines and directives of the government of Argentina (see here). This section is currently being updated with new content and the proposal is to complete it with all the missing products before the end of the project. There are 15 products in the process of authorization by MAYS. As of today, the documentary library has more than 20 materials uploaded to the MAYS website. (see here, here, here and here),</p>
<p>Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.</p>	<p>The project has a communication strategy (Click here) which was validated by the new communication consultant. No significant changes have been made to the original proposal.</p> <p>The previous communication consultant left the project team in June 2022. Consequently, a search for a new consultant was opened, and last February 2023 this position was filled. Now, the communication consultant has been working on the communication approach.</p> <p>We can mention as a success of this year a workshop on Good Fishing Practices celebrated in Puerto Madryn. It was a 2-day event in which more than 10 presentations from different stakeholders of the project were given on good practices and bycatch reduction, based on the support provided by the project mainly through letters of agreement.</p> <p>The communication challenges for the remainder of the year are mainly the preparation of the closing strategy, where all the actions carried out throughout the project can be effectively reported.</p>
<p>Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include</p>	<p>No new stories to report for this period.</p>

<p>at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.</p>	
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	<p>The project does not have its own website but has a section on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina (see here) that is being updated. In this section there is also information on the marine protected areas component.</p> <p>In addition, some of the information about the project is published on the MAYS social media accounts.</p> <p>We can share FAO's twitter social media, where we have made threads of publications in this period:</p> <p>August 2022 Dialogue and training day on market incentives for the incorporation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (see here)</p> <p>November 2022 Technical workshop on other effective #OMECA area-based conservation measures in Argentina (see here).</p> <p>February 2023 Consultation for the creation of a new Marine Protected Area in the Peninsula Valdes Front is opened (see here).</p> <p>March 2023 International Women's Day. Visibilization of women in the fishing sector (in this tweet you can access the study on the participation of women and LGBTI+ people in the fishing sector (see here)).</p> <p>June 2023 Oceans Day. We made two videos to make visible two important fronts of the project: marine protected areas and the ecosystem approach to fisheries. (see here)</p>
<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	<p>VIDEO MATERIALS</p> <p>Good practices for the return of cartilaginous fish video</p> <p>Social Media:</p> <p>March 2023 We made a content proposal to provide a gender perspective on International Women's Day. A Twitter thread was published on FAO's account mentioning the diagnosis on the role of women</p>

	<p>in the fishing sector, carried out within the framework of the project (see here)</p> <p>June 2023 For World Oceans Day, last June 8th, we made 2 videos for social networks telling the progress of the Valdes Front Law Project for the generation of a marine protected area, and another one about the ecosystemic approach to fishing. This material was published on FAO twitter. (see here)</p> <p>Media coverage</p> <p>August 2022 Revista Puerto. Frente Valdés Marine Protected Area would not affect the shrimp fishery</p> <p>Global Ports: Incentives and market requirements under the Fishery Ecosystem Approach</p> <p>InfoBrisas: INIDEP researchers participated in an event on incentives and market requirements</p> <p>Comex: Market incentives for the incorporation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries</p> <p>September 2022 Futuro Sustentable: Federal Network for Assistance to Marine Fauna Strandings Presented</p> <p>October 2022 Chubut en movimiento: Chubut and the Nation move forward with the creation of the Marine Protected Area "Frente Valdés"</p> <p>Sur 54: Workshop on the development and strengthening of the marine fauna stranding network in TDF was held</p> <p>November 2022 Agrositio: Fisheries management: FAO and Ambiente held technical workshop on other effective area-based conservation measures (OMECA) in Argentina</p> <p>December 2022: El diario web: Training on the problem of marine fauna strandings was carried out</p> <p>Canal 12: The Marine Fauna Stranding Network seeks to strengthen its actions</p>
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	<p>La chubutense: The Provincial Government conducted training for the strengthening of the Marine Fauna Stranding Network</p> <p>February 2023 Pesca Chubut: New fisheries observers and inspectors are trained</p> <p>March 2023 Alpescas: FAO's work to reduce bycatch in Argentina (specially prepared by FAO AR and signed by Carolina Bruzzese)</p> <p>May 2023 Revista Puerto: Media coverage of the Good Fishing Practices Workshop in Puerto Madryn</p> <p>San Fernando Nuestro: A workshop on how to respond to marine fauna stranding in the Río de la Plata was held.</p> <p>June 2023 Pescare: Ecosystem approach to fisheries. Handling of cartilaginous fish.</p> <p>Necochea Net: Good practices for the return of cartilaginous fishes</p> <p><u>Material produced in-house</u></p> <p>August 2022 FAO's website: FAO and Ministry of Environment train on marine wildlife strandings: strategies to address them (see here)</p> <p>News on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: A workshop was held on market incentives for the incorporation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries.</p> <p>September 2022 FAO's website: FAO and Environment provide training on marine wildlife strandings: strategies to address them (see here)</p> <p>October 2022 FAO's website: Fisheries management: FAO and Environment held technical workshop on other effective area-based conservation measures (OMECA) in Argentina. (see here)</p> <p>February 2023 News on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAYDS): Environment launched the</p>
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	<p>public consultation to create the Frente Valdés Marine Protected Area (see here).</p> <p>March 2023 FAO's website: FAO's work to reduce bycatch in Argentina (see here).</p> <p>News in the official Newsletter of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS): Environment is working to strengthen the marine fauna stranding network in the Río de la Plata (see here).</p> <p>April 2023 - We produced a press release for the diffusion of the "Workshop for the Development and/or Strengthening of the Marine Fauna Stranding Network in the River Plate Node". (see here)</p> <p>- We generated all the communication material for the Good Fishing Practices event, that includes the Press releases for the diffusion of the event (see here).</p> <p>May 2023 News in the official Newsletter of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS): Environment strengthens good fishing practices in Puerto Madryn (see here).</p> <p>- Photographic and video recordings of the two days of the workshop (see here).</p> <p>- We created a folder in Drive sent to the attendees of the event so that they can access the presentations and all the material shared in the workshop (see here).</p>
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details</p>	<p>María Jimena Elias (Jimena.elias@fao.org)</p>

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

At present, there are no indigenous communities directly or indirectly involved in the Project.

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁵	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²⁶	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)	In-kind and grant	1,266,666	491,295	196,135	1,266,666
National Government	Ministry of Security (MS)	In-kind and grant	4,716,871	312,936	298,809	4,716,871
National Government	National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)	In-kind and grant	822,000 ⁹	605,781	265,903	822,000
National Government	National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)	In-kind and grant	2,194,000	309,879	230,503	2,194,000

²⁵Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

²⁶Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf)

2023 Project Implementation Report

National Government	Under-secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SSPyA)	In-kind and grant	2,380,000	218,465	91,712	2,380,000
National Government	Chief of Cabinet Ministry (JGM)	In-kind and grant	289,800	3,247,489	3,247,487	289,800
National Government	Federal Fisheries Council (CFP)	In-kind and grant	635,361	126,008	92,210	635,361
National Government	Ministry of Defense (MD)	In-kind and grant	3,076,922	1,661,348	1,633,264	3,076,922
Private Sector	Glaciar Pesquera S.A	Grant	240,000	1,163,975	614,461	240,000
Multilateral Organization	FAO		200,000	305,196	123,475	200,000
TOTAL			15,821,620	8,442,372	6,793,959	15,821,620

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement?

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

Implementation Progress Rating. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

Annex 2.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate.

2023 Project Implementation Report

Annex 3. Updated tracking tools



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