



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021 – Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean		
Country (ies):	Nicaragua		
Project Title:	Strengthening the Resilience of Multiple-use Protected Areas to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits		
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/NIC/049/GFF		
GEF ID:	5277		
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation		
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)		
Project Duration:	02-Jan-2020 - 31-Dec-2024 (60 months)		
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	No.	Protected Area	
			XXX YYY
	1	RN Volcán Cosigüina	436797.307883 1434724.44176
	2	RN Estero Padre Ramos	447457.272509 1414886.64943
	3	RN Estero Real	477522.783922 1427692.0659
	4	Reserva Genética de Apacunca	505656.815724 1423288.21661
	5	RN Volcán Concepción	650197.300151 1275910.2263
	6	RN Volcán Madera	662775.416426 1265632.73011
	7	RN Cerro Cumaica - Cerro Alegre	639146.645685 1396169.92674
	8	RN Cerro Mombachito– La Vieja	656323.304551 1373619.9225
	9	RN Sierra Amerrisque	682692.327905 1350466.28512
	10	RN Macizo de Peñas Blancas	645634.954006 1468254.43513
	11	RN Cerro Kilambé	640268.091286 1502816.65789
	12	RN Istmo de Istián-Peña Inculca	656643.743327 1271316.39486
13	Parque Nacional Cerro Saslaya	710390.066745 1502816.65789	

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	September 11, 2019
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	18 June 2020
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE1:	17 June 2024
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) 2	N/A
Actual Implementation End Date3:	N/A

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 5,885,515
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc4:	USD 19,919,718
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	USD 565,651
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 20215	USD 298,290

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	Nov 2020
Expected Mid-term Review date6:	September 2022
Actual Mid-term review date:	n/a
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)7:	No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	August 2024

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

⁶ The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	No
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	No

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	S
Overall implementation progress rating:	S
Overall risk rating:	M

Status

Implementation Status <i>(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	1st PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Felipe Romero Vílchez Project Coordinator	coordinador_gef@marena.gob.ni
Lead Technical Officer	Raixa Elena Llauger Agricultural Officer	Raixa.Llauger@fao.org
Budget Holder	Ivan Felipe León Ayala FAO Representative	Ivan.Leon@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Hernán González Technical Officer, OCB	Hernan.Gonzalez@fao.org

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

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

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹																																																																															
Objective(s): Strengthened management effectiveness of the Multiple Use Protected Areas (MUPAs) and the sustainable use of dry and humid forests in the wider landscape in western and north-central Nicaragua to ensure the flow of multiple ecosystem services, ensuring biodiversity conservation, SLM, and climate change mitigation from land use change																																																																																					
Outcome 1: Multiple-use protected areas in dry forests and humid, semi-humid and cloudy landscapes of western and central-northern Nicaragua have improved their capacity for planning, monitoring, collaborative management and financial management.	Change in the capacity of MARENA staff, measured by capacity development indicators (UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard: 30 officials trained, including 30% of women) a. Capacity for participation b. Capacity for the creation of, access to, and use of information and knowledge c. Capacity for the development of	MARENA: a: 51% b: 47% c: 78% d: 83% e: 83% T: 81%	Not defined in Prodoc	MARENA: a: 66% b: 62% c: 90% d: 90% e: 90% T: 90%	20 technical field staff members of the project were trained in the use of the methodology to develop protected area management plans, as they are the main protagonists for the formalization/update of the management plans for the 13 protected areas covered by the project. The curriculum for a certified course for specialization on landscape restoration was designed. This course will be offered by the Tropical Agricultural Research and	S																																																																															
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Rivas</th> <th>Jinotega</th> <th>Boaco</th> <th>Chontales/Juigalpa</th> <th>Chinandega</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a</td> <td>67%</td> <td>78%</td> <td>22%</td> <td>44%</td> <td>44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b</td> <td>53%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>44%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d</td> <td>67%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T</td> <td>62%</td> <td>60%</td> <td>44%</td> <td>53%</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Rivas	Jinotega	Boaco	Chontales/Juigalpa	Chinandega	a	67%	78%	22%	44%	44%	b	53%	47%	47%	47%	40%	c	67%	67%	44%	67%	67%	d	67%	50%	50%	50%	50%	e	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%	T	62%	60%	44%	53%	51%	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Rivas</th> <th>Jinotega</th> <th>Boaco</th> <th>Chontales/Juigalpa</th> <th>Chinandega</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a</td> <td>67%</td> <td>78%</td> <td>22%</td> <td>44%</td> <td>44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b</td> <td>53%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>44%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d</td> <td>67%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T</td> <td>62%</td> <td>60%</td> <td>44%</td> <td>53%</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Rivas	Jinotega	Boaco	Chontales/Juigalpa	Chinandega	a	67%	78%	22%	44%	44%	b	53%	47%	47%	47%	40%	c	67%	67%	44%	67%	67%	d	67%	50%	50%	50%	50%	e	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%	T
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⁹ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

¹⁰ 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.

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

	<p>strategies, policy, and legislation</p> <p>d. Capacity for management and implementation</p> <p>e. Capacity for monitoring and evaluative</p> <p>T = total</p>				<p>Higher Education Center (CATIE) and help to strengthen the capacities of 30 MARENA technical staff.</p> <p>Modules of a Diploma Course on Protected Area and Biodiversity Management were identified. This course will be offered by the National Agrarian University (UNA), The course is expected to start in the first week of August with the participation of 25 technical staff members of MARENA, INAFOR, INTA and MEFCCA.</p>	
	<p>Change in the financial gap (USD) to cover the basic management costs for 13 MUPAs as a result of new financial resources after 5 years</p>	\$1,968,039 USD	Not defined in Prodoc	\$610,667 USD	<p>There is an ongoing bidding process for technical assistance to update the regulations of the National Environment Fund (FNA) as an instrument to finance the national environment agenda.</p> <p>Through the FNA, it will be possible to channel new funds to finance the execution of the protected area management plans.</p>	S
	<p>Total budget (USD) per year available for the management of 13 MUPAs by financial source after 5 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National government: \$100,861.95 • Local government: \$280,282 • Generated revenues (visitors fees): \$0 	Not defined in Prodoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National government: \$121,034 (increase in 20% after 5 years) • Local government: 336,338 (increase in 20% after 5 years) • Generated revenues (visitors fees): \$300,000 	<p>National Government: \$100,861.95</p> <p>Local government: \$280,282</p> <p>Income generated (tickets for visitors): \$0</p>	S

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sources (NGO, private sector, etc.): \$7,000 		<p>after 5 years (average of \$60,000/year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sources (NGO, private sector, others): \$600,000 USD after 5 years (average of \$120,000/year) 	<p>Private sources (NGOs, private sector, etc.): \$0</p> <p>Ongoing formulation of initiatives: i) Nicaraguan Dry Corridor, to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund; ii) Program for the establishment of environmental incentives in water recharge areas of the Nicaraguan pine corridor; iii) Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), and iv) Ecosystem-Based Adaptation – Dry Corridor of Central America and the Dominican Republic.</p>	
	Change in the forested area in the MUPAs (per type of ecosystem) by project end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry forest: 104,233 ha Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest: 21,436 ha 	Not defined in Prodoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry forest: 129,233 ha Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest: 51,436 ha 	<p>Progress was made as to the preparation of instruments to facilitate the development of community initiatives for the restoration/conservation of priority zones within protected areas.</p> <p>Through the formulation/update of management plans, areas for reforestation/restoration are being identified, as well as possible actions to be financed by the project.</p> <p>A methodology guide is in place to develop community and family plans for the environmental restoration of</p>	5

				natural landscapes in protected areas.	
Change in number of hectares of illegal logging of high-value timber in two (2) MUPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerro Kilambé NR: Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>) and mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) • Volcán Cosigüina NR: White Mangrove (<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>) <p>(the baseline will be established during the first year of project implementation, the species to be assessed are included)</p>	Not defined in Prodoc	Baseline - 10% (deforestation declines each year by 2.5%)	In the initial phase of monitoring (semester II 2021), results will be reported in the second PIR.	S
Change in the trade of vulnerable or endangered species measured by the number of breeding farms installed by families devoted or who live from its trade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange-fronted parakeet (<i>Aratinga canicularis</i>): 35 individuals seized /year • Pacific parakeet (<i>Aratinga strenua</i>): 41 individuals seized /year • Black iguana (<i>Ctenosauria similis</i>): 51 individuals seized /year 	Not defined in Prodoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange-fronted parakeet (<i>Aratinga canicularis</i>): 17 individuals seized /year • Pacific parakeet (<i>Aratinga strenua</i>): 20 individuals seized /year • Black iguana (<i>Ctenosauria similis</i>): 25 individuals seized /year 	In the initial phase of monitoring (semester II 2021), results will be reported in the second PIR.	S
Change in the number of forest fires reported in the dry forest MUPAs	109 events/year	Not defined in Prodoc	87 events/year (reduction by 20%)	<p>In 2020, 38 wildfires were reported</p> <p>In the period from January to May 2020, 28 protected areas were affected by 38 wildfires. However, it was possible to reduce the total affected area</p>	S

					<p>by 2,390.68 ha, thus achieving a 52% reduction in comparison with 2019 (4,534.64 ha).</p> <p>Additionally, at the time of reporting, 55 environmental observers and 21 local wildfire prevention brigades in protected areas have been trained on the application of first response techniques to wildfires and/or agricultural burning.</p>	
	<p>Continued presence of indicator species for biological groups (birds and plants)</p>	<p><u>Dry forest:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds: 2 species (<i>Procnias tricarunculata</i>, <i>Calocitta formosa</i>) • Plants: 2 species (<i>Albizia saman</i>, <i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>) <p><u>Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds: 2 species (<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>, <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>) • Plants: 2 species (<i>Quercus pubescens</i>, <i>Swietenia macrophyll</i>) 	<p>Not defined in Prodoc</p>	<p><u>Dry forest:</u></p> <p>Birds: 2 species (<i>Procnias tricarunculata</i>, <i>Calocitta formosa</i>)</p> <p>Plants: 2 species (<i>Albizia saman</i>, <i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>)</p> <p><u>Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest:</u></p> <p>Birds: 2 species (<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>, <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>)</p> <p>Plants: 2 species (<i>Quercus pubescens</i>, <i>Swietenia macrophyll</i>)</p>	<p>Result of the first phase of the updating of the biodiversity baseline:</p> <p>In the tropical dry forest, 2 species of the Corvidae family were detected: <i>Calocitta Formosa</i> (<i>Urraca copetona</i>), <i>Psilorhinus morio</i> (<i>Urraca Parda</i>).</p> <p>No sightings were made of <i>Procnias tricarunculata</i>.</p> <p>In the rainforest, no sightings were made of the species <i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i> and <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>.</p> <p>As to plant species, these will be reported in the PIR II. Phase II of the biodiversity study is planned for the II. Semester 2021.</p>	<p>S</p>

	Number of hectares in good management practices in LULUCF adopted in buffer zones of 13 MUPAs,	0 ha	Not defined in Prodoc	X ha, including 2,500 ha in agroforestry and silvopastoral systems (the target will be established during the first year of project implementation)	In the process of formulation/update of management plans, areas are being identified for the establishment and selection of best farming practices promoted by the project. As a first step, a methodology guide was designed for the development of community- and family-based plans for environmental restoration.	S
Outcome 2: The SFM and SLM outside MUPAs generated multiple global environmental benefits.	Area (ha) of biological corridors consolidated to improve connectivity between existing MUPAs and endangered tropical forest habitat in productive landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry forest: 0 ha • Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest: 0ha 	Not defined in Prodoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry forest: 25,000 ha (including 1,000 ha rehabilitated, and 1,250 in agroforestry and silvopastoral systems) • Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest: 30,000 ha (including 1,000 ha rehabilitated, 1,250 in agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, and 399.55 ha of avoided deforestation) 	<p>The identification of areas and prioritization of actions contributing to the stabilization of the biological corridors is in process.</p> <p>In conformity with the project document, investments will start in year 2.</p>	S
	Continued presence of indicator species in the biological corridors	<p><u>Dry forest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden-mantled Howling Monkey (<i>Alouatta palliata</i>) • Black Iguana (<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>) • Plants: 2 species to be defined <p>• <u>Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest</u></p>	Not defined in Prodoc	<p><u>Dry forest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden-mantled Howling Monkey (<i>Alouatta palliata</i>) • Black Iguana (<i>Ctenosaura similis</i>) • Plants: 2 species to be defined <p><u>Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest</u></p>	Plant species will be reported in the second PIR. Phase II of the biodiversity study is foreseen for the II. semester of 2021.	S

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quetzal (Pharomachus mocinno) • Tapir (Tapirus bairdi) • Plants: 2 species to be defined 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quetzal (Pharomachus mocinno) • Tapir (Tapirus bairdi) • Plants: 2 species to be defined 		
Restored carbon stocks of threatened tropical forests at the end of 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry forest: 0 tCO2-eq (0 ha) • Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest: 0 tCO2-eq (0 ha) 	Not defined in Prodoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry forest: 26,862 tCO2-eq (1,000 ha rehabilitated) • Humid, semi-humid, and cloud forest: 35,816 tCO2-eq (1,000 ha rehabilitated) 	<p>The identification of areas and prioritization of actions contributing to the stabilization of the biological corridors is in process.</p> <p>In conformity with the project document, investments will start in year 2.</p>	S	
*Natural rehabilitation of degraded areas, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems						
Flow (m3/sec) in 10 prioritized watersheds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Istiam River (Basin 69) 2. Mayales River (Basin 69) 3. Fonseca River (Basin 69) 4. Estero Real River (Basin 58) 5. Tuma River (Basin 55) 6. Cúa River (Basin 53) 7. Bocay River (Basin 53) 8. Aquespalapa River (Basin 58) 9. Viejo River (Basin 64) 10. El Obraje River (Basin 64) <p>(the baseline will be established during the first year of project implementation, the prioritized</p>	Not defined in Prodoc	<p>Target equal to the baseline.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Istiam River (Basin 69) 2. Mayales River (Basin 69) 3. Fonseca River (Basin 69) 4. Estero Real River (Basin 58) 5. Tuma River (Basin 55) 6. Cúa River (Basin 53) 7. Bocay River (Basin 53) 8. Aquespalapa River (Basin 58) 9. Viejo River (Basin 64) 10. El Obraje River (Basin 64) 	<p>The methodology for the monitoring of river flows was developed, defining on the basis of its application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuma River (watershed no. 55): - Q = 2.67 m3/s. - Measurement of Yaoska River Q = 0.18m3/s. <p>Continuity will be given to the application of the methodology; the results will be reported in PIR II.</p>	S	

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	Number of hectares protected through REDD+ practices during a 5-year period	- 0	Not defined in Prodoc	– 30,000 ha (Año 1 – Niveles de emisión establecidos como referencia; Año 2 – sistema MRV implantado; Año 5 – verificación de reducciones de emisiones)	The REDD+ intervention strategy of the project is being formulated. For this purpose, a technical review of the experiences developed by MARENA is being conducted and national guidelines are being identified as a basis for the definition of the strategy.	S
	Avoided deforestation (ha) at the end of the project	- 0	Not defined in Prodoc	- 399.55 ha	The REDD+ intervention strategy of the project is being formulated. For this purpose, a technical review of the experiences developed by MARENA is being conducted and national guidelines are being identified as a basis for the definition of the strategy.	S
	Number of sustainable production initiatives (beneficiaries differentiated by gender) that contribute to the reduction of deforestation for the GEF-funded ENDE-REDD+ pilot project.	- 0	Not defined in Prodoc	X (target will determined during the first year of project implementation)	The REDD+ intervention strategy of the project is being formulated. For this purpose, a technical review of the experiences developed by MARENA is being conducted and national guidelines are being identified as a basis for the definition of the strategy.	S
	Change in the capacity of the municipal staff and communities measured by capacity development indicators (UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard: 270 municipal officials and	<u>Municipalities</u> (average for 17 municipalities, individual scores are included in Annex 8.8): a: 43% b: 30% c: 50% d: 52% e: 10%	Not defined in Prodoc	<u>Municipalities:</u> a: 53% b: 40% c: 60% d: 62% e: 30% T: 47% <u>Local communities:</u>	468 community protagonists were trained on the importance of forest nurseries as providers of genetic material for protected areas, as well as on technical methods for the establishment of forest	S

	<p>local communities trained, including women)</p> <p>a. Capacity for participation</p> <p>b. Capacity for the creation of, access to, and use of information and knowledge</p> <p>c. Capacity to develop strategies, policies, and legislation</p> <p>d. Capacity for management and implementation</p> <p>e. Capacity for monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>T = Total</p>	<p>T: 37%</p> <p><u>Local communities</u> (average for 16 CSOs individual baseline scores are included in Annex 8.8):</p> <p>a: 17%</p> <p>b: 17%</p> <p>c: 31%</p> <p>d: 0%</p> <p>e: 0%</p> <p>T: 15%</p>		<p>a: 27%</p> <p>b: 27%</p> <p>c: 41%</p> <p>d: 15%</p> <p>e: 15%</p> <p>T: 30%</p>	<p>nurseries and the collection of seeds.</p> <p>55 environmental observers and 21 local wildfire prevention brigades in protected areas were trained on the application of first response techniques against wildfires and/or agricultural burning.</p>	
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Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs (Implementation Progress, IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as planned in the Annual Work Plan)

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR		
Output 1.1. Planning and monitoring capacities developed for the management of 13 MUPAs	Q4 Y5	<p>Local and central level dissemination actions about the project have taken place with institutions of the National System for Production, Consumption and Commerce, local governments, Nicaraguan Army, National Police, youth environmental movements, and other key local actors of the 13 protected areas covered by the project (7 departmental workshops and 9 municipal workshops).</p> <p>The mapping of actors in the 13 protected areas has been developed, to identify key actors, to establish alliances and to program actions with an institutional approach. 14 workshops were held with the participation of public institutions, organizations and private sector. <i>See map of actors aquí.</i></p> <p>3 management plans for protected areas have been updated (Nature Reserves Serranías de Amerrisque, Volcán Cosigüina and Volcán Maderas), that will be made official through Ministerial Resolution in the month of July. 10 additional management plans are being updated, their finalization is expected in December 2021.</p> <p>The project's biodiversity baseline has been updated, identifying the indicator bird species present in the protected areas. In the samples taken from the PAs and Biological Corridors, 235 species were found, representing 31.08% of the country's total birds, 25%</p>					80%	The project document proposed the gradual updating of protected area management plans; however, the defined strategy prioritizes the development of the updating process in the first 3 semesters of project implementation, with the objective of identifying/prioritizing the areas of influence and actions contributing to environmental and landscape restoration in protected areas and the stabilization of biological corridors.

		<p>belong to migratory species. <i>See biodiversity baseline document aquí.</i></p> <p>The bioindicator species determined for this study were observed in forest areas as well as areas disrupted by natural events and anthropogenic activities. This confirms the species' resilience, and the need to restore altered areas as well as contribute to the conservation of the core zones of the Multiple Use Protected Areas.</p> <p>A study was conducted to establish the baseline for water flows in 3 priority sites, defining the methods for measuring the river flow and generating recommendations for subsequent monitoring. 2 sites were measured and the methodology for water flow monitoring is in place. <i>See methodology for flow measurement aquí.</i></p> <p>The conceptual design of tools was made on the web platform (currently being validated with the project's technical field staff), to facilitate the management and administration of information generated by the portfolio of GEF-financed MARENA projects. This platform is expected to be used subsequently for planning, monitoring and institutional reporting.</p>						
<p>Output 1.2 Management and enforcement framework in</p>	<p>Q4 Y5</p>	<p>The project communication and visibility strategy was drafted and its implementation started. <i>See communication plan aquí.</i></p>					<p>77%</p>	

¹² Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

¹³ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁴ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

<p>place for 13 MUPAs</p>		<p>9 workshops were held to create and/or update collaborative management committees in protected areas (Nature Reserves Volcán Cosigüina, Volcán Maderas, Serranías de Amerrisque, Cerro Cumaica-Cerro Alegre, Cerro Kilambé-Macizo de Peñas Blancas, Mombachito-La Vieja and Genetic Reserve Llanos de Apacunca). Once created/reactivated, the committees will be formalized through the signing of conventions.</p> <p>The knowledge of 55 environmental observers and 21 local wildfire prevention brigades in protected areas, each composed of 10 members, was strengthened. Trainings dealt with the application of first response techniques against wildfires and/or agricultural burning. To this end, 14 practical workshops were held in PAs.</p> <p>468 community protagonists were trained on the importance of forest nurseries as providers of genetic material for protected areas, as well as on technical methods for the establishment of forest nurseries and the collection of seeds. To this aim, 14 training workshops were held.</p> <p>A methodological guide for the design/update of protected area management plans is in place. The guide will facilitate the inclusion of the gender approach and the work with indigenous people and Afro descendants. <i>See methodological guide aquí.</i></p>						
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Output 1.3 Financing capacities and financing management in place for 13 MUPAs	Q2 Y5	<p>17 environmental fairs were held on the importance of biological diversity in protected areas and to promote different local entrepreneurship initiatives.</p> <p>A Methodological Guide for the design of community- and family-based plans for environmental restoration of natural landscapes in protected areas was formulated, defining a methodology for the identification and planning of environmental restoration practices to be carried out by the families and communities in protected areas. <i>See guide aquí.</i></p> <p>Terms of reference were developed and the bidding process has started for the hiring of technical assistance to update the Regulations of the National Environment Fund as a financing instrument for incentive and compensation programs and projects in the framework of the policies, strategies and action plans of the national environmental agenda.</p>					90%	
Output 2.1 Land use planning, monitoring and enforcement strengthened in landscapes around MUPAs	Q4 Y5	<p>A curriculum was designed for a certified course for specialization on landscape restoration, to be offered by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE). It will start in July 2021. <i>See training content proposal aquí.</i></p> <p>Identificated modules for a diploma in management of protected areas and biodiversity, to be developed by the National Agrarian University (UNA). The course is expected to start in the first week of august.</p> <p>The modules of the Diploma course are: a) Landscape restoration; b) soil restoration; c) biodiversity management; d) management plans; and e) development of forest product value chain.</p>					60%	
Output 2.2 Integrated farm management delivers multiple global	Q2 Y5	<p>The restoration strategy for areas affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota in the Cerro Saslava National Park has been designed and is currently being implemented. As part of the strategy, three monitoring visits were made to assess</p>					40%	<p>A strategy for the restoration of the protected area Cerro Saslava National Park, in response to the damages caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota, has begun in the form of</p>

environmental benefits		<p>phytosanitary conditions and the state of the biodiversity in the protected area. <i>See strategy aquí.</i></p> <p>The bidding process for the purchase of minor equipment for local wildfire and agricultural burning brigades has started. The purchase of plants for the restoration of areas affected by hurricanes, and the consolidation of the nursery of the Center for Regional Information and Communication for the Humid Tropics (CICABO) has initiated as well. The Center is a key element that will produce plant material for the reforestation of degraded areas and the implementation of strategies to accompany smallholder farmers in the municipality of Bonanza in climate change adaptation and mitigation processes with technical and scientific elements.</p> <p>The farm selection process and the identification of low environmental impact technologies for the implementation of the farm plans is under way.</p>						an emergency response as a contribution to the restoration of the protected area.
Output 2.3 Performance-based compensation mechanism for the wider landscape in place	Q4 Y5	Activities programmed starting from year 2					0%	

4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

- a. The process of formulation/updating management plans of 13 protected areas has begun. At present, three management plans have been updated and 10 are in process. This has permitted the identification of the key local actors, the prioritized zones, and the possible community initiatives to be supported by the project.
- b. MARENA has reviewed and updated a series of institutional instruments to facilitate the management of protected areas: web-based conceptual design for the management and administration of information on the protected areas; methodological guide for the development of community- or family-based plans for the restoration of natural landscapes in protected areas; and a project communications and visibility strategy.
- c. One of the attended protected areas is Cerro Saslaya National Park; in the most recent years, according to the study of causes of deforestation and forest degradation, losses of forest caused by the hurricanes Iota and Eta were identified. The project defined and is currently implementing a restoration strategy that includes monitoring of the phytosanitary conditions, forest fire control, training of and awareness raising with the local actors, and reforestation in the most affected zones.
- d. Technical methodological tools to facilitate the planning and monitoring process of the different project activities are in place. A process for capacity building of MARENA technicians, Environmental Observers, Fire Prevention Brigades and protagonists in the 13 protected areas has been developed.
- e. A process for raising awareness on the importance and care for the environment and the protected areas has been implemented, through the development of Environmental Fairs where 2647 actors have participated, of which 1,167 were adult males, 1,462 adult females, and 18 children.
- f. Participation of the local Government and the central institutions in the actions undertaken by the project: MINED, MINSA, INAFOR, INTA, MECCA, IPSA.

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

1. Process of environmental consciousness-raising: The communities and different actors play a relevant role in the promotion and implementation of actions for the preservation of the environment. Thus, awareness raising and the development of environmental values are key, because these are the factors that impact the practices and behavior of the people.
2. Interests of the economic activities developed in the territory: in this sense, the identification of the principal social actors and economic agents, such as ecotourism, farming and ranching, will determine the real possibilities in the adoption of good environmental practices in the territory.

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.

FY2021 Development Objective rating ¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating ¹⁷	Comments/reasons ¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
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¹⁶ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

<p>Project Manager / Coordinator</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>The proposed project indicators were effectively evaluated during the formulation (2015), identifying the need to update the current situation in the territory of the intervention and the ecological dynamic of the respective protected areas.</p> <p>Through participative activities, the key protagonists and organizations were mapped in the development of activities on the level of the territory, identifying the necessary community networks for the formation of collaborative management of the respective protected areas.</p> <p>Gender equity was guaranteed in the training and strengthening actions and in the consultation workshops, in the framework of updating and/or development of protected area management plans.</p> <p>A critical path for the management plan updates and/or development was defined, based on the current state of the 13 protected areas of the project.</p> <p>Management instruments for the restoration of degraded areas and for the delivery of incentives in the framework of the subsidiary projects and the farm management plans were developed.</p> <p>Project activities contributed to the restoration of the rights of indigenous peoples by highlighting the cosmo-vision of the original communities as a fundamental axis for the development and/or update of the management plans.</p> <p>The capacities of the local producers, the technicians, and the institutions were strengthened for the monitoring of the environmental events, fire control, and the production of plants in nurseries.</p> <p>Environmental fairs were held to raise the awareness of children, youth, and adults, regarding the care and management of natural resources in the protected areas.</p>
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Budget Holder	S	S	<p>The progress in the fulfillment of the global development and/or environmental objectives is satisfactory, considering that in this period, advancements have been made in the definition of the different key and necessary mechanisms for the implementation of the activities that will facilitate the achievement of the anticipated products and results, in order to reach the overall objective. These key activities are the updating of the implementation strategy, the presentations in the communities, training of personnel, communication with the different stakeholders interested in the activities, whether in the present or future, consultation workshops, updating the baseline, alliances with research centers and universities, and equally, those that refer to the processes of contracting, organization, and administration.</p> <p>The progress made on the implementation during this period is equally satisfactory, considering that the hurricanes Eta and Iota produced important challenges to the execution of activities; of course, also during this year a special emphasis was placed on the preparation of the technical, organizational, and administrative conditions that were mentioned in the previous paragraph. Continued effort should be made on detailed planning and on the follow-up of project implementation, to keep the project execution in a steady flow.</p>
GEF Operational Focal Point	S	S	<p>Through the execution of the different Project activities, a process of institutionalization in them was achieved, where the implemented activities complement other activities in the territory which are performed by MARENA, which permit a comprehensiveness in the attention to the beneficiaries in the 13 protected areas.</p>
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	S	S	<p>During this period, progress of project components, outcomes and outputs reports significant advances. Development of 13 management plans in protected areas, gender analysis and free prior and informed consent are some of the most relevant activities that we should mention during this period. Also, the design of a curriculum for a certified course on landscape restoration is a relevant activity that promotes landscape management and resilience of protected areas and their buffer zones. This activity is also linked with a restoration strategy of a National park such as Cerro Saslaya, which suffer several damages as a consequence of hurricanes Eta and Iota. Intervention strategy is in progress to achieve relevant results.</p>
FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	S	S	<p>The overall progress of the project is satisfactory. Many important milestones have been already achieved despite the COVID crisis throughout 2020 and 2021. The project is updating or formulating management plans for 13 protected areas, is delivering a wide range of trainings to national personnel on forest restoration etc. and ultimately has adapted to the current circumstances approaching the most relevant drivers of ecosystem degradation such as forest loss due to hurricane Eta and Iota. Communication and awareness raising strategies have been developed which are crucial in environmental projects.</p>

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

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft).

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. 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 add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

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				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Environmental and social risk classification still valid.

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.

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE					
<i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The <u>Notes</u> column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, as relevant.</i>					
	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

²¹ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²² If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period”.

<p>1</p>	<p>Limited benefits to farmers from conservation and SFM and SLM sustain pressure on PAs from competing land uses.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>To mitigate this risk, the project will make use of conservation-based and SFM-based incentives (including performance-based payment plans) to promote the implementation of sustainable production practices.</p> <p>Farmers participating in these activities will be properly informed about the benefits of conservation and SFM and SLM and will benefit from related training. In addition, farmers will receive assistance from the project for the development of integrated farm management plans that will specify the spatial and temporal arrangements of different land uses across farms, allowing farmers to improve on-farm sustainability.</p>	<p>Even though these activities have not begun yet, some steps have been taken to mitigate this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A wide-ranging process for the presentation of the project, with its achievements, goals, and activities, was carried out for the protagonists in the protected areas. b. A methodological manual for the development of community and family plans for environmental restoration of natural landscapes in protected areas was produced. <p>This instrument defines the methodology for the identification and planning of environmental restoration practices to be executed by the families and communities in the protected areas.</p> <p>In the framework of the formulation/updating of the management plans in the protected areas, advances were made in the zoning and identification of the priority areas and the diverse low-environmental impact initiatives that can be implemented by the protagonists; equally, opportunities for alliances with different actors in the protected areas were identified.</p>	
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<p>2</p>	<p>Failures in the functioning of relations between PA staff and municipal authorities limits the integration of PA management with conservation efforts in the wider landscape</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>To promote collaboration between PA staff and municipal authorities, the project will make use of collaborative agreements that allow the joint management of PAs. By doing so, municipal authorities will be able to more easily integrate conservation efforts within and from outside of the PAs, while PA authorities will have a chance to buffer PAs more effectively.</p> <p>Both PA staff and municipal authorities will have access to information and monitoring systems that will facilitate the exchange of information and enable joint decision-making. Furthermore, the project will involve both parts in all stages of the project’s design phase as a way to promote early collaboration and to build trust. During project implementation, the joint development and application of work plans and indicators will be promoted.</p>	<p>A mapping of the actors was made in the 13 protected areas in coordination with the municipal authorities and institutions, which has allowed for the identification of activities, opportunities for alliances, and joint planning processes.</p> <p>Priority was given to the development/update of the protected area management plans and along with them, the mapping of actors for the development of the Collaborative Management Committees of the Protected Areas (3 in the final phase of formalization and 10 in process). The municipal governments are fundamental actors in the Committees to achieve the objectives of the protected area management plans.</p> <p>Capacity strengthening activities will be conducted with technical staff of the environmental offices of the Municipal Governments.</p>	
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3	<p>Poorly developed tenure conditions limit producers' eligibility for REDD+ and other incentives.</p>	M	<p>In order to reduce the risk related to the lack of clarity regarding land property and use rights, the project will work closely with local governments to coordinate land titling, respecting all existing forms and regulations that guarantee those rights. In the cases where there is little clarity or conflict exists regarding property and use rights, the project will assume a conciliatory approach in order to arrive at the best solution possible for all parties without compromising the achievement of the project's outcomes.</p>	<p>A methodological manual is available, to define the selection criteria for protagonists and farms for the 13 protected areas.</p> <p>The formulation of the REDD+ activities in the project has begun. Their implementation is anticipated to begin in Year 2.</p>	
4	<p>Carbon financing is unsustainable to guarantee payments for ecosystem services.</p>	M	<p>FONADEFO will provide performance-based compensation as part of the GEF ENDE-REDD + trial project. FONADEFO is an INAFOR-managed financial mechanism designed to: a) Support forestry programs and projects that promote sustainable forest management (MSB); b) Increase economic development; c) Conserve natural resources; d) Develop markets for payment for environmental services (PES); and e) Protect the environment.</p> <p>FONADEFO receives funding from the national budget, national and international donations, and partnerships with other organizations. Multilateral sources account for half of the revenue generated by forestry operations. The PES will be financed with the help of FONADEFO funding.</p>	<p>In the context of the GEF 5 project, Nicaragua is currently in the process of making the National Environmental Fund operational.</p> <p>This fund was created by Law 217, "General Law for the Environment and Natural Resources", published in La Gaceta No. 105, 6 June 1996, as a financial entity with access to private and public funding sources, with the aim of capturing and managing financial resources for the development and financing of programs and projects for the protection, conservation, and restoration of the environment and natural resources, for a sustainable development and the adaptation to and mitigation of Climate Change; in this sense, through this fund, the sustainability of the incentives for carbon capture is guaranteed, once the project is finalized.</p>	

5	Degradation of the tropical dry forest and loss of forest coverage as a consequence of extreme climatic events	L	The risks related to climate change may include more intense dry seasons and/or torrential rains associated with tropical storms and hurricanes. This could lead to increased forest degradation, including changes to plant communities or forest/ecosystem cover due to landslides, accelerated loss of soil, and desertification. The project's actions for sustainable forest and ecosystem management will translate into more solid and increased coverage, as well as healthier forests (for example, diversity of age classes and greater regenerative capacity) that are resilient to climate variability. In addition, there will be greater protection of the soil and regulation of hydric cycles that generate stable microclimatic conditions with benefits for their associated species and forests, as well as a reduction of vulnerability of local communities to climate change.	The purchase of materials and strengthening of capacities among the protagonists for the development of forest plant nurseries has been accomplished. Additionally, Environmental Fairs have been held for awareness-raising on the environment and implications of climate change.	
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Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	M	MARENA has taken the necessary actions to mitigate the stated risks, thus permitting the implementation of the work plan in the territories according to the program. Other key elements are the coordination and participation among institutions as well as local governments.

7. Adjustments to Project Strategy – Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation 4:	

Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs		
Project Indicators/Targets		<p>Inclusion of a protected area to be benefitted by the project, the number thus rising from 12 to 13. This incorporation was approved by the respective parties during the initiation workshop executed in June 2020. <i>See the workshop report aquí.</i></p> <p>The Emissions Reduction Program for the Combat against Climate Change and Poverty in the Caribbean Coast, Bosawás Biosphere Reserve and Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, defines as one of the Corridors for carbon accounting, the Peñas Blancas-</p>

	Bosawas Biological Corridor, as can be noted in the following table:	
	Extensión de los corredores biológicos del área de contabilidad	
	No	Corredor/Uso
	Área	
1	Amerrisque-Musum	2,411.00
2	Corredor BiológicoAtlántico	1,168,883.12
3	Corredor Central	16,243.81
4	El Castillo-San Juan	74,664.45
5	Musun-Quiragua-Masigue	31.17
6	Peñas-Blancas-Bosawas	142,614.03
7	Saslaya-Wawa	42,288.39
	Total, general	1,447,135.95
<p>Considering the above, it was decided to widen the connectivity zone for the Biological Corridor between the Macizo de Peñas Blancas Nature Reserve, Cerro Kilambé, up to Saslaya (in Siuna) in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>See the proposal to adjust the logical framework aquí.</p>		

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	<p>Original NTE: _____ Revised NTE: _____</p> <p>Justification: _____</p>

8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))		
Actores	Categoría	Mecanismo de participación
Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)	Public Sector	<p>MARENA Territorial Delegations have guaranteed the participation of local actors (individuals, public institutions, and organizations) in the different activities of the Project in its territories; they have also supported the identification of key actors for the management of the protected areas.</p> <p>Technical staff members of the Natural Heritage General Direction of MARENA are responsible for the implementation of the strategy for the development and updates of the protected area management plans.</p> <p>Additionally, they have trained the project field technicians in the methodology of protected area management plan development.</p>
Institutions of the National System of Production, Consumption, and Commerce: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative, and Associative Economy (MEFCCA) 2. Ministry of Education (MINED) 3. National Forestry Institute (INAFOR) 4. Nicaraguan Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA) 	Public Sector	<p>Participation in environmental fairs, workshops for the formation of forestry nurseries, workshops for mapping of actors, and for the formation and/or updating of collaborative management committees in protected areas.</p>
Municipalidades de: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Altagracia 2. Boaco 3. Comalapa 4. El Cuá 5. El Tuma-La Dalia 6. El Viejo 7. Juigalpa 8. La Libertad 9. Moyogalpa 10. Puerto Morazán 11. Rancho Grande 12. San Francisco de Cuapa 13. San José de los Remates 14. San Pedro de Lóvago 15. Santa Lucía 	Local Governments	<p>Participation in the consultation and validation workshops for the protected area management plans and in the certification of the plans.</p> <p>Participation in local environmental fairs and in collaborative management committee formation/updating workshops.</p>

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))		
Actores	Categoría	Mecanismo de participación
16. Siuna 17. Somotillo 18. Villanueva 19. Wiwili		
Environmental Organizations: 1. Biometepe 2. Tecuilcán 3. Fauna & Flora International 4. Fundación entre Volcanes 5. ANIFODA 6. OLAM 7. Global Village 8. Organization for the Economic and Social Development in Urban and Rural Areas (ODESAR) 9. Acción Médica Cristiana (Christian Medical Aid) 10. Association for Community Diversification and Agricultural Development (ADDAC)	Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	Participation in consultative and validation workshops for the management plans and in the environmental fairs.
Drinking Water and Sanitation Committees	Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	Participation in workshops for the mapping of actors and for the formation and /or updating of collaborative management committees in protected areas.
Local Communities	Others	Participation in consultative and validation workshops for the management plans and in workshops for the formation and/or updating of the collaborative management committees in the protected areas.
National Agrarian University	Research and academic institutions	Identification of modules for a Diploma Course in Management or Protected Areas and Biodiversity.
Tropical Center for Agricultural Research and Teaching (CATIE)	Research and academic institutions	Curricular design for a certification course specializing in landscape restoration.
Shrimp businesses: 1. CAMANICA. 2. SEAJJOY. Coffee Exporters: 1. CISA exporter 2. ATLANTIC	Private sector	Participation in workshops for the mapping of actors and for the formation and /or updating of collaborative management committees in protected areas.
National Army	Public sector	Participation in the monitoring activities in Cerro Saslaya, as part of the strategy of control and preservation of the natural resources.
National Police	Public sector	Participation in the monitoring activities in Cerro Saslaya, as part of the strategy of control and preservation of the natural resources.

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))		
Actores	Categoría	Mecanismo de participación
Firefighters Organization	Public sector	Training to the local fire brigades in fighting forest and farm fires.
Secretariat for the development of the Caribbean Coast	Public sector	Accompaniment in the definition of the strategy for restoration in the affected areas by the impacts of hurricanes Eta and Iota in the Cerro Saslaya National Park. Participation in work sessions with the Indigenous Territorial Government (ITG) Mayangna Sauni Bas (Sikilta), to a) present the project; b) define the work plan, and c) following steps to begin the process of Prior, Free and Informed Consent (PFIC).
Indigenous Territorial Government (ITG) Mayangna Sauni Bas (Sikilta)	Local Government	Participation in the training processes for the control of forest and farm fires and for the establishment of forest nurseries. Work sessions to a) present the project, b) define the work plan, and c) following steps to begin the process of Prior, Free and Informed Consent (PFIC).
Autonomous Regional Government of the Northern Caribbean Coast: Secretariat for Natural Resources (SERENA)	Regional Government	Participation in work sessions to define the strengthening of the Regional Center for Information and Communication for the Humid Tropics (CICABO). Participation in work sessions with the Indigenous Territorial Government (ITG) Mayangna Sauni Bas (Sikilta), to a) present the project; b) define the work plan, and c) following steps to begin the process of Prior, Free and Informed Consent (PFIC).

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)
<p>With the aim of achieving effective cross-cutting of the gender approach in the project actions, the Gender Action plan is being constructed on a participatory basis with the support of a gender specialist, who has developed the following actions in coordination with the project team and FAONI gender focal point:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A gender analysis to examine the gaps, roles, rights, needs and opportunities for women and men, boys and girls, mestizo and indigenous persons in the context of the project ii. The review, validation of and/or adjustments in gender matters contained in the components of the project documents iii. Methodological route to include gender in the protected area management plans

As the first action to apply the methodological route for the incorporation of gender in the updating / formulation of management plan for Peñas Blancas protected area, a workshop was held in the municipality of Jinotega with the participation of the Peñas Blancas Environmentalist Network of the Municipality of El Cua. The workshop was attended by 21 protagonists (19 women and 2 men). *See the workshop report [here](#)*

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

The project has a communications specialist who fulfills his/her functions in coordination with the MARENA Dissemination and Press Unit and the FAONI Communications Unit.

At present, the “Environmental communication and visibility plan” of the project has been designed and is being executed with the objective of:

- i. Raising awareness among the project protagonists for adopting and putting into practice good environmental, socio-cultural and economic practices by implementing communication and visibility actions
- ii. Disseminating actions and results generated by the project through online platforms and media, at the national as well as local level.
- iii. Strengthening the capacities of MARENA technical staff and specialists to facilitate the communication and dissemination of project actions.

Since January, 24 press releases and 1 article have been published, as well as 349 post in MARENA social media (Facebook, Twitter e Instagram), and 4 radio spots were broadcast in the MARENA program “Community in the Environment” in Radio La Primerísima; 1 live interview was made in this radio programme as well. As to the GEF 5 visibility products, 41 posts have been published in social media and on the institutional website, 2 backdrops, 2 agendas, as well as 4 printed vinyl banners, and 3 designs for thermoses and souvenirs.

You can access the following communication products:

- a) MARENA presenta resultados del diagnóstico realizado en la Reserva Natural Estero Padre Ramos: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/06/10/marena-presenta-resultados-del-diagnostico-realizado-en-la-reserva-natural-estero-padre-ramos/>
- b) MARENA a través de su proyecto GEF 5 presenta plan de trabajo a territorio indígena: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/06/10/marena-a-traves-de-su-proyecto-gef-5-presenta-plan-de-trabajo-a-territorio-indigena/>
- c) MARENA y la UNA firman convenio de colaboración: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/06/10/marena-y-la-una-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion/>
- d) MARENA presenta importancia de la diversidad biológica en el Departamento de Boaco: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/06/10/marena-presenta-importancia-de-la-biodiversidad-biologica-en-el-departamento-de-boaco/>
- e) MARENA continúa reafirmando su compromiso por el cuidado de nuestras riquezas naturales: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/05/29/marena-continua-reafirmando-su-compromiso-por-el-cuido-de-nuestras-riquezas-naturales/>
- f) Comunitarios de la Reserva de la biosfera Isla de Ometepe, comprometidos en la conservación ambiental: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/06/03/comunitarios-de-la-reserva-de-la-biosfera-isla-de-ometepe-comprometidos-en-la-conservacion-ambiental/>
- g) Avanza actualización del plan de manejo de la Reserva Natural Padre Ramos en Chinandega: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/05/20/avanza-actualizacion-del-plan-de-manejo-de-la-reserva-natural-padre-ramos-en-chinandega/>
- h) MARENA en encuentro ambiental con Gobierno Territorial Indígena en Siuna: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/05/19/marena-en-encuentro-ambiental-con-gobierno-territorial-indigena-en-siuna/>
- i) Por la protección de nuestras áreas protegidas MARENA realiza Congreso Departamental contra Incendios: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/04/29/para-la-proteccion-de-nuestras-areas-protegidas-marena-realiza-congreso-departamental-contra-incendios/>
- j) MARENA desarrolló talleres ambientales para la prevención de incendios forestales y agropecuarios: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/04/28/marena-desarrollo-talleres-ambientales-para-la-prevencion-de-incendios-forestales-y-agropecuarios/>
- k) Encuentros ambientales y asambleas comunitarias para la prevención de incendios en áreas protegidas: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/04/28/encuentros-ambientales-y-asambleas-comunitarias-para-la-prevencion-de-incendios-en-areas-protegidas/>
- l) En Chontales es presentado el plan de manejo de la Reserva Natural Serranías de Amerisque: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/04/08/en-chontales-es-presentado-el-plan-de-manejo-de-la-reserva-natural-serranias-de-amersique/>

- m) Prevenir los incendios forestales en responsabilidad de todas y todos: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/03/31/prevenir-los-incendios-forestales-es-responsabilidad-de-todas-y-todos/>
- n) Feria ambiental sobre importancia de la diversidad biológica en áreas protegidas: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/03/17/feria-ambiental-sobre-importancia-de-la-diversidad-biologica-en-areas-protegidas/>
- o) Lanzamiento de estrategia nacional para la prevención y control de incendios forestales y agropecuarios en áreas protegidas en Waspán – RACCN: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/02/27/lanzamiento-de-estrategia-nacional-para-la-prevencion-y-control-de-incendios-forestales-y-agropecuarios-en-areas-protegidas-en-waspan-raccn/>
- p) MARENA realiza primera feria de sensibilización en Somotillo para promover la formación de valores en áreas protegidas: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/02/11/marena-realiza-primer-feria-de-sensibilizacion-en-somotillo-para-promover-la-formacion-de-valores-y-la-resiliencia-de-las-areas-protegidas/>
- q) MARENA promueve formación de valores para la resiliencia de las áreas protegidas: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/02/10/marena-promueve-formacion-de-valores-para-la-resiliencia-de-las-areas-protegidas/>
- r) Gobierno promueve la conservación de la Reserva Natural Cerro Mombachito – La Vieja: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/02/19/gobierno-promueve-la-conservacion-de-la-reserva-natural-cerro-mombachito-la-vieja/>
- s) MARENA fortalece capacidades de observadores ambientales: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/02/16/feria-ambiental-es-ejecutada-en-el-municipio-el-viejo-sobre-la-importancia-de-la-diversidad-biologica-de-las-areas-protegidas/>
- t) MARENA realizó taller sobre el Plan de Manejo de Serranías de Amerrisque: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/02/04/marena-realizo-taller-sobre-el-plan-de-manejo-de-serranias-de-amerrisque/>
- u) Presentan guía actualizada del ciclo de proyectos y programas del GEF: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/01/29/presentan-guia-actualizada-del-ciclo-de-pro-yectos-y-programas-del-gef/>
- v) MARENA presenta guía metodológica para la restauración de paisajes afectados por huracanes: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/01/28/marena-presenta-guia-metodologica-para-la-restauracion-de-paisajes-afectados-por-huracanes/>
- w) MARENA imparte talleres de mapeo para el fortalecimiento de áreas protegidas: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/01/22/marena-imparte-talleres-de-mapeo-para-el-fortalecimiento-de-resiliencias-en-areas-protegidas/>
- x) MARENA fortalece comités de manejo colaborativo en 13 áreas protegidas: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/01/22/marena-fortalece-comites-de-manejo-colaborativos-en-13-areas-protegidas/>
- y) Taller sobre el mapeo de actores locales para la conservación del área protegida Cerro Kilambé: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/01/22/taller-sobre-el-mapeo-de-actores-locales-para-la-conservacion-del-area-protegida-cerro-kilambe/>
- z) MARENA presenta acciones de restauración en áreas afectadas por huracanes Eta e Iota: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/01/15/marena-presenta-acciones-de-restauracion-en-areas-afectadas-por-huracanes-eta-e-iota/>
- aa) La prevención de incendios en áreas protegidas es una prioridad: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2021/01/14/la-prevencion-de-incendios-en-areas-protegidas-es-una-prioridad-2/>
- bb) Histórica firma de Convenio de manejo colaborativo de la Reserva Natural Serranía de Amerrisque: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2020/12/16/historica-firma-de-convenio-de-manejo-colaborativo-de-la-reserva-natural-serrania-de-amerrisque/>
- cc) El MARENA presenta acciones para la conservación de los bosques en el Macizo de Peñas Blancas y Cerro Kilambé: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2020/11/06/el-marena-presenta-acciones-para-la-conservacion-de-los-bosques-en-el-macizo-de-penas-blancas-y-cerro-kilambe/>
- dd) MARENA presenta en Chinandega proyecto para la conservación de las áreas protegidas: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2020/10/22/marena-presenta-en-chinandega-proyecto-para-la-conservacion-de-las-areas-protegidas/>
- ee) MARENA presentó iniciativa para la gestión de Corredores Biológicos en 13 Áreas Protegidas a nivel nacional: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/2020/10/22/marena-presento-iniciativa-para-la-gestion-de-corredores-biologicos-en-13-areas-protegidas-a-nivel-nacional/>
- ff) Taller para la actualización de los Comités de Manejo colaborativo de Áreas Protegidas: <https://www.facebook.com/marenanicaragua/photos/a.1409011989202040/3428026710633881/>
- gg) Talleres de prevención y control de incendios forestales en áreas protegidas: <https://www.facebook.com/marenanicaragua/photos/a.1409011989202040/3427658670670685/>
- hh) Fortaleciendo el modelo de gestión compartida del área protegida Reserva Natural Serranía de Amerrisque: <https://www.facebook.com/marenanicaragua/photos/a.1409011989202040/3427645257338693/>
- ii) Taller ambiental: Reglamento de Áreas Protegidas: <https://www.facebook.com/marenanicaragua/photos/a.1493641350739103/3427592024010683/>
- jj) Presentación de los lineamientos para la incorporación de la cosmovisión de nuestros pueblos originarios en la elaboración de planes de manejo en Áreas Protegidas: <https://www.facebook.com/marenanicaragua/photos/a.1409011989202040/3427473870689165/>
- kk) Taller para la presentar los resultados del diagnóstico biofísico y socioeconómico de la Reserva Natural Cerro Mombachito Cerro La Vieja: <https://www.facebook.com/marenanicaragua/photos/a.1409011989202040/3427459097357309/> y <https://www.facebook.com/marenanicaragua/photos/pcb.3423099161126636/3423098411126711>

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11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

The Cerro Saslaya National Park, whose territory is inhabited by the Mayagna indigenous people, is part of the project's area of influence. At present, technical assistance is being developed to review and update the Indigenous Peoples Plan of the project (formulated in 2015), to ensure the inclusion of the Mayagna indigenous territory Sauni Bas (Sikilta Community).

To this date, the following actions have been developed:

- i. The project was presented to the Mayagna Sauni Bas ITG.
- ii. A work plan for 2021 was prepared and trainings have been held on the prevention of wildfires and the creation of nurseries.
- iii. A work session was held together with the ITG to plan the process of prior, free and informed consent.

In the framework of the process for obtaining prior, free and informed consent for the execution of the project by the Sauni Bas Mayagna community, 9 assemblies have been held with community members and representatives of the Indigenous Territorial government (ITG). Assemblies have been developed with the participation of 468 people (278 women) from the Yuluwas, Wasma, and Silamwas, Awas, Kiulna, Sikilta Central, Aransa and Kamawas communities.

The Regional Government of the Northern Caribbean Coast (GRCCN), the Secretariat for the Development of the Northern Caribbean Coast, the Secretariat for Natural Resources of the Regional Government of the Northern Caribbean Coast (SERENA – GRCCN) and MARENA have actively participated in the process.

This process is linked to the preparation of the Management Plan of Protected Area Cerro Saslaya National Park.

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²³ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

The project website was designed to disseminate the project actions among the general public, as well as for the presentation of technical studies conducted in the framework of the project. At present, the website is under development. Access link: <http://www.marena.gob.ni/gef-5/>

This allows for up-to-date information on planning versus execution, which will facilitate informed decision-making. In addition, it allows the exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned generated by the project, from other projects and with other actors.

Design of technical methods for the operative development of the project:

1. Methodology for the formulation/update of protected area management plans.
2. Methodological guide for the formulation of community and family plans for the restoration of natural landscapes in protected areas.
3. Strategy for the restoration of areas affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota.

Access link to documents: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f_5OtKNT1YBt27PIf1EIAOgo29IhrPpV

²³ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not led to any delays in the execution of the project. At present, Nicaragua has institutional protocols in place which have contributed to reduce the national level of infections; in this sense, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity has ensured economic recovery and sustained rural livelihoods during the pandemic. Equally, the development of the project was guaranteed, as well as good workplace practices, including health issues, hygiene and occupational safety, by taking measures to reduce the probability of spreading the virus in the area of influence during the development of training events and meetings in the framework of the formulation and update of management plans.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National government	MARENA	In kind	2,287,359	122,490		
	MEFCCA	In kind	655,000	50,400		
	INAFOR	In kind	2,500,000	50,400		
	MINED	In kind	--	10,000		
	Cuerpo de Bomberos	In kind	--	5,000		
	Batallón Ecológico del EN	In kind	--	20,000		
	Policía Nacional	In kind	--	20,000		
Local government	Municipalities	In kind	--	20,000		
	TOTAL		5,442,359	298,290		

²⁴ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

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

In the present year, the project execution has started with mapping the actors in the 13 protected areas, with the objective of identifying key actors to establish alliances and program joint actions with an interinstitutional approach that will contribute to the achievement of the project's targets. This will serve to map the contributions of different actors for the achievement of the project objectives.

For the development of the activities defined in the project's work plan, coordinations has been established with the departmental and municipal Delegations of MARENA, MEFCCA, INAFOR, MINED, Fire Department, Ecological Battalion of the National Army, National Police and Municipal Mayors. They have provided logistical resources, mobilization and spaces for the development of the different events promoted by the project, such as: workshops, meetings, environmental fairs, concerts, patrols, tours, training events and training for protagonists. It is important to highlight that the technical staff of the project is located in the Territorial Delegations of MARENA, who provide them with space and means for the development of their functions.

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **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 of 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 – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **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.