

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR) FY 2021

**GEF - IDB
PIR # 4**

IMPORTANT: The reporting period is GEF Fiscal Year (July 1st, 2020, to June 30th, 2021)

PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name:	Sustainable Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Magdalena River Basin		
Project's GEF ID:	4849	Project's IDB ID:	CO-T1412
Overall Stage:	Disbursing (From eligibility until all the Operations are closed)		
Country/ies:	Colombia		
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity		
Executing Agency:	FUNDACIÓN NATURA COLOMBIA		
Project Finance:	Total disbursements of GEF Grant resources as of end of June 30th, 2021 (cumulative)	US\$4,366,800.00	
Project Dates:	Date of First Disbursement	6/28/2017	
	Agency Approval Date	12/8/2016	
	Effectiveness (Start) Date	1/17/2017	
	Original Last Disbursement Expiration Date ¹ (OED)	1/17/2022	
	Current CED	1/17/2022	
	Estimated Operational Close Date ² (EOC)	4/17/2022	
	Actual Date of EOC, if applicable		
Project Evaluation:	Mid-term Date (Expected)	3/17/2021	
	Terminal evaluation Date (Expected)	1/17/2022	

¹ For the GEF, this is equivalent to the project's "Expected Completion Date".

² For the GEF, this is equivalent to the project's "Expected Financial Closure Date".

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE RATING (DO) & ASSESSMENT

Make an overall assessment and provide a rating³ of “likelihood of achieving project objective” during the period (2020-2021). Describe any significant environmental or other changes attributable to project implementation.

Project Objective: Improve the biodiversity conservation of the freshwater ecosystems in the Magdalena basin.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (DO)	RATING
<p>During 2021, the project has been rated as Satisfactory (S), given that the probability that the development objective is met is high, especially because of the progress made to date in: (i) the declarations of the four Regional Protected Areas and their corresponding Management Plans; (ii) the advances in two of the conservation agreements and the three ecohydrological models; and (iii) the incorporation of seven hydrobiological groups in the Water Resource Information System, as indicators of the state of aquatic ecosystems. Despite the previous progress, the project was affected by delays caused by the current situation of public health in Colombia and the world (COVID-19), which did not allow completion of several actions scheduled in the field, that led us to request an extension for an additional year.</p>	<p>S</p>

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

The Management Plans (MP) of the Regional Protected Areas of Ciénaga de Barbacoas, Chiqueros, and the middle basin of Río Claro were completed and delivered to the CARs, making progress with 60% of the implementation of the prioritized actions of the MP.

In Ciénaga de Zapatosa, there are two fisheries and conservation-restoration agreements integrating environmental authorities, fisheries, and territorial entities. Ecohydrological models (eco-trophic, hydrological, and hydrodynamic) were completed in Ciénaga de Zapatosa and in Ayapel. The optimization of the water quality module of the Water Resources Information System of Colombia (Sistema de Información del Recurso Hídrico de Colombia, SIRH) was completed up to 75%, and the Magdalena-Cauca chapter of the country's aquatic ecosystems monitoring protocol was completed up to 60%.

Component 1: Two Management Plans (MP) for the Regional Integrated Management Districts (Distrito Regional de Manejo Integrado, DRMI) Bosques, Mármoles y Pantágoras (CORNARE) and DRMI Ciénaga de Chiqueros (CORANTIOQUIA) were finalized in joint collaboration with the CARs. The DRMI Ciénaga de Barbacoas (CORANTIOQUIA) is ready to be delivered. On the other hand, the DRMIs of Ciénaga de Zapatosa (CORPAMAG and CORPOCESAR) and Ciénaga de Ayapel (CVS) are in the process of harmonization with the MPs of the corresponding RAMSAR Sites. All MPs were elaborated with a gender approach. The implementation of prioritized actions with the CARs, of six of the nine MPs addressed by the Project, is 60%.

Component 2: There are two agreements as well as fishing and restoration workgroups in Ciénaga de Zapatosa, between authorities and territorial entities, such as the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca, AUNAP) and the municipalities of

³ See Annex 1: Definition of Ratings.

El Banco (Magdalena) and Chimichagua (Cesar). For this same sector, the Strengthening Plan for Fish Marketing (Plan de Fortalecimiento de la Comercialización Pesquera, PFCP) was completed. There are approximately 69.52 ha in the framework of conservation-restoration agreements. Using the Ecohydrological Modeling Program (Programa de Modelación Ecohidrológica, PМЕH), the comprehensive analysis of the results of the three sampling campaigns (June 2019, November 2019, and March 2020) in Ciénaga de Zapatosa was completed and utilized in the eco-trophic, hydrological, and hydrodynamic models.

Component 3: Monitoring of freshwater ecosystems and associated biodiversity was prioritized to strengthen the Environmental Information System of Colombia (Sistema de Información Ambiental de Colombia, SIAC), consolidating workspaces with more than 80 national experts in bioindication; and optimizing the Information System' water quality module of the Water Resources of Colombia (Sistema de Información del Recurso Hídrico de Colombia, SIRH) by 75%. Within this system, six hydrobiological groups have already been involved in the development of indicators. The Magdalena–Cauca chapter of the country's aquatic ecosystems monitoring protocol has been completed up to 60%.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING (IP) & ASSESSMENT

Insert here an assessment and provide ratings⁴ of overall Implementation Progress, including information on progress, challenges, and outcomes on project implementation activities from July 1st, 2020, until June 30th, 2021. **As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.**

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (IP)

RATING

During fiscal year 2021, the project's implementation progress rating is: "Satisfactory" (S), given the following advancements:

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Component 1. Two Management Plans (MP) were developed and finalized for: (i) the Regional Integrated Management Districts (DRMI) of Bosques, Mármoles and Pantágoras, which are part of the CORNARE Regional Autonomous Corporation (RioNegro-NARE Regional Autonomous Corporation -CAR-), and (ii) the DRMI of the Ciénaga de Chiqueros (CORANTIOQUIA). Six of the nine MPs approached by the Project for the implementation of prioritized actions with the CARs, have advanced by 60% in their scheduled work. Local and regional mobility difficulties, caused by pandemic restrictions, have delayed the formulation and harmonization of the Management Plans for the DRMI-RAMSAR of the Ciénaga de Zapatosa (Corporación Autónoma Regional del Magdalena, CORPAMAG, and Corporación Autónoma Regional del Cesar, CORPOCESAR) and the Ciénaga de Ayapel (Corporación Autónoma Regional de los Valles del Sinú y del San Jorge, CVS).

Component 2. Two agreements between authorities and territorial entities such as the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca, AUNAP) and the municipalities of El Banco (Magdalena) and Chimichagua (Cesar) were achieved through workshops on fisheries and restoration in the Zapatosa Swamp. For this sector, the Plan to Strengthen Fisheries Marketing was completed, as well as the Ecohydrological Modeling with its integral analysis of the results of the three sampling campaigns, using them in the ectotrophic, hydrological, and hydrodynamic models. In this case, the delay in the implementation of actions and agreements with the Small Community Initiatives was due to the difficulties in carrying out face-to-face and permanent work with the local communities.

⁴ See Annex 1: Definition of Ratings.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (IP)

RATING

Component 3. The Optimization of the water quality module of the Colombian Water Resource Information System (Sistema de Información del Recurso Hídrico de Colombia, SIRH) is now 75% complete, and the Magdalena-Cauca chapter of the country's aquatic ecosystem monitoring protocol is 60% complete. There were delays in the implementation of the monitoring pilot that was to be carried out jointly with Corporación Autónoma Regional del Magdalena (CORPAMAG) and Corporación Autónoma Regional del Cesar (CORPOCESAR), in the Ciénaga de Zapatosa, but thanks to the reduction of local and national restrictions for public health care, this pilot will be carried out at the beginning of the second half of 2021.

RISK RATING & ASSESSMENT

Make any adjustments necessary to the assessment ratings⁵ of overall Project Risk⁶ that you provided in the last PIR (2019-2020). Please include details and remedial measures for High and Substantial Risks, specifying who will be responsible for these measures.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (RISK)

RATING

In general, the Project is still considered to present modest risks, despite monitoring and follow-up carried out periodically with the IDB. Notwithstanding the difficulties of public order that occurred in Colombia and around the world since March 2020, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, periodic adjustments and improvements to the work plans have been carried out. Thanks to this, the development of project actions and their corresponding budget execution still allowed the project to meet the initially proposed goals.

It is important to mention that the increase in vaccination rates within the Project's influenced territories has resulted in fewer mobility restrictions. Therefore, the pending work with local and regional communities and institutions has reactivated more every day.

Also, as evidenced in the project risk matrix, negative impacts related to climate change, caused the loss of the desired water levels of the marshes and rivers where the project is taking place. As a result, the risk of not having the appropriate water levels for planting is now very high preventing the preparation of land, plots and planting required for the project.

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⁵ See Annex 1: Definition of Ratings.

⁶ These should include risks identified at CEO Endorsement AND any new risks identified during implementation.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Please add information on any progress, challenges, and outcomes with regards to stakeholder engagement, based on the project's activities during its implementation through the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year. **As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.**

The alliances with Non-Governmental Organizations that had already been working in the incidence territories of the Project were completed, and the alliance between the Regional Integrated Management District (DRMI) of the Ciénaga de Ayapel and Fundación Omacha was formalized. Work began with Fundación Biodiversa and Fundación Primates in the DRMI of the Ciénaga de Barbacoas and DRMI Ciénaga de Chiqueros. On the other hand, the shared work with those who had already been executing actions with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-Colombia) and Fundación Alma in the DRMI of the Ciénaga de Zapatosa was continued.

Recommendations:

- During the final phase of the project, strengthen the alliances developed with the communities.

GENDER

Please add information on any progress, challenges, and outcomes with regards to any and all gender-responsive measures that were undertaken in the project's activities during the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year. Also: Were indicators on gender equality and women's empowerment incorporated in the project's results framework? (Yes/No). If applicable, include the indicator with its baseline, target, and current value (2020-2021).

Concerning output indicator 2.4: progress has been made in Management Plan (MP) formulation for protected areas. A guideline to include a gender approach in the MPs was completed and consolidated, and the technical team was trained for its use. The MP for the Regional Integrated Management District (DRMI) of the Ciénaga de Ayapel Complex already has a gender chapter in its strategic component, including nine projects aimed at women or that foresee their vast participation as beneficiaries. The MP for the DRMI Ciénaga de Chiqueros was approved in June 2021. Its elaboration included a gender chapter in its guidelines. Particularly, for the work carried out with the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in the framework of the Small Community Initiatives (SCI), there are at least 400 beneficiaries (156 women and 244 men). As the Project seeks the participation of women in all the activities developed, overall, for the period considered, the direct participation of 1,267 people was registered, and of these, 710 were men, and 557 were women (44%).

Recommendations:

- Continue using these guidelines to include a gender perspective in the MPs.

KNOWLEDGE

Please add information on knowledge activities and products developed in relation to the project (with GEF or non-GEF resources), with special emphasis on activities carried out during the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year. **As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.**

To disseminate the knowledge and results generated by the Project for the period considered, communication and training actions were consolidated. These have directly impacted the populations, allies, and institutions of the 10 intervention areas through local and regional communications media (6 local radio stations, 36 radio messages, 25 interviews, and three mentions in print/digital newspapers). Likewise, two communication groups (Chiqueros and Zapatosa) have been strengthened, carrying out 17 training sessions. At the national level, 14 mentions in

print/digital media were achieved, and the publication and dissemination of four reprints that compose the Magdalena-cauca VIVE collection produced in alliance with El Espectador's BiBo campaign. In digital media, the design of the Project's microsite was completed, highlighting the permanent activity in social networks, with 256 publications that have an overall cumulative impact of 350,108 reactions, impressions, and/or views.

In addition, at least 18 audiovisual outputs were delivered summarizing several of the interventions related to the lines of work of the project in Governance, Fisheries, Restoration and Protected Areas, for which the link for consultation is included below (in Spanish):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lfx1c7EoL0fjW-Txya-aTd4CWdplY-nZ?usp=sharing>

Recommendations:

- During the final phase of the project, carry out greater socialization and dissemination of the results obtained.

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

Please report any significant modifications made to the project design since July 1st, 2020. (The basis for comparison is the Project Results Framework Matrix included in the original Request for CEO Endorsement Document.) This should be based on the Project Results Framework Matrix included in the original Request for CEO Endorsement Document.

CATEGORY	YES/NO	APPROVED BY	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE AND EXPLANATION
Objective	No		
Outcome	No		
Output/Activities	No		
Other	No		

EXTENSIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS

Has the project been granted any extension or other modification covered by the OA-420 from July 1st, 2020, until June 30th, 2021? If yes, please explain below. **As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.**

Yes. In process. Despite progress, the project was affected by the delays caused by the current situation of public health in Colombia and the world (COVID-19), which did not allow to complete several of the actions scheduled in the field, which led the IDB project team to request an extension of the project for an additional year.

LESSONS LEARNED / BEST PRACTICES

If the project generated any lessons learned or best practices during the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year, please provide a short description. **As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.**

1. The Project is of high relevance for the country, several years after its conception, it is considered as a pertinent and priority initiative for the Magdalena River basin.
2. The lag between the time in which the Project was formulated until its execution finally started, derived in the need to adjust the original design the context. Modifications made include various Outputs scope, work sites, and, in general terms, intervention focus.
3. A comprehensive review of the project Outcome framework is recommended for formalizing and coming clear the outcome indicators, targets, and outputs scope.
4. In parallel with the shock plan, it is recommended that the Project initiates an exit strategy in conjunction with partners and stakeholders involved.
5. It is recommended to strengthen the team's management tools and capacities in areas such as strategic and operational planning, monitoring and evaluation, internal information and communication systems, and knowledge management.
6. A critical element for success is to strengthen administrative team capacity to ensure agile purchasing and contracting processes, which also involves greater precision in planning and coordinated work with each component.

Successes:

- A public forum of the project to promote the Magdalena basin challenges in the public agenda was carried out. 300 people attended the event, and more than eight directors of national and regional Government institutions were present. This improved the project's visibility and increased the interest among the project's stakeholders.
- Different videos of the project, where communities and women participate.

ANNEX 1. DEFINITION OF RATINGS

Development Objective Ratings

1. **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”.
2. **Satisfactory (S):** Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
3. **Marginally 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.
4. **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU):** Project is expected to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives.
5. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
6. **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 Ratings

1. **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 presented as “good practice”.
2. **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.
3. **Marginally Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of **some** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **some** components requiring remedial action.
4. **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of **some** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **most** components requiring remedial action.
5. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of **most** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
6. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of **none** of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk ratings

Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risks of projects should be rated on the following scale:

1. **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.
2. **Substantial Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
3. **Modest 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 modest risks.
4. **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 modest risks.