

IMPORTANT: The reporting period is GEF Fiscal Year (July 1st, 2021, to June 30th, 2022)

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 operations are closed)
Country/ies	Colombia				
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity				
Executing Agency	FUNDACIÓN NATURA COLOMBIA				
Project Finance	GEF Trust Fund	\$6,363,600			
	Co-finance at CEO Endors./Approv.	\$25,000,000			
	TOTAL Project Cost (GEF Grant + co-finance)	\$31,363,600			
Disbursements	GEF Grant disbursed as of end of previous fiscal year	\$4,366,800			
	GEF Grant disbursed as of end of this fiscal year	\$5,916,800			
Project Dates	Agency Approval Date	12/08/2016			
	Effectiveness (Start) Date	1/17/2017			
	First Disbursement Date	6/28/2017			
	Expected Completion Date (in Convergence: OED)	1/17/2022			
	Current Closing Date (in Convergence: CED)	1/17/2023			
	Expected Financial Closure Date (in Convergence: EOC)	4/17/2023			
	Actual Date of Closure (in Convergence: CO)				
Project Evaluation	Mid-term Date (Planned)	6/30/2020			
	Mid-term Date (Actual)	3/17/2021			
	Terminal evaluation Date (Planned)	1/17/2023			
	Terminal evaluation Date (Actual)				

Development Objective

Improve the biodiversity conservation of the freshwater ecosystems in the Magdalena River basin.

Development Objective Rating (DO) & Assessment

For fiscal year 2022 the project has been rated as Satisfactory (S) given that the execution has represented the closing of results and delivery of products, which together with the guidance and coordination with partner entities (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - MADS, Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies - IDEAM, Regional Autonomous Corporation of the *Rio Grande de la Magdalena* - CORMAGDALENA and *Fondo Adaptación*), are ensuring compliance with the proposed goals.

Among the most noteworthy achievements are the execution (100%) of four (4) technical studies to declare new regional protected areas, and the formulation, updating and/or harmonization of five (5) management plans, all of which were worked together with the corresponding environmental authorities. Also, 100% of the three ecohydrological models were executed, with their guidelines and knowledge transfer, as well as the strengthening of the Environmental Information System of Colombia (SIAC), with the incorporation of eighteen (18) biotic-aquatic indicators to the Water Resource Information System (SIRH), are evidence of the successful completion of the project.

PREVIOUS RATING

S

NEW RATING

S

Project Status Update

During the past year, the execution of the *GEF Magdalena-Cauca ViVe Project* (GEF-MCV) focused on achieving key project products. Among the most noteworthy achievements for the fiscal year 2022 are the completion of four (4) technical studies used as a basis for the establishment of new regional protected areas, and the formulation, updating and/or harmonization of five (5) management plans for proposed protected areas, all of which were worked together with the corresponding environmental authorities.

Additionally, the three ecohydrological models were completed, with their guidelines and knowledge transfer, as well as the strengthening of the Environmental Information System of Colombia (*Sistema de Información Ambiental de Colombia* - SIAC), with the incorporation of eighteen (18) biotic-aquatic indicators to the Water Resource Information System (*Sistema de Información del Recurso Hídrico de Colombia*-SIRH). Guidance and coordination with partner entities (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - MADS, Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies - IDEAM, Regional Autonomous Corporation of the *Rio Grande de la Magdalena* - CORMAGDALENA and *Fondo Adaptación*), has been crucial to ensure the achievement of these goals.

- Component 1: The "Priority Conservation Areas" activity has been finalized, with the completion of four (04) technical studies to declare new regional protected areas, and the formulation, updating and/or harmonization of five (05) management plans, all worked in conjunction with the corresponding environmental authorities. The design of the Conservation Mosaics (MC) (Barbacoas and Zapatosa), as well as the implementation of the actions in specific geographic sectors, advanced 70%. Also completed are the implementation of actions prioritized with the Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs) of five of the nine Management Plans addressed by the project.
- Component 2: The three ecohydrological models, with their guidelines for water resource use, management and conservation, as well as the transfer of knowledge for the three intervention windows (*Ciénaga de Ayapel, Ciénaga de Zapatosa and Cuenca del río La Vieja*), were 100% completed. The governance, fishing and

restoration work fronts are nearing completion with 97% of their execution, with one of the three fishing agreements already in place, the fishing commercialization pilot completed, and the first follow-ups and monitoring of the ecological restoration implementations for the sectors intervened in Barbacoas and Zapatosa still pending. The Small Community Initiatives (*Pequeñas Iniciativas Comunitarias* - PIC), with their joint work with the GEF Small Grants Program, are also finalizing the 15 to 20% pending execution.

- Component 3: The strengthening of the Colombian Environmental Information System (*Sistema de Información Ambiental de Colombia* - SIAC), with the incorporation of eighteen (18) biotic-aquatic indicators to the Water Resource Information System (*Sistema de Información del Recurso Hidrico* - SIRH), ended with 100% compliance, surpassing the initial goal of five indicators in the SIAC. These achievements were made possible thanks to the interaction with more than 80 national and international experts in bio-indication, complemented by the digital and web optimization of the SIRH water quality module, in which the indicators corresponding to seven hydrobiological groups (Phytoplankton, Zooplankton, Phycoperiphyton, Macroinvertebrates, Macrophytes, Fish and Riparian vegetation) are already housed. The Magdalena-Cauca chapter of the protocol for monitoring the country's aquatic ecosystems, and the contributions to Colombia's wetlands monitoring program, have already been delivered to the satisfaction of Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), respectively.

Implementation Progress

Implementation Progress Rating (IP) & Assessment

During fiscal year 2022, the rating for the project's implementation progress is Satisfactory (S), given the following advancements per component:

- Component 1: The "Priority Conservation Areas" are 100% complete, with the completion of four (04) technical studies to declare new regional protected areas, and the formulation, updating and/or harmonization of five (05) management plans, all worked in conjunction with the corresponding environmental authorities. The design of the Conservation Mosaics (MC) (Barbacoas and Zapatosa), as well as the implementation of the actions in specific geographic sectors, advanced 70%. The implementation of actions prioritized with the Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs) of five of the nine Management Plans addressed by the project were completed at 100%.
- Component 2: The three ecohydrological models, with their guidelines for water resource use, management and conservation, as well as the transfer of knowledge for the three intervention windows (Ciénaga de Ayapel, Ciénaga de Zapatosa and Cuenca del río La Vieja), were 100% completed. The governance, fishing and restoration work fronts are nearing completion with 97% of their execution, with one of the three fishing agreements already in place, the fishing commercialization pilot completed, and the first follow-ups and monitoring of the ecological restoration implementations for the sectors intervened in Barbacoas and Zapatosa still pending. The Small Community Initiatives (PIC), with their joint work with the GEF Small Grants Program, are also finalizing the 15 to 20% pending execution.
- Component 3: The strengthening of the Colombian Environmental Information System (*Sistema de Información Ambiental de Colombia* - SIAC), with the incorporation of eighteen (18) biotic-aquatic indicators to the Water Resource Information System (*Sistema de Información del Recurso Hidrico* - SIRH), ended with 100% compliance, surpassing the initial goal of five indicators in the SIAC. These achievements were made possible thanks to the interaction with more than 80 national and international experts in bio-indication, complemented by the digital and web optimization of the SIRH water quality module, in which the indicators corresponding to seven

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Project Risks

Risk Rating (RISK) & Assessment	Previous Rating	New Rating
<p>In general, the project is still considered to present modest risks (M), thanks to the monitoring and follow-up that is being carried out periodically together with the IDB. With the last six months of the project still to be executed (July-December 2022), the risk of not meeting the goals is very low, since most of the results and products have been finalized and, to a large extent, delivered to the environmental authorities and stakeholders; especially those related to the intervention core of the <i>Eje Cafetero</i> (4 Regional Protected Areas and 2 Regional Autonomous Corporations - CARs), and of the Bajo Cauca (Regional Integrated Management Districts - DRMI <i>Ciénaga de Ayapel</i>, with the Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Sinú and San Jorge Valleys - CVS).</p> <p>Pending aspects to be finalized are the implementation of actions of 4 management plans, the connectivity corridors of the <i>Zapatoza</i> conservation mosaic, and the governance, fishing, and ecological restoration for the middle and lower Magdalena sectors, for which the last actions to be executed are being scheduled, as well as the last reorganization of financial resources. Also, as evidenced in the project risk matrix, there are no additional negative impacts related to environmental and natural aspects.</p>	M	M

Stakeholder Engagement

The alliance with the *Mellizas* Foundation, carried out for the implementation of actions of the Management Plans (Planes de Manejo - PMs) in the four (4) Regional Protected Areas (Areas Protegidas Regionales - APR) of the *Eje Cafetero*, yielded satisfactory results such as the ecological restoration of 137 ha., 3,065 native trees planted, livestock reconversion of 10.9 ha., and environmental education-awareness of 24 educational institutions / 410 students. For the Regional District of Integrated Management DRMI-RAMSAR, work was also completed with the partnership with the Omacha Foundation, in which the impact was reflected in 100% compliance with the two lines of action prioritized by the Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Sinú and San Jorge Valleys (CVS) for the implementation of the Management Plans (PMs): i) Environmental Education-Citizen Science and Participation: 100%; ii) Territorial governance around the management of biodiversity (Antillean Manatee, *Trichechus manatus*).

Recommendation:

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

Gender

The GEF Magdalena-Cauca ViVe project continues to report on the impact on equity and gender issues, on this occasion, related to the three diploma courses on knowledge transfer on ecohydrological modeling and guidelines for the use, management, and conservation of aquatic ecosystems. In this regard, of the total number of participants registered for the two training windows (*Eje cafetero and Bajo Magdalena-Cauca*), 48 were women and 102 men, highlighting that for the diploma course conducted with local communities, of the 40 participants, 43% were women. In the case of Participatory Fisheries Monitoring (*Monitoreo Pesquero Participativo - MPP*), training sessions and training pilots were conducted in the territory, with the participation of 475 local stakeholders interested in fishing activities in their localities (143 women and 332

men); of the total number of trained personnel, 7 women and 7 men were selected to carry out the daily and monthly reports on fishing activities linked to the Small Community Initiatives (*Pequeñas Iniciativas Comunitarias*-PIC) financed by the project.

Recommendation:

It will be important to continue using output 2.4 “project outputs that considered a gender approach” in the Management Plans (MPs).

Knowledge

The final document of the process supported by Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Sinú and San Jorge Valleys (CVS) and the Omacha Foundation for the publication of the "Management and conservation plan for the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) in the Regional District of Integrated Management and Ramsar site Ayapel Wetlands Complex" is already available as finalized actions in terms of knowledge generation, with special emphasis on local communities. See publication link: <https://natura.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Plan-de-Manejo-y-conservacion-del-manati-antillano-trichechus-manatus.pdf>

Also, the local communities of the Guásimo Regional District of Integrated Management (DRMI) and the Regional Autonomous Corporation of Risaralda (CARDER) in the Department of Risaralda joined together for the publication of the booklet "Caring for the Guásimo DRMI: Selection of its Conservation Values (*Valores Objeto de Conservación* (VOC)". See publication link: <https://natura.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Protocolo-de-Monitoreo-y-Seguimiento-del-Agua.pdf> <https://natura.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Cartilla-Valores-Objeto-de-Conservacion-RIMD/DMI-Guasimo.pdf>).

With a technical-scientific connotation, there is also the publication supported by the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) called: “Protocol for monitoring and follow-up of water 2021”. See publication link: <https://natura.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Protocolo-de-Monitoreo-y-Seguimiento-del-Agua.pdf>

Finally, as a result of the International Workshop - Experiences in monitoring and follow-up of aquatic ecosystems. Colombia, the following publication: <https://natura.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Resumenes-y-Memorias-Taller-Internacional-Experiencias-en-monitoreo-y-seguimiento-de-ecosistemas-acuaticos-Colombia.pdf>

Recommendation:

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

Lessons Learned / Best Practices

When working with partner entities at the national level, such as Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), who will use the results obtained in protected areas, aquatic biodiversity and water resource management, it is necessary to maintain the interinstitutional and intersectoral working groups that promoted the declarations of achievement and the formulation of management plans to strengthen the results obtained.

Recommendation:

Maintain during the final phase of the project and for the future, the interinstitutional and intersectoral working groups to strengthen the results obtained.

Socialize “periodically” the results of each one of the project components with the local communities. It is convenient to do it every 6 months, especially when the activities carried out are similar in different geographical sectors, in such a way that it is possible to share and articulate experiences, and improvement actions.

Recommendation:

During the execution of the project, periodically socialize the results in the different areas of intervention of the project.

For the strengthening of governance within the formulation processes of the management plans of the regional protected areas, these were more easily achieved when the personnel of the social areas worked together with the personnel of ecological issues and information systems. geographical.

Recommendation:

From the beginning of the governance processes, strengthen the join work between the social professionals and the technical professionals of the project.

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 8 directors of national and regional Government institutions were present. This improved the project's visibility and increased the interest among the project's stakeholders. See link to the article here: <https://www.elespectador.com/ambiente/un-pacto-para-rescatar-el-rio-magdalena-article-723357/>

Video of the Project: <https://youtu.be/5U4o8YV3r3c>

Mini web created by Fundación Natura, the executing agency, containing project information (results, events, photos, videos, news): <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lfx1c7EoL0fjW-Txya-aTd4CWdply-nZ>

Results of the International Workshop – Experiences in monitoring and follow-up of aquatic ecosystems. Colombia:

<https://natura.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Resumenes-y-Memorias-Taller-Internacional-Experiencias-en-monitoreo-y-seguimiento-de-ecosistemas-acuaticos-Colombia.pdf>

Jingle of the Project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_pHQalgxWY&t=459s

Project Results Framework Modifications

Category	Fiscal Year	YES NO	APPROVED BY	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE AND EXPLANATION
Outcome	2018	NO	IDB	NONE
	2019	YES	IDB	Modify Indicator name: This indicator was included to monitor the beneficiaries of sustainable fishing initiatives. It is aligned with the IDB RF and proposed for the baseline studies.
		YES	IDB	Modify Indicator name: It was necessary to add the baseline, means of verification, and targets to the new indicators.
		YES	IDB	Modify Indicator name
		YES	IDB	Modify Unit of Measure: The outcome indicators and outputs were translated to English in the matrix results.

		YES	IDB	Modify Indicator name: The outcome indicators and outputs were translated to English in the matrix results.
	2020	YES	IDB	Modify Indicator name: The baseline studies were completed and recommended to delete the other two outcome indicator, this because, considering the actions that will be financed by the project, there will not be a short-term impact on reducing the catches of juvenile fishes. Instead, this study proposes to set a target for "the annual average of catch-per-unit-effort (for ten commercial species)," on which the project will have a measurable impact.
		YES	IDB	Update Baseline and/or Baseline Year (when there was a previous value)
	2021	NO	IDB	NONE
	2022	NO	IDB	NONE
Output/Activities	2018	NO	IDB	NONE
	2019	NO	IDB	NONE
	2020	NO	IDB	NONE
	2021	NO	IDB	NONE
	2022	YES	IDB	Outputs were reoriented to focus activities to maximize resources considering the execution period remaining.

Project Extension or Other Modifications

On December 21, 2021, an extension to the project for 12 months was approved by IDB (until January 2023). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the project was affected in its physical and financial execution, since most of its interventions required permanent interaction in the territory, with the communities, institutions, and authorities. Additionally, the definitions of technical criteria, to advance in topics such as ecohydrological modeling or monitoring of the health of ecosystems, implied longer times for the project's line of action to be consolidated, as well as the adverse hydro climatological conditions for the development of ecological restoration activities.

Project Results Framework: Project outputs were reoriented to maximize resources and considering the extension period remaining.

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.