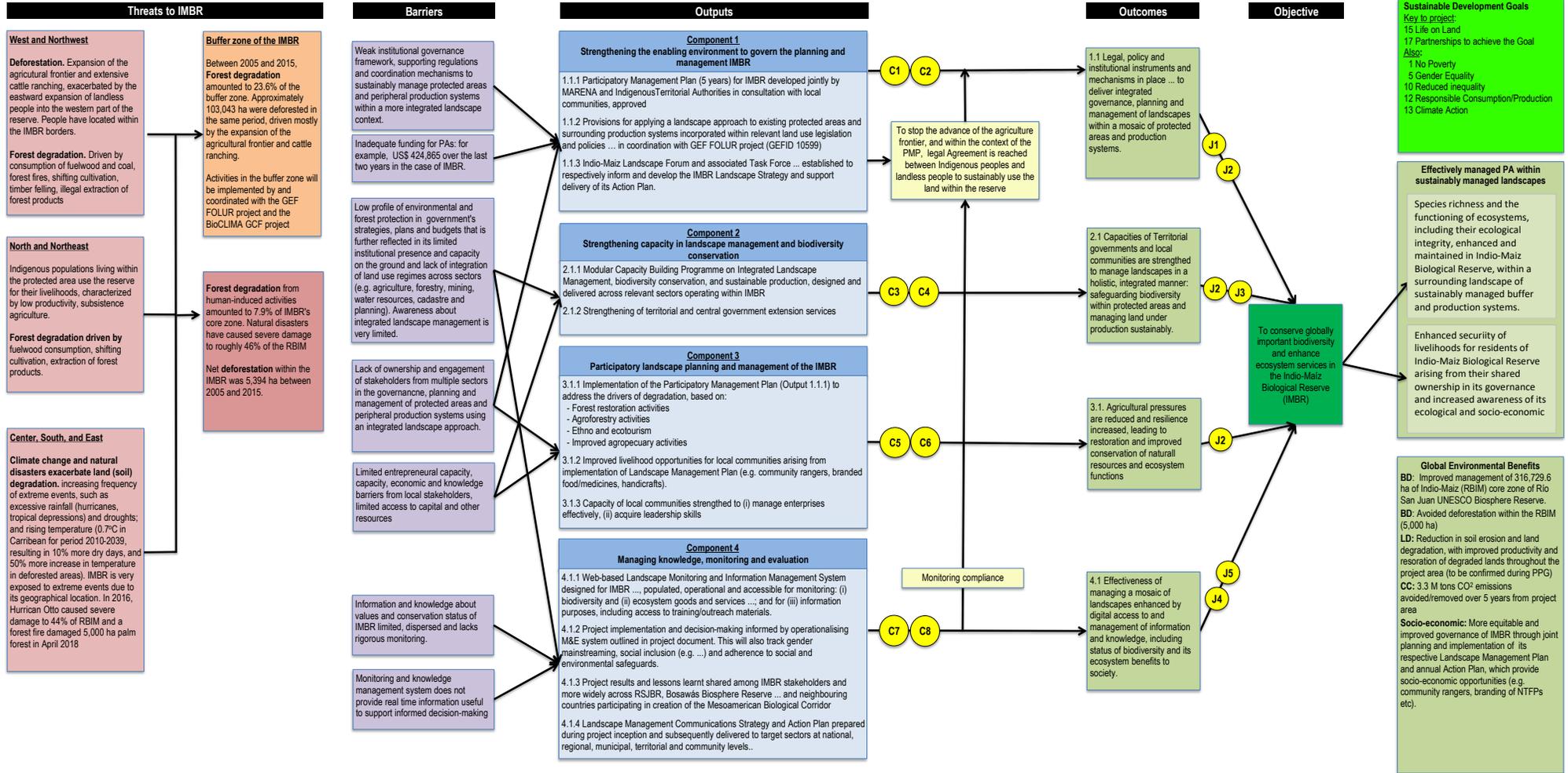


THEORY OF CHANGE, FROM THREATS AND BARRIERS TO OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS. Assumptions are identified.



Key Assumptions		
C1	Political support and commitment forthcoming from the highest levels of government to cooperate cross-sectorally in order to deliver the landscape approach. Key sectors include the ministries of Environment & Natural Resources, Agriculture & Forestry, Education, Culture & Sport, Energy & Mines and other relevant entities (e.g. Institute of Aqueducts & Drains, Institute of Rural Development, Institute for Women and Tourism Institute).	C1
C2	Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources and key partners commit to mainstreaming the landscape approach across the project's entire geographic area of influence (i.e. including the 63,849 ha Punta Gord and 292,452 ha Cerro Sylva natural reserves, Figure 2), once it has been applied to IMBR and its adjacent Zona de amortiguamiento de Indio-Maiz (128,262 ha). This will ensure that the entire periphery of this core area (IMBR) within Nicaragua is safeguarded by landscapes under integrated sustainable management, be it for conservation or production purposes.	C2
C3	Biodiversity and socio-economic assessment includes: protected areas (i.e. IMBR in the first instance but ideally also the two natural reserves that abut its periphery), production systems within them and the buffer zone in order to generate a holistic understanding of the entire landscape in terms of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services and cultural interests. This is particularly important for identifying existing and potential sources of revenue in the Financing Strategy, as well as informing the Communications Strategy, Landscape Strategy and Landscape Management Plan.	C3
C4	Communications Strategy is effective in delivering key messages across multiple sectors about the values of Indio-Maiz Biological Reserve (core area of the globally important Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve), benefits of the landscape approach and the importance of sustainable financing to secure and enhance the integrity of that part of the biosphere reserve lying within the project's area of influence (refer to Figure 2).	C4
C5	Government stakeholders from different administrative authorities and across many sectors willing to cooperate and, where necessary, compromise in order to resolve conflicts of interest and enable the landscape approach to be flexibly and effectively applied to a range of scenarios that include: inhabited enclaves and cultivated areas inside PAs, buffer zone under restoration, and agricultural and forest production systems. Synergies and conflicts of interest will be addressed through management agreements between relevant parties (partners including local communities) and based on principles of sustainable, integrated land management.	C5
C6	If necessary or appropriate, specific enclave plans can be developed at community or territorial levels in concert with the IMBR Management Plan.	C6
C7	Sufficient publicity and incentives (ease of access, quality and relevance of training, adequacy of facilities, tangible benefits) in place for stakeholders to commit to training and capacity development opportunities.	C7
C8	Effective monitoring informs PA planning and management cycle.	C8
J1	Necessary policies and regulations in place by project closure to enable the landscape approach to be mainstreamed across PAs and adjacent production systems post project. Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, for example, should be a first priority in view of its global significance for biodiversity and regional strategic importance with respect to the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.	J1
J2-4	Innovative strategies and tools (i.e. IMBR Landscape Strategy, IMBR Landscape Management Plan, IMBR Landscape Monitoring & Information System and Sustainable Financing Strategy) will have been delivered by mid-term to provide adequate time and resources to support their implementation during second half of project, thereby ensuring they are 'fit for purpose' and providing adequate opportunity for adaptive project management measures to be taken as necessary.	J2-4
J3	Modular Training Programme on Integrated Landscape Management institutionalised for subsequent mainstreaming of landscape approach, based on a collaborative agreement between Government (MARENA) and an educational or other appropriate institution.	J3
J4	IMBR Landscape Monitoring & Information System will be hosted by MARENA and populated across the PAs system as part of government's co-financing contribution to the project.	J4
J5	Development and adoption of best practices, combined with lessons learned from experience, delivers project objective.	J5