

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

for the project:

Innovative Use of a Voluntary Payment for Environmental Services Incentive Program to Avoid and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhance Carbon Stocks in the Highly Threatened Dry Chaco Forest Complex in Western Paraguay

FY22

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES)
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Project Title:	Innovative Use of a Voluntary Payment for Environmental Services Incentive Program to Avoid and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhance Carbon Stocks in the Highly Threatened Dry Chaco Forest Complex in Western Paraguay		
Country(ies):	Paraguay	GEF ID:	5668
GEF Agency(ies):	Conservation International	Duration In Months:	83
Executing Agency(ies):	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Actual Implementation Start Date:	05/15/2016
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change	Expected Project Completion Date:	03/31/2023
GEF Grant Amount:	USD 2,201,614	Expected Financial Closure Date:	09/30/2023
Expected Co-financing:	USD 2,117,460	Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting:	10/12/2021
Co-financing Realized as of June 30, 2022:	USD 1,394,500	Mid-Term Review-Planned Date:	07/01/2018
Date of First Disbursement:	05/15/2016	Mid-Term Review-Actual Date:	07/16/2018
Cumulative disbursement as of June 30, 2022:	USD 1,755,683	Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date:	10/01/2022
PIR Prepared by:	Karim Musalem, Andrea Garay	Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date:	TBD
CI-GEF Project Manager:	Daniela Carrión	CI-GEF Finance Lead:	Susana Escudero

Minor Amendment Categories	Minor Amendment Justification
Results framework	
Components and cost <input type="checkbox"/>	
Institutional and implementation arrangements <input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial management <input type="checkbox"/>	
Implementation schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project certified hectares target was increased from 20,000 to 40,000 given the landowners interest in certification. This responded to high certification rates achieved during the past year. The project requested more time to conclude the ongoing certification processes.
Executing Entity <input type="checkbox"/>	
Executing Entity Category <input type="checkbox"/>	
Minor project objective change <input type="checkbox"/>	
Safeguards <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk analysis <input type="checkbox"/>	

Increase of GEF project financing up to 5% <input type="checkbox"/>	
Co-financing <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location of project activity <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

MINOR AMENDMENT RESPONSE FROM CI-GEF

A no-cost extension was approved by CI-GEF to allow the EA to finish the ongoing certification process who have increased the initial target. A non-cost extension was approved for 9 months. The project is scheduled to end programmatic activities in November 2022 and financial closing is due in March 2023.

The CI-GEF Project Agency Project Implementation Report (PIR) is composed of six sections:

- Section I: Project Implementation Progress Status Summary:** provides a brief summary of the project as well as the implementation status and rating of the previous and current fiscal years;
- Section II: Project Results Implementation Progress Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance, when needed;
- Section III: Project Risks Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards managing and mitigating project risks, the project risks mitigation rating reassessment as needed, as well as recommendations to improve the management of project risks;
- Section IV: Project Environmental and Social Safeguards Implementation Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards complying with the Environmental & Social Safeguards and the Plans prepared during the PPG phase, the safeguard plans implementation rating, as well as recommendations to improve the project safeguards;
- Section V: Project Implementation Experiences and Lessons Learned:** describes the experiences learned by the project managers and the lessons learned through the process of implementing the project; and
- Section VI: Project Geocoding:** documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information available in project documentation

SECTION I: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS SUMMARY

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project is based on the internationally-recognized concept of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) as a policy for climate change mitigation. The project is relevant for the Government of Paraguay because it strengthens their capacities in implementing the Law N° 3,001/06 which created an Environmental Services Regime (ESR) for deforestation reduction and forests conservation. L. The ESR objective is to certify forest area and issue certificates, once the process is completed and approved by the Ministry of Environment (MADES). These certificates are not the same as Reduction of Emissions Certificates, but are instead a particular scheme established by MADES, which includes a more comprehensive set of natural resource values for the multiple environmental services that they provide, each certificate is equal to one hectare of forests.

Law N° 3,001/06 serves as an additional legal instrument to create incentives for private landowners to conserve surpluses of native forests (without considering 25% required by Law N° 422/73). The goal of this project is to prevent Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions in line with the GEF-5 Climate Change Mitigation Strategy. The overall outcome of the project is to establish a fully operational ESR that will result in the reduction of at least 5.75 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, measured as tons of equivalent carbon dioxide (tCO₂e) within the project area in four (4) years of implementation.

These outcomes will be fulfilled through three technical components. The first component focuses in strengthening Paraguay's policies and decision-making procedures and associated institutional structures and mechanisms, mainstreaming sustainable land and forest management, low carbon development, and ecosystem accounting into government' budget and actions. The second component focuses on strengthening the capacities to carry out the technical assessments and monitoring procedures to certify forest lands for carbon sequestration. The third component focuses on strengthening institutional and individual capacities to support the PES scheme.

PRIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

In September 2020, the second phase of the project began with WWF Paraguay as the new executing agency in close coordination with MADES. The FY21 work plan, budget and updated institutional arrangements were developed by WWF and approved by MADES and CI-GEF. WWF began hiring the project team in accordance with the agreement with MADES and resumed Phase 1 activities. The challenge was to continue working on the project while the agreement with Guyra Paraguay was being closed and COVID-19 restrictions in the country were being managed. The EA has managed to resume activities and execute them according to the work plan, although the activities developed more slowly than planned due to the restrictions at first.

In this Phase II, progress has been made in the development of activities considering the project objectives and indicators. At the end of 2020, MADES approved the resolution that adapts the requirements and conditions to promote the access of indigenous communities to the PES; at the same time, the National Forestry Institute - INFONA has approved the resolution that exempts the payment of fees in the forest registry to indigenous communities.

Specialists have been hired to reinforce the DSA team, and the inter-institutional working group between INDI (Paraguayan Indigenous Institute) and MADES, which is key to supporting the certification process of indigenous territories, was reactivated. As a result, joint work strategies have been coordinated to facilitate the CCPLI (Spanish for Free, Prior and Informed Consent) of the indigenous communities in the certification process, considering the health restrictions with respect to COVID-19.

Regarding the follow-up of properties in process for Phase I, the evaluation of portfolios has been carried out, reactivating 2 properties belonging to indigenous communities and 2 private properties; 1 of them be certified in April 2021 (411 ha). With respect to new properties for Phase II, 6 new properties were added, 5 belonging to indigenous communities and 1 private. The project is strengthening the PES monitoring system. This is being carried out through the purchase of the necessary equipment and its donation to MADES, the trainings developed, and others planned for the coming months. In FY21, Paraguay was facing a new wave of COVID-19 and the health system collapsed. Travel was suspended and face-to-face meetings were completely reduced. Project however has managed to progress more than expected.

CURRENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (FY22)

In the last half of FY21 and the first quarter of this FY22, Paraguay faced a new wave of COVID-19, the health system was collapsed, trips were suspended and face-to-face meetings were completely reduced, which were now held virtually. Despite this situation, the project team continued to carry out cabinet work, virtual meetings and reorganize project activities. Several documents required by MADES to join the indigenous communities' regime were verified, as well as private landowners' applications. Folders were evaluated and the situation of each proposal was presented in a feasibility report, thus determining the feasibility of joining the regime within the project period, knowing the short time for its completion.

During this period, several activities were carried out concerning the process of Consultation and Free Prior and Informed Consent - FPIC to indigenous communities that expressed their interest through representative leaders, a fundamental requirement to adhere to the Environmental Services regime. In addition, several on-site verifications of areas proposed to be certified within the project were carried out, as well as support to the Environmental Services Directorate in the verification and monitoring of already certified areas of properties that are not part of the project.

The close collaboration between WWF and MADES, as well as the good relations with the National Indigenous Institute - INDI, have allowed the certification of several indigenous communities that were managing their documentation to adhere to the regime, as well as the certification of a private property.

In FY22, the necessary conditions have been met to fully operate in the natural forest modality; several portfolios of private properties and indigenous communities interested in this modality were identified and evaluated; 74,183.26 hectares of forests have been certified under the RSA and another 24,500 hectares are in process, far exceeding the project's target. More than 200 people have received training on issues related to RSA and the complete implementation of the monitoring system. In addition, institutions such as MADES and INDI have been strengthened through equipment donations, a fundamental element for a more efficient operation.

Project implementation period ran from October 2020 to June 2022, however, considering positive results obtained in the course of this FY22, a NCE was requested and approved to March 2022. This extension allows adequately closing all activities, especially those that correspond to pending documentation or in the process of certification, which will achieve more areas certified under the regime in the framework of the project.

SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY21 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	CURRENT FY22 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING ¹	RATING TREND ²
OBJECTIVE	S	S	Unchanged
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	S	HS	Increasing
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	S	S	Unchanged

PROJECT RISK RATING³

RISKS	M	L	Decreasing
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¹ **Implementation Progress (IP) Rating:** Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). For more details about IP rating, please see the Appendix I of this report

² **Rating trend:** Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

³ **Risk Rating:** Low (L), Moderate (M), Substantial (S), High (H)

SECTION II: PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS AND RATING

This section describes the progress made since the start of the project towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation progress rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance. This section is composed four parts:

- a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective: this section measures the likelihood of achieving the objective of the project
- b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component)
- c. Overall Project Results Progress Rating, and
- d. Recommendations for improvement

a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective:

This section of the report assesses the progress in achieving the objective of the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	Avoid and reduce GHGs from deforestation and increase carbon stocks in the Chaco Forest Complex (see current project area) by establishing an incentive system for carbon sequestration by stakeholders in payment for environmental services
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OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator a: Number of PES incentive systems operational in Paraguay	One mechanism (Environmental Services Regime) is fully operational	CA	<p>The Payment for Environmental Services incentive system is fully operational. The certification mechanism is currently active. The regulations that streamline the process of joining the regime to indigenous communities, updated, and approved by MADES. The ESR is fully operational and certifying land to protect forests.</p> <p>In FY22, forest certification has been achieved for 6 properties, 5 belonging to indigenous communities and 1 private property corresponding to 74,183.26 hectares. Another 7 properties in the process of certification, 6 belonging to indigenous communities and 1 private property corresponding to approximately 24,500 hectares. Currently, through the hiring of a consulting team working jointly with MADES and WWF, a proposal is being drafted to update the monitoring and auditing processes in order to ensure proper implementation within the framework of Law 3001/06. The project is also supporting the</p>

⁴ **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
			modification of Law 3001/06 by participating in meetings and providing suggestions.
Indicator b: Number of people aware of the PES incentive scheme	209 people participated in six training workshops organized during FY22; 111 women (53%) and 98 men (47%).	IS	In this fiscal year, 6 training workshops related to Payment for Environmental Services have been held. These were aimed at technicians from MADES, the Supreme Court of Justice, holders of Environmental Services, Non-Governmental Organizations and people interested or working in the area such as consultants in charge of managing the documentation for adherence to the regime. The high level of interest in the area led to the planning of another training in FY23, which is in the process of reviewing the topics to be developed.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
S	A Satisfactory rating has been given to objective implementation. The project is advancing well towards targets and is on track to end in December 2022.

b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component).

This part of the report assesses the progress towards achieving the outcomes of the project.

COMPONENT 1	Establishment of the Environmental Services Regime in Paraguay for the Chaco Forest Complex
Outcome 1:	Outcome 1.1: The existing environmental services regime of Paraguay has met all enabling conditions needed to fully operate the natural forests category.
Outcome 2:	Outcome 1.2: Certified hectares under the Environmental Services Regime

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 1.1: Indicator 1.1.1: Number of ESR modalities fully operational to oversee the certification of forests lands under Law 3001/06	Target 1.1.1: category - Natural Forests modality - fully operational	Fully operational ESR natural forest modality, with improvements in its Operationality, especially for	CA	The activities of this indicator were completed in FY21.

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁵	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
		indigenous		
Outcome indicator 1.2.1: Indicator 1.2.1: Number of hectares certified under ESR	Target 1.2.1: 40,000 ha certified	The project has managed to certify 74,594.26 hectares	IS	In FY22, 6 properties achieved certification of their forests with a total area of 74,183.26 hectares, 5 belonging to indigenous communities with a total area of 72,633.26 hectares and 1 belonging to private property with 1,550 hectares certified. Seven new properties with approximately 24,500 hectares of certifiable areas were evaluated considering that they expressed their interest in joining the environmental services regime within the framework of the PROMESA project (6 properties belonging to indigenous communities and 1 private property); all of them have the required documentation and are in the process of certification within MADES. Another approximately 15,000 hectares of certifiable forests from 3 new indigenous community properties and 1 private property are currently in the process of evaluating their documentation to join the scheme. The ongoing processes will end in FY23

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	A highly satisfactory target is given to component 1. The ESR is fully operational, and the project has exceeded the target for area under certification successfully certifying 74,594.26 hectares and has an additional 24,500 hectares in process.	Increasing

COMPONENT 2	Field assessments and monitoring mechanisms for the certification of areas
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Outcome 1:	Outcome 2.1 Identification of priority areas relevant for certification in the Environmental Services Regime
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Outcome 2:	Outcome 2.2 Monitoring scheme for natural forests modality in ESR updated and operational
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁶	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 2.1.1: Indicator 2.1.1: Number of areas identified for ESR certification.	Target 2.1.1: At least 20 properties identified and analyzed	29 properties	IS	<p>During the implementation of the project, 29 portfolios have been evaluated.</p> <p>In this fiscal year, progress has been made in identifying 10 new certifiable areas, 9 belonging to indigenous communities with an approximate certifiable area of 40,000 hectares and 1 private property with a certifiable area of 2,126 hectares.</p> <p>In addition to these, other 13 properties that expressed interest in joining the project were evaluated and due to lack of documentation have not been able to obtain their certificates within the framework of the project. Another property with a potential certifiable area of 1,900 hectares, which began the certification process in FY21, has decided to withdraw from the project due to health problems (COVID), and the owner has cancelled the process to sell the property.</p>
Outcome indicator 2.2.1.: Indicator 2.2.1: Number of ministerial resolutions for monitoring natural forests modality	Target 2.2.1.: One ministerial resolution proposal	1 proposed ministerial resolution in process	IS	<p>Currently, through the hiring of a consulting team working jointly with MADES and WWF, a regulatory proposal is being prepared to update the monitoring and auditing processes in order to ensure proper implementation within the framework of Law 3001/06.</p> <p>In addition to this, the project is strengthening the ESR monitoring system. This is being done through: the purchase of the necessary equipment and its donation to MADES, and training for MADES technicians in the use of the GIS tool.</p>

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	A Satisfactory rating has been given to Component 2. The project has advanced in analyzing the properties interested in getting certified. 29 in total surpassing the project target. The project is working in the updated regulation for updating the monitoring protocols. Component 2 is on track to end by December 2022 as expected.	Unchanged

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COMPONENT 3	Institutional strengthening and training
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Outcome 1:	Outcome 3.1 Capacity of institutional stakeholders to participate of the Environmental Services Regime strengthened.
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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ⁷	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 3.1: Indicator 3.1.1.: Number of institutional stakeholders strengthen their capacities in ESR	Target 3.1.1: 100 people from different MADES directions and institutions involved in the ESR	In this phase II of the project, 367 people have been trained, 217 women (59%) and 150 men (41%). In FY22, 209 people participated in six training workshops, 111 women (53%) and 98 men (47%).	CA	In this fiscal year, 6 training workshops on Environmental Services have been held. These were aimed at technicians of MADES, Supreme Court of Justice, holders of Environmental Services, Non-Governmental Organizations and people interested or working in the area such as consultants in charge of managing the documentations for their adhesion to the regime. The high level of interest in the topic led to the planning of another training in FY23, which is in the process of reviewing the topics to be developed.

COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	A highly satisfactory rating has been given to Component 3. The project has successfully met the target but in the remaining time new trainings are expected to continue building capacities of more people given the interest from stakeholders in the topic.	Unchanged

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND ⁸
HS	A highly satisfactory rating is given to overall project progress. In FY22, the project made significant progress and completed 80% of outcomes exceeding the targets in area certified and people trained. It is expected that by December 2022 the project completes all outcomes achieving the targets.	Increasing

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⁸ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Ensure FY23 workplan is implemented to complete project outcomes by December 2022.	PMU	December 2022

SECTION III: PROJECT RISKS STATUS AND RATING

a. Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation Plan

This section describes the activities implemented to manage and reduce high, substantial, modest, and low risks of the project. This section has three parts:

- a. Ratings for the progress towards implementing measures to mitigate project risks and a project risks annual reassessment
- b. Recommendations for improving project risks management

Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation and Plan Project Risks Annual Reassessment

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹⁰
Risk 1: The COVID-19 crisis might delay planned activities and/or make field work difficult, concerning the legal restrictions.	The project will organize public dialogues in the region to better reach local community representatives to promote the value of participating in project activities, in particular, to adopt new approaches to SFM. Similarly, consultations and workshops with the private sector will be conducted to promote the investment value of the ESC.	In the first and second quarters, Paraguay faced a new wave of COVID-19 and the health system was collapsed. By the third and fourth quarters this has improved.	IS	Trips were suspended and face-to-face meetings were completely reduced; they were held virtually. This changed for the third and fourth quarters considering the decrease in COVID 19 cases, depending on the case, the meetings were held virtually; however, the field trips were carried out normally, strictly following the sanitary protocols dictated by the Ministry of Health. We have been able to carry out all the CCPLI to the indigenous communities, which is a fundamental requirement for them to be able to adhere to the environmental services regime.	HIGH	LOW	DECREASING
Risk 2: Lack of interest among potential	MADES will be active partner in the implementation	For the identification of priority areas, MADES and the	IS	In this fiscal year, MADES and the consultants team hired by the project to support the DSA have been key in the process of identifying potential certifiable areas. They have put their	MEDIUM	LOW	DECREASING

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¹⁰ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹⁰
beneficiaries in participating in the project, dependence on interpersonal relationships	of the project, playing a key role in the project steering committee, including generating support among other government decision makers, as appropriate.	team of consultants hired by the project have been key.		efforts in verifying the documentation required by MADES for adherence to the regime, have evaluated and prepared the feasibility report for each property interested in certification, which is fundamental for the incorporation of the project.			
Risk 3: Absence of broad political commitment does not allow for the effective implementation of the PES Incentive Scheme	MADES will actively participate in project activities to help negotiate appropriate policy and institutional reforms, as well as any necessary legal Amendments. MADES and the project partners will work with the Ministry of Finance to address the relevant budgeting issues as they relate to sustaining the necessary level of financing to	MADES, by means of a resolution, has designated the focal point person for the project.	IS	The designation of the focal point by resolution has expedited the process of hiring consultants, as well as the process of consultation with indigenous communities and approval of active consultancy products. MADES has been key in the CCPLI processes for the adhesion of indigenous communities, leading the workshops with the National Indigenous Institute - INDI, highlighting the participation of technicians from both institutions in these processes, which are fundamental requirements for their adhesion to the regime.	MEDIUM	LOW	DECREASING

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING ⁹	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY22 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND ¹⁰
	1. sustain project results.						
Risk 4: Certain production practices that are harmful to forest ecosystems (i.e., fires for pasture regeneration) are deeply rooted among producers.	The project will work very closely with local Communities and experts to negotiate adoption of forest and land management practices that are sustainable, and in particular enhance those sites to be considered eligible for participating in the PES Incentive Scheme. The project will identify and work with champions to facilitate the adoption of new approaches.	Best management Practices were disseminated through other WWF projects in the region, as well as fire prevention campaigns and fire brigade equipment	IS	<p>Awareness raising, communications and best management practices are carried out throughout project implementation, supported by previous work on other projects. Regarding the Best Practices Manual, a consultant has been hired to edit the existing guide on best management practices and to include a chapter on the current environmental services regime.</p> <p>In this fiscal year, a communication campaign on fire prevention has been developed and cooperation has been established with the local fire prevention network, which issues daily bulletins during the fire season (https://www.wwf.org.py/informate/noticias_nacionales/?uNewsID=352996).</p>	MEDIUM TO LOW	MEDIUM TO LOW	UNCHANGED
Risk 5: Assessments of carbon stocks in priority areas may not accurately assess amount of carbon sequestered	The project will work very closely with experts to ensure that the best science available is used to assess the amount of carbon stocks.	Generation of new information with INFONA, MADES and other researchers.	IS	A new carbon stock map has been developed by WWF for the Paraguayan Chaco in FY2021 than can serve as input for carbon estimations. Page 85 https://www.wwf.org.py/?365453/Atlas-del-Chaco-Paraguay	LOW	LOW	UNCHANGED

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND ¹¹
L	A Low rating has been given to project risks. The project has implemented mitigation measures timely to manage the risks.	

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Continue implementing the mitigation measures to manage the project risks until the end of the project	PMU	December 2022

¹¹ **Rating trend:** Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

SECTION IV: PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND RATING

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESMF plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESMF plans, when needed. This section is divided into six parts:

- a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency’s ESMF
- b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement
- c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets
- d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products developed and disseminated
- e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating
- f. Recommendations

a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency’s ESMF

MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹²	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
<p>ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project’s Accountability and Grievance Mechanism</p>	0	0 Conflicts reported	0 Conflicts reported	IS	<p>Throughout the project implementation period and up to the present, the project's accountability and grievance mechanism has not received any complaints. All stakeholders have been informed of project implementing institutions, and WWF was made co-executing partner. WWF complaints mechanism has public access: https://www.wwf.org.py/wwf_paraguay/reclamos_wwf/#:~:text=WWF%2DP araguay%20ha%20establecido%20un,y%20salvuardias%20ambientales%20de%20WWF. Materials being prepared will share the existence of such mechanism.</p>
<p>2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the</p>	100	100		IS	

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project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved					
<p>GENDER MAINSTREAMING</p> <p>1. Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)</p> <p>2. Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project</p> <p>3. Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations (this indicator applies to relevant projects)</p>	<p>At least 30% women</p> <p>300 people (at least 30% women)</p> <p>0 Plans reported, 2 main strategies implemented</p>	<p>219 people, 113 women (52%) and 106 men (48%), have participated in 8 trainings; 6 related to Payment for Environmental Services and 2 related to GIS.</p> <p>A total of 252 people have benefited directly, 132 women (52%) and 120 men (48%).</p>	<p>382 people, 122 women (58%) and 160 men (42%), have participated in 11 trainings.</p> <p>A total of 441 people have benefited directly, 258 women (59%) and 183 men (41%).</p>	<p>IS</p> <p>IS</p>	<p>For this indicator, the invitations were made in the "open invitation" modality, where there was a greater reception by women interested in the subject. Additional PES and GIS training is planned for FY23.</p> <p>We plan to increase the number of beneficiaries during FY23, with whom we are currently in contact.</p> <p>No plans have been made for this phase of the project</p>
<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>1. Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples, and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis</p>	<p>At least 8 governmental agencies involved</p>	<p>25 agencies directly and indirectly involved in the project.</p>	<p>25 agencies directly and indirectly involved in the project. 7 government institutions, 14 indigenous communities, 3 private organizations and 1 academy.</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>The project works with government institutions such as MADES, INDI, INFONA, the Public Ministry, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Finance and CONADERNA. In addition, the Project supports the certification of indigenous and private communities, and part of the training is jointly administered by MADES, WWF and the Academy (National University of Asuncion).</p>

<p>2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)</p> <p>3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)</p>	<p>At least 20 people</p> <p>Regular meetings are held with project unit (MADES and WWF) case by case meetings are held with consultants and or communities or owners. Consultations to Indigenous communities are reported under ESS4</p>	<p>56 people have participated in the execution of Phase II of the Project.</p> <p>Regular coordination meetings have been held between institutions; 7 meetings were held related to the CCPLI (FPIC) process and another 5 related to private properties.</p>	<p>56 people have participated in the execution of Phase II of the Project. 20 women (36 %) and 36 men (64 %).</p> <p>Regular coordination meetings have been held</p>	<p>IS</p> <p>IS</p>	<p>In this phase II, 34 people are part of the implementation team and have supported the execution of the Project.</p> <p>Continuous and regular meetings have been and continue to be held with the interested party, some in person and others virtually.</p>
<p>ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples (delete if not applicable)</p> <p>1. Percentage of indigenous/local communities where FPIC have been followed and documented</p> <p>2. The percentage of communities where project benefit sharing have been agreed upon through the appropriate community governance mechanisms and documented</p>	<p>100 %</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>The CCPLI (FPIC) is carried out in all of the project's communities. In the first and second quarters of this fiscal year it has not been possible to carry out the CCPLI normally due to COVID 19, for the following</p>		<p>IS</p>	<p>(FPIC) CCPLI are pending for the first weeks of FY23 to indigenous communities that expressed their interest in this phase of the project. This were not completed before because documentation review could not be completed in FY22. Project moves ahead with certification only after FPIC has been concluded approved and documented. FPIC explain benefits for communities and other relevant issues of the certification process.</p>

		<p>quarters, this has improved and has been carried out normally, taking into account the protocols established by the Ministry of Health. A total of 7 CCPLs (100%) have been carried out, all of them in the period of fiscal year 2022.</p>			
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b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement

The main challenge for stakeholder participation is the health measures and restrictions related to COVID-19 because face-to-face events are not possible and virtual meetings are difficult when working with indigenous communities. Despite this situation, the project team continued to conduct desk work, virtual meetings, and reorganization activities. Folders were evaluated and the status of each proposal was presented in a feasibility report, thus determining the feasibility of joining the regime within the project's timeframe, knowing the short timeframe for its realization.

c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets

- a) *All activities anticipated by the GMP were implemented? Yes/No Why?* Yes, our project has been aimed to certify conservation areas in favor of indigenous communities, with consultation to all community members, male and female alike. Also, capacity building activities of the project have sought the inclusion of women in these activities (more than 50%).
- b) *Did the project face any challenges to implementing GMP as initially proposed? Please describe the challenges in case there were any.* None in particular.
- c) *As compared to the original GMP, was any adaptive management applied to promote meaningful participation of women and advance towards other gender sensitive targets?* Gender sensitive measures were applied as initially planned.
- d) *Did the project team/stakeholders observe any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) related to gender equality, that are difficult to capture in a quantitative way during this period of time?* For example, women are more active in decision-making processes in the project, or public servants are more interested and open to advance gender outcomes, men or women are more reluctant to participate in the project activities, or other similar situations. None in particular
- e) *Considering all the above, what are the recommendations for next FY to continue advancing towards gender sensitive targets?* We will continue to ensure consultation to all members of the community in project activities and specially when delivering certificates, this will be done in participatory meetings in presence of the community.

d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products¹³ developed and disseminated

In FY23, a consultant will be hired to carry out the systematization of the project including the evaluation and lessons learned.

e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

ESMF PLAN REQUIRED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	CURRENT FY22 IMPLEMENTATION RATING	RATING TREND
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	S	Unchanged
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	S	Unchanged
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	S	Unchanged
ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples Plan	S	Unchanged

OVERALL PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	Despite having an AGM in place, during this FY the project does not provide evidence of frequently socializing that AGM with all project stakeholders. They do commit to do it in the remaining part of project implementation. On the GMP, the project has over performed in the percentage of women participating and benefiting this FY. Nevertheless, the original gender action plan had specific actions that are not reflected in this PIR, and regarding strategies and plans incorporating gender considerations, there are no advances and the project is closed to its end. On the SEP and the IPP, the project engaged and advanced FPIC process with 7 indigenous communities this FY.	Unchanged

f. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
Before the end of the project, the Project Management Unit is advised to meet with CI-GGEF Agency Safeguards Team, to review which parts of the original ESMF plans were implemented as originally planned, and which ones were not due to the change in the implementer. This, in advance to project closure.	PMU CI-GEF Agency Safeguards Team	October 2022

¹³ Knowledge Products are those that are both intended to transmit knowledge but at the same time enable action by their audiences. For example, a lessons learned report, compilation of good practices and recommendations, etc.

SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED

Required topics

1. Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in the knowledge management plan approved at CEO endorsement/approval.

As reported last year, this project does not have a KM plan or budget. However, a document with lessons learned from the first phase of the project will be prepared, contracting in process. Also, KM activities are taking place throughout the project's outputs to continue engaging stakeholders in the ESR. A KM product to summarize the final results of the project is part of the FY23 workplan.

Additional topics (please choose two)

2. Project institutional arrangements, including project governance

The close collaboration between WWF Paraguay and MADES has been crucial to achieve positive project implementation. Good working relations between the two institutions, has made it possible to move ahead with the project and prioritize actions for this fiscal year. Knowing the short execution time of the project both organizations have requested a NCE after good results were achieved in terms of certification. The relationship with National Indigenous Institute – INDI, as part of this process of joint work to achieve the objectives with the indigenous communities has also been crucial to reach project objectives. A fast and coordinated decision making with focal points appointed at WWF and especially MADES has allowed for quicker and more agile coordinated work. Despite an Administrative Intervention held towards the DSA at the beginning of the fiscal year (standard procedure in MADES), this issue did not create delays, and work continues normally. Nonetheless this general positive scenario, when certain products, contracting or issues have to be reviewed by other directorates of MADES processes can even halt or slow down. Therefore, and considering all this, we can mention that the lessons learned is the importance of learning to work together as a team, between institutions, sectors; strengthening inter-institutional articulations is fundamental for a positive arrival to the territories, in this case, the indigenous communities; installing worktables or spaces for dialogue between institutions is essential for a coordinated work between the different sectors.

Implementation of safeguard policies, including gender mainstreaming, accountability and grievance mechanisms, stakeholder consultations

Free Prior and Informed Consent has been actively carried out in FY22 and the first weeks of FY23. This consultation involves a great institutional coordination between government agencies such as MADES and INDI, which is implemented by a multidisciplinary team with emphasis on these processes with intercultural approach and knowledge of laws, decrees that respond to the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the accompaniment of trusted representatives of the communities (lawyers, advisors, among others). The processes respond to cultural times of families of the different peoples where the times are considered as participatory spaces that promote community decision making through information on the implications of adhering to the environmental services regime for indigenous communities so that once the families and participants of the process can give their consent and be part of the results within the framework of the PROMESA project. It is important to highlight that, due to cultural issues and also due to the lack of adequate means of communication, it is not possible to carry out the consultations virtually, which represents an even greater challenge. In projects such as the current one, the necessary time, but also institutional support (political will), as well as resources and communication and dialogue skills become crucial.

The CCPLI is a key process, considering that it grants legitimacy through the validation of the governing institution of indigenous peoples in Paraguay, in this case, the INDI through its decree N°. 1039.

Lessons learned:

- The calls are made in coordination with the leader(s) of the communities where, it is mentioned that the invitation is made at the community level, thus promoting the effective participation of men, women, boys, girls, elderly, old women.
- The participation of INDI is fundamental considering that each CCPLI must be validated by the institution.
- It is always important to channel the approach to the communities through representatives, whether they are legal, advisors or linked to other projects with whom the communities have confidence, thus achieving an effective approach to the community.

- It is important to provide for the accompaniment of a translator from the community, considering that many communities communicate in their own language.
- The timing of the decision-making process is very important for the communities, for a better understanding and effective participation during the process.

SECTION VI: PROJECT GEOCODING

This section of the PIR documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information provided in the Project Document. The following information should be contained in this section:

- a. Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year
- b. Project Map and Coordinates from Project Document

Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year (add additional columns as needed)

Geo Location Information	Location No. 1	Location No. 2	Location No. 3
CLASSIFICATION <i>Indicate whether the site is new or already existing in the previous PIR or indicate whether the site is included at CEO Endorsement/Approval or not. Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.</i>			
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line			
GEO NAME ID <i>Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org.</i>	3867442	3439441	3437443
LOCATION NAME <i>Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.</i>	Departamento de Boquerón	Departamento de Alto Paraguay	Departamento de Presidente Hayes
LATITUDE <i>Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.</i>	-22.64105	-20.5	-23.5
LONGITUDE <i>Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.</i>	-61.07381	-59.16667	-58.83333
LOCATION DESCRIPTION <i>(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger site".</i>			
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION			

<i>(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".</i>			
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Please provide a justification regarding changes in location during implementation. Justifications should also be provided in the event the geographic location of key project activities cannot be provided at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage.

(Geo Name ID: Location Name)

Justification:

Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and image map where the project interventions took place. If available, please provide attachments as appropriate such as in the case of locations presented along geometric shapes in popular formats like shapefiles, KML and GeoJSON.

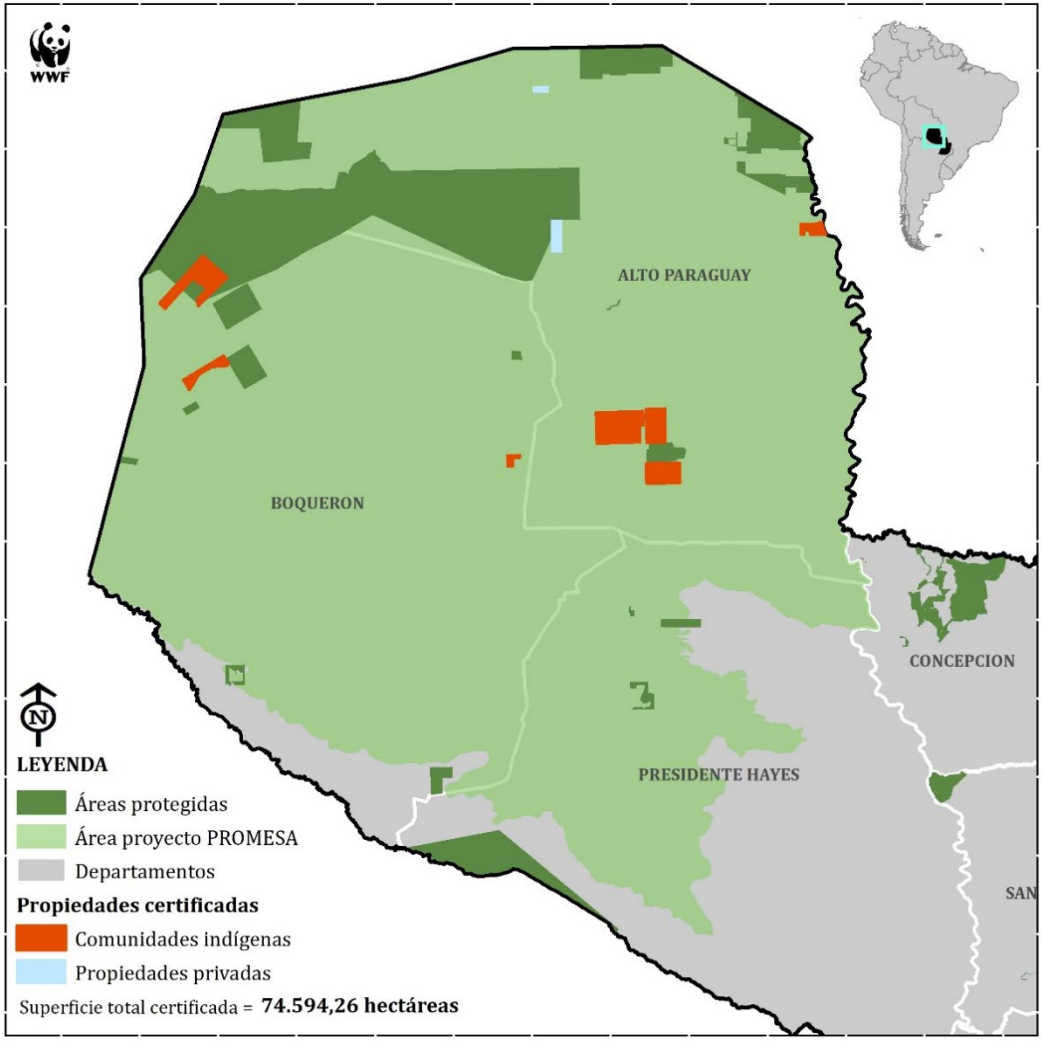
Link to the map:

<https://panda.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=2922b435f3794d73bb35784b4d275fc6>)

Link to access to the shapefile of certified properties :

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QLIJGb01SO7h5EJC4jQU30z8FTXH1r1h?usp=sharing>

Map:



APPENDIX I: PROJECT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING

Rating		Overdue (O)	Delayed (D)	Not started on schedule (NS)	Under implementation on schedule (IS)	Completed/Achieved (CA)
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	HS	0%		100%		
Satisfactory (S)	S	20%		80%		
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	MS	40%		60%		
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	MU	60%		40%		
Unsatisfactory (U)	U	80%		20%		
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	HU	100%		0%		

- **Highly Satisfactory:** 100% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project. The project can be presented as an example of “good practice” project,
- **Satisfactory:** 80% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; except for only 20% that are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Satisfactory:** 60% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 40% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Unsatisfactory:** 40% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 60% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Unsatisfactory:** only 20% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 80% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action, and
- **Highly Unsatisfactory:** 100% of the indicators: a) are overdue, and/or b) delayed in their implementation, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project.

APPENDIX II: RISK RATINGS

Rating	
Low (L)	L
Moderate (M)	M
Substantial (S)	S
High (H)	H

- **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.
- **Moderate Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
- **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.
- **High Risk:** There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

APPENDIX III: PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT EXPECTED OUTPUTS

INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING ¹⁴	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome 1.1: The existing environmental services regime of Paraguay has met all enabling conditions needed to fully operate the natural forests category.				
Output Indicator 1.1.1: Number of ESR evaluation report submitted to MADES	Target 1.1.1: One report submitted		CA	The activities of this indicator were completed in FY21.
Output Indicator 1.1.2: Number of Ministerial Resolution drafts submitted to MADES for approval	Target 1.1.2: At least 1 draft for a Ministerial Resolution		CA	The activities of this indicator were completed in FY21.
Outcome 1.2: Certified hectares under the Environmental Services Regime				
Output Indicator 1.2.1: Number of hectares eligible for certification	Target 1.2.1: 40,000 ha certified	74,183.26 hectares of certified forests and another 24,500 hectares of forests in the process of certification, both equivalent to 247% of the project's objective.	IS	In this fiscal year 22, 6 properties achieved certification of their forests with a total area of 74,183.26 hectares, 5 belonging to indigenous communities with a total area of 72,633.26 hectares and 1 belonging to private property with 1,550 hectares certified. Seven new properties were also evaluated (6 properties belonging to indigenous communities and 1 private property) that expressed interest in joining the environmental services regime within the framework of the PROMESA project; all of them have the required documentation and are in the process of certification within MADES. Another 3 new indigenous properties with approximately 15,000 hectares of certifiable forests are currently in the process of evaluating their documentation for joining the regime.
Outcome 2.1: Identification of priority areas relevant for certification in the Environmental Services Regime				

¹⁴ O= Overdue; D= Delayed; NS= Not started on schedule; IS= Under implementation on schedule; and CA= Completed/Achieved

<p>Output Indicator 2.1.1: Number of areas identified for ESR certification.</p>	<p>Target 2.1.1: At least 20 properties identified and analyzed</p>	<p>10 new portfolios were evaluated, 9 belonging to indigenous communities and 1 belonging to private property, 1 property adhered in FY21 has cancelled the process.</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>In this fiscal year, progress has been made in identifying 10 new certifiable areas, 9 belonging to indigenous communities with an approximate certifiable area of 40,000 hectares and 1 private property with a certifiable area of 2,126 hectares.</p> <p>In addition to these, other properties that expressed interest in joining the project were evaluated and due to lack of documentation have not been able to obtain their certificates within the framework of the project.</p> <p>Another property with a potential certifiable area of 1,900 hectares, which began the certification process in FY21, has decided to withdraw from the project due to health problems (COVID), and the owner has cancelled the process to sell the property.</p>
<p>Outcome 2.2: Monitoring scheme for natural forests modality in ESR updated and operational</p>				
<p>Output Indicator 2.2.1: Number of ministerial resolutions for monitoring natural forests modality</p>	<p>Target 2.2.1.: One ministerial resolution proposal</p>	<p>1 proposed ministerial resolution</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>Currently, through the hiring of a consulting team working jointly with MADES and WWF, a regulatory proposal is being prepared to update the monitoring and auditing processes in order to ensure proper implementation within the framework of Law 3001/06. The project is strengthening the ESR monitoring system. This is being done through: the purchase of the necessary equipment and its donation to MADES, and training for MADES technicians in the use of the GIS tool.</p> <p>The calculation of carbon emissions will be carried out in fiscal year 23, at the end of the project, to calculate the avoided emissions of the entire project area and carry out the training considering these as a case study.</p>
<p>Outcome 3.1: Capacity of institutional stakeholders to participate of the Environmental Services Regime strengthened.</p>				

<p>Output Indicator 3.1.1: Number of institutional stakeholders strengthen their capacities in ESR</p>	<p>Target 3.1.1: 100 people from different MADES directions and institutions involved in the ESR</p>	<p>209 people participated in six training workshops organized during fiscal year 22</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>In this fiscal year, 6 training workshops on Environmental Services have been held. These were aimed at technicians of MADES, Supreme Court of Justice, holders of Environmental Services, Non-Governmental Organizations and people interested or working in the area such as consultants in charge of managing the documentations for their adhesion to the regime. The high level of interest in the area led to the planning of another training in FY23, which is in the process of reviewing the topics to be developed.</p>
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