

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

**PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Project Name</b>	Consolidation of the National System of Protected Areas at the National and Regional Levels				
<b>Project's GEF ID</b>	5680	<b>Project's IDB ID:</b>	CO-T1387	<b>Overall Stage:</b>	Disbursing (from eligibility until all the operations are closed)
<b>Country/ies</b>	Colombia				
<b>GEF Focal Area</b>	Biodiversity				
<b>Executing Agency</b>	THE WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE - COLOMBIA				
<b>Project Finance</b>	GEF Trust Fund	\$4,157,000			
	Co-finance at CEO Endors./Approv.	\$16,029,515			
	TOTAL Project Cost (GEF Grant + co-finance)	\$20,186,515			
<b>Disbursements</b>	GEF Grant disbursed as of end of previous fiscal year	\$3,234,474			
	GEF Grant disbursed as of end of this fiscal year	\$4,157,000			
<b>Project Dates</b>	Agency Approval Date	12/08/2016			
	Effectiveness (Start) Date	2/3/2017			
	First Disbursement Date	8/2/2017			
	Expected Completion Date (in Convergence: OED)	2/3/2022			
	Current Closing Date (in Convergence: CED)	2/3/2023			
	Expected Financial Closure Date (in Convergence: EOC)	5/4/2023			
	Actual Date of Closure (in Convergence: CO)				
<b>Project Evaluation</b>	Mid-term Date (Planned)	6/30/2020			
	Mid-term Date (Actual)	3/17/2021			
	Terminal evaluation Date (Planned)	2/3/20223			
	Terminal evaluation Date (Actual)				

## Development Objective

The objective of the proposed project is to increase the coverage, representativeness and connectivity of protected areas and strengthened their management efficiency and participatory instruments. This will be pursued by integrating national with regional and local activities. In order to achieve this objective, the project will target protected area system improvements at the national, regional and local levels

## Development Objective Rating (DO) & Assessment

The project is classified as Satisfactory (S). The probability that the development objective outlined by the project will be met is satisfactory due to the following reasons: Once the extension of the project was approved, which was requested mainly due to the Covid situation, the planning of some of the products was reoriented together with the partners. This planning was fulfilled, currently counting on the total execution of several of the products, which are widely satisfactory since their impact has transcended to the national scale, as is the case of the monitoring information system, the training and capacity-building plan, and management effectiveness analyses. All these processes are closely linked to several of the strategic actions proposed in the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) Policy, so it is considered that the GEF SINAP has been an important platform for the start of the implementation of this policy.

### PREVIOUS RATING

S

### NEW RATING

S

## Project Status Update

For fiscal year 2022 most of the products were completed, with the following pending completion: the monitoring information system, the education and training plan, and the implementation of the communication strategy. All products have been developed jointly with partners and strategic actors from different management areas (national, regional, and local).

Regarding the joint work with the Ministry of the Environment for the planning of the management of the National Protective Forest Reserves (*Reservas Forestales Protectoras Nacionales* RFNP), progress was made in the formulation of the management plans of 10 RFNP and 14 management plans are in the process of being adopted. Likewise, the project has contributed to advancing the effectiveness goal set forth in the National Development Plan "Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity", where 63% of the public protected areas with analysis of management effectiveness. All these actions, which have been developed based on the guidelines of the environmental authorities, will contribute to ensure that the protected areas and their systems move towards effective management.

With the recent approval of the SINAP 2030 policy through the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) 4050, the project becomes even more relevant given that the successful execution of several of its strategic actions depends on the implementation of the instruments that have been generated within the framework of the project, such as, for example, the monitoring information system, the planning guide for protected areas, the effectiveness methodologies, the training and education plan, and the communication strategy. Likewise, other products of the project are contributing to the goals outlined by the policy in different management areas, as is the case of the declaration processes, the harmonization of the Regional Subsystem of Protected Areas (SIRAP) action plans with the SINAP action plan and the construction and implementation of strategic actions of management plans in prioritized areas. Among the main advances by component, the following stand out:

- Component 1. Strengthening of the National System of Protected Areas. Progress was made with 100% of the SINAP monitoring information system developed to incorporate the regional subsystems. Of this component, only the SINAP communication strategy is about to be completed, which shows 95% progress.
- Component 2. Strengthening of regional subsystems of protected areas – SIRAP. The implementation of the action plans of the SIRAP Andes Nororientales and Orinoquia was concluded based on the main needs identified by the technical secretariats. In relation to the training and capacity-building plan, a virtual learning

campus was published, in which seven training programs are already available that obey the first phase of the plan. Regarding the management plans, 100% of the strategic actions were implemented in the protected areas, which were jointly agreed with the PNN and the Regional Autonomous Corporations. Regarding the cycles of analysis of the management effectiveness methodology applied in subsystems and regional PAs, there is a second cycle of application for all the areas of the portfolio, where the facilitation of effectiveness analyzes was additionally supported. of 63% of public protected areas and the process of effectiveness of seven Regional Subsystems of Protected Areas.

In relation to the SINAP monitoring information system implemented by the SIRAPs Orinoquía and Andes Nororientales, an advance of more than 95% is presented.

- Component 3. Increase the ecosystemic representativeness of SINAP. The goal proposed in the project was satisfactorily met, achieving 80% of ecosystem units represented in SINAP.

## Implementation Progress

Implementation Progress Rating (IP) & Assessment	PREVIOUS RATING	NEW RATING
<p>During fiscal year 2022, the rating for the project's progress of its implementation is: "Satisfactory"(S), given the following advancements:</p> <p>- In the first component, 100% of product 1.4 was executed. SINAP's monitoring information system developed to incorporate regional subsystems, progress was also made on product 1.3. SINAP's communication strategy designed and implemented, reaching 95%.</p> <p>- In relation to the second component of the project, 100% compliance with the following products was achieved: 2.1. Action plans of SIRAPs Orinoquía and Northeastern Andes updated and implemented, 2.3. Regional and national protected area management plans implemented, 2.4. Analysis cycles of the management effectiveness methodology applied in regional subsystems and Protected Areas (PA)s. The following products were significantly boosted, achieving progress for over 95%: 2.2. Local institutions and organizations trained in PA management and 2.5: SINAP monitoring information system implemented by the SIRAPs Orinoquía and Andes Nororientales. Regarding component 3, support was provided for the generation of technical inputs for the expansion of the Yruparí-Malpelo DNMI and the Malpelo SFF, as well as for other declaration processes that, although not part of the project portfolio, are strategic for the country.</p>	S	S

## Project Risks

Risk Rating (RISK) & Assessment	Previous Rating	New Rating
<p>The implementation's risk of the project in its completion phase is classified as Low (L), due to the permanent articulation of actions taken place at different areas of management of PNN as coordinator of SINAP and with the Ministry of Environment, as well as with the CARs and private owners, which guarantees that the decisions and actions taken have full institutional support.</p> <p>Likewise, the project has a risk matrix that has been reviewed periodically, which has allowed the timely identification of alerts regarding the level of implementation of technical and administrative processes. In this sense, three of the six identified risks are in the "Low" category and are mainly associated with political, institutional, and environmental</p>	M	L

aspects. The risk associated with the Covid-19 pandemic that was in the High category was reclassified to the "Medium" category.

## Stakeholder Engagement

The project keeps as one of its principles for implementation, that it be generated jointly with social, public, and private actors in different management areas. Through the technical committees of the "GEF-SINAP" project, spaces for dialogue are generated to discuss the most relevant issues.

The project team permanently holds meetings to work on the issues of components 1 and 2 linking them to the work of planning protected areas, evaluations of management effectiveness, communication, and dissemination actions, as well as workspaces for the monitoring information system. In addition to meetings and workshops, the project team shares documents for joint review with some key actors and pilots of our technical tools are carried out. For the declaration process of public and private protected areas, the project team promotes the generation of broad governance models for management in territories.

### Recommendation:

Continue to strengthen the active participation of the actors involved as it is a fundamental part of the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the project.

## Gender

Although the project does not have a specific indicator associated with the gender issue, its implementation meets the guidelines of the safeguards that World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has recently developed at a global level and also at a landscape level, as is the case of the Northeastern Andes. One of these guidelines is called "gender equality and risks", where questions are raised aimed at reflecting on how all World Wildlife Fund (WWF) interventions from projects and other initiatives, keep principles and values that support the role of women, ensure gender equity, among other aspects.

- Is there a risk that the project potentially limits the ability of women and men to use, develop and protect natural resources equally (e.g., taking into account the different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services such as fishing and clean water)?
- Is there a risk that the project may discriminate against women or other groups on the basis of gender, with respect to participation in the design and implementation of project activities or access to opportunities and benefits?
- Is there a risk that people employed or directly involved in the project may commit acts of gender-based violence (including sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment)?

Faced with these questions, it is affirmed with certainty that the execution of the "GeF-Sinap" project respects and firmly welcomes the gender and equity approach, giving a response with a favorable balance. A concrete example is the equitable gender participation in the process of analyzing the effectiveness of the management of National System of Protected Areas (SINAP's) public areas, where of the 1,472 participating actors, 48.57% are men and 51.45% women.

### Recommendation:

Continue with the participation of women in the project and with the inclusion of the gender approach in the project.

## Knowledge

The following knowledge products were developed during fiscal year 2021-2022:

- The process of declaring the *Serranía de Manacacías* as a protected area advances: <https://www.wwf.org.co/?uNewsID=374670>
- "Return the land to the Earth", the purpose of a group of reservists in Santander: <https://www.wwf.org.co/?uNewsID=375751>
- How to grow edible mushrooms? the commitment of a group of nature reserves in Santander: <https://www.wwf.org.co/?uNewsID=375553>
- Rainbow trout: the greatest competition for native species in the Boyacá protected area: <https://www.wwf.org.co/?uNewsID=37609>
- The peasant who left hunting and sawmilling to defend nature: <https://www.wwf.org.co/?uNewsID=377071>

### Recommendation:

In the final phase of the project, socialize and disseminate the results of the project

## Lessons Learned / Best Practices

In the process of building the effectiveness tool at the system level, greater learning was acquired regarding the aspects that must be analyzed to advance towards effectively managed protected area systems. Greater knowledge was also acquired about the indicators that must be considered to know the progress in the attributes of the National System of Protected Areas (representative, well connected, effectively and equitably managed).

### Recommendation:

Permanently update the effectiveness tool to identify all aspects and indicators linked to the National System of Protected Areas that are effectively managed.

An important lesson was to generate greater capacity and ability in local organizations to continue strengthening the connection between the project and the base communities, so that the processes would not be affected due to the absence of the physical institutional presence of the personnel who do the work.

### Recommendation:

Continue to strengthen the active participation of the actors involved as it is a fundamental part of the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the project.

The policy construction process taught the importance of political influence to give greater support to all technical advances.

### Recommendation:

Continue to strengthen the active participation of the actors involved to achieve an effective implementation of the policy.

## Successes

Compilation list of articles and news that have resulted from the development of the project:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EDVpUy8jASedwI\\_VCMEn3gohT0QaqYLLEHBjvIoJluc/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EDVpUy8jASedwI_VCMEn3gohT0QaqYLLEHBjvIoJluc/edit#gid=0)

The main objective of the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) 4050 document approved on September 30, 2021, is to reduce by 2030 the risk of loss of nature in the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP), in such a way as to guarantee the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services that they support the welfare and the present and future social, economic, and cultural development of the nation. Additionally, this policy is articulated with the 30x30 initiative aimed at

protecting at least 30% of the world's oceans and 30% of land areas and continental waters by 2030, with at least 10% subject to strict protection. See link: <https://www.dnp.gov.co/Paginas/CONPES-aprueba-politica-publica-para-la-consolidacion-del-Sistema-Nacional-de-Areas-Protegidas-de-Colombia.aspx>

Development of a guide for planning the management of National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) protected areas. With this tool all the categories of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) have for the first-time clear guidelines for carrying out planning exercises in the areas that integrate it, joining the existing ones for the categories of the National Natural Parks System.

[https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Guia\\_sinap\\_acoplado.pdf](https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Guia_sinap_acoplado.pdf)

### 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 Unit of Measure: The language of the matrix results was harmonized to English (according to reporting requirements). Thus, the change only corresponds to a translation from Spanish to English.
		YES	IDB	Modify Indicator name: The language of the matrix results was harmonized to English (according to reporting requirements). Thus, the change only corresponds to a translation from Spanish to English.
		YES	IDB	Modify Indicator name
	2020	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	NO	IDB	NONE

### Project Extension or Other Modifications

On December 20, 2021, due to delays caused in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was extended its execution for an additional 12 months (until February 2023) to complete activities related to the monitoring information system, the education and training plan, and the communication strategy.

## **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.