

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
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM					
1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	N/A	0	0	IS	The accountability and grievance mechanism continues being socialized at every presentation made by the project. So far, the project has printed banners and posters to be placed at every MPA office, particularly those where pilots are being carried out. Banners are being used for meetings and events so it can be widely known among the different stakeholders. The mechanism is also displayed on the web page of the project. The project has not received any verbal or written complaint
2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved	N/A	0	0	IS	
GENDER MAINSTREAMING					
1. Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)	N/A	Men 478 Women 356	Men 1821 Women 1408	IS	In FY22, 57 encounters among meetings, workshops and events have been organized by the project. During these meetings the project socialized advances with main stakeholders, workplans progress were presented, workshops to

<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>N/A</p>	<p>Men 263 Women 211</p>	<p>Men 603 Women 274</p>	<p>strengthen capacity were provided; the PMU also held meetings to follow-up on instruments that must be reviewed and approved.</p> <p>The workshops were attended by MPA staff, public servants, local governments, and local service providers working in the protected areas, local communities, and fishermen’s associations. During workshops held with local communities from Components 2 and 3, to ensure women participation, the classes were held in two schedules, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, both with the same content. Despite these efforts, the number of participants were mostly men.</p> <p>During FY22, 11 workshops to strengthen knowledge were provided through the PMU and externals consultants. In addition, 2 MPAs Network meeting were held, one virtually and the other one on-site in Guayaquil.</p> <p>It is important to remark that through a consultancy process, strategies/actions to include gender perspective were delivered. Based on these recommendations the PMU implemented certain strategies to increase women's participation in the workshops and meetings, such as the use of two time slots during workshops, in the morning and afternoon, conversations with community leaders about the importance of gender</p>
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<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>N/A</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>IS</p>	<p>inclusion, and the revision of guest lists to ensure gender equity.</p> <p>The project has signed minutes of commitments between REMACOPSE and 2 service providers that work at Punta Carnero Beach, where it is established that men and women must participate equally in decision-making spaces in order to maintain gender equity.</p> <p>Within the Sea Beach and adjacent strip Management Plans, a governance scheme has been established where evaluation indicators determined to comply with the principle of gender equity in order to obtain good governance within protected areas.</p> <p>The Capacity Building Plan from Component 3 contains a chapter on guidance for promoting gender equality. The following product was submitted To the Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management: DEVELOPING A SERIES OF MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO INTEGRATE THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE NETWORK OF AMCPs AND SNAP, in 2019, so that the gender perspective could integrate it into the SNAP strategic plan, the strategic plan has not been formalized to date by the Environmental authority.</p>
<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>1. Number of government agencies, civil society</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>66</p>	<p>216</p>	<p>CA</p>	<p>C1: WildAid, FIAS, MAATE, Biogennia, Electronautica, Frank Volker, Sedefa, Ecolap,</p>

<p>organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis</p>				<p>Alexandra Vásquez, Fernando Bajaña. C2: GAD Salinas, GAD Huaquill, Gobernación Santa Elena, MINTUR, MAATE, REMACOPSE, ANRPV, UTPL, Biogennia, Playas Limpias Association, Sirenita de Mar Association, Cantonal Council of Salinas, Cantonal Council of Playas, Julio Ocaña, Hugo Echeverría, Tourist companies of Canton Salinas, Artesans Association of Canton Salinas, Service providers associations of the ANRPV beaches, Reten Naval Posorja, Manthra, Richard Sánchez, Playas National Police, Playas Transit Comission. C3: GAD Municipal Huaquillas, GAD Provincial El Oro, MINTUR, Commune Lucha y Progreso, REMACAM, José Luis Mendoza, Arcoiris Foundation, Alexandra Endara, 19 El Oro local service providers, 5 associations of fishermen, shellfish farmers and crab farmers.</p>
<p>2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)</p>	<p>120</p>	<p>Men 478 Women 356</p>	<p>Men 1821 Women 1408</p>	<p>CA 834 stakeholders have participated in socialization events, workshops, trainings, and meetings. It is important to remark that in some meetings there is reiterative participation of some actors.</p>
<p>3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>57</p>	<p>197</p>	<p>CA During FY22, the project held around 57 engagement events between worskshops, meeting, socializations and trainings.</p>

the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)					
PHYSICAL CULTURAL RESOURCES 1. Number of physical cultural resources found in the project area that have been negatively impacted as a result of the project	0	0	0	IS	There have been no negative impacts resulting from the project.

b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement

Regarding **Component 1**, the project has maintain constant communication with authorities to keep them informed about progress, outcomes and challenges, to ensure the support of stakeholders to the project. The project is actively working to integrate the MPA network into the SNAP, as a strategy to move forward on this issue, a meeting was held with the focal group to establish actions to update the MPA network Action Plan, however, there is little progress on this topic. It is important to remark that the MPA Network scheme has served as an example to create the Amazon Protected Area Network in Ecuador.

Component 2 has improved conflicts in the use of beaches and buffer zones between Protected Areas and local GADs through the participatory construction of planning and governance instruments such as Sea Beach and Adjacent Strips Management Plans, inter-institutional cooperation agreements and ordinances. The challenge rests in the approval of these instruments by MAATE and Cantonal Councils of the local governments. The project has followed up directly with the Protected Area Directorate and the Cantonal Councils.

Component 3 has achieved a strong relation and active participation from the Afro-Ecuadorian Commune Lucha y Progreso, and is currently working with the aim that the Commune learns and implements agroforestry systems in the lowland evergreen forest of the Equatorial Chocó. This commune has been trained in techniques for the collection, management and propagation of seeds from the seed parent trees, with which it is expected that they will enrich the forest in degraded areas. The main challenge has been the approval of Lucha y Progreso's AUSCEM (Sustainable Use and Stewardship Agreements for the Mangrove Ecosystem) from MAATE, a delay due to the fact that the Zonal Director of Environment of Esmeraldas has requested additional revisions to the documents presented by the Commune, which are not part of the regular approval process. The project is constantly monitoring the process directly with Central Plant MAATE.

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

The Prodoc establishes actions to integrate the gender perspective into the project. Activities described in the Prodoc have been accomplished. During FY21, the project hired a consultant team to execute the contract, "Implementation of actions to integrate the gender perspective in the MPA Network and in the pilot areas of component 2: Punta Carnero beach of REMACOPSE and the ANRPV beach".

During FY22, the consultant presented the baseline gender analysis of women's perception over its impact on decision-making in governance and the strategies to integrate the gender perspective in the pilots of Component 2.

At REMACOPSE, 6 sensitization and awareness-raising events were held: 3 in the morning for government institutions and key stakeholders and 3 in the afternoon for park rangers. At ANRPVA, 5 sensitization and awareness-raising events were held: 2 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon for government institutions and key stakeholders. The events addressed topics on gender focus and equality, becoming spaces for dialogues with highly participatory and reflective dynamics. The objective of these events was to

- To raise awareness of key definitions and the importance of the gender approach.
- Identify barriers to achieving equality in the territories and propose actions.
- To teach methodological tools for gender analysis to their members or fellow leaders so that they can replicate the events.

Through the formation of focus groups and surveys, it was identified that within the ANRPV women do not have equal participation in decision-making in governance spaces, on the other hand, in REMACOPSE it was identified that women have equal participation with respect to men. In both cases, despite the responses generated by the focus groups, there is no clear knowledge of the concept of gender perspective in both pilots, MPA staff view gender as being outside of the scope of their work. The results were presented to the institutional focus groups for each of the pilots on the findings of the baseline gender analysis and the evaluation of the perception of women in decision-making on governance issues in order to prioritize the actions proposed to integrate the gender perspective in both pilots.

As a strategy to integrate the gender perspective, work was done locally in the pilots of Component 2 to incorporate the results of the consultancy into the MPA network. Meetings were held with institutional focal groups to review the 15 strategies/actions presented by the consultant. Of these 15 actions, 7 actions to promote the gender perspective were accepted by the focus group of REMACOPSE, and one by ANRPV. During the meetings responsible for each strategy/action were assigned. However, it was not possible to include the actions/strategies in the Operative Annual Work plan and assign budget to execute them. This because the institutions do not have the necessary expertise to carry out these activities. The project team held the workshops in 2 schedules, one in the morning and one in the afternoon in order to achieve gender parity. In addition, the meetings were held from Tuesday to Thursday because the female service providers work from Friday to Sunday, and rest on Mondays. Public servants are more interested in executing the gender actions proposed by the consulting team, but the challenge is the allocation of budget and hiring specialized people to motivate participation in these actions.

In the short-run, as recommended by the consultant team, the project will allocate resources to hire a facilitator to deliver workshops in FY23 for both pilots, and continue advancing toward gender sensitization. The following topics will be addressed:

1. Gender equality
2. Empowerment
3. Leadership
4. Women's rights
5. Gender violence
6. Approval of the law on abortion for rape.
7. Girls are not mothers

In the long-run, the recommendations of the PMU are to follow the strategies/actions presented by the consulting team to promote gender awareness and perspective in the pilot areas be executed and integrate these in the institutional Operation Work plan:

No.	Scope/Strategy - proposed actions
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Sexual division of labor	
1	Spaces for reflection and awareness with women on the negotiation of the sexual division of labor in their family environment.
2	Workshops on gender equality, women's rights, and self-esteem to strengthen autonomy and empowerment.
3	Communication and awareness strategy at the community level on the contribution of unpaid work in the family economy and the importance of distributing it among family members, presenting testimonies of transformation of gender roles.
Use, access and control of resources and benefits	
1	Generation of seed funds to encourage economic ventures of women of different ages that at the same time contribute to the post-pandemic economic reactivation
2	Training and technical support for economic ventures.
3	Political advocacy in local GADs based on the results of the diagnosis to generate actions to overcome the gender gaps identified in the Baseline
Participation in decision-making spaces and management positions	
1	Promote the work of women who are in managerial spaces through a communication campaign that allows to value the contribution of women in non-traditional roles of participation in spaces of power.

d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products¹³ developed and disseminated

Gender

Regarding gender a challenge faced is the lack of expertise and knowledge on gender perspective and issues from the team's project, consequently, it was necessary to hire experts that helped to develop activities outlined in the Prodoc and to train the personnel so that they can continue implementing the actions established within the Prodoc. The products developed by the project were:

- Baseline gender analysis of Punta Carnero and ANRPV beaches.
- Assessment of women's perception of their impact on decision-making in the governance of Punta Carnero and ANRPV beaches.
- Methodology of training courses and gender sensitization and awareness events for key organizations and leaders of organizations of both pilot areas.
- Final report on lessons learned and recommendations for the sustainability of this process.
- Progress Report on Gender Mainstreaming in the Playas Villamil National Recreation Area pilot.
- Progress Report on the Integration of the Gender Perspective in the Punta Carnero pilot project Puntilla de Santa Elena Coastal Marine Wildlife Production Reserve.

Other actions implemented:

- For Women's Day, a tribute was made to female park rangers on CI-E social networks.
- In the videos produced for responsible tourism, gender equality was made visible.
- Communication on the activities carried out to integrate the gender perspective in the Component 2 were published on the web page (bulletin 8).

A lesson learned from the activities carried out on gender issues is that these actions should have assigned their own budget from the beginning of the project.

Stakeholder engagement

Regarding stakeholder engagement, in **Component 1**, the main challenge faced throughout the life of the project has been the constant change of authorities. Considering that the governance structure of the project is tied to the predisposition of the environmental authorities this resulted in the delay of many activities and most importantly the non-compliance of indicator 1 “the MPA network has a formal normative and administrative framework that allows its functioning as part of the SNAP”.

In **Component 2**, despite the fact that the project is executed with MAATE, the results are achieved thanks to the involvement of key actors, once they become empowered in the processes. The formation of the core groups and the spaces for dialogue that have been maintained throughout the project have been key to the results achieved in the pilots. The importance of the actors in the construction of planning and ordinance instruments generated compliance with the principles of good governance.

For **Component 3**, from the beginning of the project, the Lucha y Progreso Commune had problems with the formation of its board of directors and accountability to the commune members and the Socio Bosque Program, which caused problems scheduling project meetings because many beneficiaries did not respond to the president's requests. As a result, the specialist had to contact the commune members directly and create spaces of trust to guarantee their effective participation and interest in the project. This led to delays at the beginning of the project. A lesson learned is in the proper analysis and selection of the beneficiaries, focusing on their organization and governance structure. This component also worked on strengthening the joint effort of the 5 mangrove custodian associations in Hualtaco Huaquillas that were enmities and now work together to deliver the inputs to prepare the semiannual reports to conserve the AUSCEM. To accomplish this, the project held workshops to train all the partners in the 3 programs of the Management Plans and the responsibilities that they must fulfill, to form the control and surveillance committee, and to show the format that must be filled out for the delivery of the reports.

All quarterly bulletins, which communicate the progress and activities generated by the project, are distributed to key stakeholders through WhatsApp groups, posted on the website, and are accessible from the web page as a mechanism to maintain stakeholders informed on the progress.

Grievance mechanism

The grievance mechanism has been fully implemented and it is available through the project's website. Furthermore, the grievance mechanism has been socialized with key stakeholders and continues to be communicated during all events, workshops and presentations made by the project, banners and fliers are used during events. In some administrative MPA offices and City Halls, fliers were allocated in public transit areas. So far, the project hasn't received any complaints.

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	HS	Unchanged
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	HS	Increasing
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	HS	Unchanged
ESS 6: Cultural Heritage Management Plan	S	Decreasing

OVERALL PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	During this period the project team continued to actively socialize the AGM with local communities and other stakeholders. Regarding the GMP, the	Unchanged.

	<p>participation of women significantly increased to 43% and women beneficiaries to 45%, when compared to FY23. Also, the project advanced in the development of strategies/plans/policies that included gender considerations and reached 10. It has also implemented sensitization workshops to tackle the identified weak technical capacity of the local authorities in this topic, and their difficulty to link gender to their work and scope. The SEP indicators continue to increase, and there is evidence the project has made an effort to actively engage with all key stakeholders, despite the difficulty of dealing with constant changes in decision-makers and focal points. Finally, different to FY21 the team did not continue to develop any activities associated to cultural heritage, as it could have been monitoring the implementation of the ordinance for “Bosque y Conchal Isla Seca” that seek to protect its ecological and archeological value”.</p>	
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f. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
<p>To continue tackling the perception among staff of the MPA network that gender issues are out of scope, it is recommended that the trainings programmed for FY23 include contents that link gender issues with conservation and management of protected areas. Also it is important that good practices and examples from other protected areas are included in the trainings. The project team should honor the agreements in terms of topics, but at the same time guarantee that workshops contribute to fill the gap in perceiving that gender issues are disconnected from MPA network work and scope.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p>	<p>November 2022</p>