# Safeguarding the biodiversity of ISLA DEL COCO National Park by enhancing biosecurity

## Part I: Project Information

**GEF ID**
**10752**

**Project Type**
MSP

**Type of Trust Fund**
GET

**CBIT/NGI**
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

**Project Title**
Safeguarding the biodiversity of ISLA DEL COCO National Park by enhancing biosecurity

**Countries**
Costa Rica

**Agency(ies)**
CAF

**Other Executing Partner(s)**
ISLAND CONSERVATION

**Executing Partner Type**
CSO

**GEF Focal Area**
Biodiversity

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Species, Invasive Alien Species, Threatened Species, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Capacity Development, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 0

**Submission Date**

1/8/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

10/1/2021

**Expected Completion Date**

10/1/2023

**Duration**

24In Months

**Agency Fee($)**

51,903.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

| Objectives/Programs | Focal Area Outcomes | Trust Fund | GEF Amount($) | Co-Fin Amount($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BD-2-6 | Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species through the Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species | GET | 572,435.00 | 4,572,000.00 |
| | | **Total Project Cost($)** | **572,435.00** | **4,572,000.00** |

**B. Project description summary**

**Project Objective**

To ensure conservation, ecological restoration and sustainable use of the globally significant biodiversity of Isla del Coco National Park by initiating a cost effective, sustainable process of prevention and preparing for the eradication of invasive alien species, particularly mammals, while learning relevant lessons

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Confirmed Co-Financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Comprehensive invasive alien species prevention system | Technical Assistance | **Outcome 1 -** A comprehensive IAS prevention system for Isla Del Coco National Park (203,483 ha), based on development and implementation of biosecurity protocols reducing risks of IAS introductions and establishment | **Output 1.1:** Biosecurity protocols developed, based on assessment of IAS pathways and potential control points, and implemented | GET | 84,459.00 | 822,000.00 |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Confirmed Co-Financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Component 2 - Preparing for invasive mammal eradications | Technical Assistance | **Outcome 2 -** T??he operational Plan and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment sets the stage for the eradication of invasive mammals and follow-up phases of Ecosystem Restaoration. | **Output 2.1:** Physical and human capacities for eradication of invasive mammals, established<br><br>**Output 2.2:** *Field trials for informing invasive deer eradication*<br><br>***Output 2.3*:** *Operational plan for five invasive mammal species approved by PSC*<br><br>***Output 2.4:*** *Environmental and Social Impact Assessment approved by PSC* | GET | 409,214.00 | 3,260,000.00 |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Confirmed Co-Financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Component 3 - Sustainability, knowledge, monitoring and evaluation | Technical Assistance | **Outcome 3 -** sustainability and knowledge are enhanced through capture of lessons learned, monitoring and evaluation | **Output 3.1:** *Knowledge and lesson captured and are available for learning*<br><br>**Output 3.2:** *Well-structured monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system in place provides timely information to PSC* | GET | 31,632.00 | 100,000.00 |
| | | | | **Sub Total ($)** | **525,305.00** | **4,182,000.00** |

| Project Management Cost (PMC) | | |
|---|---|---|
| GET | 47,130.00 | 390,000.00 |
| **Sub Total($)** | **47,130.00** | **390,000.00** |
| **Total Project Cost($)** | **572,435.00** | **4,572,000.00** |

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Recipient Country Government | ACMC | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 3,230,000.00 |
| Civil Society Organization | FAICO | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 1,142,000.00 |
| Civil Society Organization | ISLAND CONSERVATION | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 100,000.00 |
| Other | CAF | Grant | Investment mobilized | 100,000.00 |
| | | | **Total Co-Financing($)** | **4,572,000.00** |

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

CAF will offer a non reimbursable technical cooperation to the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. CAF's Technical Cooperation Funds are a percentage of CAF's annual revenues, therefore it is considered as "Investment Mobilized".

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount($) | Fee($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAF | GET | Costa Rica | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation | 572,435 | 51,903 |
| | | | | **Total Grant Resources($)** | **572,435.00** | **51,903.00** |

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **false**

**PPG Amount ($)**

**PPG Agency Fee ($)**

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount($) | Fee($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | **Total Project Costs($)** | **0.00** | **0.00** |

## Core Indicators

**Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 2,330.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

**Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN Category | Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 2,330.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN Category | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) | METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) | METT score (Achieved at MTR) | METT score (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| Name of the Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN Category | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) | METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) | METT score (Achieved at MTR) | METT score (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Akula National Park** Parque Nacional Isla del Coco | **125689** 170 | **Select**National Park | | 2,330.00 | | | 54.00 | | |

**Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 201,153.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

**Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created**

| Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN Category | Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness**

| Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 201,153.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN Category | Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) | METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) | METT score (Achieved at MTR) | METT score (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Akula National Park** Parque Nacional Isla del Coco | **125689** 170 | **Select**National Park | | 201,153.00 | | | | | |

**Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**

| | Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (Achieved at MTR) | Number (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Female** | | 324 | | |
| **Male** | | 792 | | |
| **Total** | 0 | 1116 | 0 | 0 |

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

**1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)**

Since the creation of the PNIC in 1978, five management plans have been developed for the National Park. The current management plan covers the 10-year period from 2017-2026. In order to better match its management planning to the current reality, a Diagnostic for the Update of the General Management Plan of the Isla del Coco National Park was completed in 2016[1][1]. The resulting report concluded that a number of the 51 strategies proposed in the 2007 management plan?including a plan for control and surveillance and other actions related to invasive species?had not been achieved.

Among the most significant threats facing the island?s biodiversity?one against which there are currently no control or surveillance protocols?is the increasing human presence and the concomitant risks of introduction and spread of alien invasive species. PNIC?s management plan, or Plan de Manejo (2017-26), includes five priority action areas: pelagic species, the forest ecosystem, reefs, geological formations and the historical cultural legacy. These are called Focal Management Elements (FME) and are considered vital to the park?s functions. FMEs benefit people through fish production, water supply and electricity generation, but several are at risk from factors such as illegal fishing, climate change, sedimentation, pollution, uncontrolled tourism and diving and the lack of protection of the historical legacy.

Invasive alien mammals have significant impacts on the human resources and terrestrial and marine ecosystems of Isla del Coco. Rats (*Rattus rattus, R. norvegicus*) were present by 1865. They negatively impact stored foods, and infrastructure and carry pathogens that impact the health of people. Workers on Isla del Coco have been diagnosed with, and their health significantly impacted by leptospirosis sourced from rats on at least two occasions. Rats, as omnivores cause population declines and extinctions of island floras and faunas and interrupt ecosystem processes with negative cascading effects[2][2]. On Isla del Coco, as elsewhere, their diet consists of seeds, seedlings, marine and terrestrial invertebrates, reptiles, seabirds and landbirds[3][3]. Predation on seeds and seedlings by rats has been shown elsewhere to significantly impact forest recruitment, structure, composition and dynamics[4][4]. Preferential predation on native seeds and dispersal of invasive plant seeds has been documented on Isla del Coco[5][5], providing a competitive advantage for invasive plants. Rat predation on the eggs, chicks and adult land birds like the Cocos finch and seabirds like the white tern have been documented. Elsewhere, rat predation on land and seabirds have had population-level impacts however this has not been studied nor described for Isla del Coco. Rats provide a year-round food source for feral cats and may facilitate the presence of an elevated cat population on Cocos with resultant increased impacts on native birds, a process known as hyperpredation[6][6]. Rat population density for Cocos of 63-156 individuals/ha, with an average of 87.5 rats/ha[7][7], which is high compared to other islands worldwide.

Cats were introduced by seafarers to control rats in 1893. Feral cats are present across the entire island and prey on invasive rats, endemic reptiles, land birds, seabirds and large marine and terrestrial invertebrates. Little research has been done on island on their population level impacts on native fauna, however they likely have had significant impacts on seabird populations that now only breed abundantly on the cat-free islets. Elsewhere, a loss of seabirds has resulted in significant vegetation changes as a result of cessation of nutrient inputs from guano[8][8].

Pigs were introduced to Isla del Coco in 1793 to provide food for visiting sailors. Population densities in 2019 were 21.9 pigs/km2 from a camera trap study[9][9]. As omnivores, feral pigs will prey on other invasive mammals including deer fawns, seabirds, reptiles, invertebrates in the soil, fruits, seeds, seedlings and other plant material[10][10]. While foraging for worms and fallen fruits, pigs root up the ground in a manner equivalent to ploughing, disturbing the bed of vegetation and fallen leaves and exposing soil to erosion processes. On Cocos, one study estimated that up to 19% of the island?s surface area is affected annually by feral pigs, with resultant exposure of soils increasing erosion rates ten-fold[11][11]. Eroded soil ends up in the marine environment as sediment. During major rainfall events, large sediment plumes are prevalent around the island. Sediment plumes are carried on currents and deposited on the sea floor, changing the seafloor substrate. Sediment has complex effects on the ability of planktonic life-stages of corals[12][12], lobster and fish to successfully locate suitable habitat, as well as impacting on their post-settlement performance and, ultimately, recruitment success[13][13].

The remainder of this baseline discussion focuses on and provides more detailed information on the invasive deer species for which trials will be conducted under Component 2.

White-tail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is a medium-sized deer with a long neck and legs, whose native distribution covers substantial areas of North, Central and South America. The species has been introduced to a suite of islands worldwide, many of which it has successfully invaded, e.g. Isla Margarita, Mexico, Cuba, New Zealand, Jamaica, Hispaniola and the Bahamas. The species is found in a variety of ecosystems including tropical forest, with a preference for forested areas for refuge[14][14]. White-tail deer are fast and agile, reaching a speed of up to 64 km / hr. They feed on grasses, fungi, nuts, seedlings and tender foliage. They generally do not form large groups; social structure is typically made up instead of a female and her offspring. Reproduction occurs throughout the year and juveniles sexually mature after one year. Average life span is 10 years.

White-tail deer were introduced onto Isla del Coco in 1934[15][15] and have thrived there. In order to estimate their numbers and distribution, the ACMC park ranger team has developed a monitoring system based on camera traps. Camera traps are efficient tools for wildlife monitoring and arrays of camera traps can have high detection probabilities for deer when appropriately placed. Through this method, the presence of deer in different areas of the island can be determined and removal efforts can be focused on sites where animals are more likely to remain.

Building on earlier surveys of deer and other invasive species[16][16], an initial effort between researchers and ACMC was recently completed[17][17]. A total of 1,577 camera trap photo-captures were used to establish deer activity patterns on Isla del Coco, demonstrating that deer were present

across the entire island, with concentrations around Wafer and Chatham bays. The species activity peaks during diurnal periods (early morning and late afternoon). Nocturnal activity is reduced, but present and consistent.

Previous survey data, reported in 2010[18], had indicated that 323 deer (range of 116 - 325) were present on Isla del Coco. A survey undertaken in 2019[19] estimated the deer population to be between 50 and 77 individuals. Deer presence was recorded in 75.5% of the 45 sites, leading to the conclusion that the entire island is suitable to be occupied by them. Accurate total population estimates of wildlife have long-eluded researchers, with significant differences in results depending upon how studies are designed, implemented, their data analysed and whether they violate assumptions of the statistical methods used.[20]

The harmful effect of invasive herbivores in islands has been studied in differ?ent parts of the world. Bonilla-Mata (2020) highlights the problems of natural regeneration linked to the presence of large herbivores on small islands, including Isla del Coco. Herbivores impact the development of the forest due to their browsing on seedlings, saplings and branches, changing growth patterns and by altering tree abundance and regeneration (Dirzo, 2001). The main negative impact of selective deer herbivory is the interruption of forest regeneration processes by their grazing on germination shoots and tender foliage of some forest plant species[21] [22] [23].

Herbivores can also affect the availability of tree seeds and their dispersion, which is a critical process for forest maintenance (Janzen, 1970). Deer, like other wild mammals, are important seed dispersers in part because of their wide range of movement. Herbivory by deer can promote the establishment of introduced species within the forest structure by dispersing invasive plant seeds from open areas into the forest. Kellogg and Bridgham (2004) mention that this results in the transformation of forest ecosystems to alternate states, as invasive species displace native ones.

Finally, deer can cause additional physical impacts, including increased erosion from hooved feet compacting soil on temporary access routes, while denuding some areas of vegetation and destabilizing slopes in other parts.

As elsewhere, invasive mammals intro?duced into the PNIC have had significant impacts on forest regeneration. These have been confirmed by comparing vegetation within exclusion fences to unfenced control plots[24] [25]. The results obtained?notably related to the regeneration of endemic, threatened tree species inside the exclusion fences, while no regeneration occurred out?side the fences?serve to illustrate the intense pressure posed by introduced herbivores. In particular, canopy species are consumed by herbivores during the seedling and sapling stages and are heavily subjected to branch-grazing until they outgrow the white-tailed deer.

In line with the above, the structure and composition of Isla del Coco ?s forests have been undergoing a transformation for decades, since the introduction of invasive mammals and more recently due to climate change. More significant changes have been documented in the Premontane Pluvial Rainforest (PPR). These changes are characterized by the loss of dominance of *S. holdridgei*, in turn inducing a shift in forest vertical and horizontal structure. Statistically significant differences have been identified in recruitment, mortality, regeneration and growth rates between the two forest types. Even though the PPR and CF share the same canopy species, dynamic and ecological process, along with abiotic factors

and geological origin[26][26] have caused them to respond differently to browsing and other pressures?a fact that reaffirms the diversity and complexity of the island?s ecosystems.[27][27]

The severity of the challenge posed by invasive mammals to the island?s floral biodiversity have been well documented. In particular, it has been found that, according to IUCN criteria, all thirty-two (known at the time) endemic species, along with four sub-species, are critically endangered.[28][28] Deer currently impact the biodiversity of PNIC by: 1) preventing forest regeneration and altering forest composition and structure by predating on seeds and browsing on seedlings,[29][29] 2) dispersing seeds of invasive alien species or opportunistic native species, 3) compacting soil on temporary access routes, and 4) increased sediment on the reef and reduced ability of soil to maintain ecosystems through accelerated erosion. In the long term, deer act as ecosystem engineers contributing to the degradation of the tropical forest towards a deforested condition with plant cover by a few alien, invasive and opportunistic plants.

Under a baseline, business-as-usual scenario, monitoring of invasive species would continue on an intermittent basis, but no system for biosecurity would be established. In this case, invasive species would continue arriving and becoming established. With regard to established invasive mammal species, managers would continue to discuss the need for removing the damaging invasive species and they would continue to be a priority in subsequent management plans. Meanwhile, ecosystems would continue being degraded and modified and the likelihood of species going extinct would increase. The reef would be further impacted from sediment, impacting marine ecosystems and the dive tourism industry.

**3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project**

Isolation and the small size of island ecosystems tends to make them heavily susceptible to the effects of invasive species. Equilibrium thresholds are easily surpassed, processes of succession stagnate and species become prone to extinction. For this reason, 75% of global extinctions have occurred in islands, while 67% were due to the introduction of species.[30][30]

Eradication of five invasive mammal species is a critical ecological need facing PNIC[31][31]. While best practice would seem to call for the simultaneous eradication of all the species introduced in the island[32][32], in practice this is rarely feasible. Reasons vary from social opposition, to the most common: high costs and substantial perceived risks.

On Isla del Coco, the simultaneous eradication of all five invasive mammal species is thus not feasible. As such, multiple eradications will need to be sequenced in an order whereby each eradication facilitates the next, rather than make any subsequent eradication more difficult or less likely to be successful. For example, feral pigs have a tendency to kill deer fawns;[33][33] to avoid releasing deer from this predation pressure, deer should be eradicated before pigs. Similarly, feral pigs and deer tend

to consume significant quantities of rodenticide-laced bait, effectively clearing large areas of bait intended for rats and thereby increasing the likelihood of operational failure of rat eradication. Accordingly, feral pigs should be eradicated before rats. Eradicating rats will simultaneously reduce the feral cat population through secondary poisoning and increase the likelihood of feral cats taking baits once rodents are absent. Without feral pigs and deer, cat traps can be used without interference or non-target captures of deer or pigs. Invasive rodents and feral cats can therefore be targeted simultaneously, with follow-up methods (e.g. trapping) to target any remaining feral cats. In summary, the order in which the invasive mammals on Isla del Coco should be eradicated is: deer first, followed by feral pigs and, finally, the simultaneous eradication of invasive rats (two species) and feral cats.

Thus, for a variety of reasons, a multi-staged eradication of Isla del Coco?s five invasive mammal species is planned. While there are pragmatic, including financial, reasons to remove these species one at a time, there are also benefits to be obtained from this stepwise approach. One benefit is lesson learning which, if done effectively, can significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of subsequent stages.

Feral pigs have been eradicated from 54 islands worldwide, with the largest being Santiago Island (58,465 ha) in the Galapagos. Feral cats have been eradicated from 107 islands and rats from more than 650 islands worldwide, many larger than Cocos[34][34]. Invasive deer populations have been eradicated from 15 temperate islands worldwide[35][35], including some that are much larger with equally challenging topography (e.g. Secretary Island (8,140 ha), New Zealand[36][36]). These eradications provide a suite of lessons learned and a body of knowledge that can be applied. However, unlike invasive pigs, cats and rats, deer eradication has only been conducted on temperate islands with few well-documented case studies and has not been attempted on a tropical island like Cocos. As such, trials will be used to inform the operational plan chapter for white-tailed deer, specifically to 1. provide reliable estimates of effort and cost; 2. determine whether the suite of methods is adequate or whether other methods need to be incorporated; and 3. test and refine methods for use in tropical conditions and to ensure species specificity (e.g. avoiding pig captures) can be achieved.

In preparation for trials the building of human and physical capacities will occur, that will also be required for conducting eradications on the island. Much of the associated infrastructure, e.g., temporary access routes, temporary camp sites and camera traps, will remain in place to support subsequent eradications.

In parallel with the above, a system of enhanced prevention (i.e. biosecurity) will be designed and put in place. This will consist of the design and implementation of a set of protocols and training of national park staff in their implementation. These actions are meant to sharply reduce the risk of further invasions and likelihood of establishment.

Finally, a system of monitoring and assessment will ensure both that the success of eradication preparation efforts can be verified along with the effectiveness of the comprehensive biosecurity system.

**Component 1: Comprehensive invasive alien species prevention system**

Outcome 1: A comprehensive IAS prevention system for Isla del Coco National Park (203,483 ha), based on development and implementation of biosecurity protocols reducing risks of IAS introductions and establishment

IAS prevention encompasses efforts to prevent harm from intentional and unintentional introductions of biological organisms?including harm to the environment, to human and animal health and the local economy.[37][37] Biosecurity measures are generally carried out at ports of departure and entry, as well as along travel pathways between destinations.

This outcome will ensure that an effective system for IAS prevention is in place concurrently with commencing the process of eradicating established IAS.

*Output 1.1: Biosecurity protocols developed, based on assessment of the existing biosecurity system at control points, and implemented*

The project will conduct a detailed technical assessment of the current potential pathways that IAS, both flora and fauna, could use to reach the PNIC. Based on the identification of potential pathways, options for possible control points will be considered. Control points are phytosanitary barriers to intercept IAS, preventing them from arriving and establishing themselves in the PNIC. Specifically, the steps to establish the biosecurity system will be identified, including: equipment needed to reinforce the control points, the protocols, equipment, staff capacity and infrastructure The protocols will be aligned with the institutional policies of SINAC-ACMC and will be approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The biosecurity protocols will establish the steps and guidelines that ACMC staff will need to follow in different situations, in order to ensure that they exercise their responsibilities and functions correctly. The protocols will aim to: a) establish the roles and responsibilities of ACMC staff regarding biosecurity; and b) standardize the performance of park rangers in relation to biosecurity.

The development of protocols will also involve establishing phases for their implementation and will identify priority actions that must be completed in the first year from their approval. This project will finance the prioritized activities for year 1. Implementation of activities for subsequent phases of the biosecurity protocols will be funded in conjunction with the second stage of the eradication. Finally, an audit will be conducted of protocol implementation, with project funds.

Once protocols have been approved by the PSC, ACMC staff will participate in training workshops to enable them to understand and be prepared to implement them. Workflow charts and other materials will be developed as part of the protocols, in order to aid implementation. Flowcharts will facilitate the application of protocols in the field and will be printed and distributed among SINAC-ACMC officials, tourist boats, scientists and other visitors, so that they can be available for quick consultation. Detailed protocols will be printed and also uploaded to the ACMC website.

Implementation of biosecurity protocols following the completion of the eradications will be financed with public funds, especially through preventive actions to be taken by park rangers. Tourism companies will be required, at their own expense, to comply with biosecurity protocols that will be defined for tourism operations in the ACMC.

**Component #2: Preparing for invasive mammal eradications**

Outcome 2: The operational plan and environmental and social impact assessment sets the stage for the eradication of invasive mammals and follow-up phases of ecosystem restoration

Under this outcome, the project will deliver an operational plan and ESIA for a series of invasive mammal eradications. In so doing, it will implement a trial of invasive deer eradication methods to effectively estimate effort and budget requirements within the operational plan, refine methods under tropical conditions. It will also establish physical; monitoring infrastructure and information systems needed to efficiently implement the trials and ultimately verify the success of the eradications. This will serve as an important base to solidify political and financial support for eradications on the island. Indeed, proposals for funding eradications are under active development: CAF is currently preparing a project proposal for funding by the Adaptation Fund of a regional project (Costa Rica and Dominican Republic) which would implement the invasive species eradications on Isla del Coco. As CAF safeguards are triggered by the use of toxicants to implement the eradications an ESIA is required and will be developed under this component.

The project takes a stepwise approach to eradication financing. As such, the current proposal carefully lays the groundwork for eradication to take place at a subsequent stage. The Government of Costa Rica remains deeply committed to the project and intends to prioritize fundraising for the eradication phase from multiple possible sources, including GEF8, FFEM, IKI and private sources.

*Output 2.1 Physical and human capacities for eradication of invasive mammals, established*

Given the demanding topography, extreme rainfall patterns and currently limited physical infrastructure of Isla del Coco, the project will need to build physical and human capacities to ensure a safe and successful trial, and implement the subsequent eradications. In order to facilitate access and field work, temporary camp sites, located in strategic places on the island, will be established to provide shelter to field staff. A network of temporary access routes will also be established to allow field personnel access to remote locations. Field staff will be engaged, trained and equipped. Key areas for training will include camera trap protocols (e.g. installation, battery and memory card changes and functionality checks); use of digital data collection devices and associated software; GIS; trapping protocols; implementation of eradication strategies, including use of firearms and ballistics; hunter ethics; first-aid, safety and emergency procedures; training on appropriate behaviour during field operations; guidance on PNIC main camp rules; roles and expectations of each team member; orientation to the GEF / CAF project requirements, including safeguards and grievance mechanism procedures.

Equipment needs will include: wet weather gear, boots, radios, radio holsters and chargers, radio repeater, knives, ammunitions, tree stands, cable-traps, trap setting tools, digital data collection devices (GPS-enabled tablets) with weather-proof housings, camera trap setting supplies, field computer and

accessories, sleeping bags, backpacks, waterproof gear bags, first aid kit, and hut kits (generators, stove, pots, cooking utensils, cots, radio charger, shelves, first aid kit).

To enable monitoring, determination of deer travel routes and future verification of eradication, an array of camera traps will be strategically laid out at key locations around the island. Approximately 110 camera traps will provide coverage of the island and be capable of reliably capturing quality images day and night. Camera traps will be placed on tree trunks or using rebar stakes to cover key temporary access routes and other likely deer travel routes. Wherever possible, camera locations will be identified through fresh deer sign (footprints, faeces). Resulting images will be essential to the project?s ability to place cable-traps along deer travel routes, monitor and verify, including follow-on eradications.

Accurate and well interpreted data and information are essential elements to achieving this outcome.[38][38] A number of activities will combine to ensure this output.

Data collected from camera traps will be fed into a digital data collection system and relational database. The project will employ innovative artificial intelligence techniques to assist with categorizing the thousands of resulting images, in particular to separate deer images from those of feral pigs.

Data will also be collected regarding the eradication efforts themselves. Hunters will carry ruggedized field data entry tablets. Tablets will capture the hunter?s GPS log for the day, and allow hunters to record where animals or sign were seen, animals were shot, traps set, checked or recovered. Data from tablets will be downloaded to a database to allow more detailed analyses to be undertaken, including for various reports to be produced under Output 3.

*Output 2.2: Field trials for informing invasive deer eradication*

Field trials for invasive deer will apply and provide critical tests of physical and human capacities developed in component 2.1. Hunters will test and refine cable-trap setting techniques, utilizing sign (footprints, faeces) and camera trap images to guide placement. Catch-per-unit-effort will be determined, along with trap nights, trap specificity as a ratio of deer to non-target (i.e. pig) captures, and avoidance tactics of deer assessed through analysis of camera trap images. If specific avoidance tactics are identified refinements will be made and likelihood of capture re-assessed. Hunters will also determine key locations for trails to access vantage points and assess feasibility of shooting within clearings and in the tropical forest with frequent heavy rains. Deer stands will be established where appropriate and their relative effectiveness determined. Catch-per-unit-effort will be determined, along with areas of the island that can be targeted with this method.

*Output 2.3: Operational plan for five invasive mammal species approved by PSC*

The invasive deer, pig, rat (2 species) and cat eradication operational plan will be developed, and approved by the PSC. Lessons learnt from the field trial will inform the invasive deer eradication

chapter. An annex to the plan will identify and assess risks to non-target wildlife and propose mitigation actions where appropriate. Efficiencies will be sought, and innovative cost-saving and risk-avoidance and reduction measures assessed and applied where appropriate (e.g. the use of drones for spreading rodenticide bait). Methods will be discussed with stakeholders through an engagement process, and their ideas and concerns will be taken into consideration in development of the plan. Stakeholder engagement process will include meeting with agencies providing permits for firearms, toxicants, drones, which will be essential to determine which methods are feasible and processes required. The resulting operational plan will adhere to international best practice for IAS eradication including the humane treatment and disposal of species that will be eradicated.

*Output 2.4: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment approved by PSC.*

As a last step, an ESIA will be conducted, the development of which will include additional stakeholder engagement. The ESIA will bring together the suite of operational, risk management and other plans developed for the project into a single document that: identifies and assesses the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed invasive mammal eradications; evaluates alternatives; and incorporates appropriate mitigation, management and monitoring measures. A third-party consultancy company will be contracted to develop an ESIA that meets both Costa Rica?s and the CAF Implementing Agency?s process and content requirements. IC and ACMC staff will provide technical support and oversight to the consultancy team. Once completed, the ESIA will be submitted to the PSC for approval. Even if a full ESIA is not required under national regulations, an ESIA is required by CAF (or other implementing agencies) in order to fulfil relevant safeguards for multilateral funds or other funds financing the implementation phase of the invasive alien mammal eradication project.

**Component #3: Sustainability, knowledge, monitoring and evaluation**

Outcome 3: sustainability and knowledge are enhanced through capture of lessons learned, monitoring and evaluation

***Output 3.1****: Knowledge and lesson captured and are available for learning*

The full ecological restoration of Isla del Coco will depend on the successful removal of all five invasive mammal species and the prevention of IAS introductions. The present project will provide a critical kick start to subsequent eradications. Physical and human capacity building will be one reason for this benefit. A second will depend on the project?s efforts to capture lessons learned from the field trials and stakeholder engagement and integrate them into the Operational plan. These will include lessons related to the use of camera traps, the estimation of effort to effectively cover the island and manage a large camera trap network, and more. Stakeholders? concerns can often result from lessons

learnt that were not previously documented. Also significant is the demonstration effect and increase in confidence resulting from training and better understanding of the limits and opportunities of mammal eradications.

For the above reasons, the project will carefully document its approach and methodology and ensure that its results are effectively communicated / shared amongst experts, policy makers and the general public in Costa Rica and beyond.

***Output 3.2:*** *Well-structured monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system in place provides timely information to PSC.*

In this output, the executing agency will: 1) Set up and convene a Project Steering Committee (PSC) to review project progress towards planned outcomes and outputs. Section IV provides more details on PSC conformation and responsibilities. 2) Put in place simple M&E tracking tools and process, that provide results-oriented project management and enable timely decisions to manage risks. 3) Implement Project M&E Strategy, including preparation of: Progress Reports, Annual Work Plans, Technical & Financial Progress Reports, PIR, GEF Tracking Tools, including reporting on Safeguard implementation. 4) Prepare and submit information for project Audit and Project Terminal Evaluation.

**4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies**

Drawing on the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, GEF-7 Programming Directions identify invasive alien species (IAS), particularly in island ecosystems, as one of the five main direct drivers of biodiversity loss. In recognition of the importance of this driver, and in response to CBD guidance for GEF-7 (Item II.D), the strategy targets investments in prevention, control and management of invasive alien species (with a focus on islands). More specifically, the strategy supports ?the implementation of comprehensive prevention, early detection, control and management frameworks that emphasize a risk management approach??, as well as ?targeted eradication? in ?specific circumstances where proven, low-cost and effective eradication would result in the extermination of the IAS and the survival of globally significant specieis and/or ecosystems?.

In alignment with the above, the project is set in an island ecosystem with globally significant ecosystem and species threatened by IAS. It combines a comprehensive pathways approach, including elements of protection, early detection, control and management. The proposed project begins with field trials to provide increased levels of certainty for a carefully designed series of IAS eradications. It is expected to generate important lessons for many other islands whose biodiversity is threatened by IAS.

**5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing**

<u>Summary Baseline Analysis without the GEF?s Intervention</u>

Under the baseline scenario, monitoring of invasive species would continue on an intermittent basis, but no system for biosecurity would be established. In this case, invasive species would continue arriving and becoming established. For example, the common house gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) was introduced, likely on construction materials and established, around 2011.[39][39]

With regard to established invasive mammal species, managers would continue to discuss the need for removing the damaging invasive species and they would continue to be a priority in subsequent management plans. Researchers would continue publishing data indicating that invasive species are the greatest threat to the island?s ecosystems and would continue recommending their eradication. Meanwhile, ecosystems would continue being degraded and modified and the likelihood of species going extinct would increase. The reef would be further impacted from sediment, impacting marine ecosystems and the dive tourism industry.

The GEF Alternative

Under the GEF Alternative, an informal partnership of governmental and non-governmental organizations would be established, with a commitment to ensuring the biosecurity of PNIC and the eradication of all five invasive mammal species over the medium term. The catalytic impact of GEF funding through this mid-sized project will provide increased levels of certainty in terms of eradication methods for deer, significantly increasing the probability of success and stakeholder buy in for the implementation of the multiple species eradication that is required to safeguard the biodiversity of the PNIC. This first phase will cement this partnership and create the foundation for follow-up eradications.

**6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

The project will contribute to improve the sustainability and protect the biodiversity of PNIC (2,330 terrestrial ha, 201,153 ha marine). It will reduce pressures and extinction risks facing a number of globally significant island-endemic species, though the most significant improvements in this regard will depend on the implementation of the Operating Plan and series of targeted eradications?for which the project lays the groundwork in important ways. The park?s management effectiveness will be increased due to enhanced capacities to prevent the introduction of IAS and to undertake eradications. The comprehensive IAS prevention system being supported under Component 1 will help to prevent IAS introductions from the only pathway, i.e. vessels, which would potentially affect both marine and terrestrial areas of the park.

**7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

*Innovativeness*: In Component 2, traditional tools are being complemented with digital data collection and data management in relational databases. Interpretation of camera trap imagery will present a particular opportunity for innovation. The 100 plus camera traps will collect thousands of photos.

Extrapolating from ACMC?s 2019 study some 5,466 photo-captures per month of rats, cats, pigs and deer can be expected (not including native species or false triggers from vegetation). Over the life of this project more than 150,000 photos will likely need to be processed, categorized and data entered into the database. To manage this massive amount of data, the project will employ artificial intelligence techniques to assist with categorizing the resulting images and automating workflows. Prior to deployment of cameras, software will be ?trained? using the existing photo database from ACMC to sort images of deer and other species.

*Sustainability*: Component 1, which focuses on biosecurity, will contribute to the sustainability of ecological benefits by helping to prevent additional invasions. Component 2, will generate the groundwork that will allow for multiple species to be eradicated from Isla del Coco, allowing conservation benefits to accrue over time.

*Upscaling:* Although more than 1,000 eradications of invasive mammals from islands have occurred globally[40][40] (including 15 deer eradications). No previous eradication of deer has taken place in a tropical island such as Isla del Coco, hence the field trials conducted under this project will be useful for future eradications in similar conditions around the world. Furthermore, Costa Rica has not implemented any eradications, despite having several candidate islands[41][41]. The systems set up in this project will build significant capacities in the SINAC ACMC team, thereby setting the stage for implementing eradications of invasive mammals from PNIC and potentially from other locations in the country. It will facilitate this by providing lessons learnt, infrastructure, capacity in partners and testing of the partnership model.

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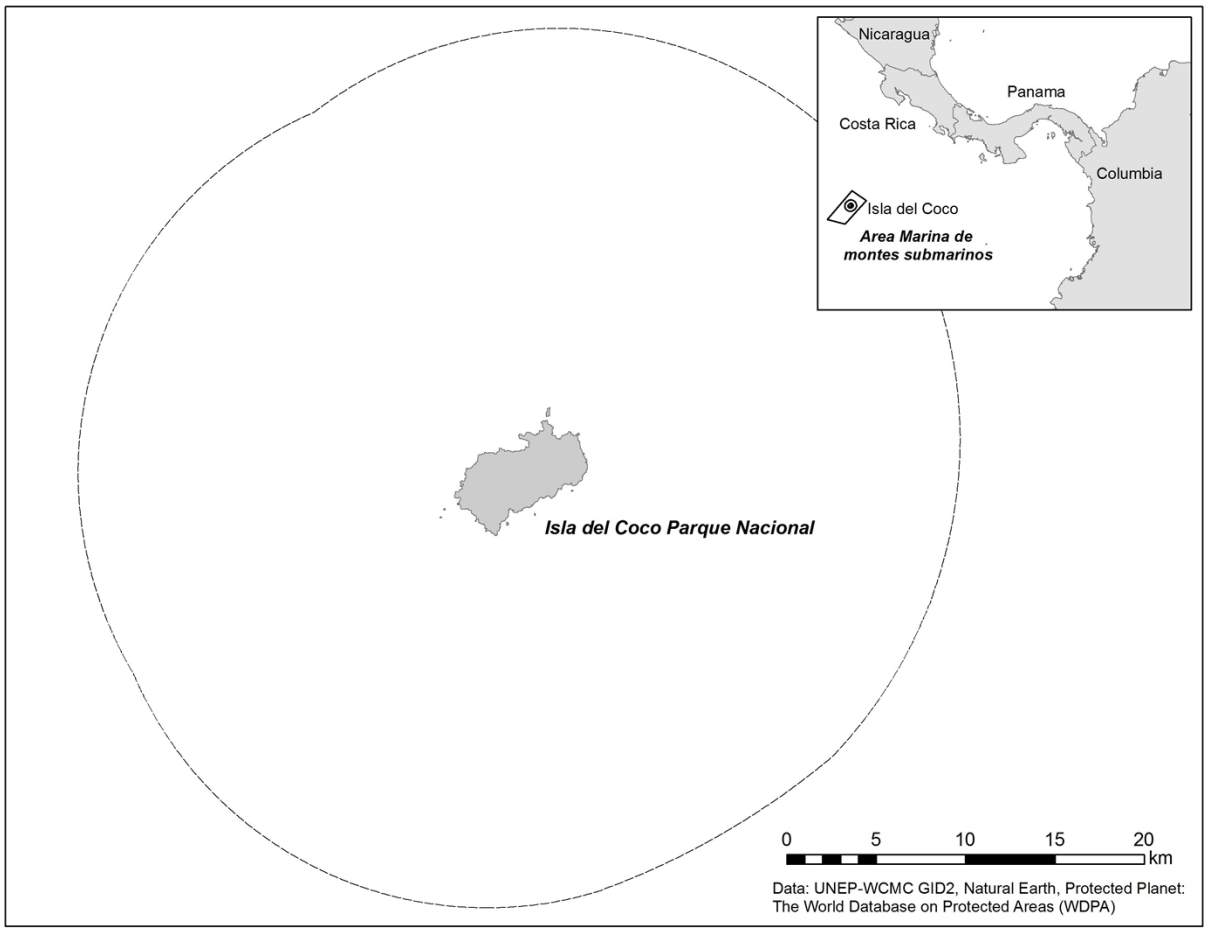
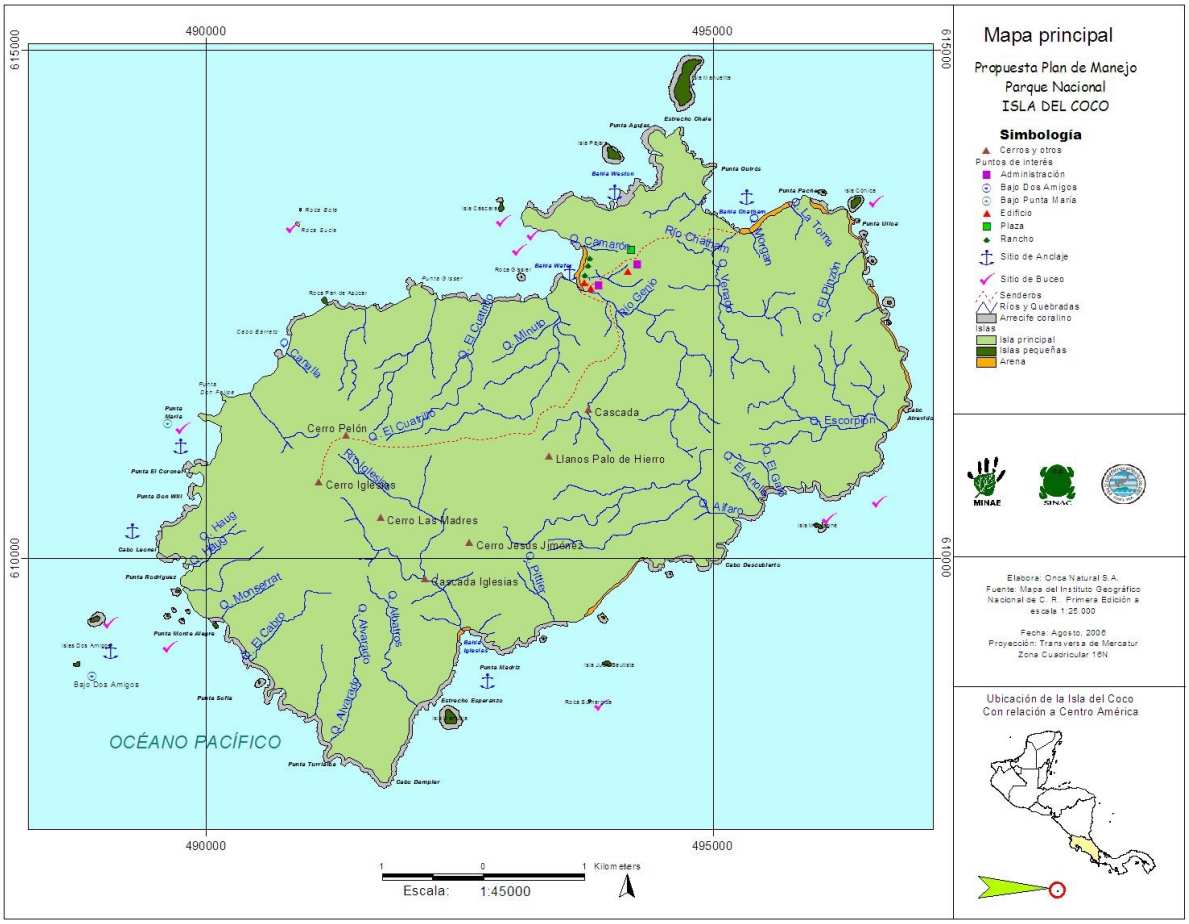
**1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

Isla del Coco is located in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, between north latitude 5 ? 30 ?and 5 ? 34? and west longitude 87 ? 01 ?and 87 ? 06?.






**1c. Child Project?**

**If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

N/A

**2. Stakeholders**

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

The project is unusual in the sense that the project site?a volcanic island and its surrounding waters?has no permanent inhabitants and no ?buffer zone?. Hence stakeholder consultations have taken place with stakeholders in San Jose who have an interest in Cocos Island.

The government of Costa Rica invited Island Conservation to Cocos Island in 2019 to appraise feasibility of a multi-species eradication, an initiative which has been prioritized in the 2016 management plan as a key requirement for restoration of the island and preventing extinction of many endemic species. Development of this project began with a joint visit to the project site, evaluation of methodologies, and joint work on the preparation of the proposal. MINAE, IC and Association Costa Rica por Siempre signed an MOU for the implementation of this project in 2019.

The three partners initiated a preliminary consultation process in the third quarter of 2019, which engaged public and private stakeholders such as Fundacion Amigos Isla del Coco (FAICO), Corredor Marino del Pacifico Este Tropical (CMAR) and Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (INCOPESCA). FAICO participates in the Consejo Regional del ?rea de Conservaci?n de la Isla del Coco (CORAC), a key stakeholder for the successful implementation of the project.

Face-to-face meetings during 2020 have not been possible due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. In preparing the present project document, stakeholders from MINAE, SINAC and PNIC participated in the identification of project priorities and in the definition of planned outputs and outcomes through virtual interviews and two online project planning workshops. Project stakeholders had the opportunity to review and comment on proposed project activities and to provide specific inputs to the project formulation process.

As co-financing to this project, CAF will fund a stakeholder engagement process that will provide additional opportunities for stakeholders to provide input and voice concerns. This stakeholder engagement process will provide feedback for Operations Plan (component 2.3). Consulting with stakeholders while preparing project operations plan allows for key feedback to be incorporated into project design. Hence, the project should be able to address key concerns in order to make sure stakeholders views are incorporated. This consultation process will be led by high ranking MINAE staff, with support from a team involving stakeholder consultation and communication experts.

During project implementation, stakeholder engagement will include: (1) consultation via meetings with government agencies and stakeholders to share project information, answer questions and doubts first hand, gather data and field experience, to inform the Operational Plan; (2) recruitment and training of a local team for implementation of component 2 (field trials); (3) participation of technical staff in training, and tools development; (4) collaborative project oversight through membership of the Project Steering Committee; (5) contribution of data sources, technical expertise and knowledge management, and (6) taking action to institutionalize project results and taking lessons learned on board to allow for up-scaling, replication, and sustainability. Each of the above areas of participation will contribute towards an envisaged national ownership of the project and its follow up.

**Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activity**

Beginning in 2019, IC has undertaken a series of stakeholder consultations, focused on issues relating to the development and eventual implementation of the present project and other finance for invasive species eradications. Examples of some of these consultations are listed in the table below.

**Table 1: Summary of consultations to date**

| Date | Workshop/ Meeting | Attendees | Objective | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2019 | Meeting post visit to Cocos by ACMC and IC teams | MINAE (including Minister), SINAC, ACMC, ACRXS, IC | Present key findings regarding feasibility, approximate budget, and proposed multi-species strategy | As a result of this meeting, an MOU was signed between IC, MINAE, and ACRXS. Government leads fundraising and political strategy. IC provides technical input. |
| Sept 2019 | Project phased approach | MINAE (including Minister), SINAC and ACMC staff<br>CAF, IC, and ACRXS | Discuss project phased approach and potential donors for each phase | As a result of this meeting Costa Rica allocates STAR funding and asks CAF to prepare project<br>CAF makes available $150K technical assistance grant to allow for immediate actions. |
| Sept 2019 | Meeting with FAICO | Alexandra Villalobos (CORAC member and Ex-Chair) | Determine whether CORAC would support an eradication and define steps to consult with the public. | Yes. FAICO understands the need for an eradication. Determine need for stakeholder engagement strategy as one of the first actions. |
| January 2020 | Meeting to define objectives for Technical Assistance | CAF, MINAE, SINAC, ACMC | Meeting to define objectives for Technical Assistance | Government drafts technical assistance description to begin with: operational plans and stakeholder engagement strategy and EIA to address subsequent phases |
| March 2020 | ProDoc kick off meeting | MINAE (including Minister), SINAC and ACMC staff<br>CAF, IC, and ACRXS | Agreement regarding the process and timeline to create a ProDoc | Key points of contact are defined |

**Project Stakeholders**

Among the strategic actors are: the partner institutions that endorse and will participate in the execution of the project; the institutions that are contributing funding to implement each of the components of the project, and; the target group that constitutes the institutional technicians who are in charge of co-executing the activities of each component. The table below links stakeholders to relevant project components.

**Table 2: Stakeholder identification, by project component**

| **Stakeholders** | **Component 1. Comprehensive invasive alien species prevention system** | **Component 2. Targeted eradication** | **Component 3. Sustainability, knowledge, monitoring and evaluation** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Government Agencies** | | | |
| MINAE | x | x | x |
| SINAC | x | x | x |
| ACMC | x | x | x |
| SUGESE Superintendencia General de Seguros de Costa Rica | | | x |
| **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** | | | |
| CORAC | x | x | x |
| FAICO | x | x | x |
| IC | x | x | x |
| Costa Rica Por Siempre | x | x | x |
| Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica | x | x | x |

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated,

and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Table 3 describes the expected role of the above institutions in project implementation

**Table 3. Stakeholder roles, overall and with respect to project**

| Stakeholder | Institutional role | Expected role in project implementation |
|---|---|---|
| **Government Agencies** | | |
| **MINAE** | Overall responsibility for biodiversity conservation in Costa Rica | Political oversight of the project |
| **SINAC** | Agency responsible for managing protected areas | Technical oversight of the project. Key staff will also get capacity building through this project so introduced species action can be strengthened in other protected areas if required. |
| **ACMC** | Manages the PNIC | Day to day collaboration with project team. Help secure logistics to Coco Island. ACMC park rangers will receive training and will support the team during activities on Cocos Island. |
| **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)** | | |
| **Island Conservation (IC)** | Prevents extinctions by removing invasive alien species from island ecosystems | IC will serve as the executing agency for the project. It will provide technical assistance to ACMC in project execution. http://www.islandconservation.org |
| **CORAC** | Regional administrative structure that oversee management of protected areas, in this case PNIC | Project needs support from this council. Will be informed about project progress. |

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;** Yes

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier;** Yes

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;**

**Executor or co-executor;** Yes

**Other (Please explain)**

N/A

**3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

Since Isla del Coco has no permanent inhabitants, and given the nature of the project, opportunities for gender mainstreaming are limited. However, consistent with the need to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the project, the Results Framework has been modified to indicate the specific number of women and men directly benefitting from the project, which is also consistent with **GEF-7 Core Indicator 11** (see Results Framework, Indicator 3.2). Compliance with the required outputs and standards of the GEF gender policy will be subject to independent external auditing to be explicitly referenced in the Project Operations Manual, in all Subsidiary Agreements between CAF and the project?s Executing Agencies, and in the Terms of Reference for the Terminal Evaluation of the project.

A gender analysis and mainstreaminbg plan has been added as Annex 7 to the CAF project document, and as a separate document in the GEF Portal (Road Map-Documents section).

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

No

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;**

**Improving women's participation and decision making**

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women**

**Will the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

**4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on private sector engagement in the project, if any**

Private sector dive operators will be engaged under Component 1 to ensure their understanding of, and compliance with, IAS prevention protocols, including possible requirements related to hull cleaning, insect traps, etc.

**5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):**

| Risks | Management |
|---|---|
| Eradications fail to receive funding | The project takes a stepwise approach to eradication financing. As such, the current proposal carefully lays the groundwork for eradication to take place at a subsequent stage. The Government of Costa Rica remains deeply committed to the project and intends to prioritize fundraising for the eradication phase from multiple possible sources, including GEF 8, FFEM, IKI and private sources. |
| Possible Coronavirus-related restrictions to travel in 2021 | As of 24th October 2020, Costa Rica has had over 100,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. At the time of writing, it appears possible that Coronavirus-related travel restrictions will continue into 2021. Operations may need to be postponed, delaying project but not impacting its expected results. No full-time hires are envisaged for the project; thus, the expense associated with keeping staff employed for longer periods due to delayed implementation will be avoided. |

**6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination**

**Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

**Beneficiary**

SINAC is the Project beneficiary. SINAC manages State Protected Wild Areas (PWA) and is responsible for ensuring their adequate management, as well as the rational use of the natural resources existing in these areas, in accordance with the Organic Law of the Environment No. 7554, published in La Gaceta No. 215 of November 13, 1995, Biodiversity Law No. 7788, published in La Gaceta No. 101, of May 27, 1998, Wildlife Conservation Law No. 7317, published in La Gaceta No. 235 of December 7, 1992 and the Law of Creation of National Park Service No. 6084, published in La Gaceta No. 169 of September 7, 1977

**Implementing Agency**

The Implementing Agency will be the Latin American Development Bank (CAF). CAF will support the project implementation by maintaining oversight of all technical and financial management aspects, which includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with GEF standards and requirements. CAF will monitor the project?s implementation and achievement of project outputs, ensure proper use of GEF funds, review and approve procurement plans, budgets and work plans. CAF will approve quarterly technical and financial reports and the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) prior to GEF submission. Finally, CAF will make recommendations to optimize project performance, and will arbitrate and ensure resolution of any conflicts related to project execution.

**Executing Agency**

The executing agency will be Island Conservation (IC). IC will be be responsible for undertaking technical, administrative and financial actions. For this purpose, IC will coordinate closely with delegates from MINAE, SINAC and ACMC. To achieve this, IC will sign a specific Cooperation Agreement with SINAC, which will establish each party?s responsibilities during project execution. As executing agency, IC will receive project specific GEF funding from CAF, based on the approved Project Document and annual workplans/budgets. Thus, IC will undertake the execution of the project, which implies the ability to manage and administer the day-to-day activities. This will include ensuring the timely delivery of project outcomes and outputs and the appropriate use of funds, as well as procurement and contracting of goods and services.

The project organization structure includes: a Project Steering Committee (PSC); an Institutional Coordinator, in accordance with SINAC's Guidelines, Guides and Procedures for Cooperation Project Management; and a Project Manager. Each of these roles is described below.

**Project Steering Committee**

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is a higher level decision-making body. The PSC will:

? Ensure: i) that the project is aligned with the PRODOC and local and institutional policies and strategies; ii) timely implementation of activities, and; iii) achievement of targets, outputs and outcomes;
? Provide overall strategic guidance, ensuring effective coordination among all project partners;
•Make high-level decisions on issues that may arise during project implementation;

•Evaluate project performance, including analysis of the project?s mid-term review and ensuring that its recommendations are implemented;

•Approve the Annual Operational Plan, Annual Budget and Annual Project Implementation Report;

•Be aware of any problems or issues that may arise from the execution of the project and propose solutions.

The PSC comprises the following members: (i) Vice-minister of Waters and Seas or her representative; (ii) SINAC Executive Director or his representative; (iii) ACMC Director or her representative; (iv) IC representative; and (v) CAF representative.

The PSC will make decisions by consensus. In case a consensus cannot be reached, the final decision shall rest with the Vice-minister of Waters and Seas. The PSC will have in-person or virtual meetings at least twice per year. The chairperson, in close collaboration with the Institutional Coordinator and at members? request, may convene additional committee meetings. The Project Manager will be the PSC Secretary?requesting meetings, preparing documents to be discussed, preparing meeting minutes, and maintaining minutes of Committee meetings.

The Institutional Coordinator and the Project Manager will participate in PSC meetings and will have a voice but not a vote.

**Institutional Coordinator**

SINAC will appoint an Institutional Coordinator, who will ensure close coordination and articulation among MINAE, SINAC, ACMC and the project. In order to allow adequate logistical coordination for the project, the Institutional Coordinator should be an ACMC staff member, whose responsibilities include those listed below, as well as those defined in SINAC?s *Profile for Institutional Coordinator of Cooperation Projects*[1]:

? Ensure project alignment with Government policy and priorities;

? Review Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and Project Implementation Report (PIR) before submission to CAF for approval;

? Ensure effective coordination and support to project activities among ACMC, SINAC and MINAE;

? Prepare co-financing reports according to government entities? commitments made in the project document; and

? Maintain regular communication with other government institutions involved in project execution.

**Project Manager**

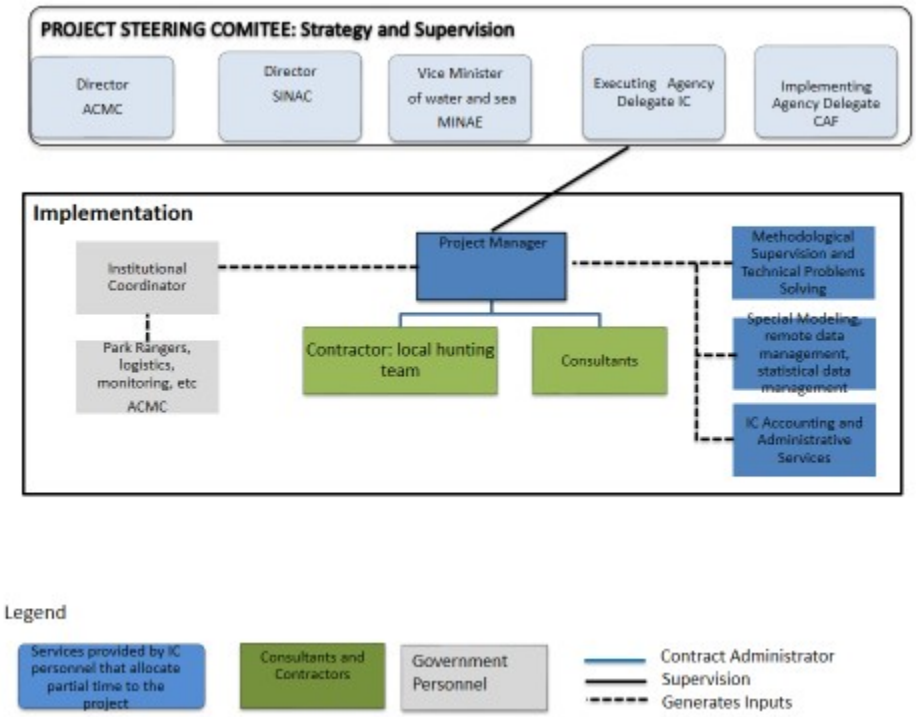
? ACMC will provide a physical space at their offices so that the Executing Agency can carry out the project activities. The Project Manager will be IC's focal point with the government for the execution of activities, in close cooperation with the technical areas of SINAC-ACMC.

? The Project Manager will be supervised by, and will report to, the Executing Agency. The Project Manager will be responsible for project implementation activities in coordination with the Institutional Coordinator and will supervise day-to-day project operation in coordination with IC?s technical team. IC?s technical team will consist of global invasive species eradication experts; GIS and remote monitoring technitians; and a field team.

? The Project Manager must coordinate effectively with the Project Institutional Coordinator, ensuring that the work with SINAC-ACMC flows for the efficient implementation of the project.

? Responsibilities also include: (i) preparation of project reports, work plans, budgets and accounting records, (ii) maintaining smooth communication and coordination with project partners and key stakeholders, (iii) acting as secretary of the PSC, (iv) preparing co-financing reports (v) generate monitoring and evaluation plan, with direct responsibilities that are detailed in Appendix III; and (vi) ensure implementation of safeguards, prepare TORs and technical specifications as required

**Figure 3: Project Organizational Chart**




[1] As defined in the Profile for Institutional Coordinators of Cooperation Projects of SINAC made official through the official letter SINAC-DE-2022 of November 29, 2017

**7. Consistency with National Priorities**

**Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:**

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

Costa Rica?s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) identifies invasive vertebrates as the main threat to terrestrial biodiversity. Threats include: 1) trampling by invasive mammals destroys native habitat, 2) populations of non-native herbivores destroy vegetation cover causing erosion and loss of soil that ends up in the sea altering marine productivity, and 3) introduced animals are predators of endemic species. Therefore, the PNIC Management Plan (2017-2026) prioritizes the eradication of invasive vertebrates as the most effective tool to prevent extinctions and initiate ecosystem restoration.

**8. Knowledge Management**

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

Table 4 below summarizes lessons learned by a previous GEF intervention in Isla del Coco National Park and how these have been taken into account in the present proposal.

**Table 4: Lessons learned and implications for project design**

| Lessons learned by previous project | Implications for present project design |
|---|---|
| 1. After a long period for projects? approval, there should be further reconsideration on project implementing proposal feasibility as it was designed before its inception, according to the new arising conditions in current?s context, and make necessary adjustments to start the activities execution. | Latest developments have been taken into account and will be reviewed again at project inception. The principle of adaptive management till be applied throughout. |
| 2. On constant changes in responsible coordination personnel, management and technical staff that support executive directors should continue so to provide opportunities for project?s successful development, allowing to accumulate historical memory and to improve management processes. | Management situation of PNIC has stabilized compared with the time of implementation of the previous project. PNIC?s technical lead has now been in place for several years and is not expected to change during the period of project implementation. In addition, effective knowledge management will help to ensure consistency in the approach. |
| 3. A single financial management line in future GEF projects where similar co-financing as that presented in this project, would allow its implementation with a administrative and financial management single model and facilitate its coordination, financial management and internal control work. | The previous project suffered due to personnel and policy changes, which led to changed priorities regarding cofinancing sources, i.e. expected cofinancing did not materialize. The present project takes a stepwise approach, carefully laying the groundwork for eradication at a subsequent stage. The Government of Costa Rica remains deeply committed to the project and intends to seek funds for the eradication phase from multiple possible sources, including GEF 8, FFEM, IKI and private sources. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 4. A timely political management of national counterpart?s political and managerial levels is necessary in cases where institutional instruments were provided and not foreseen at project?s organizational and operational structure design, which may affect their impact level on project?s objectives achievement. | Building on this lesson learned, significant consultations have taken place within SINAC (at different levels) and other government agencies. |
| 5. Exotic species populations? estimation itself is not enough to suspend eradication and control work on species that threaten ecosystems. | It is difficult to understand what this lesson learned is specifically getting at (translation issue?). If we understand correctly, we agree that estimating a population should not replace IAS eradication or control and have designed the project accordingly. |
| 6. Island?s staff and supplies transportation mode, dependent on tourist boats, affects the entire logistics, planning and maintenance activities | The government has now a permanent contract with a cargo boat taking staff and supplies to and from the islands on a monthly basis. This boat will be available to the project as co-financing throughout the project. |
| 7. With appropriate policy instruments to regulate tourism activities and resources, it is possible to monitor, control and reduce actions that affect marine and terrestrial ecosystems, by improving diving and land tourism best practice application. | Since these lesson learned were written, there have been 2 new major policy instruments written for PNIC (Management Plans 2007-2016 and 2017-2026). Currently the PNIC has a specific management plan for dive tourism that incorporates best practices. |
| 8. Besides considering scientific, social and pragmatic factors on invasive exotic species control activities, a proper policy management and advocacy among stakeholders is necessary. | Stakeholder engagement has been taking place across multiple tiers, with the support of CAF co-financing, representing a co-design of the technical portions of the present project with those stakeholders. This process will continue throughout the full project, including within the project?s operational plan |

The full ecological restoration of Isla del Coco will depend on the successful removal of all five invasive mammal species and the prevention of IAS introductions. The catalytic impact of GEF funding through this mid-sized will provide increased levels of certainty in terms of eradication methods for deer, significantly increasing the probability of success and stakeholder buy in for the implementation of the multiple species eradication that is required to safeguard the biodiversity of the PNIC. This first phase will cement this partnership and create the foundation for follow-up eradications. Hence capacity and knowledge created within this project will provide a critical kick start to subsequent eradications. Physical and human capacity building will be one reason for this benefit. A second will depend on the project?s efforts to capture lessons learned from the implementation. These will include lessons related to the use of camera traps, the estimation of effort to effectively cover the island and manage a large camera trap network, and more. Also significant is the demonstration effect and increase in confidence resulting from the successful eradication of deer.

For the above reasons, the project will carefully document its approach and methodology and ensure that its results are effectively communicated / shared amongst experts, policy makers and the general public in Costa Rica and beyond.

| Deliverables | Budget | Timeline (Year) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 |
| Three concrete lessons learned and available for replication | 4,000 | | |
| Progress reports and lessons learned submitted and discussed with PSC, at least twice a year | 8,075 | | |

**9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

| **M & E Activity** | **Responsibility** | **Estimated Budget (US$) (Excluding Project Specific Staff Time)** | **Time Frame** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Inception Workshop (one day) to: produce Annual Work Plan; Discuss Project Operations Manual, Roles, Responsibilities, Decision-making Structures, Gender Action Plan, Financial Reporting and Project Progress Reporting; and Present Supervision Plan | ? CAF<br>? IC & partners participate | Indicative Cost: **$2,000** | Within first 2 weeks of project start-up |
| Project Steering Committee Meetings (with formally prepared minutes and resolutions) | ? CAF<br>? IC | Indicative Cost: **$4,000** | At least 3 meetings during the 30-month project cycle |
| Quarterly Financial Reports & SOEs | ? IC | Indicative Cost: **PMC cost** | Within 15 days of each completed month |
| Project Progress Reports | ? IC | Indicative Cost: **PMC cost** | Quarterly Reports due within 30 days after completed period. |
| External Final Evaluation | ? CAF<br>? IC & partners participate | Indicative Cost: **$10,000** to be paid by **CAF co-financing** (Professional Fees and logistical costs of Consultant) | Within last month of project implementation |
| Terminal Report | ? IC | Indicative Cost: **PMC cost** | Within one month of the end of the project |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Audits | ? IC | Indicative Cost: **$15,000** ($7,500/year) | Annual independent audits. |
| Monitoring Visit to Project Site and process of Terminal Review | CAF | Indicative Cost: $**5,000** to be paid by **CAF co-financing** | At least once during project cycle. |
| **TOTAL INDICATIVE COST EXCLUDING STAFF TIME** | | **US$21,000 (GEF)** **US$15,000 (CAF)** | |

**10. Benefits**

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?**

By preventing introduction of invasive marine species (component 1), the project will enhance the sustainability of the sports diving sector. This sector delivers significant benefits, including to employment, which will become more resilient as a result of the project. Component 2 sets a trajectory, completes the necessary preparations and increases likelihood of success of invasive mammal eradications. Once complete, these eradications will enhance the sustainability of the island?s ecosystems and associated services. Benefits will flow from terrestrial to nearshore ecosystems through benefits like reduced erosion.

## 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

**Overall Project/Program Risk Classification***

| PIF | CEO Endorsement/Approval | MTR | TE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Low | | |

**Measures to address identified risks and impacts**

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any

measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The Analysis of identified risks and impacts can be found in Annex 5A & 5b.Besides, see the annex in

the section "documents" in the GEF Portal.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

| Title | Module | Submitted |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ANNEX 5A** | **CEO Endorsement ESS** | |
| **ANNEX 5** | **CEO Endorsement ESS** | |

## ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Annex A: Results Framework.

See this Pdf file in section "Documents" of the GEF Portal.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Project objective** | To safeguard the biodiversity of Isla del Coco National Park by enhancing biosecurity and preparing for a series of invasive mammal eradications | | |
| **Indicators** | • Number of new invasive alien species established<br>• % completion of preparations for invasive alien mammal eradications<br>• Management effectiveness of Isla del Coco National Park | | |
| **Targets** | • No new invasive alien species established<br>• 100% completion of preparations for invasive alien mammal eradications<br>• Management effectiveness is increased from 54 to 58 | | |
| **Project Outcomes and Indicators** | **Baseline** | **Target at the end of the project** | **Outputs and Indicators** |
| **Component 1: Comprehensive invasive alien species prevention system** | | | |
| **Outcome 1:** A comprehensive IAS prevention system for Isla del Coco National Park (203,483 ha), based on development and implementation of biosecurity protocols reducing risks of IAS introductions and establishment<br><br>***Indicator 1:*** *Number of potentially invasive alien species intercepted and recorded at control points* | No protocols or systematic checks taking place, *ad hoc* interceptions, occasional introductions (e.g. geckos) taking place | Protocols exist and systematic checks are being implemented; at least 20 potentially invasive species are intercepted and recorded | **Output 1.1:** Biosecurity protocols developed, based on assessment of the existing biosecurity system at control points, and implemented<br>***Indicator 1.1:*** *Extent of implementation of Protocol*<br>***Target 1.1:*** *At least 90% of protocol measures implemented* |


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Project objective** | To safeguard the biodiversity of Isla del Coco National Park by enhancing biosecurity and preparing for a series of invasive mammal eradications | | |
| **Indicators** | • Number of new invasive alien species established<br>• % completion of preparations for invasive alien mammal eradications<br>• Management effectiveness of Isla del Coco National Park | | |
| **Targets** | • No new invasive alien species established<br>• 100% completion of preparations for invasive alien mammal eradications<br>• Management effectiveness is increased from 54 to 58 | | |
| **Project Outcomes and Indicators** | **Baseline** | **Target at the end of the project** | **Outputs and Indicators** |
| **Component 1: Comprehensive invasive alien species prevention system** | | | |
| **Outcome 1:** A comprehensive IAS prevention system for Isla del Coco National Park (203,483 ha), based on development and implementation of biosecurity protocols reducing risks of IAS introductions and establishment<br><br>***Indicator 1:*** *Number of potentially invasive alien species intercepted and recorded at control points* | No protocols or systematic checks taking place, *ad hoc* interceptions, occasional introductions (e.g. geckos) taking place | Protocols exist and systematic checks are being implemented; at least 20 potentially invasive species are intercepted and recorded | **Output 1.1:** Biosecurity protocols developed, based on assessment of the existing biosecurity system at control points, and implemented<br>***Indicator 1.1:*** *Extent of implementation of Protocol*<br>***Target 1.1:*** *At least 90% of protocol measures implemented* |

| Project Outcomes and Indicators | Baseline | Target at the end of the project | Outputs and Indicators |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Component 2: Preparing for invasive mammal eradications** | | | |
| **Outcome 2:** Approved operational plan and ESIA for the eradication of invasive deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), pigs (*Sus scrofa*), rats (*Rattus rattus, R. norvegicus*) and cats (*Felis catus*) setting the stage for follow-up phases of ecosystem restoration<br>*Indicator 2*: Operational plan and ESIA approval | No operational plan or Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) exists for invasive alien mammal eradication from Isla del Coco National Park | Operational Plan and ESIA for the eradication of invasive alien mammals has been approved by PSC. | **Output 2.1** Physical and human capacities for eradication of invasive mammals, established<br>*Indicator 2.1:* Extent of field preparation completion<br>*Target 2.1:* 100% of required actions completed<br>**Output 2.2:** Field trials for informing invasive deer eradication are implemented<br>*Indicator 2.2:* Extent of implementation of field trials.<br>*Target 2.2:* 100% of required trials implemented<br>**Output 2.3:** Operational plan for five invasive alien mammal species is approved by PSC<br>*Indicator 2.3:* Operational plan approval by PSC<br>*Target 2.3:* Operational plan approved by PSC<br>**Output 2.4:** Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) approved by PSC<br>*Indicator 2.4:* ESIA approval by PSC<br>*Target 2.4:* ESIA approved by PSC |
| **Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharing** | | | |
| **Outcome 3**: Sustainability and knowledge are enhanced through capture of lessons learned, monitoring and evaluation<br>**Indicator 3:** M & E system developed and implemented effectively | No project M&E system in place. | A well-structured M & E system is in place and implemented, providing PSC members timely information for adaptive project management | **Output 3.1**: Knowledge and lessons captured and available for learning<br>**Indicator 3.1**: Specific technical lessons captured and disseminated for application in subsequent project phases<br>**Target 3.1**: Three concrete lessons learned and available for replication<br>**Output 3.2**: Well structured M&E system in place provides timely information to PSC<br>**Indicator 3.2**: Completion of evaluation reports<br>**Target 3.2:** Progress reports submitted and discussed with PSC, at least twice a year. |


| Project Outcomes and Indicators | Baseline | Target at the end of the project | Outputs and Indicators |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Component 2: Preparing for invasive mammal eradications** | | | |
| **Outcome 2:** Approved operational plan and ESIA for the eradication of invasive deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), pigs (*Sus scrofa*), rats (*Rattus rattus, R. norvegicus*) and cats (*Felis catus*) setting the stage for follow-up phases of ecosystem restoration<br>*Indicator 2*: Operational plan and ESIA approval | No operational plan or Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) exists for invasive alien mammal eradication from Isla del Coco National Park | Operational Plan and ESIA for the eradication of invasive alien mammals has been approved by PSC. | **Output 2.1** Physical and human capacities for eradication of invasive mammals, established<br>*Indicator 2.1:* Extent of field preparation completion<br>*Target 2.1:* 100% of required actions completed<br>**Output 2.2:** Field trials for informing invasive deer eradication are implemented<br>*Indicator 2.2:* Extent of implementation of field trials.<br>*Target 2.2:* 100% of required trials implemented<br>**Output 2.3:** Operational plan for five invasive alien mammal species is approved by PSC<br>*Indicator 2.3:* Operational plan approval by PSC<br>*Target 2.3:* Operational plan approved by PSC<br>**Output 2.4:** Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) approved by PSC<br>*Indicator 2.4:* ESIA approval by PSC<br>*Target 2.4:* ESIA approved by PSC |
| **Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharing** | | | |
| **Outcome 3**: Sustainability and knowledge are enhanced through capture of lessons learned, monitoring and evaluation<br>**Indicator 3:** M & E system developed and implemented effectively | No project M&E system in place. | A well-structured M & E system is in place and implemented, providing PSC members timely information for adaptive project management | **Output 3.1**: Knowledge and lessons captured and available for learning<br>**Indicator 3.1**: Specific technical lessons captured and disseminated for application in subsequent project phases<br>**Target 3.1**: Three concrete lessons learned and available for replication<br>**Output 3.2**: Well structured M&E system in place provides timely information to PSC<br>**Indicator 3.2**: Completion of evaluation reports<br>**Target 3.2:** Progress reports submitted and discussed with PSC, at least twice a year. |


## ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Response to GEFSec review of 8/11/2021

| GEFSec comment 8/11/2021 | Response |
|---|---|
| 8/11/2021<br><br>Please see comments above on question 19 regarding the project budget and how project managements costs are presented. Please make the appropriate revisions and resubmit. | PMC values in the project budget has been fixed. |

Response to GEFSec review of 5/18/2021

| GEFSec comment 5/18/2021 | Response |
|---|---|
| Can you please provide the gender analysis or gender mainstreaming plan and the associated gender action plan | A gender analysis and mainstreaminbg plan has been added as Annex 7 to the CAF project document, and as a separate document in the GEF Portal (Road Map-Documents section). |

Response to GEFSec review of 31 March 2021

| GEFSec comment 3/31/2021 | Response |
|---|---|
| **8. Core Indicators**<br>While the baseline METT is provided in the table that was submitted showing the responses to the GEFSec review, the METT score is NOT entered in the portal via the Core Indicators. Please enter the METT score. Both sub-indicators 1.2 and 2.2 have a specified field for METT score at CEO Endorsement/Approval. | The baseline METT score has been entered in the portal via the core indicators. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **11. Gender equality and womens? empowerment**<br><br>The project states that a gender analysis was not conducted because there are no permanent inhabitants on the island and that given the nature of the project, opportunities for gender mainstreaming are limited. In the section on stakeholder engagement, however, it mentions that ?stakeholder consultations have taken place with stakeholders in San Jos? who have an interest in Cocos Islands? and that a ?stakeholder engagement process will provide additional opportunities for stakeholders to provide input and voice concerns.? Please elaborate on how the project expects to ensure a gender sensitive stakeholder engagement process. In addition, it states in the section on gender, that the Results Framework has been modified to indicate the number of women and men directly benefitting from the project. This is however not reflected in the section of core indicators and if there are any direct beneficiaries, additional sex-disaggregated information is required. Please provide further information on direct beneficiaries as well as consider updating core indicator 11. | ●The following has been added to the descriptions of the stakeholder consultation process to be undertaken by CAF during the project: ?CAF will ensure a gender-sensitive stakeholder engagement process, ensuring that women are well represented in the process and that their views are fully taken on board.? (see Prodoc, p.40, 81<br>●The Core indicators worksheet has been amended to correctly reflect the gender-disaggregated number of direct project beneficiaries (324 women and 792 men). (See CEO document, Annex F).<br>●The above figures have been added as an objective level indicator to Project Results Framework as An objective-level indicator / target (see CEO Endorsement document, Annex A). |
| **Country endorsements**<br><br>3/31/2021<br><br>In the Letter of Endorsement, the OPF allocated $624,330 without specifying the Focal Area. When adding the GEF Financing ($572,435) to the Agency Fee ($51,903), the amount is higher ($624,338) than the amount allocate in the LoE. As a new LoE is required to specify the Focal Area, please ask the Agency to use the usual template with the table that breaks down the amount for the GEF Financing and the Agency Fee - otherwise, one cannot know how much the OFP allocated to each one. | A revised Letter of Endorsement has been uploaded |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Recommendation**<br><br>3/31/2021<br><br>Please address comments above on the core indicators entered into the portal and the comments on gender and the OFP letter.<br><br>Please also address this observation on the budget:<br><br>Budget: the budget does not provide detailed information on what some costs include. As an example, please see below: only ?Components are mentioned but there is no information on what that entails. We cannot assess the budget as it is: we need to understand what type of costs are charged to which part of the budget, including PMC, M&E and the Project?s components. | A detailed budget has been added (see Prodoc, p. 53), showing the requested breakdowns and other details. |

| **GEFSec comment** | **Response to GEF SEC** |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| Part I: Project information<br><br>*4. Cofinancing*<br>The letters from **SINAC and FAICO note that the cofinancing** is only guaranteed if project is approved by December 2020. Please submit new letters without this text if each agency can still contribute. If not, remove the cofinancing and adjust the project design considering the reduced cofinance.<br>Within the letters themselves, it is not clear whether they are considered in-kind or cash cofinancing. Please ensure that all letters are clear in this regards, particularly the letters from SINAC and FAICO.<br>Please then ensure that the cofinancing portal entries are correct.<br>For the project management costs, please revise and ensure that the amount GEF is paying and the amount cofinancers are paying are consistent with the overall project cofinance ratio. in terms of the proportion each is contributing to this cost. | New cofinancing letters have been uploaded<br><br>Cofinancing totals have been updated. |
| *8. Core indicators*<br>Please provide the baseline **METT score** for the park | The baseline METT score for the park is 54. A target METT of 58 has been added to the project results framework. For additional details, see Tracking tool. |

| GEFSec comment | Response to GEF SEC |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| Part II: Project justification<br><br>*7. Project description*<br>It appears that the **sustainability of the project intervention** is dependent on securing funding from the Adaptation Fund and there is no contingency strategy presented if this funding does not materialize. Will the Government of Costa Rica fund the implementation of the other eradication strategies that the GEF project will develop after project closure if the project does not secure funding from the Adaptation Fund? Please clarify this element of the project's sustainability strategy. | During the interim, the Adaptation Fund proposal was not accepted. However, the present project takes a stepwise approach to eradication financing. As such, the current GEF-7 proposal carefully lays the groundwork for eradication to take place at a subsequent stage. The Government of Costa Rica remains deeply committed to the project and intends to prioritize fundraising for the eradication phase from multiple possible sources, including GEF 8, FFEM, IKI and private sources. |
| *8. Project map and coordinates*<br><br>Please provide a **map of the actual park** and identify areas where the pilot deer eradication and other key project activities will take place. | A detailed map of Isla del Cocos has been included in the revised submission documents (p.9 of prodoc and p. 19 of CEO doc).<br><br>Deer eradication, by definition, will cover the entire island. |
| *13. Risk*<br>Please clarify how the **risk of not receiving additional** financing for implementing eradication strategies from the Adaptation Fund or other donors will be mitigated such that the project intervention will be sustainable. | Extensive consultations among project partners have been aimed in part at reducing the risk created by not having secured funding for eradication at this stage. Based on these discussions, the Government of Costa Rica remains deeply committed to the project and intends to prioritize fundraising for the eradication phase from multiple possible sources. In addition, several possible donors have been apprised, |
| *16. Knowledge management*<br>Please clarify the **budget allocation for the KM activities**, i.e., what will this allocation of resources pay for exactly. | The budget includes $8,000 for knowledge management activities, which will cover the cost of a national expert who will assess, capture and describe lessons learned as well as a resulting report and workshop to disseminate the findings. |
| *19. Annexes*<br>Please reload results framework in the portal. Currently it is illegible. | The results framework has been reloaded. |

| GEFSec comment | Response to GEF SEC |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| *Recommendations*<br>i. Please note that Costa Rica has $24,338 remaining in their STAR and should consider using all of it for this last project of GEF-7. | i. These funds have been incorporated into the proposal |
| ii. Also, please **shorten the title** of the project to something simpler such as: ?Safeguarding the biodiversity of Isla de Coco National Park by enhancing biosecurity? | ii. Title has been revised accordingly |
| iii. Please identify the **lessons learned** from the previous GEF investments in Cocos Island and the baseline these investments created and how the current project intervention strategy incorporates this learning. | iii. A table showing lessons learned and implications for project strategy has been added to the submission documents (see CEO doc p.27). These take full account of the baseline created by the previous project. |
| iv. Please explicitly state that the project will **adhere to international best practice for IAS eradication** including the humane treatment and disposal of species that will be eradicated. | iv. This statement has been added to the description of Output 2.3 (CEO doc p.15, Prodoc p.27) |

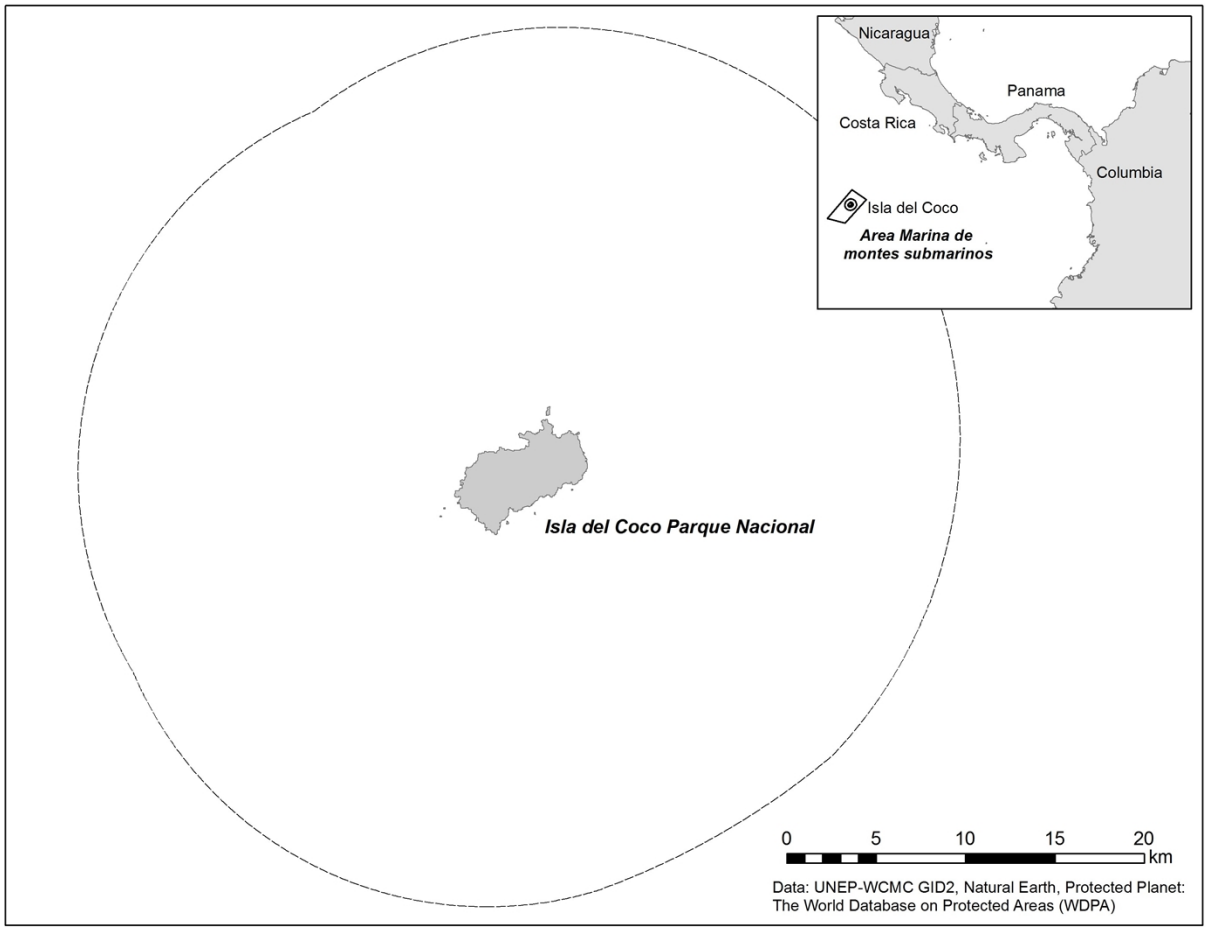
## ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

N/A

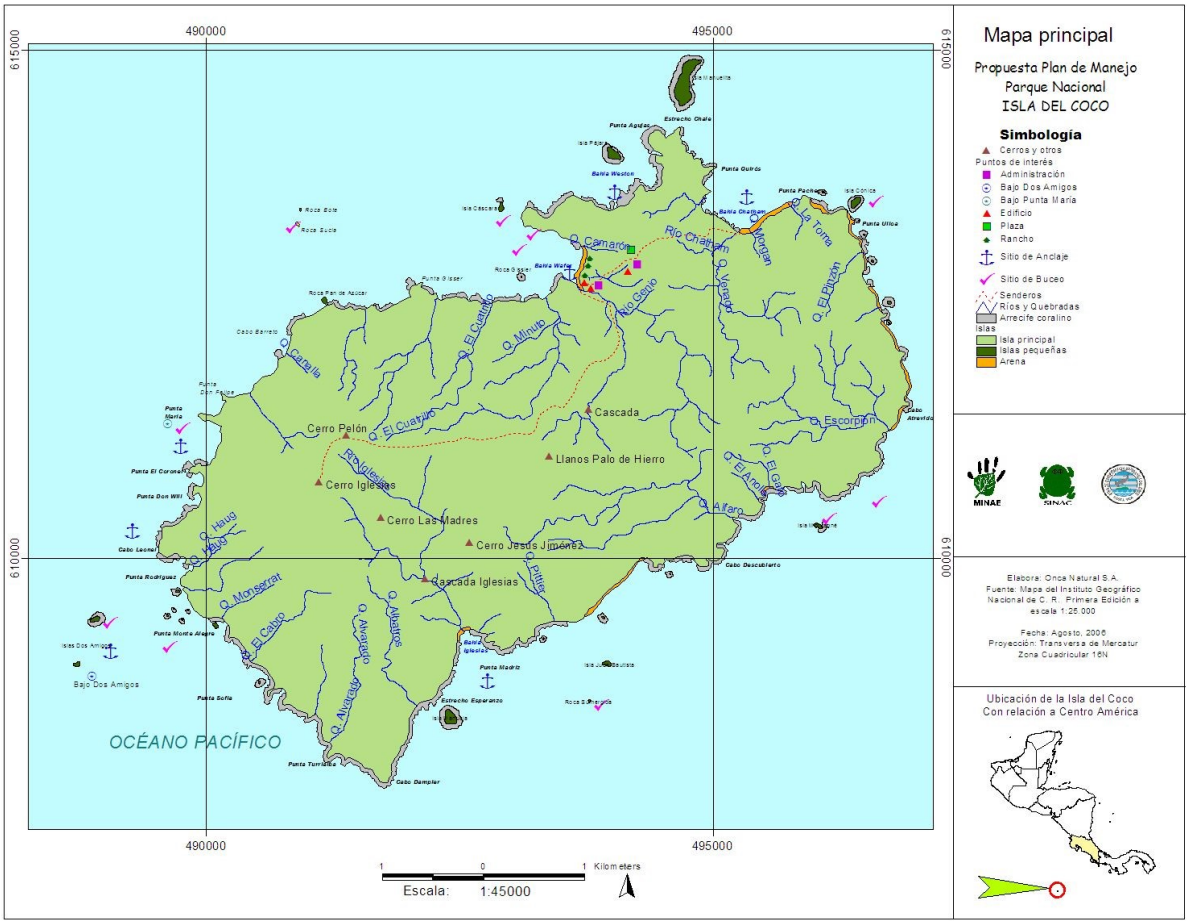
8/11/2021

## ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

## Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.




The island is located in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, between north latitude 5 ? 30 ?and 5 ? 34? and west longitude 87 ? 01 ?and 87 ? 06?.




## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

## Please attach a project budget table.

**Annex E: Project Budget Table**

| *Comments/Justification* | C 1 | C 2 | C 3 | Project Management Costs | Total | YR1 | YR2 | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IC High level supervision | | | | 18,167 | **18,167** | 9,084 | 9,084 | **18,167** |
| Project management | 23,632 | 23,632 | 23,632 | 9,117 | **80,012** | 40,006 | 40,006 | **80,012** |
| Eradication Manager | | 93,114 | | | **93,114** | 46,557 | 46,557 | **93,114** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eradication Expert Advisor | | 29,387 | | | **29,387** | 20,571 | 8,816 | **29,387** |
| Data-systems manager | | 17,808 | | | **17,808** | 12,466 | 5,343 | **17,808** |
| Logistics support | | 10,224 | | | **10,224** | 10,224 | | **10,224** |
| **Total Personnel Salaries and benefits** | **23,632** | **174,164** | **23,632** | **27,284** | **248,712** | **138,907** | **109,805** | **248,712** |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Lessons Learned consultant* | | | 8,000 | | **8,000** | | 8,000 | **8,000** |
| *Translation of reports* | | | | 1,800 | **1,800** | 720 | 1,080 | **1,800** |
| *External Audit* | | | | 13,000 | **13,000** | 6,500 | 6,500 | **13,000** |
| *Independent terminal examination* | | | | | | | | |
| *Biosecurity consultant* | 18,000 | | | | **18,000** | 18,000 | | **18,000** |
| *Communication printing* | 699 | | | | **699** | | 699 | **699** |
| *Contracted local field team* | | 86,875 | | | **86,875** | 52,125 | 34,750 | **86,875** |
| **Total Professional Services** | **18,699** | **86,875** | **8,000** | **14,800** | **128,374** | **77,345** | **51,029** | **128,375** |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Meetings Steering and Management Comittee* | | | | 1,056 | **1,056** | 528 | 528 | **1,056** |
| *IC Project Manager, GPS-SJO-GPS, Steering committee meetings, coordination, management.* | 2,400 | 2,400 | | 2,400 | **7,200** | 4,320 | 2,880 | **7,200** |
| *IC Project Manager supervision, lodging, meals & incidentals* | 1,590 | 1,590 | | 1,590 | **4,770** | 2,862 | 1,908 | **4,770** |
| *Eradication Manager, GPS-SJO-GPS, field visits* | | 5,600 | | | **5,600** | 3,111 | 2,489 | **5,600** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Eradication Advisor, USA-SJO-USA, training & site visits* | | 1,900 | | | **1,900** | 1,900 | | **1,900** |
| *Eradication Manager and Advisor, lodging, meals & incidentals* | | 6,030 | | | **6,030** | 3,350 | 2,680 | **6,030** |
| *Extra bag fees for bringing equipment* | | 1,500 | | | **1,500** | 1,500 | | **1,500** |
| *Field team service provider & EA staff non-included PNIC food items on Isla del Coco* | | 2,400 | | | **2,400** | 2,400 | | **2,400** |
| **Total Travel, Meetings and Events** | **3,990** | **21,420** | **-** | **5,046** | **30,456** | **19,971** | **10,485** | **30,456** |
| Grantee PNIC. Equipment to improve the effectiveness of biosecurity control. | 38,138 | | | | **38,138** | 19,069 | 19,069 | **38,138** |
| Grantee PNIC. Camera trap kits. | | 63,750 | | | **63,750** | 63,750 | | **63,750** |
| Grantee PNIC. Batteries for camera traps. | | 18,000 | | | **18,000** | 9,000 | 9,000 | **18,000** |
| Grantee PNIC. Cable-traps and trap setting tools. | | 11,775 | | | **11,775** | 11,775 | | **11,775** |
| Grantee PNIC. Wet-weather field gear kits | | 5,000 | | | **5,000** | 2,500 | 2,500 | **5,000** |
| Grantee PNIC. Data collection tablets | | 4,000 | | | **4,000** | 4,000 | | **4,000** |
| Grantee PNIC. Radios and repeaters | | 8,700 | | | **8,700** | 8,700 | | **8,700** |
| Grantee PNIC. Field hut kits | | 4,800 | | | **4,800** | 4,800 | | **4,800** |
| Grantee PNIC. Wet-weather field huts | | 6,000 | | | **6,000** | 6,000 | | **6,000** |
| Grantee PNIC. Hunting accessories | | 3,200 | | | **3,200** | 3,200 | | **3,200** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Grants & Agreements** | **38,138** | **125,225** | **-** | **-** | **163,363** | **132,794** | **30,569** | **163,363** |
| Maintenance: *Field gear repairs* | | 1,530 | | | **1,530** | | 1,530 | **1,530** |
| **Total Other Direct Costs** | **-** | **1,530** | **-** | **-** | **1,530** | **-** | **1,530** | **1,530** |
| **Total GEF funded project costs** | **84,459** | **409,214** | **31,632** | **47,130** | **572,435** | **369,016** | **203,419** | **572,435** |
| **w/ CAF Agency Fee** | | | | **51,903** | **624,338** | | | **624,338** |

**ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet**

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).