

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Connecting Landscapes for Jaguar Conservation	
Region	GEF Project ID
Latin America and the Caribbean	12364
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Ecuador	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9644
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	CSO
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Biodiversity	6/1/2026
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Mixed & Others	
Taxonomy	
Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Indicators to measure change, Learning, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Threatened Species, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, REDD - REDD+	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	48
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
2,374,429.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
225,571.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
2,600,000.00	28,814,518.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

0.00	0.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
0.00	2,600,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B "project description". (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project will strengthen the conservation, connectivity, and sustainable management of jaguar landscapes across four priority Jaguar Conservation Units (JCU) in Ecuador, covering critical Amazonian and Chocó forest ecosystems that support nationally important jaguar populations. Addressing habitat fragmentation, limited territorial planning, human–jaguar conflict, and reduced livelihood opportunities, the project aims to secure core habitats, restore ecological connectivity, and enhance coexistence while improving the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities. Under Component 1, the project will strengthen the management and governance of protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), improving management effectiveness across 2,284,740 hectares of terrestrial protected areas (GEF CI 1.2) and 5,737 hectares of OECMs (GEF CI 4.5). It will manage priority ecological corridors and integrate connectivity and wildlife management criteria into municipal land-use planning instruments (Territorial Development and Land Use Plans-PDOTs, Land Use and Management Plan- PUGS), enhancing territorial governance across jaguar habitats and benefiting biodiversity (GEF CI 4.1). Finally, as part of the project effort to improve connectivity, under Component 1 the project seeks to restore 8,000 hectares of forest and forest land (GEF CI 3.2). Under Component 2, the project will reduce human–jaguar conflict and improve community resilience through participatory coexistence protocols, improved livestock practices, and sustainable livelihood alternatives. These actions will apply improved sustainable landscape practices across 6,000 hectares in production landscapes (GEF CI 4.3). The project will implement Component 3 to strengthen knowledge, monitoring and communication activities in order to consolidate and digitize biological, territorial and socio-environmental data. This will support adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), local autonomous governments (GADs), Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous organizations, and campesino and mestizo communities and their organizations. The project will directly benefit 5,600 people (2,688 women and 2,912 men) (GEF CI 11) across Amazonian and coastal jaguar landscapes, strengthening local capacities, governance and long-term resilience.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To contribute to the conservation and recovery of jaguar populations in Ecuador by strengthening habitat connectivity, mitigating people-wildlife conflicts, fostering alternative community-based livelihoods, and promoting an integrated landscape management model

Project Components

1. Strengthening Protected Area and OECM Governance, Landscape Connectivity, and Conservation of Critical Jaguar Habitats

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)

732,280.00

8,134,196.00

Outcome:

Strengthened connectivity, conservation and monitoring of habitats and landscapes critical for the Jaguar, as measured by:

2,284,740 hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (CI 1.2)

8,000 hectares of area of forests and forest land under restoration (CI 3.2)

5,737 hectares of terrestrial OECMs supported (CI 4.5)

Output:

1.1.1. Management plans revised and updated, and patrolling and monitoring capacity improved

1.1.2. Functional ecological corridors restored and managed

1.1.3. Land use plans and zoning regulations to ensure conservation areas and connectivity updated and implemented

1.1.4. Capacity of judicial officers and inter-institutional protocols formalized and strengthened

2. Reducing human-wildlife conflict in landscapes critical for jaguar conservation

Component Type

Trust Fund

Technical Assistance

GET

GEF Project Financing (\$)

Co-financing (\$)

1,026,834.00

13,686,561.00

Outcome:

2.1 Improved coordination between authorities, **Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities**, reduced livestock losses and increased adoption of alternative livelihoods based on conservation to manage jaguar conflict hotspots, as measured by:

- 72,000 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (CI 4.1)

- 6,000 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (CI 4.3)

- 5,600 direct project beneficiaries (2,688 women, 2,912 men) (CI 11)

Output:

2.1.1. Conflict mitigation strategies and community-based wildlife management systems co-designed and implemented

2.1.3 Alternative protein systems and ecotourism/non-timber forest products (NTFPs) activities implemented

3. Knowledge management, gender and safeguards mainstreaming, and monitoring for jaguar conservation

Component Type

Trust Fund

Technical Assistance

GET

GEF Project Financing (\$)

Co-financing (\$)

414,890.00

4,698,929.00

Outcome:

3.1 Strengthened knowledge management and institutional learning for jaguar conservation, as measured by:

- 75% of direct project beneficiaries report increased awareness or change in behavior (at least 40% of total participants in Jaguar Forever program are women and 30% are youth)

3.2 Mainstreamed gender and social and environmental strategies, as measured by:

- Four (4) tools (e.g., protocols, plans) for safeguards and gender mainstreaming.

Output:

3.1.1 Knowledge management and communication strategy developed and implemented, incorporating a gender-responsive and culturally relevant approach.

3.1.2 "Jaguars Forever" awareness and curriculum program in operation.

3.2.1 Gender mainstreaming strategies and social and environmental safeguard plans developed and implemented

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
87,357.00	922,712.00

Outcome:

4.1 Strengthened monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to support adaptive management, as measured by:

Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), one (1) Mid-Term Review (MTR), and one (1) Terminal Evaluation (TE) reports developed.

Output:

4.1.1 Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan implemented

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)

Outcome:

Output:

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Strengthening Protected Area and OECM Governance, Landscape Connectivity, and Conservation of Critical Jaguar Habitats	732,280.00	8,134,196.00
2. Reducing human-wildlife conflict in landscapes critical for jaguar conservation	1,026,834.00	13,686,561.00
3. Knowledge management, gender and safeguards mainstreaming, and monitoring for jaguar conservation	414,890.00	4,698,929.00
4. Monitoring and Evaluation	87,357.00	922,712.00

M&E		
Subtotal	2,261,361.00	27,442,398.00
Project Management Cost	113,068.00	1,372,120.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	2,374,429.00	28,814,518.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Global and country context:

- The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is the third largest feline in the world** and is both the largest feline and the top predator in much of the Western Hemisphere. Jaguars play an important role in the structure and functioning of the ecosystems in which they live, from northern Mexico to northern Argentina. Their ecological importance lies in their ability to maintain balance in biological communities, contributing to the health of habitats through (i) regulating the populations of their prey (e.g., peccaries, capybaras, and deer) and (ii) contributing to nutrient cycling since the remains of uneaten prey become food for scavengers such as birds and small mammals, contributing to the recycling of nutrients in the soil and surrounding vegetation.
- Ecuador hosts one of the most ecologically diverse jaguar landscapes** in Latin America, with populations distributed across two geographically isolated regions: the Chocó-Tumbes-Magdalena coastal forests and the Amazon basin. Jaguars in these regions represent two subspecies (*Panthera onca centralis* and *P. o. onca*), each facing distinct ecological and socio-territorial pressures. As apex predators and umbrella species, jaguars require large, functional landscapes that support diverse habitats and prey communities. Therefore, conserving jaguars also protects numerous co-occurring species, including threatened primates, curassows, and other forest-dependent fauna. Coastal forests constitute one of the world's most threatened biodiversity hotspots, where the jaguar's historical range has been reduced by approximately 90%, leaving fewer than 250 individuals in three isolated lowland remnants, currently categorized nationally as critically endangered. In the Amazon, jaguars remain more widely distributed but have lost an estimated 30% of their original range due to expanding land-use pressures.
- The **four nationally recognized Jaguar Conservation Units (JCU)s**, Chocó-Manabí, Napo-Aguarico-Putumayo, Pastaza-Morona, and Condor-Kutukú, represent the core habitats for the species and form the spatial basis for conservation planning. However, recent analyses highlight increasing habitat fragmentation, reduced functional connectivity, and expanding anthropogenic fronts in all four JCUs. Jaguar Conservation Units also encompass extensive natural ecosystems that function as important carbon sinks, storing and sequestering significant amounts of carbon. Conserving these landscapes therefore contributes not only to biodiversity protection but also to climate change mitigation efforts.
- Jaguar territories in Ecuador overlap extensively with Indigenous territories, community lands, and rural landscapes** characterized by high levels of socio-economic vulnerability. In many of these areas, hunting of wildlife remains an important source of protein, and agricultural expansion-whether for subsistence or small-scale commercial production-drives ongoing

forest loss. WWF's Guardianes del Jaguar assessment^[1] highlights that communities located within or adjacent to JCUs face structural poverty, limited access to basic services, and high dependence on natural resources, factors that shape their interactions with wildlife and influence conservation outcomes.

5. **Ecuador has recently expanded its conservation instruments**, including the recognition of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).^[2] The country's first OECM, Río Anzu, was formally recognized in 2025, demonstrating growing national interest in territorial approaches that integrate conservation, Indigenous governance, and sustainable livelihoods.
6. **Ecuador has a robust legal and policy framework for biodiversity conservation**, including the Constitution, Environmental Code (CODA), the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP), the PACJ (2022–2031) and the guidelines for the establishment of ecological connectivity corridors. However, the application of these instruments remains uneven. Discussions from the National Connectivity Corridors Meeting (2024) conclude that governance fragmentation, weak planning, and insufficient coordination between national institutions, GADs, and Indigenous authorities limit connectivity implementation across the country.

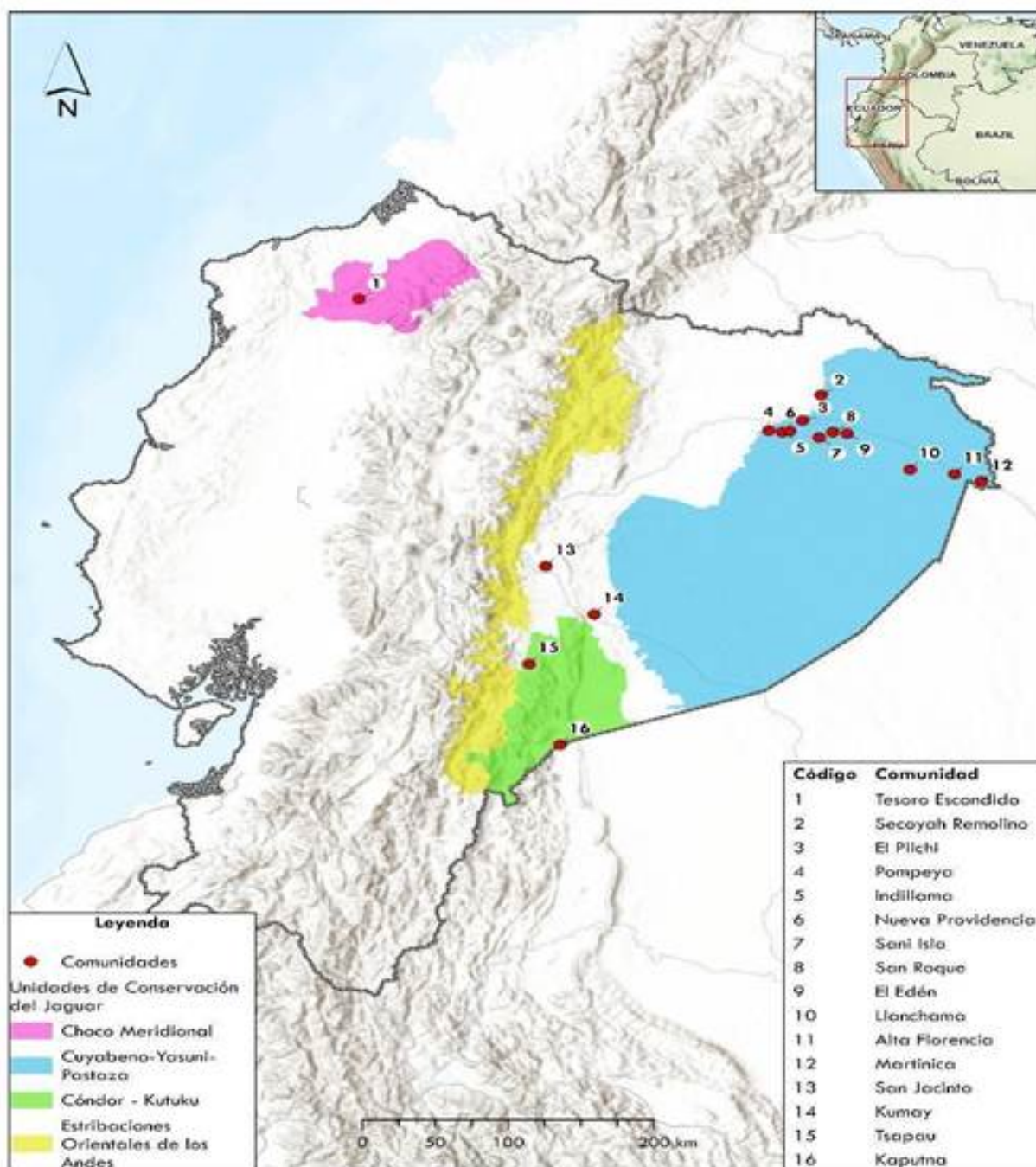


Figure 1: Project implementation areas.

Environmental Problems and Root Causes

7. The root cause analysis identifies the interaction of ecological, socioeconomic and institutional factors as the main drivers behind the decline and increasing isolation of jaguar populations in Ecuador. The causal chain is structured around four systemic groups of drivers: (i) Deforestation and ecosystem degradation within JCU; (ii) Low enforcement capacity for wildlife crime prevention and response; (iii) escalating human–jaguar conflict driven by inadequate livestock and poultry management practices and livestock and poultry predation by jaguars (iv) Unregulated subsistence hunting and pressure on jaguar prey species. Together, these factors give rise to the central problem the project seeks to address: **“Declining and increasingly isolated jaguar populations in Ecuador due to habitat fragmentation, weak landscape governance, escalating human–jaguar conflict, wildlife crime, depletion of prey species, and limited sustainable livelihood alternatives for rural communities and Indigenous Peoples.”**

8. This central problem manifests through five observable environmental and socio-economic impacts: (1) loss of biodiversity, including jaguars and their prey; (2) loss of functional habitat connectivity between JCUs; (3) loss of ecological functions in Amazonian and Chocó forests; (4) decline of traditional ecological knowledge and cultural practices; and (5) reduced resilience of ecosystems and Indigenous territories. The following section describes in greater detail how the four groups of systemic drivers—habitat pressures, unsustainable natural resource use, human–wildlife conflict dynamics, and governance and enforcement weaknesses—interact to generate these impacts, shaping the causal framework for the project’s intervention strategy. Figure 2 illustrates these major environmental problems and root causes:

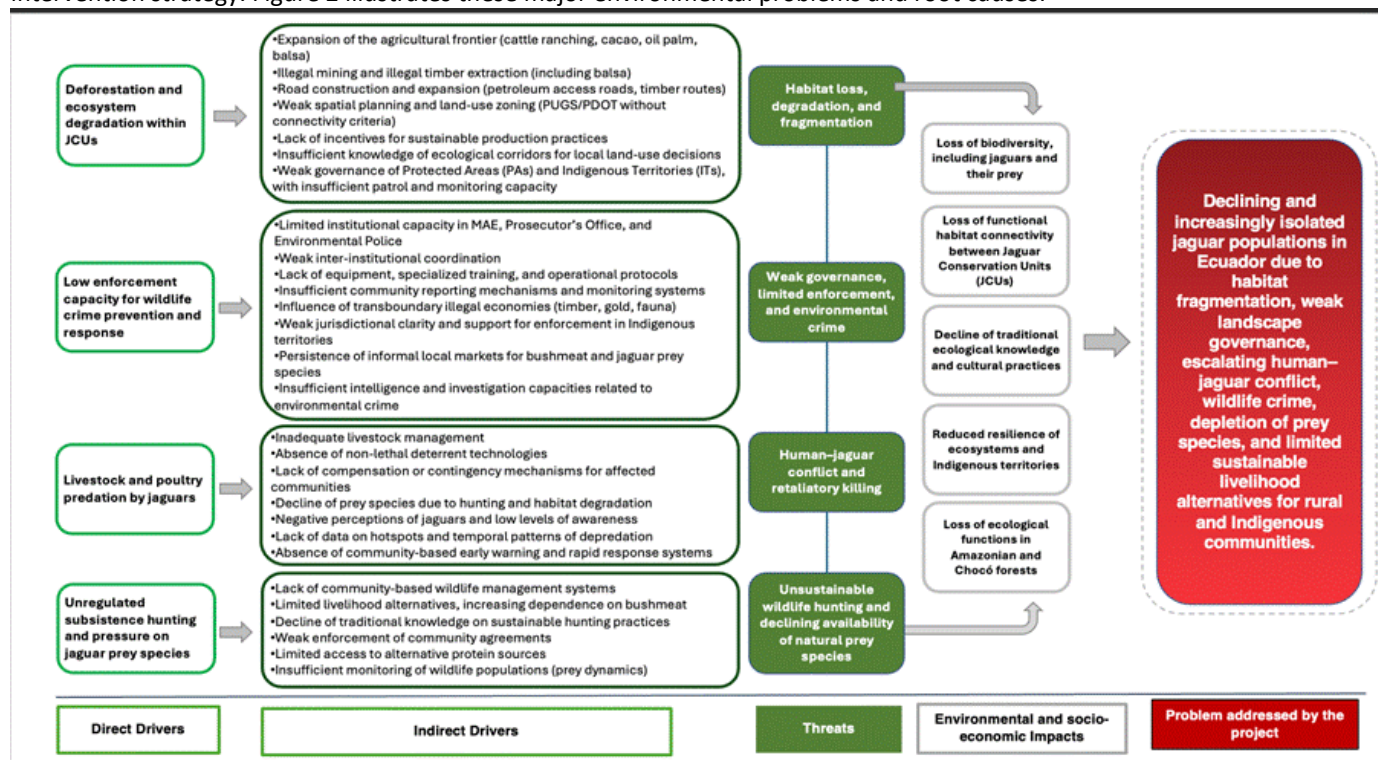


Figure 2: Underlying System Drivers, Root Causes, Impacts and Resulting Problems. Please refer to separate file for reference.

9. Direct Driver - Deforestation and ecosystem degradation within Jaguar Conservation Units (JCUs) constitute a major direct driver of jaguar population decline in Ecuador. The PACJ 2022–2031^[3] identifies habitat loss and fragmentation as the most severe pressures affecting both Amazonian and coastal jaguar populations, driven primarily by accelerated land-use change and the reduction of continuous forest cover essential for jaguar movement. This pattern is especially pronounced in the coastal Chocó, where the Plan highlights extensive transformation of native forest and severe isolation of remaining patches in addition, there is increasing isolation of key connectivity landscapes such as Llanganates–Sangay, Andes Norte, and Podocarpus–Yacuambi due to agricultural expansion and infrastructure development.^[4]
10. Indirect drivers contributing to this degradation include expansion of the agricultural frontier, illegal extraction activities, and road development. The conversion of forest to agricultural uses—including cattle ranching, small-scale and commercial cacao, oil palm, and balsa extraction—continues to erode habitat quality across JCUs, particularly along advancing forest–agriculture frontiers.^[5] Mining and illegal timber extraction also contribute to forest degradation by opening access routes and accelerating settlement expansion within jaguar landscapes. Petroleum-related road networks in parts of the Amazon increase accessibility into previously intact forest blocks, amplifying human presence and disturbance inside JCUs. These land-use pressures are intensified by weak territorial governance, limited incorporation of ecological connectivity into local

planning instruments, and insufficient management capacity in key conservation areas. Although Ecuador has advanced with new mechanisms such as the Río Anzu OECM, governance constraints remain a barrier to curbing habitat degradation within JCUUs.^[6]

11. Direct Driver- Low enforcement capacity for wildlife crime prevention and response significantly undermines Ecuador's ability to prevent and respond to wildlife crime affecting jaguar populations. The PACJ identifies persistent weaknesses in surveillance, patrolling, and sanctioning processes, particularly in areas where jaguar distribution overlaps with timber extraction, mining, and other high-risk activities. The operational gaps in Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories include insufficient equipment, limited budgets for field operations, and lack of coordination mechanisms between MAE, environmental police, GADs, and community patrol groups.^[7] Ecuador's institutional constraints contribute directly to the persistence of wildlife crime. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Jaguar Illegal Trade Study documents^[8] an emerging pattern of illegal trade involving jaguar canines and skins circulating through Amazonian routes, reflecting limited detection and investigative capacity. Operation Jaguar (IUCN-NL/ELI) describes the convergence of environmental crimes—gold mining, illegal logging, and wildlife trafficking—across northern and Amazonian landscapes, where criminal networks operate simultaneously and outpace local enforcement structures.
12. Indirect drivers further constrain enforcement effectiveness, including weak inter-institutional coordination, limited intelligence and investigative capacity, insufficient operational protocols for wildlife crime, and inadequate community-based reporting systems. These gaps are most pronounced in remote areas where jurisdictional complexity, especially across Indigenous Territories, creates ambiguity in the application of control measures and limits the ability to deter illegal activities.^[9]
13. Direct Driver - Escalating human–jaguar conflict driven by inadequate livestock and poultry management practices and livestock/poultry predation by jaguars has intensified in Ecuador due to recurring predation of livestock and poultry, particularly in communities adjacent to forested areas within the jaguar range. According to the 2022 Human-Wildlife Conflict Diagnosis,^[10] jaguars were implicated in multiple depredation events involving chickens, pigs, and calves, generating important economic losses and severe underreporting due to limited institutional response mechanisms.
14. Indirect drivers contributing to conflict include inadequate livestock and poultry management, absence of preventive infrastructure, and limited technical support for coexistence. Insufficient night corralling, enclosure reinforcement, lighting, and use of non-lethal deterrent systems leave animals vulnerable to predation.^[11] The lack of rapid-response protocols or compensation mechanisms exacerbates tensions, leaving affected households without institutional support and increasing the likelihood of retaliation. Moreover, negative perceptions of jaguars—reinforced by fear, past depredation events, and myths reduce tolerance and willingness to adopt coexistence measures.^[12] The absence of community-based monitoring, early-warning systems, and consistent institutional follow-up prevents effective conflict mitigation. Without improvements in management practices, technical assistance, and coexistence mechanisms, human–jaguar conflict will continue to generate retaliatory killing.
15. Direct Driver - Unregulated subsistence hunting and pressure on jaguar prey species places significant pressure on jaguar prey species, reducing prey availability and affecting jaguar survival. The PACJ identifies unsustainable hunting of key

species—particularly peccaries, deer, paca, and tapir—as a major ecological pressure in areas where wildlife remains an essential protein source for Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities.^{[13]13} Subsistence hunting persists due to rural poverty, limited market access, and lack of food alternatives. Coexistence analysis has shown reduced detectability of prey species in heavily hunted zones, indicating localized depletion that increases jaguar movement toward human-dominated landscapes.^{[14]14}

16. Indirect drivers intensifying this pressure include limited livelihood alternatives, erosion of traditional ecological knowledge, and weak local enforcement of hunting agreements. Communities rely on bushmeat in the absence of stable protein sources, and declining traditional knowledge has weakened customary norms for sustainable hunting^{[15]15}. Informal local markets for bushmeat persist in certain territories, maintaining extraction pressures even where prey populations are depleted. The monitoring of prey dynamics remains scarce, making it difficult to adjust community agreements or identify zones of high extraction pressures. This driver therefore represents a distinct but interconnected pathway through which subsistence practices diminish prey availability and undermine jaguar population viability in both coastal and Amazonian landscapes.
17. **Key Barriers.** Based on the above analysis of environmental issues and their underlying causes, the project identifies a set of critical barriers that hinder the effective conservation of jaguars and sustainable management of their habitat in Ecuador. These barriers reflect operational, institutional, financial, and technical challenges that need to be addressed to strengthen conservation, connectivity, and resilience of Ecuador’s jaguar landscapes. The project has been designed to directly address these obstacles through targeted interventions aligned with national priorities, local capacities and international commitments.
18. **Barrier 1: Weak governance, limited enforcement, and fragmented territorial planning.** Landscape governance across jaguar range in Ecuador remains hindered by limited coordination among national entities, local governments and Indigenous authorities. National deliberations on ecological corridors highlight challenges such as the lack of permanent multi-actor mechanisms, insufficient financial and technical resources, and the need for stronger institutional articulation to maintain functional connectivity.^{[16]16} These governance gaps contribute to increasing ecological isolation of protected areas and hinder the sustained management of connectivity functions. Complementary technical assessments, including management standards for jaguar-compatible areas, show that planning instruments currently used by protected and community-managed areas lack specific governance criteria needed for species of wide territorial range, limiting the integration of jaguar conservation needs into territorial planning.^{[17]17} In addition, Ecuador is undermined by weak enforcement across the wildlife crime chain. A recent high-profile prosecution involving 14 individuals with links to transnational criminal networks, highlights the presence of organized groups operating in Ecuador and underscores the scale and sophistication of wildlife-related criminal activity.^{[18]18}
19. **Barrier 2: Limited management capacity in protected areas, Indigenous territories and ecological corridors.** Protected areas and Indigenous territories across jaguar range face persistent management limitations. External evaluations underline deficiencies in operational tools, inconsistent monitoring practices and the lack of unified standards for managing habitat, threats and jaguar populations. The Jaguar Action Plan confirms that the implementation of conservation activities has been limited, with only 32% of actions completed in the previous planning cycle, reflecting low operational capacity, insufficient monitoring systems and the need for stronger coordination among implementing institutions.^{[19]19} Findings from the

National Connectivity Corridors Meeting further demonstrate that municipalities lack technical guidelines and resources to implement corridor governance, resulting in fragmented, under-resourced approaches to landscape-level management.^[20]²⁰

20. **Barrier 3: Insufficient sustainable management of human–wildlife conflict.** Human–jaguar conflict is widespread in Ecuador, particularly in areas where livestock and poultry are kept without protective measures. The national diagnostic on human–wildlife conflict identifies recurrent attacks on livestock, underreporting of incidents, limited institutional response, absence of standardized protocols and significant gaps in preventive infrastructure. These gaps directly contribute to retaliatory killing of jaguars.^[21]²¹ WCS conflict-coexistence assessments from the Chocó region describe rising conflict incidents over the past five years, often linked to inadequate livestock management practices and limited presence of environmental authorities. Cases of retaliatory killing are reported as common responses in communities that experience economic losses.^[22]²²
21. **Barrier 4: Scarcity of sustainable and resilient livelihood alternatives for Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities.** Many Indigenous Peoples and rural communities across Ecuador’s jaguar range rely heavily on subsistence hunting, forest product extraction and small-scale agriculture due to structural poverty and limited access to market opportunities. Wildlife species essential to jaguar diet, such as peccaries, deer and paca, are frequently harvested for household consumption, reducing prey availability and contributing to ecological pressure.^[23]²³ Assessments from the Chocó landscape show that agricultural expansion, combined with limited livelihood diversification, drives habitat loss and intensifies interactions between humans and jaguars. Communities depend on activities that both degrade habitat and increase vulnerability to conflict.^[24]²⁴
22. **Baselines Scenario and any associated baseline projects.** Ecuador has accumulated important technical advances and field experience in jaguar conservation over the last decade, largely driven by targeted initiatives implemented in priority landscapes. A key example is the GEF-7 “Jaguar Landscape” project, which produced significant progress in monitoring, coexistence strategies, and community-based wildlife management. It also generated a set of standardized methodologies, including protocols for participatory monitoring and community engagement, and documented a series of good practices that now inform national guidance. This work provides methodologies, pilot interventions, and technical lessons that form part of the country’s present conservation toolbox. However, the GEF-7 initiative did not address several structural dimensions that remain critical for achieving long-term jaguar conservation at a landscape scale. The project did not develop or implement ecological connectivity planning across Jaguar Conservation Units (JCU), nor did it establish interinstitutional mechanisms for coordinated management of human–jaguar conflict—an issue that continues to escalate in multiple provinces. Likewise, it did not generate territorial planning tools or governance instruments capable of guiding land-use decisions in priority corridors or productive landscapes. Combined with its limited geographic reach—covering only a subset of JCUs—large areas of Esmeraldas, Morona-Santiago, and the central Amazon remain without structured interventions, leading to persistent gaps in connectivity management, conflict mitigation, and integrated monitoring. These limitations underscore the need for national-scale approaches that transcend individual pilot sites and institutional silos. These unmet needs define critical elements of the baseline and justify the emphasis of the proposed GEF-8 project on strengthening connectivity, establishing coordinated conflict-response mechanisms, and integrating jaguar conservation into territorial planning processes.
23. Additional national initiatives complement this technical baseline. Since January 2024, WCS, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MAE), has been implementing the Yasuní Program, a landscape-scale conservation program funded in perpetuity by the Legacy Landscapes Fund to strengthen the management of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve and the Yasuní

National Park. This program takes a comprehensive approach that includes reducing hunting pressure on game species, especially jaguar prey. Although geographically focused on the Yasuní landscape, the program introduces long-term improvements in PA management, Indigenous Peoples' and other rural communities' governance, surveillance, and biodiversity monitoring that contribute to the national knowledge base on wildlife management.

24. Recent designations such as the ACUS "Camino del Jaguar" in Esmeraldas and the Río Anzu OECM in the Amazon region contribute to safeguarding habitat in areas of high ecological value and potential connectivity. Studies and diagnostics, including the national assessment of human-wildlife conflict and emerging management tools like the "*Guardianes del Jaguar*" standards, provide relevant operational guidance for mitigation, coexistence, and adaptive planning. Scientific research and monitoring efforts, such as long-term studies in Tiputini and community-led monitoring in the Chocó, add critical ecological information.
25. Wildlife trafficking continues to shape the national baseline, with documented cases of jaguar parts seized by the State Attorney General's Office and analyses by CITES and IUCN-NL pointing to the convergence of domestic pressures with organized crime networks. Although Ecuador has undertaken sporadic enforcement actions and awareness campaigns, these remain limited in scale and are not yet part of a coordinated, long-term national program. Similarly, practices for reducing negative interactions between people and jaguars—such as improved livestock management, compensation pilots, and community-based protocols—have been tested in isolated contexts but have not reached the scale required to significantly influence jaguar conservation outcomes across JCUs. Existing initiatives have demonstrated proof of concept but lack mechanisms for replication, sustained financing, and institutionalization. At the regional level, Ecuador stands to benefit from growing technical momentum. Newly initiated GEF-8 jaguar projects in Colombia, Paraguay, and Mexico create opportunities for South-South exchanges, methodological harmonization, and learning on coexistence models, monitoring innovations, and wildlife-crime prevention. The near-completed UNEP-GEF Panama jaguar project also contributes actionable lessons on coexistence systems, monitoring protocols, and institutional coordination.
26. Overall, Ecuador's baseline is characterized by valuable but dispersed technical advances, with gaps remaining in monitoring coverage, conflict mitigation systems, harmonized methodologies, responses to wildlife trafficking, and implementation capacity across many priority territories. These gaps collectively limit the country's ability to manage jaguar conservation at a landscape scale, particularly across JCUs where pressures are increasing and institutional responses remain uneven.
27. **Stakeholders.** There are a wide range of stakeholders who are engaged in jaguar conservation in Ecuador. Each stakeholder group and their role in the project is introduced below.

Table 1: Stakeholders general description

Partner	Roles and Responsibilities
National Government Entities	Provide overall policy guidance and regulatory oversight for jaguar conservation and landscape management; lead the implementation of national strategies (e.g. National Jaguar Action Plan); facilitate inter-institutional coordination across environment, agriculture, land-use planning and enforcement agencies; support integration of project outputs into national and subnational planning instruments; and ensure alignment with international commitments (CBD, CITES, Jaguar 2030 Roadmap).
Small Scale Private Sector	Participate in the adoption and piloting of coexistence-friendly practices (e.g. improved livestock management, non-lethal deterrents, sustainable production models); contribute to testing and scaling sustainable value chains compatible with jaguar conservation; co-invest time, in-kind resources or local knowledge in demonstration activities; and support market uptake of biodiversity-friendly products promoted by the project
International Cooperation	Provide technical assistance, knowledge exchange and catalytic co-financing to complement GEF resources; support South-South and triangular cooperation on jaguar connectivity, coexistence and monitoring; facilitate access to regional and global platforms (e.g. Global Wildlife Program, Jaguar 2030 Coordination Committee); and contribute to dissemination of lessons learned and good practices beyond Ecuador.
Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Organizations	Participate in project planning, implementation and monitoring through their representative institutions and governance structures; support local governance; contribute ancestral knowledge and territorial management practices to conservation and connectivity planning; co-design and implement coexistence measures and community-based monitoring, restoration and sustainable livelihood initiatives; and engage in FPIC processes where project activities may affect their lands, territories, resources, livelihoods, cultural heritage or collective rights.
Rural Communities and Community Organizations	Participate in project planning and implementation at the landscape level; co-design and implement coexistence measures and community-based monitoring; contribute local knowledge to jaguar conservation and habitat management; engage in sustainable livelihood alternatives promoted by the project; and support local governance, compliance with community agreements, and long-term stewardship of jaguar habitats.

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- [1] WWF Ecuador (2025). Guardianes del jaguar: herramienta para la conservación de territorios y especies. Quito, Ecuador. https://wwflac.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/guardianes-del-jaguar_herramienta-para-la-conservacion-de-territorios-y-especies.pdf
- [2] IUCN, 2025. Ecuador declares its first OMEC: a historic achievement for conservation. <https://iucn.org/story/202501/ecuador-declares-its-first-omec-historic-achievement-conservation>
- [3] MAATE. (2022). Ibid.
- [4] Robayo (Ed.) (2024). Ibid.
- [5] MAATE. (2022). Ibid.
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B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

28. Theory of change (TOC). The GEF-supported Project Alternative responds to the development challenge by systematically addressing the barriers described above, as presented in Figure 3, the TOC of the project:

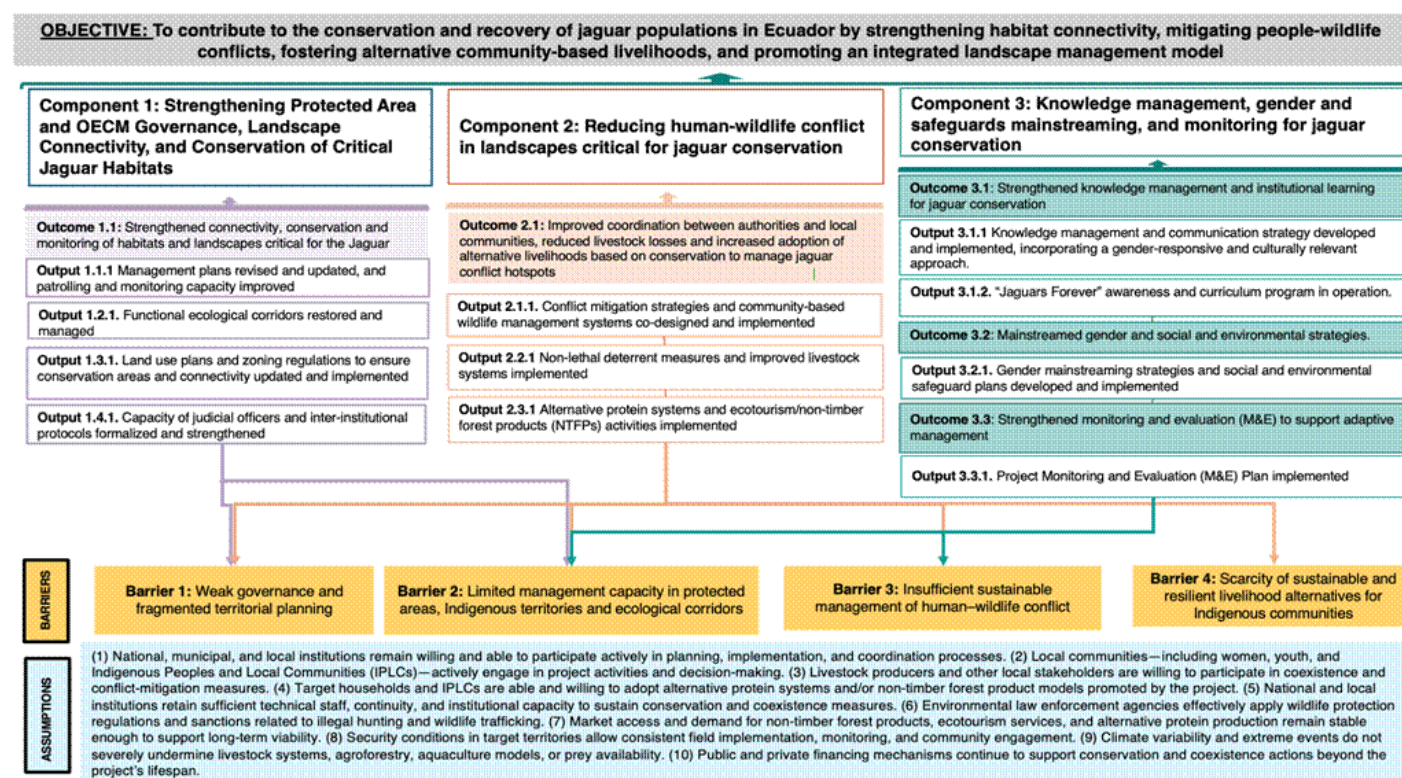


Figure 3: Theory of Change diagram. Please refer to separate file for reference.

29. The project objective is to contribute to the conservation and recovery of jaguar populations in Ecuador by strengthening habitat connectivity, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, fostering alternative community-based livelihoods, and promoting an integrated landscape management model. The project will strengthen landscape-scale connectivity, conservation and coexistence across four priority Jaguar Conservation Units (JCU) in Ecuador, spanning Amazonian and Chocó–Andean forest mosaics and associated protected areas (PAs) and conserved areas (OECMs). Building on the National Jaguar Conservation Action Plan 2022–2031 (PACJ) and emerging instruments such as the “Guardianes del Jaguar” (Jaguar Guardians) component and Ecuador’s first OECM at Río Anzu, the project will improve management effectiveness, restore critical corridors, and reduce human–jaguar conflict in key jaguar landscapes, while embedding jaguar conservation criteria into territorial planning and community livelihood systems.

30. The project will adopt **three main strategies** (project components):

- I. Strengthening Protected Area and OECM Governance, Landscape Connectivity, and Conservation of Critical Jaguar Habitats
- II. Reducing human–wildlife conflict in landscapes critical for jaguar conservation.
- III. Knowledge management, gender and safeguards mainstreaming, and monitoring for jaguar conservation.

31. The project constitutes an alternative to the current status quo under each component as follows:

- **Component 1** focuses on improving connectivity and management of priority jaguar habitats and landscapes. It will: (i) revise and update management plans for priority protected areas and OECM sites (e.g. Río Anzu, Yacuma, Ruku Kawsay, Urku Samay, El Pambilar, Cotacachi Cayapas, Yasuní, Llanganates, Sumaco Napo-Galeras, Cuyabeno), integrating explicit jaguar and connectivity objectives; (ii) restore and manage functional ecological corridors across four JCUs through connectivity analyses, corridor mapping and participatory restoration with GADs and communities; (iii) integrate jaguar conservation and connectivity into municipal and regional land-use planning instruments (PDOT, PUGS, ordinances); and (iv) strengthen wildlife law-enforcement and inter-institutional protocols (e.g., environmental police unit -UPMA in Spanish) to reduce poaching and illegal trade of jaguars and prey species. Through these actions, the project directly addresses Barrier 1 (weak governance, limited enforcement, and fragmented territorial planning), Barrier 2 (limited management capacity in protected areas, Indigenous territories and corridors), and Barrier 5 (insufficient enforcement of environmental laws and regulations).
- **Component 2** focuses on reducing human–jaguar conflict and strengthening coexistence through risk-reduction, behavioral change, and livelihood diversification. It will: (i) update and operationalize conflict diagnostics and the national Jaguar Conflict Response Protocol, and co-design community wildlife management plans with Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities; (ii) implement non-lethal deterrent measures and improved livestock systems in recurrent conflict hotspots complemented by participatory education and behavior change strategies; and (iii) promote sustainable livelihood alternatives that reduce dependence on practices that increase conflict and pressure on jaguar prey. These measures will be implemented through conflict-management committees (one per JCU), targeted technical assistance and provision of veterinary supplies and equipment. Together they respond to Barrier 3 (insufficient sustainable management of human–wildlife conflict) and Barrier 4 (scarcity of sustainable and resilient livelihood alternatives for Indigenous Peoples).
- **Component 3** is a cross-cutting component, providing inputs for knowledge management, communications, gender mainstreaming, and the inclusion of social and environmental safeguards into project implementation. Through these actions, the project will address the identified barriers 2 and 3 related to limited management capacity in protected areas, Indigenous territories and ecological corridors and insufficient sustainable management of human-wildlife conflict.

32. Assumptions. As part of the TOC, a series of assumptions have been formulated, which include: (1) National and local institutions remain willing and able to participate actively in planning, implementation, and coordination processes. (2) Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities actively engage in project activities through culturally appropriate participation processes. (3) Livestock producers and other local stakeholders are willing to participate in coexistence and conflict-mitigation measures. (4) Target households, Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities are able and willing to adopt alternative protein systems and/or non-timber forest product models promoted by the project. (5) National and local institutions retain sufficient technical staff, continuity, and institutional capacity to sustain conservation and coexistence measures. (6) Environmental law enforcement agencies effectively apply wildlife protection regulations and sanctions related to illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking. (7) Market access and demand for non-timber forest products, ecotourism services, and alternative protein production remain stable enough to support long-term viability. (8) Security conditions in target territories allow consistent field implementation and community engagement. (9) Climate variability and extreme events do not severely undermine livestock systems, agroforestry, aquaculture models, or prey availability. (10) Public and private financing mechanisms continue to support conservation and coexistence actions beyond the project's lifespan.

33. Expected Results: The project aims to enhance the conservation, connectivity, and resilience of Ecuador's jaguar landscapes while improving the wellbeing and livelihood options of Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities. Through an integrated landscape approach, the project will strengthen habitat management, restore ecological corridors, reduce human–jaguar conflict, and promote biodiversity-compatible production systems across four priority JCUs.

- **Under Component 1**, the project will have strengthened the governance and management effectiveness of priority protected and conserved areas—including protected areas and OECMs—and updated key management plans with explicit connectivity and jaguar conservation criteria.
- **Under Component 2**, the project will have reduced human–jaguar conflict through improved livestock practices, non-lethal deterrents, strengthened conflict response protocols, behavioral change and community monitoring brigades. It will also have diversified livelihood options through sustainable agroforestry, NTFPs, native fish-farming, ecotourism and other nature-based activities that reduce hunting pressure and strengthen community resilience.

- **Under Component 3**, the project will have established an integrated platform for knowledge management, communication, gender and safeguards mainstreaming, and monitoring. This includes a harmonized information system to track jaguar populations, conflict hotspots, connectivity indicators and enforcement actions, enabling adaptive management and institutional learning. The enhanced capacities of local governments, protected area staff, Indigenous organizations and community organizations will ensure sustained implementation of conservation, restoration and coexistence measures.
34. **Global Environmental Benefits.** The project will generate significant global environmental benefits by improving the conservation, connectivity, sustainable management and resilience of Ecuador's priority jaguar landscapes. Through strengthened management plans, enhanced patrolling, improved monitoring and the integration of connectivity and wildlife criteria into territorial governance, the project will improve management effectiveness across **2,284,740 hectares of terrestrial protected areas** (GEF Core Indicator **CI 1.2**). The project will also improve management in **72,000 hectares of landscapes** to benefit biodiversity (GEF **CI 4.1**). Furthermore, the project seeks to restore **8,000 hectares of forest and forest land** in communal land (GEF **CI 3.2**). In addition, the project will support the implementation of sustainable land-use practices, including improved livestock systems and agroforestry initiatives, across **6,000 hectares of production landscapes** (GEF **CI 4.3**) that reduce pressure on forest ecosystems and jaguar prey species. The project will also strengthen and operationalize four Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) – Río Anzu, Yacuma, Ruku Kawsay, and Urku Samay – contributing **5,737 hectares** under long-term conservation governance (GEF **CI 4.5**).
35. At the community level, the project will directly benefit approximately **5,600 people** (2,688 women; 2,912 men) through improved ecosystem services, coexistence strategies, culturally appropriate communication programs, and biodiversity-compatible livelihood opportunities (GEF **CI 11**). These benefits include reduced losses from conflict, improved food security through alternative protein systems, and enhanced income generation through ecotourism and NTFPs.
- Also, the project will contribute to **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** targets:
 - Target 1:** The project will strengthen participatory, integrated land-use planning by incorporating jaguar connectivity and wildlife management criteria into PDOTs, PUGS, ordinances, PA/OECM plans and corridor zoning.
 - **Target 2:** Through the restoration and management of functional ecological corridors across four JCU, the project will contribute to restoring forest ecosystems essential for jaguar movement, prey recovery and ecological integrity.
 - **Target 3:** By improving management effectiveness in six protected areas and strengthening four OECMs, the project will increase the coverage, representativeness, and connectivity of conserved areas, aligned with equitable governance principles, including the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and the participation of local communities.
 - **Target 4:** The project will directly contribute to the recovery and conservation of an apex predator and umbrella species by improving habitat conditions, reducing retaliatory killing, regulating hunting pressure on prey, and implementing coexistence strategies grounded in science and traditional knowledge.
 - **Target 11:** The project enhances nature's contributions to people through improved food security (alternative protein systems), reduced conflict losses, and strengthened ecological functions.
 - **Target 22:** Through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, community-based wildlife management, gender-responsive implementation, and the Jaguars Forever Program, the project will strengthen equitable, inclusive governance in jaguar landscapes.
36. **Incremental value:** Under the baseline scenario, Ecuador counts on valuable experience and institutional processes for jaguar conservation, including the National Jaguar Conservation Action Plan and the work carried out by MAE, local governments, Indigenous organizations, WWF's *Guardianes del Jaguar* program, and the GEF-7 "Paisaje Jaguar" initiative implemented by WCS and MAE. These efforts have developed important good practices—such as community-based coexistence strategies, strengthened communication approaches, behavioral-change campaigns, and alternative protein systems that reduce pressure on wild prey—and have generated essential technical knowledge and social capital in several jaguar landscapes. However, existing efforts remain geographically limited, unevenly implemented across the four JCUs, are insufficient to consolidate connectivity, expand livelihood alternatives, or institutionalize conflict mitigation across institutions and territories.

37. GEF financing provides incremental value not by replacing or repeating prior investments, but by enabling Ecuador to connect, expand, and integrate these building blocks into a more coherent, multicriteria landscape strategy. The project will bring tested coexistence practices, lessons on native protein systems, and strengthened community governance approaches into an additional JCU, while deepening and scaling work in existing ones. It will strengthen protected areas and OECMs, develop new biodiversity and management plans, and extend restoration and connectivity actions into forest mosaics that have never before been the focus of integrated interventions. The project will also embed jaguar conservation criteria into municipal planning instruments, support coordination across Amazonian and southern Choco landscapes, and create a unified national platform for monitoring conflict, connectivity, and enforcement. These incremental actions do not aim to solve all structural challenges, but they provide the next essential step that will allow Ecuador to progressively build, piece by piece, a more robust foundation for long-term jaguar conservation.

Outline of project Components and Outcomes

38. **Component 1:** Strengthening Protected Area and OECM Governance, Landscape Connectivity, and Conservation of Critical Jaguar Habitats. (GEF financing: \$732,280; Co-financing: **\$8,134,196**)
39. **Outcome 1.1: Strengthened connectivity, conservation and monitoring of habitats and landscapes critical for the Jaguar.** Under this Outcome, the project will strengthen the ecological integrity and functional connectivity of priority jaguar landscapes by improving management effectiveness in protected and conserved areas, restoring critical habitat corridors across four JCUs, and integrating landscape-scale conservation criteria into territorial planning instruments. The project will enhance monitoring systems and operational capacities through updated management plans, biodiversity planning tools, and participatory monitoring models that involve Indigenous Peoples, other rural communities and governmental actors, while recognizing Indigenous Peoples as rights-holders with collective rights over their lands, territories, resources, governance systems and traditional knowledge. In parallel, the project will reinforce institutional coordination and law enforcement mechanisms to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking and environmental crimes that threaten jaguar populations, while supporting the establishment of pilot restoration zones and connectivity corridors jointly identified with local governments. The project will reduce participation barriers through accessible schedules, culturally appropriate materials and safe spaces, and will prioritize the capacity strengthening of women park rangers, Indigenous monitors and youth leaders. Gender-sensitive risk management, including field-safety and GBV-prevention measures, will be integrated in alignment with the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) Gender Plan.
40. Output 1.1.1: Management plans revised and updated, and patrolling and monitoring capacity improved. Under this Output, the project will revise and update management plans for priority OECM areas (Río Anzu, Yacuma, Ruku Kawsay and Urku Samay) and develop Biodiversity Plans for key protected areas, including El Pambilar, Cotacachi Cayapas, Yasuní, Llanganates, Sumaco Napo-Galeras, and Cuyabeno. These planning instruments will incorporate landscape-level connectivity and threat mitigation criteria while strengthening the operational presence of park rangers through in-situ training programs. The Output will also improve surveillance and ecological monitoring capacity across JCUs by equipping PA staff with renewed equipment (e.g., GPS units, tablets and other tools), and by organizing recurrent training workshops to ensure consistent and standardized monitoring practices.
41. Output 1.1.2: Functional ecological corridors restored and managed. Under this Output, the project will restore and manage functional ecological corridors by conducting detailed connectivity analyses in the four JCUs and identifying priority areas for conservation and restoration in collaboration with MAE and local governments. Priority areas for restoration will be selected using critical habitat and climate-risk criteria, ensuring no involuntary restrictions on community resource use without prior mitigation measures. The project will establish participatory community-based wildlife monitoring through the deployment of camera traps and hands-on training for local monitors, including two monitoring pilots per landscape. These interventions will improve the continuity of jaguar movement routes, strengthen prey availability, and generate granular ecological data to inform adaptive management across landscapes.
42. Output 1.1.3: Land use plans and zoning regulations to ensure conservation areas and connectivity updated and implemented. This Output will integrate jaguar conservation and connectivity considerations into municipal and regional land-use planning by developing technical guidelines for mainstreaming landscape-scale conservation criteria into PDOT and PUGS instruments. The project will support the review and updating of these planning tools and their

operationalization through training and socialization processes with GADs, with a dedicated PDOT/PUGS update implemented to demonstrate how territorial zoning and regulatory instruments can secure conservation areas, maintain connectivity, and harmonize development planning with biodiversity conservation priorities. Territorial zoning will avoid involuntary economic restrictions and integrate customary land-use practices, while updates to PDOT/PUGS will follow critical habitat criteria, the mitigation hierarchy, and conflict-sensitive planning.

43. Output 1.1.4 Capacity of judicial officers and inter-institutional protocols formalized and strengthened. Under this Output, the project will enhance the technical and operational capacities of wildlife law enforcement personnel (e.g., UPMA, judicial police and prosecutors) through specialized training on wildlife crime investigation and case management, complemented by the provision of operational equipment across six provinces (Esmeraldas, Orellana, Napo, Sucumbíos, Pastaza and Morona Santiago). The Output will also formalize inter-institutional coordination protocols and strengthen on-the-ground enforcement by supporting fixed control posts, deploying mobile wildlife-control units, and providing materials for handling confiscated fauna. These actions will contribute to reducing poaching and illegal trade, strengthening deterrence, and ensuring coherent institutional action across jaguar landscapes. Training for environmental police, prosecutors and wildlife enforcement officers will include a mandatory module on gender equality, non-discrimination and GBV prevention, applying culturally appropriate approaches in Indigenous territories.
44. **Component 2: Reducing human-wildlife conflict in landscapes critical for jaguar conservation** (GEF financing: \$1,026,834; Co-financing: \$13,686,561)
45. **Outcome 2.1: Improved coordination between authorities, Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities, reduced livestock losses, and increased adoption of alternative livelihoods based on conservation to manage jaguar conflict hotspots.** Under this Outcome, the project will strengthen coordinated responses between authorities, rural communities, productive actors and Indigenous Peoples to reduce conflict in priority jaguar landscapes, in a manner that respects Indigenous Peoples' collective rights, governance systems and FPIC requirements where applicable. Through improved diagnostic tools, updated conflict protocols, community co-designed management plans, and enhanced institutional coordination, the project will build a more preventive, participatory, and adaptive approach to managing human–jaguar interactions. These actions will help reduce livestock losses, improve community safety, achieve behavioral change in the local population, and therefore increase acceptance of jaguar presence in conflict hotspots. At the same time, the project will support the implementation of non-lethal deterrent measures, improved livestock systems, and diversified livelihood options that reduce pressure on jaguar prey and natural habitats. By combining evidence-based technical interventions with community agreements, local governance structures and strengthened economic resilience, this Outcome will contribute to long-term coexistence pathways and more sustainable landscape management across the four JCUs. Gender-responsive conflict management will be applied throughout, integrating the differentiated roles and mobility patterns of women and youth into diagnostics, agreements and coexistence strategies.
46. Output 2.1.1: Conflict mitigation strategies and community-based wildlife management systems co-designed and implemented. Under this Output, the project will update and validate human-jaguar conflict diagnostics and support the socialization and operationalization of MAE's Protocol for Jaguar Conflict Response across the four JCUs. The project will work with Indigenous Peoples and campesino and mestizo rural communities to co-design or update community wildlife management plans, incorporating socioeconomic and livelihood-risk assessments, context-specific practices for risk reduction and sustainable use of prey species. The plans will ensure no involuntary economic restrictions and integrate traditional knowledge and customary practices. Field-based training for community monitors and Indigenous rangers, together with regular follow-up visits and participatory mapping of hotspots, will strengthen local capacity to anticipate and manage conflict. Agreements with communities and landowners will promote wildlife-friendly practices, and they will follow transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive engagements, ensuring that coexistence measures are socially legitimate, institutionally supported and rights-based. Participatory conflict diagnostics and community wildlife management plans will apply gender-responsive and youth-inclusive participation protocols, ensuring balanced representation (at least 40% women and 30% youth) in co-design processes.
47. Output 2.1.2: Non-lethal deterrent measures and improved livestock systems implemented. This Output will implement a comprehensive package of non-lethal deterrent measures and improved livestock practices to reduce depredation events in recurrent conflict hotspots. The project will support four conflict-reduction initiatives per JCU, including improved pasture rotation, night enclosures, secure poultry management, and the application of good agricultural and livestock

practices reflected in a dedicated technical manual. Inter-institutional Conflict Management Committees (one per JCU) will be established and convened regularly to coordinate response actions and promote consistent application of the MAE conflict protocol. The Output will also provide veterinary supplies, equipment, and targeted technical assistance to ensure that deterrent tools and improved sustainable livestock models are adopted effectively and sustainably. Improved livestock systems and deterrent measures will apply gender-responsive assessments to reflect differentiated roles of women and youth in daily husbandry tasks.

48. Output 2.1.3: Alternative protein systems and ecotourism/non-timber forest product (NTFP) activities implemented. Under this Output, the project will promote sustainable livelihood alternatives that reduce the drivers of conflict and dependence on practices that negatively affect jaguars and their prey. This includes establishing small-scale native fish-farming units, community poultry systems and sustainable agroforestry plots, supported through technical training in species selection, plot management and production practices. The project will also identify and strengthen complementary value chains—such as ecotourism routes and non-timber forest product collection—and provide entrepreneurship and marketing training for community groups. Beneficiary selection, diagnostics and training processes will apply gender-responsive and youth-inclusive approaches that address differentiated access, roles and constraints, and promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing across livelihood and value-chain initiatives. These livelihood initiatives will enhance economic resilience, diversify household income sources, and contribute to reducing retaliatory killing and hunting pressure within priority landscapes.
49. **Component 3: Knowledge management, gender and safeguards mainstreaming, and monitoring for jaguar conservation** (GEF financing: \$502,247; Co-financing: \$4,698,929)
50. **Outcome 3.1: Strengthened knowledge management and institutional learning for jaguar conservation.** Under this Outcome, the project will establish an integrated knowledge management and learning system that consolidates scientific evidence, field-based lessons, and local and Indigenous knowledge to support decision-making for jaguar conservation. This will enhance the quality, accessibility, and relevance of information used by national and subnational authorities, protected area managers, and community organizations, while reducing information gaps and strengthening coordinated planning for landscape-level conservation. Culturally appropriate communication mechanisms and validated information protocols will further promote transparency, trust, and informed participation among key stakeholders. The Outcome will also foster continuous institutional learning through regular knowledge exchange events, participatory monitoring, and the systematization of good practices emerging from project implementation.
51. Output 3.1.1: Knowledge management and communication strategy developed and implemented, incorporating a gender-responsive and culturally relevant approach. Under this Output, the project will support the development and implementation of a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy, including the development of knowledge and communication exchange events and products. This output mitigates risks of informational exclusion and misinformation or false expectations through (a) Implementation of an Inclusive Knowledge and Communication Strategy, aligned with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Gender Action Plan, using multi-format, culturally relevant communication materials; (b) Creation of community spokesperson networks and engagement of local media (radio, audiovisuals, community platforms); (c) Technical validation protocols for public information and rumor management; (d) Perception and trust monitoring through indicators under the Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF); (e) Institutional coordination of official messaging among MAE, UNDP, and partners.
52. Output 3.1.2: “Jaguars Forever” awareness and curriculum program in operation. Under this Output, the project will operationalize the “Jaguars Forever” program developed by the WCS, an established environmental education toolkit designed to improve knowledge, attitudes, and coexistence practices related to jaguar conservation. Building on the methodology already applied in Ecuador through the Paisaje Jaguar initiative (GEF-7), the project will strengthen and scale up its implementation across priority JCUs. This includes delivering workshops for teachers, park rangers and community leaders; integrating the curriculum into schools and community learning spaces; and developing tailored educational materials that address ecological, cultural, and coexistence aspects of jaguars in accessible and culturally relevant formats. The program will also support a structured “train-the-trainer” process with MAE and local partners, enabling sustained replication of the curriculum in rural schools and community centers. Complementary outreach actions will include multimedia campaigns (radio, print, social media, and branded materials) and community events that highlight positive coexistence stories and promote evidence-based practices for reducing human-jaguar conflict. Through these combined

efforts, the program will foster improved public perceptions, increase youth engagement, and strengthen community stewardship of jaguar conservation, directly contributing to a long-term behavioral shift and broader landscape-level conservation outcomes. Learning products will use culturally appropriate, age-appropriate and non-stereotyped communication, promoting safe and equitable participation in schools and community spaces.

53. **Outcome 3.2: Mainstreamed gender and social and environmental strategies.** Under this Outcome, the project will ensure that gender mainstreaming strategies and social and environmental safeguards are systematically integrated across all components during implementation. Safeguards actions will follow the GAP, the SESP-derived management plans, FPIC requirements in Indigenous territories, and inclusive engagement processes supported by a strong grievance and safeguards management system. These processes will apply a gender- and intersectionality-responsive lens to risk screening, management planning and community engagement, ensuring that differentiated risks, barriers and needs of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and other groups are identified and addressed across all project landscapes.
54. Output 3.2.1: Gender mainstreaming strategies and social and environmental safeguard plans developed and implemented. This Output will implement the actions outlined in the project's Social and Environmental Management Framework and Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring that safeguards and gender-responsive measures are systematically applied across all components. The project will strengthen the capacities of project staff, GADs, Indigenous authorities and community representatives through continuous training on social and environmental safeguards, gender equality, inclusive participation and culturally appropriate engagement, including the application of FPIC in Indigenous territories. Safeguard instruments—such as the SEP, GRM procedures, IPPs and field protocols—will incorporate gender-differentiated and intersectional risk analyses, while GBV prevention and response measures will be embedded in the project's Code of Conduct and referral pathways. The Output will operate a Social, Environmental and Gender Safeguards Management System (SEGSMS), with focal points and coordination mechanisms at national and local levels, and monitoring will be undertaken through the Environmental and Social Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to track inclusive participation, occupational safety, biodiversity and waste-management indicators.
55. **Outcome 3.3: Strengthened monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to support adaptive management.** This project Outcome and related Outputs and activities will support the implementation of M&E mechanisms and provide information on project progress to inform and support project management to better manage project implementation.
56. Output 3.3.1: Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan implemented. This Output will support the implementation of the M&E Plan, with results reported to the Project Steering Committee and through annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs). This Output will support the implementation of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) and the Terminal Evaluation (TE), making sure that reports are shared with UNDP. This output will consolidate the results of safeguard cross-reviews and independent audits. The MEL Plan will include sex, age, and territory-disaggregated indicators, which will be reported directly to the Project Steering Committee (PSC), UNDP, and MAE to strengthen adaptive management and institutional learning. The MEL Plan will apply gender-responsive and intersectional approaches, using sex-, age-, ethnicity- and role-disaggregated indicators to document differentiated participation and benefits, and ensuring that these insights inform adaptive management and institutional learning across project components.
57. Partnerships: The success of the project relies on the consolidation of strategic, multisectoral partnerships that bring together national environmental authorities, judicial and law-enforcement bodies, decentralized autonomous governments (GADs), Indigenous Peoples and campesino and mestizo community organizations from both the Amazon and the Chocó region, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector. At the center of this approach is the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), which will provide technical leadership, ensure alignment with national policies, and oversee the implementation of biodiversity plans, ecological corridors, and conflict mitigation strategies. Key partners—including the Prosecutor's Office, the Judicial Council, and the National Police (DNCA)—will contribute through strengthened environmental crime enforcement, coordinated patrols, and capacity-building for judicial operators. Municipal, provincial and parochial GADs will play a central role in land-use planning, local governance, and the integration of connectivity and wildlife management criteria into PDOT and PUGS instruments, ensuring that interventions respond to territorial priorities in the four JCU.

58. The project will be implemented through a broad and coordinated alliance among government institutions, Indigenous Peoples and campesino and mestizo communities, civil society organizations, and technical partners with experience in jaguar conservation and landscape governance. WCS, as executing entity, will provide technical guidance in ecological monitoring, coexistence strategies and territorial management, drawing on the lessons learned from its long-standing work in the country. Complementary expertise will be provided by WWF Ecuador, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Fundación Tesoro Escondido, Fundación PASOS and TERRA 360, contributing to corridor restoration, community-based monitoring, conflict mitigation, sustainable production systems, and governance strengthening. INTERPOL and AMERIPOL will support the prevention and combat of transnational wildlife crime through intelligence-sharing and specialized training. Academia—including IKIAM, UEA, UTPL, PUCE and other research institutions—will contribute with applied research, monitoring, and capacity-building, while the private sector (tourism operators, agroforestry producers, ecotourism associations) will support sustainable value chains and public-private partnerships. Table 1 presents the key partners and areas of collaboration in greater detail.

59. The project's main stakeholders are presented in **Table 2** which briefly outlines the project's potential cooperation with the identified partners.

Table 2: Key partners and project collaboration.

Partner / Level	Roles and interests in the project	Potential areas of collaboration
Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE)	National environmental authority and GEF focal point; leads the SNAP; responsible for national conservation policies.	Technical leadership; validation of agreements; inter-institutional coordination; monitoring of ecological corridors.
Protected Areas Administrations	Ecological and governance backbone of the project.	Management plans; biological monitoring; governance mechanisms.
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGP)	Governs agricultural development; promotes sustainable production and the ENAMR.	Promotion of sustainable practices; rural planning; alternative livelihoods.
Attorney General's Office	Investigates and prosecutes environmental crimes through UNI-DENA.	Training; strengthening criminal procedures; coordination with Police and MAE.
Judicial Council	Ensures proper application of the law and access to environmental justice.	Training for judges; standardizing procedures; evidence evaluation.
National Police – DNCA	Controls and investigates environmental crimes; conducts operations and patrols.	Coordinated patrols; environmental intelligence; community coordination.
INTERPOL / AMERIPOL	Cooperate in the prevention and combat of transnational environmental crime (wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, money laundering). Provide police intelligence, harmonization of protocols, and specialized training.	Training for Police, MAE and Prosecutor's Office; international judicial cooperation; information exchange; strengthening operational capacities in the corridors.
Provincial and parish GADs	Territorial planning and sustainable productive development.	PDOTs integrating conservation; environmental ordinances; watershed management.
Municipal GADs	Environmental management and land-use control.	Environmental ordinances; local governance; territorial control.
Indigenous Peoples (Afro-Ecuadorian, Chachi, Épera, and Awá; Kichwa, Waorani, Shuar, Achuar, Cofán, Siekopai, Siona)	Ancestral territorial governance, collective rights, ecological knowledge, cultural heritage, sustainable management of natural resources.	FPIC processes; participation through Indigenous authorities and governance structures; Indigenous monitoring; conservation agreements; restoration and connectivity planning; community-based livelihoods and bioeconomy initiatives.
Campesino, Afro-descendant and mestizo communities and community organizations	Territorial management, sustainable use of natural resources, local governance, livelihoods and productive activities.	Stakeholder engagement processes; community monitoring; conservation agreements; restoration activities; local leadership and participation in territorial planning and livelihood initiatives.
Universities and research centers	Applied research, training, monitoring.	Ecological studies; technical capacity building; participatory monitoring.
Private sector	Agricultural producers and ranchers, tourism operators, agroforestry producers; influence on landscapes.	Good practices; certifications; public-private partnerships.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Executing entity with strong experience in jaguar conservation, monitoring and community governance.	Technical implementation; ecological monitoring; territorial management.
UNDP	GEF implementing agency; provides oversight and ensures compliance with GEF and UNDP policies and procedures, as well as ensuring	Project oversight, safeguards and monitoring; institutional strengthening.

Partner / Level	Roles and interests in the project	Potential areas of collaboration
	application of safeguards, gender equality and inclusive participation.	
Fundación Tesoro Escondido	Community-based management and conservation in the Chocó.	Restoration; ecotourism; participatory monitoring.
Fundación TERRA 360	Productive innovation and public-private articulation.	Sustainable livelihoods; bio-enterprises; territorial governance.
Fundación PASOS	Sustainable landscape management and corridor development in the Chocó.	Participatory planning; territorial governance; productive conservation.

60. Indigenous Peoples are recognized as distinct rights-holders under UNDP Social and Environmental Standard 6. Engagement with Indigenous Peoples will follow culturally appropriate consultation processes and, where activities may affect their lands, territories, resources, livelihoods, governance systems, or collective rights, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied. Community organizations and non-Indigenous rural communities will participate through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and other inclusive consultation mechanisms.

61. Consistency with national priorities and relevant conventions. The proposed project is fully aligned with Ecuador's national priorities for biodiversity conservation and wildlife management. The principal national instrument guiding jaguar conservation is the Jaguar Conservation Action Plan (PACJ 2022–2031), which establishes objectives for maintaining viable populations, securing habitat and connectivity, reducing illegal wildlife trade, and strengthening coexistence in productive landscapes.
62. As part of this governance framework, the PACJ mandates the future creation and operationalization of the National Jaguar Working Group (GNTJ) as the primary national coordination mechanism. This body has not yet been formalized, representing a key institutional gap. By improving monitoring systems, strengthening coexistence tools, and supporting information flow among national and subnational actors, the project contributes to the enabling conditions required to fulfill this mandate.
63. The PACJ also situates Ecuador's efforts within a strong national and international legal framework. Nationally, it references the Constitution of Ecuador, the Organic Environmental Code (CODA in Spanish), wildlife management regulations, and the SNAP framework. Internationally, the PACJ is aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species, and international agreements relevant to combating organized environmental crime.
64. The project also aligns with the Jaguar 2030 Conservation Roadmap for the Americas, a regional initiative launched by jaguar range states and leading conservation organizations (UNDP, WWF, WCS, and Panthera). The Roadmap aims "to strengthen the Jaguar Corridor across range countries by securing 30 priority jaguar landscapes by 2030" and is structured around four pathways focused on regional coordination, national strategy implementation, conservation-compatible development, and financial sustainability.
65. Finally, the project contributes to Ecuador's broader commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 15 (Life on Land), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).
66. **Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness.** To maximize the use of GEF resources, the project will use existing best practices for wildlife conservation that MAE has been developing and using in other areas. Previous and current experiences at the national and regional level will inform the updating and development of new protocols and plans, with the participation of other sectoral Ministries such as MAGP. The project will implement the activities under Components 1, 2, and 3 in

coordination with the local municipalities and communities to maximize the impact of conservation and restoration activities. In that way, the project will leverage activities and partnerships with local institutions to maximize local interventions. Additionally, the project will work with Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous organizations, and community organizations to incorporate traditional knowledge, local experience, and territorial governance practices into project implementation and adaptive management. These strategic partnerships, as well as the best practices and lessons learned compiled from other project, will further improve the cost efficiency and effectiveness of the project interventions.

67. **Project Management.** The project will be operationalized in the four JCUs in both the southern Choco and Amazon regions of Ecuador. The specific locations will be prioritized, based on local consultations and interest from the local communities, using a multi-ethnic, multicultural gender sensitive approach that follows the environmental and social safeguards of GEF, WCS, and UNDP.
68. **Knowledge:** The project will generate a set of practical and policy-relevant knowledge products directly linked to its core activities under Components 1, 2, and 3. These include updated and standardized management tools for protected areas and OECMs; geospatial analyses and maps for ecological corridors; connectivity and land-use guidelines for GADs; community-validated coexistence protocols; methodological guides for nature-based livelihood models; and technical notes derived from the implementation of alternative protein systems and sustainable production practices. As part of the monitoring and evaluation framework, the project will consolidate biological monitoring data, conflict reporting, and restoration progress into a harmonized digital information system managed by MAE and accessible to local and territorial partners.
69. To ensure visibility, learning, and replication, the project will disseminate knowledge through a structured knowledge management and communication strategy under Component 3. This includes regular learning workshops with GADs and protected-area staff, community assemblies, technical roundtables on connectivity and coexistence, and exchanges across the four JCUs. The project will also produce communication materials—infographics, radio content, social media assets, community briefs—to support awareness and behavioral change efforts identified in the outline.
70. **Innovativeness.** The project introduces a set of integrated and multi-criteria innovations that combine ecological connectivity, protected and conserved area management, community-based coexistence, and nature-based livelihood strategies across four JCUs. This includes: (i) the application of connectivity and land-use planning tools that integrate jaguar movement ecology into municipal PDOTs and PUGS; (ii) the strengthening of OECMs as a complementary governance figure to the national protected area system, including the incorporation of jaguar-specific indicators into their management instruments; (iii) the use of alternative protein systems and diversified livelihood models to reduce hunting pressure on jaguar prey, directly linking conservation with food security and community wellbeing; and (v) the establishment of a unified jaguar monitoring and information system to consolidate biological, social and territorial data for decision-making.
71. **Sustainability.** Sustainability is ensured by anchoring the project's results in national and subnational systems already mandated to manage biodiversity, wildlife, and land-use planning. The project strengthens MAE's leadership by improving management instruments for protected areas and OECMs, integrating corridor priorities and conflict response protocols into official planning and regulatory processes, and building capacities within municipal GADs so they can sustain territorial management functions beyond the project's duration. At the community level, coexistence practices, conflict-management committees, monitoring brigades, and livelihood models will be developed through local governance structures—ensuring that continued implementation does not depend on external financing.
72. **Potential for scaling up.** The project is designed as a catalytic intervention that strengthens and expands existing efforts in Amazonian and Chocó jaguar landscapes while opening pathways for national scaling. Tested coexistence measures, corridor restoration methodologies, OECM governance tools, and sustainable livelihood models piloted in the JCUs can be replicated by MAE and GADs in additional jaguar territories. The integration of jaguar connectivity and wildlife management criteria into planning instruments enables long-term scaling through municipal regulatory processes. Likewise, the project's knowledge products and digital monitoring platform will generate standardized approaches that can be adopted by other provinces, Indigenous organizations, and conservation partners. Regional scaling is supported through alignment with the Jaguar 2030 Conservation Roadmap and the GEF Global Wildlife Program, enabling exchange with other range states on corridor design, conflict mitigation, community governance, and other relevant issues.

73. **Exit strategy and long-term durability.** The project's exit strategy focuses on transferring ownership of all tools, governance mechanisms, and monitoring systems to national and local institutions. By embedding project methodologies into PA/OECM management plans, municipal instruments, and MAE protocols, implementation becomes part of routine institutional functions. Capacity-building for protected area staff, GAD technical teams, Indigenous governance bodies, and community committees ensures local stewardship and operational continuity. Sustainable livelihood options introduced under Component 2, such as agroforestry, native fish-farming, ecotourism and NTFPs, will generate economic incentives that reinforce conservation outcomes independently of grant funding. Post-project, MAE and GADs will continue managing corridors and conflict mitigation systems using the strengthened institutional capacities, co-financing mobilized, and technical partnerships established during implementation.
74. **Digital Solutions**^{[26][25]}: The project will use digital tools to support monitoring, data management, and knowledge consolidation across all three components. Under Component 1, information generated through monitoring of jaguar presence, prey species, habitat conditions, and ecological connectivity will be compiled in digital formats and organized in geospatial layers to support land-use planning by MAE and municipal GADs. The project will also structure digital databases derived from protected areas and OECM management plans, connectivity assessments, and restoration progress, allowing partners to access updated information for decision-making.
75. Under Component 3, digital solutions will strengthen knowledge management and communication processes. The project will produce digital knowledge products, including technical briefs, spatial maps, guidelines, educational content, and communication materials, which will be consolidated in an accessible digital repository managed by MAE and project partners.

[25] <https://www.wwf.org.mx/?366011/Latin-America-Launches-New-Roadmap-to-Save-the-Jaguar>

[26] Please see the [Guideline "Embedding Digital in Project Design"](#).

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

75. In addition to the projects listed in the baseline section, the following table shows ongoing projects with potential synergies:

Table 3. Past and ongoing initiatives and their potential synergy

Project characteristics	Potential synergies
Title: Yasuni Program (continuous program)- Ecuador Budget: USD 50,000,000 (1 million per year Implementation period: 50 years (started: 2024)	The Ecuador Jaguar Conservation Project is directly complementary to the Yasuní Legacy Landscapes Fund Program, as both initiatives operate within the broader Cuyabeno–Yasuní–Pastaza Jaguar Conservation Unit and engage with many of the same Indigenous nationalities, including Kichwa, Waorani, Shuar, Cofán, and Siekopai territories. The LLF Program's long-term investments in protected area management, collaborative governance, community-based monitoring, and strategies to regulate hunting pressure provide practical models that can inform coexistence, prey-base recovery, and territorial governance actions under the Ecuador Jaguar Conservation Project.

Project characteristics	Potential synergies
Donor: Legacy Landscape Fund (LLF) Agency: WCS	
Title: Jaguar Conservation Strategy 2020-2030 Implementation period: 2020-2030 - Ecuador Agencies: WWF- UICN	The Ecuador Jaguar Conservation Project is strongly aligned with the WWF Jaguar Conservation Strategy 2020–2030, which provides tested approaches for strengthening jaguar conservation across priority landscapes. The development of the Guardianes del Jaguar tool—grounded in the Estándar de Conservación Asegurada de Jaguar (JAGS) and integrated into IUCN Green List processes—offers standardized, practical criteria for improving protected area management, monitoring, Indigenous Peoples and local communities' participation, and threat mitigation.
Title: The Jaguar Corridor-Colombia Budget: USD 8,362,691 (GEF Project Grant) Implementation period: 60 months (2025-2030) Donor: GEF Agency: UNDP	The project aligns strongly with the Jaguar Corridor initiative through shared priorities on habitat connectivity, coexistence, community-led conservation and also similar implementation timelines. Synergies include experience exchange on non-lethal conflict prevention, coexistence protocols, and community-based early-warning systems; joint learning on monitoring methodologies for jaguar populations and landscape connectivity; and complementary governance approaches involving protected areas, Indigenous territories, and local governments.
Title: Integrating Landscape Considerations in Wildlife Conservation, with Emphasis on Jaguars- Ecuador Budget: USD 1,788,991 (GEF Project Grant) Implementation period: 36 month (2022- 2025) Donor: GEF Agency: WCS	The Ecuador Jaguar Conservation Project directly builds upon the technical and institutional foundations established by the GEF-7 Jaguar Landscape Project. The previous initiative produced standardized methodologies for community-based jaguar and prey monitoring, landscape-level territorial planning, and non-lethal coexistence strategies that can be scaled and adapted to new conflict hotspots under this project. Its lessons on strengthening MAATE's field presence, improving inter-institutional coordination with GADs, and integrating community life plans into formal land-use planning offer practical guidance for governance and territorial management.

[27] Core Indicator Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO₂e): TBC. During PPG Phase, the project will incorporate the quantification of mitigation benefits within the results framework, measuring avoided emissions and carbon stock conservation associated with habitat protection, connectivity conservation, and fragmentation reduction across targeted jaguar landscapes. Recognized ex-ante carbon accounting methodologies will be used to quantify avoided emissions and carbon benefits associated with forest conservation interventions.

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2284740	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

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)
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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)
2284740	0	0	0

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)
Cotacachi - Cayapas	184	National Park	243,638.00						
Cuyabeno Wildlife Production Reserve	2499	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	590,112.00						
El Pambilar Wildlife Reserve	555592948	Wilderness Area	3,123.00						
Llanganates	97512	National Park	219,918.00						
Sumaco Napo Galeras	81072	National Park	205,249.00						
Yasuni	186	National Park	1,022,700.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
8000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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8,000.00

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
78000	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
72,000.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,000.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Río Anzu	555791022	300.00			
Ruku Kawsay	555791025	1,438.00			
Urku Samay	555791024	3,737.00			
Yacuma	555791023	262.00			

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,688			
Male	2,912			
Total	5,600	0	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

77. Methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators: The global environmental benefits (GEB) resulting from the project include (i) Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (hectares) (CI 1.2); (ii) Area of forests and forest land under restoration (hectares) (CI 3.2), (iii) Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares) (CI 4.1), (iv) Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (hectares) (CI 4.3), (v) Terrestrial OECMs supported (hectare) (CI 4.5) and (vi) People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (CI 11).

78. The following is a description of the approaches used for the calculation of each selected GEB:

- CI 1.2 Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness indicator was estimated by identifying the protected areas that would be supported by the project through Biodiversity Plans and other measures to improve management effectiveness. These include Cotacachi-Cayapas NP (243,638 hectares), Yasuní NP (1,022,700 hectares), Llanaganates NP (219,918 hectares), Sumaco Napo-Galeras NP (205,249 hectares), El Pambilar Wildlife Reserve (3,123 hectares), and Cuyabeno Wildlife Production Reserve (590,112 hectares).
- CI 3.2. Area of forests and forest land under restoration was estimated based on the area that could be supported by the project in communal lands. The average territorial extent of a medium-sized Indigenous community is approximately 5,000 hectares, and management interventions will be implemented in four communities per Jaguar Conservation Unit (JCU), across four JCUs, so the total area under wildlife management would be around 80,000 hectares. We assume that 10% of that area (8,000 hectares) will be under restoration.
- CI 4.1. Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity was estimated based on the area that could be supported by the project in communal lands. The average territorial extent of a medium-sized Indigenous community is approximately 5,000 hectares, and management interventions will be implemented in four communities per Jaguar Conservation Unit (UCJ), across four UCJs, so the total area under wildlife management would be around 80,000 hectares. Subtracting the 10% under restoration under CI 3.2 to avoid double counting, the net area is 72,000 hectares.
- CI 4.3. Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems was estimated based on the area that could be supported by the project using a cost per unit of area basis. The cost per unit was estimated based on similar past experiences of these types of interventions. The total number of farms to be supported is estimated at 30 farms or production systems of 50 hectares in each of the four landscapes. Under those assumptions, the total area is 6,000 hectares.
- CI 4.5. Terrestrial OECMs supported indicator was estimated based on the area of selected OECMs supported by the project. The selected OECMs include: Río Anzu Reserve (300 hectares), Yacuma (262 hectares), Ruku Kawsay (1,438 hectares); and Urku Samay (3,737 hectares).
- CI 11. Direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex was estimated as follows: Work will be carried out in 16 communities, with an average of 60 families, each with a household of five members, typically comprising 52% men and 48% women. In addition, there will be 400 beneficiaries (40% women) from the public sector, including technical staff from MAE, local governments, and other institutions. The estimated total number of direct beneficiaries is therefore 5,600.

Footnote 27: Core Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO₂e): TBC.

During PPG Phase, the project will incorporate the quantification of mitigation benefits within the results framework, measuring avoided emissions and carbon stock conservation associated with habitat protection, connectivity conservation, and fragmentation reduction across targeted jaguar landscapes. Recognized ex-ante carbon accounting methodologies will be used to quantify avoided emissions and carbon benefits associated with forest conservation interventions.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Climate change (including temperature shifts, extreme rainfall, fire risk) could affect the sustainability of project results. Lack of integration of climate-risk analyses (temperature shifts, extreme rainfall, fire risk) into management plans and corridor design may reduce ecological resilience. The project will integrate climate-risk assessments into the SESA for all planning instruments; apply ecosystem-based adaptation criteria; train MAE, GADs and community monitors; and incorporate climate-resilient species and restoration techniques.
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Inadequate SES screening in diagnostics, management plan updates, territorial planning instruments, connectivity corridors, restoration activities, and livelihood interventions may fail to identify potential social and environmental risks, including impacts on Indigenous Peoples, other rural communities, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and livelihoods. Mandatory SES screening will apply to all plans and site-level activities. The project will undertake additional assessments (including SESA and socioeconomic studies, as relevant), apply the mitigation hierarchy, and implement FPIC and other safeguards requirements where applicable to ensure that project impacts are positive, inclusive and sustainable. Impacts on Biodiversity and Critical Habitats. There could be potential adverse impacts on biodiversity, habitats and endangered species due to restoration, corridor implementation, wildlife monitoring or productive initiatives. The project will apply mandatory SES screening, conduct environmental assessments, enforce prohibition of exotic species, apply the precautionary principle, and ensure technical validation by MAE with ecological monitoring in all JCUs. Social Exclusion and Inequitable Benefits. There is a risk of social exclusion or inequitable access to benefits for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and rural communities. The project will operationalize the PIA/SEP and GAP, ensure participation quotas ($\geq 40\%$ women, $\geq 35\%$ youth), apply equity criteria for benefits, deliver differentiated training, monitor inclusion with disaggregated indicators, and activate the GRM. Please refer to the SES Annex included in the project's RoadMap as a separate file. Risks to Rights, Territories and Governance. The project is expected to work directly with Indigenous Peoples as distinct rights-holders. Risks may arise if project activities do not adequately respect Indigenous Peoples' collective rights, lands, territories, natural resources, governance systems, traditional livelihoods, cultural heritage, or FPIC requirements. Safeguards measures will ensure that project impacts are positive, equitable and rights-based. The project will implement mandatory FPIC; prepare IPPs; conduct participatory mapping of traditional use areas; integrate Planes de Vida (Life Plans); ensure representation of women and youth; and establish clear benefit-sharing agreements. Threats and Retaliation Against Participants. Threats, intimidation or retaliation

		could occur toward community leaders, women/youth participants, monitors or staff due to illegal logging, mining, wildlife trafficking or territorial disputes. The project will apply UNDP protocols to reduce the risk of retaliation; conduct site-specific security assessments; coordinate with UNDSS and authorities; ensure anonymous GRM channels; provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and insurance; and suspend/relocate activities when needed. Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and Discrimination. There are risks of discrimination, exclusion or gender-based violence (GBV, SEA/SH) during community engagement, wildlife management, tourism pilots or productive initiatives. The project will implement GAP and GBV/SEA-SH protocols; provide mandatory training; ensure safe reporting channels; create safe spaces; and apply equity criteria in benefits and participation. Improper Waste Management in Productive Initiatives. Poor waste management from productive activities (alternative protein systems, NTFP, ecotourism) may contaminate soil/water and affect biodiversity. The project will conduct sanitary assessments; design units with proper waste infrastructure; implement Waste Management Plans; and monitor water quality and residues. Grievances and Perceived Inequities. Debates, complaints or objections could arise due to unclear information, benefit allocation or insufficient transparency in planning instruments. The GRM will be made fully operational and disseminated; communication will be culturally appropriate; planning instruments will undergo participatory validation; and decisions and eligibility criteria will be publicly disclosed.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Institutional Fragmentation and Weak Coordination. Weak inter-institutional coordination and overlapping mandates may hinder implementation of corridors and management plans. The project will strengthen the National Jaguar Coordination Platform and Technical Territorial Committees, establish coordination protocols and promote transparency and accountability. Delays in Approval of Planning Instruments. Delays in approving management plans, OECMs or PDOT/PUGS adjustments may slow implementation. The project will co-develop approval roadmaps, align municipal ordinances, ensure technical continuity, and use participatory validation to ensure political and community ownership
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Inconsistencies With National Frameworks. Misalignment between project instruments and national frameworks may reduce institutional uptake. The project will align methodologies with MAE, SNAP guidelines and national planning policies, maintain dialogue with Planifica Ecuador, and update tools to reflect regulatory changes.
Technological	Moderate	Risks to Sensitive Environmental and Community Information. Sensitive data (on biodiversity hotspots (including for jaguars), Indigenous territories, cultural sites, community information) may be exposed or misused. The project will apply strict data-security protocols (anonymization, restricted

		access, encryption), follow national data-protection laws, and assess risks before publishing sensitive information.
Financial and Business Model	Substantial	Resource Access Restrictions and Economic Displacement. Social conflicts and economic displacement could occur due to access or use restrictions in management plans, corridors or land-use zoning. The project will apply SES re-screening, conduct socio-economic assessments, apply FPIC where relevant, design compensation and benefit-sharing measures, and maintain permanent dialogue and mediation spaces.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	Limited Institutional and Technical Capacity. Limited technical capacity among GADs and partners may constrain adoption of biodiversity tools, monitoring systems and safeguards compliance. The project will implement continuous capacity building; institutionalize tools and data systems; promote peer learning; strengthen coordination platforms; and operationalize the SEGSMs.
Fiduciary	Low	Potential risk of non-compliance with financial procedures or misallocation of funds inherent to grant-funded project implementation. The Implementing Partner, WCS, demonstrated low fiduciary risk across all areas evaluated in the capacity assessment, including financial management, procurement, internal controls, asset management, and financial reporting. Under the selected implementation modality, financial management, procurement, and reporting responsibilities rest with the Implementing Partner, subject to UNDP oversight and quality assurance. The project will apply UNDP POPP and GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards, including audit coverage, Project Board oversight, risk monitoring, and HACT assurance activities as applicable. These measures ensure transparency and accountability, justifying the classification of fiduciary risk as Low.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Stakeholder grievances. Communities may raise objections or complaints due to unclear decision-making, insufficient information, or perceived inequities. The project will fully operationalize the GRM and disseminate it, ensure culturally appropriate channels, implement a Communication Plan, publish clear decisions, and conduct participatory validation of planning instruments and regulations.
Other	Moderate	Occupational Health and Safety Risks. Fieldwork in remote forest areas may expose personnel and community monitors to accidents, wildlife encounters or extreme climate events. The project will implement an Occupational Health and Safety Plan; provide insurance, PPE and first-aid training; and establish suspension protocols for high-risk areas.
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

79. The proposed project is primarily aligned with the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area (BDFA) and contributes to the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework through an area-based, integrated landscape approach that combines protected areas, OECMs, production landscapes and Indigenous Peoples' territories.
80. **BDFA Objective 1. Integrated landscape/seascape management.** The project contributes directly to the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area Objective 1 (BDFA-1), which seeks to improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems through biodiversity mainstreaming in productive landscapes, enhanced planning and governance, and the reduction of direct threats to wildlife. In line with BDFA-1, the project integrates biodiversity –and specifically jaguar conservation– into territorial planning instruments, protected and conserved area management, landscape governance mechanisms, and community production systems across four priority JCUs.
81. Project activities are fully consistent with the short-term outcomes envisioned under BDFA-1, including landscapes with improved biodiversity-friendly management practices; strengthened incentives for coexistence with wildlife; increased community participation and stewardship; and enhanced institutional capacity to enforce wildlife-related regulations. In the medium term, the project contributes to BDFA-1 targets on improved ecological connectivity, enhanced management effectiveness in protected and conserved areas, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity across local planning systems.
82. In the long term, the project will contribute to global biodiversity outcomes by strengthening jaguar populations and associated wildlife, securing critical habitat connectivity, reducing wildlife-related crime and conflict, and improving the resilience and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities.
83. The project will also contribute to climate change mitigation through quantification of greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with avoided deforestation, reduced habitat degradation, and maintenance of forest carbon stocks within priority jaguar conservation landscapes. Because jaguars require large, intact, and connected forest landscapes, conservation interventions designed to maintain ecological integrity simultaneously conserve high-carbon tropical forest ecosystems and reduce emissions associated with forest loss and fragmentation. On the other hand, maintaining connectivity constitutes a critical adaptation strategy because it enables jaguars and their prey species to move across heterogeneous landscapes in response to shifting climatic conditions, facilitating natural range adjustments and access to future climate refugia. This is particularly relevant in the Andean-Amazon interface, where elevational gradients provide pathways for species adaptation under changing temperature and precipitation regimes. The project will therefore strengthen ecosystem resilience to climate change by maintaining functional connectivity, reducing habitat fragmentation, and preserving ecological processes necessary for long-term species persistence under future climate scenarios.
84. In achieving the expected project outcomes, the project will also contribute to pursuit of the various SDGs and Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets listed previously, as well as Ecuador's UNDAF UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework/Country Programme Document (UNSDCF/CPD) expected results of "environmental management and climate action towards an ecological, inclusive and resilient transition" and related UNDP Strategic Plan Outcomes 1 (indicator 2.1 Percentage of national territory under conservation or environmental management). It also aligns with UNDP's Nature Pledge, a commitment to support over 140 countries in achieving their targets under the GBF. Through its Nature Pledge, UNDP aims to drive three transformative shifts for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to achieve the 2030 Agenda: (i) a shift in the value placed on nature, driven by narrative shifts and behavior change; (ii) an economic and finance shift; and (iii) a policy and practice shift. Each shift is linked to time-bound targets for 2030, aligning with the SDGs, GBF, UNDP's Strategic Plan, and Gender Equality Strategy.
85. Specifically, the project supports **Cooperation Framework Outcome #2: "In 2026, the State and society advance towards the ecological transition and a sustainable and inclusive, decarbonized and resilient economy to the effects of climate change, conserving biodiversity, avoiding land degradation and the pollution of ecosystems, with a focus on gender, inclusion and diversity."**
86. The project is aligned with **UNDP's Strategic Plan 2022–2025, Outcome 1: "Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive and digital transitions"**, by:

- Promoting an ecological transition that places nature and biodiversity (including keystone species such as the jaguar) at the centre of development decisions
- Strengthening digital tools and data systems for monitoring, knowledge management and enforcement related to jaguar conservation, in line with UNDP's support to ecological transition and environmental governance in Ecuador.
- The project also supports **UNDP's programme signature solution** on "*Environmental management and climate action towards an ecological, inclusive and resilient transition*" in Ecuador by reinforcing environmental governance, access to global environment finance, and multisectoral partnerships (e.g. with MAE, Indigenous Peoples, rural community organizations, civil society and the private sector) in key forest landscapes.

87. Regarding the **2030 Agenda**, the project contributes to the following SDG targets highlighted in the Results Framework:

- **SDG 15** - by protecting key jaguar landscapes in the Amazon and Chocó, including critical habitats, restoring ecosystems and ecological connectivity and improving management effectiveness across protected areas and OECMs.
- **SDG 5.5** – by promoting women's effective participation and leadership in PA management, community monitoring, conflict-management committees and jaguar-related value chains, with explicit participation targets and gender-based violence (GBV)-sensitive measures.
- **SDG 12.2** – by advancing sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources through biodiversity-compatible production systems (agroforestry, native fish-farming, NTFPs) and by embedding sustainable consumption and production criteria in local planning and policies, contributing to **Indicator 2.2** – Number of action plans or national strategies for sustainable consumption and production incorporated as priorities or goals in national policies.
- **SDG 17.14** – by strengthening policy coherence for sustainable development through multi-level coordination (national–subnational–community), inter-institutional protocols for conflict management and wildlife crime, and enhanced articulation between biodiversity, security and livelihood agendas.
- **SDG 13** –by conserving jaguar habitats and avoiding deforestation to reduce greenhouse emissions and ecosystem based-adaptation by strengthening ecological connectivity, increasing ecosystem resilience to climate variability.
- **SDG 2** – by improving rural livelihoods strengthening the economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples and other rural communities and by promoting more resilient production systems that help with conflict reduction.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

During the construction process, five collective workshops were held, with the participation of more than 165 people (34% women and 66% men). Although the proportion of women was lower than ideal, the presence of women leaders and representatives of organizations was ensured, who contributed perspectives on gender gaps, governance dynamics, and territorial needs. The workshops were held in Quito, Esmeraldas, Orellana, and Morona Santiago, allowing for the sociocultural and ecological diversity of the four JCUs to be captured.

Name of event	Date and location	Women	Men	Total	Main organizations/institutions present
Quito workshop	July 29 – Quito	14	18	32	MAE, UNDP, WCS, CI, WWF, MAG, FIAS, academia (PUCE, UIDE), conservation NGOs: CI, Tesoro Escondido, Jocotoco
Esmeraldas regional workshop	September 12 – Cristóbal Colón	21	33	54	FECCH, Chachi Federation of Esmeraldas, MAE, FCAT, Tesoro Escondido, Aliados, Jocotoco, productive associations (ASOPROSABOCA, Asociación Patria Nueva, Cooperativa 10 de Abril, 10 de Agosto) local communities (Cristóbal Colón, Lago Salado-Canandé, Hoja Blanca) Women Entrepreneurs of the Community, women monitors of the Tesoro Escondido Reserve.
Territorial workshop – Orellana	October 6 – El Coca	12	18	30	MAE, MAG, GADs, PUCE, WCS, CI, livestock associations, and Kichwa communities: Pacto Sumaco Community Tourism Center, women's organization: Waorani OMERE Handicrafts, Wichwa Río Guicamayo-Loreto Center, 11 de Abril Livestock Farmers Association, Kichwa Sani Isla Commune, Sacha Nampi Alta Florencia, local Afro-Ecuadorian leader.
Territorial workshop – Morona Santiago	October 9 – Macas	3	18	21	Shuar Centers (FISH, Nunkui, Tsapau, Kumay), NAWA, MAE, WCS, GAD Sucúa Bioemprende, Tsapau Agricultural Association, San Luis Iimkis Community, Shuar Center Sevilla, Shuar Center Kumay
Project validation and risk workshop	October 27 – Quito	13	15	28	MAE, FIAS, WCS, CI, GADs Orellana and Sucumbíos, Yasuní Scientific Station, UNDP

In addition to the collective workshops, four bilateral meetings were held between September 12 and 18, 2025, bringing together 12 institutional representatives (six women and six men) from key organizations involved in jaguar conservation and landscape management:

1. Conservation International (CI).
2. The Nature Conservancy (TNC/FIAS)
3. WWF Ecuador.
4. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
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High or Substantial

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,374,429.00	225,571.00	2,600,000.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						2,374,429.00	225,571.00	2,600,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

false

PPG Amount (\$)

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
Total PPG Amount (\$)						0.00	0.00	0.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,600,000.00
Total GEF Resources					2,600,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-2	GET	2,374,429.00	28814518
Total Project Cost		2,374,429.00	28,814,518.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	23358098
Civil Society Organization	Non-governmental Organizations	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MAGP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2401420
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	55000
Total Co-financing				28,814,518.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Cofinancing includes mobilized investment (USD 3,000,000) from Non-governmental organizations whose objective is to leverage funds to support the long-term conservation of Yasuní's biodiversity and contribute to maintaining and preserving the integrity of Yasuní National Park and the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve and for Amazonian Watersheds to maintain ecosystem health and promote social well-being through the sustainable management of natural resources by communities.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet	5/20/2026	Nancy Bennet Director, Quality Impact Hub Bureau for Policy and Programme Support		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Alexandra Fischer,	5/20/2026	Alexandra Fischer, Senior Regional Technical Advisor		alexandra.fischer@undp.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
María Madeleine Pertuz Alarcon	Director of International Affairs and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Energy	1/12/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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



Please refer to separate file for reference

Geo Name ID	Location Name	Latitude	Longitude
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Estribaciones Orientales	Estribaciones Orientales	-77.79	-0.97
Cóndor - Kutuku	Cóndor - Kutuku	-77.92	-2.69
Chocó Meridional	Chocó Meridional	-78.91	-0.61
Cuyabeno-Yasuni-Pastaza	Cuyabeno-Yasuni-Pastaza	-76.42	-1.33

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

PIMS 9644 Ecuador Jaguars Social and Environmental Screening Updated

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity/decision-making		
Stakeholders	Indigenous Peoples		
	Private Sector	Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
	Beneficiaries		
	Local communities		
	Type of engagement	Information dissemination	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	Communications	Awareness raising	
		Education	
		Behavior Change	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development		
	Enabling activities		
	Knowledge generation and exchange		
	Learning	Indicators to measure change	
	Knowledge and Learning	Knowledge management	
		Capacity development	
	Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming	Beneficiaries	
		Sex disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender results areas	Access and control over natural resources	
		Participation and leadership	

		Access to benefits and services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising	
		Knowledge generation	
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected areas and landscapes	Productive Landscapes
			Community Based Natural Resource Management
		Species	Illegal Wildlife Trade
			Threatened Species
		Biomes	Tropical Rain Forests
		Mainstreaming	Forestry (including HCVF and REDD +)
			Agriculture and Agrobiodiversity
	Forests	Forest and Landscape Restoration	
	Rio Markers	Sustainable Development Goals	
		Climate Change Mitigation 1	
		Climate Change Adaptation 1	