PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	11510
Project Name:	Mex30x30: Conserving Mexican biodiversity through communities and their protected areas
Countr(ies):	Mexico
Implementing Agency:	CI

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name
Mex30x30: Conserving Mexican biodiversity through communities and their protected areas

Country
Mexico

GEF ID	Implementing Agency
11510	CI

Executing Entity
Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza A.C .

Trust Fund	Project Type
GBFF	GBFF

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year	PIR Number
9/11/2026	FY 2026	1st PIR

Objective
To help Mexico advance toward the Global Biodiversity Framework 30x30 target through long-term sustainable financing for the existing national protected areas (national parks and ADVCs) Indicators (Targets): a. Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Target: 3,665,666 ha) b. Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Target: 22,241,504 ha) c. Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (Target: 5.7 million tons) d. Number of people experiencing socioeconomic benefits (male/female) (Target: 163,293 people; 50% female)

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress	Development Objective
Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk
Moderate Risk

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
18,173,000.00	12,669,982.00

Cumulative amount ($) of GBFF project financing disbursed to support actions by Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous local communities	Of which to support actions by Indigenous Peoples ($)
20850	2406

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 8/21/2024	Agency Approval 9/10/2026
Implementation Start 4/16/2025	First Disbursement 5/20/2025
Expected MTR 4/30/2028	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 4/30/2031	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

During the first year of implementation, the MEx30x30 project made significant progress in establishing the conditions required to launch the Project and in consolidating the institutional, financial, social, and technical conditions needed to strengthen the conservation of Protected Natural Areas (ANPs) and Voluntary Conservation Areas (ADVCs) in Mexico, laying a solid foundation for achieving long-term results aligned with the global 30x30 target.

In the area of conservation financing, a strategic pathway was developed to reduce CONANP's financing gap by 2030, identifying opportunities to diversify and strengthen existing financing sources, particularly through fees, environmental compensatory measures, and debt mechanisms. Although no new funding source has yet been incorporated into the institutional budget, progress was made in analyzing viable alternatives and defining actions for their future implementation. In addition, CONANP's approved budget increased significantly compared to the previous year (47.5%), strengthening its operational capacity for protected area management.

The project also advanced in the design of long-term sustainable financial mechanisms through the consolidation of a strategic partnership between FMCN and Enduring Earth to explore a national initiative under the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach. As part of this process, progress was made in updating the methodology for estimating the financing gap of protected areas, the MEx30x30 Transition Fund Design Committee was established, and a resource mobilization strategy was developed. The strategy is structured in two complementary phases, aiming to mobilize approximately US$200 million during 2025–2030, combining international financing from multilateral and bilateral sources during 2025–2027 with private-sector resources during 2027–2030. By the end of the reporting period, FMCN had made significant progress toward mobilizing resources that could cover approximately half of the requirement for the first phase of the fund.

Regarding effective management of ANPs and ADVCs, the project conducted participatory strategic planning processes in the participating PAs, strengthening coordination among authorities, organizations, and local communities. These exercises helped identify conservation priorities and potential implementation risks, define expected results and corresponding risk mitigation measures, and lay the groundwork for the preparation of Annual Operating Plans (POAs), which will begin implementation during the second half of 2026. In parallel, strategic planning was conducted for the ANPs to identify and prioritize actions to be financed through the returns generated by the MEx30x30 endowment, including conservation, restoration, environmental education, and monitoring. This process was conducted with stakeholder participation in accordance with the governance mechanisms of the ANPs. The planning workshops also provided valuable information for the development of the project's environmental and social capacity-building plans.

Regarding knowledge management, the Conservation Knowledge Exchange Week brought together representatives from government, academia, civil society organizations, and local communities, promoting the exchange of experiences and strengthening collaboration networks for biodiversity conservation.
The project also made significant progress in implementing environmental and social safeguards. Stakeholder engagement instruments were updated, the Gender Mainstreaming Plan was disseminated, and considerations related to inclusion, gender, and community participation were incorporated into planning processes. The Project also advanced the dissemination of the grievance mechanism, defining culturally appropriate communication channels, and preparing training on safeguards and FMCN's Environmental and Social Management System. Although several activities are linked to the development of the Annual Operating Plans and will continue during the next phase, considerations related to Indigenous Peoples, community health and safety, informed participation, and risk management have already been incorporated into the project's design and implementation processes. During the strategic planning workshops, participants identified potential risks associated with specific activities to be included in the POAs. As part of the planning process, participants also defined mitigation measures to minimize the identified risks. This approach ensured that the corresponding mitigation measures were incorporated into the activities planned for each PA and, where applicable, that the necessary budget was allocated for their implementation.
Finally, FMCN consolidated a monitoring and evaluation system aligned with CI-GEF requirements and FMCN's institutional procedures. The system enables systematic and integrated tracking of project results and social and environmental indicators, integrating information from the POAs and strengthening adaptive management and project accountability.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The main challenge the project faced was that the implementation of activities and the channeling of financial resources to the field had not yet begun, limiting the direct participation of local stakeholders. To address this situation, FMCN prioritized institutional coordination, participatory planning, and capacity building, ensuring that stakeholders could participate and had the necessary conditions for implementation to begin in October 2026. As a result, coordination among Project partners was strengthened, and the foundations were established for informed and effective stakeholder engagement during implementation.

C. Progress and challenges in support for actions by IPLCs in the last fiscal year, particularly with regards to

1. Project activities in support of actions by (i) Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous local communities, and (ii) Indigenous Peoples;

During FY26, no GBFF resources were disbursed directly for actions implemented by Indigenous Peoples or local communities, as the project focused primarily on the strategic planning of protected areas in preparation for the implementation of the Annual Operating Plans (POAs), which will begin in October 2026.
Nevertheless, the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) was incorporated into the project's participatory planning processes. Four planning workshops were conducted using the ZOPP methodology, bringing together stakeholders from different institutions and local communities, including 12 representatives from the Maya, Au'dham, Rarámuri, and Wixárika peoples. These planning processes strengthened the territorial planning and governance capacities of IPLCs and helped incorporate their perspectives, priorities, and needs into the definition of conservation, management, restoration, and environmental culture activities, ensuring that these interventions are responsive to local contexts.
To promote culturally appropriate and inclusive participation, the workshops recognized participants' Indigenous and gender identities through self-identification mechanisms incorporated into attendance registers, encouraged the free use of Indigenous languages, and ensured discrimination-free spaces. These actions helped create equitable conditions for traditionally underrepresented groups by facilitating their participation in dialogue and collective decision-making, as well as their contributions to developing proposals and decisions regarding future project activities. Feedback, priorities, and proposals provided by IPLC representatives were incorporated into the POAs by including actions to promote sustainable agricultural and forestry production systems in collaboration with IPLCs, developing a comprehensive ecological restoration strategy with IPLC participation, and implementing environmental awareness programs that include participation forums with IPLCs.

2. The extent to which IPLCs determined and/or controlled these project activities; an

During FY26, the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) took place primarily through consultation and participatory planning processes, rather than through direct control over resources or implementation of activities. Through

strategic planning workshops IPLC representatives contributed to the identification of priorities, activities, and conservation and management actions. In addition, measures were taken to ensure that the proposed activities did not include any actions listed in FMCN's Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) Exclusion List.
Since FY26 focused on project preparation and the POAs had not yet entered their operational implementation phase, IPLCs did not have direct control over GBFF resources during the reporting period. As implementation progresses, the project will seek to strengthen CONANP's operational capacity and promote the active participation of IPLCs in the implementation, monitoring, and follow-up of project activities.

3. The involvement of decision-making institutions and processes identified and self-determined by IPLCs.
During FY26, the project made progress in strengthening the transparent, inclusive, meaningful, and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities through participatory planning processes, seeking to align project planning with existing local governance structures and institutional processes. To this end, local community authorities and other key local stakeholders were engaged in the process, recognizing their role as formally recognized representatives and decision-making bodies of the participating IPLCs. The participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives in the ZOPP workshops helped incorporate their perspectives, knowledge, traditional practices and contributions into the definition of management activities and actions. In addition, the dissemination and follow-up of the actions included in the POA´s will be carried out through the establishment and formalization of Advisory Councils, which will serve as spaces for participation and exchange with relevant local stakeholders, fostering the continued involvement of Indigenous Peoples and community representatives in decision-making processes. In the Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation (ADVC), participatory workshops were conducted with IPLCs to define governance arrangements for project implementation, and it was agreed by consensus that existing community governance structures and customary decision-making processes, including community and ejido assemblies and traditional authorities, would be used for project-related decisions with respect for IPLCs´ timelines.

D. Stakeholder Engagement

During FY26, the MEx30x30 project made progress in consolidating the institutional, financial, social, and technical conditions necessary to initiate implementation and strengthen the conservation of Protected Natural Areas (ANPs) and Voluntarily Designated Conservation Areas (ADVCs) in Mexico. These advances established the foundations for achieving the Project's long-term outcomes, in alignment with the global 30x30 target. Under the conservation financing component, a strategic pathway was developed to reduce CONANP's financial gap toward 2030, identifying opportunities to diversify and strengthen existing funding sources. This process contributed to creating conditions for the financial sustainability of conservation actions and for coordinating efforts among relevant stakeholders. At the field level, stakeholder engagement focused on establishing the foundations for the implementation of the POAs, in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and FPIC. Collaboration among CONANP, FMCN, civil society organizations, local communities, and other strategic partners was promoted through participatory planning and capacity-building processes. As a key achievement, and in accordance with the Project's initial planning, given that the endowment generates returns one year after its investment, the FMCN team conducted strategic planning workshops with ANP staff and Project stakeholders to support the participatory development of the POAs. These workshops defined implementation priorities, monitoring mechanisms, and the integration of environmental, social, and gender considerations. As part of the POA development process, FMCN's environmental and social safeguards procedures were applied to identify and assess potential Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) risks associated with the planned activities. The safeguards process included the screening of risks and the identification of appropriate mitigation measures, as applicable, in accordance with FMCN's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the procedures established in the Project's approved Comparative Analysis Document. The safeguards considerations and identified measures were incorporated into the POA planning process to ensure that environmental and social risks would be appropriately managed during implementation. In addition, the capacities of the stakeholders involved were strengthened through training on Project implementation and the Environmental and Social Management Framework. One of the challenges was that the implementation of activities and the channeling of financial resources to the field had not yet begun, limiting the direct participation of local stakeholders. To address this situation, FMCN prioritized institutional coordination, participatory planning, and capacity building, ensuring that stakeholders could participate and had the necessary conditions for implementation to begin in October 2026. As a result, coordination among Project partners was strengthened, and the foundations were established for informed and effective stakeholder engagement during implementation. Regarding knowledge management, the Conservation Knowledge Exchange Week brought together representatives from government, academia, civil society organizations, and communities, promoting the exchange of experiences and strengthening collaboration networks for biodiversity conservation. In addition, a monitoring and evaluation system aligned with CI-GEF requirements and FMCN's institutional procedures was consolidated, enabling systematic tracking of indicators, safeguards, and results, while strengthening the Project's adaptive management and accountability

E. Gender Equality

During the reporting period, the project made progress in mainstreaming gender considerations across planning, stakeholder engagement, and capacity-building processes, in accordance with the GMP and ESMS. Although not all activities foreseen in the GMP have been implemented, this is mainly because several measures are designed to be implemented progressively throughout the life of the project. During this period, progress was made particularly in carrying out the planning processes trough workshops with stakeholder and the integration of gender considerations into the environmental and social capacity-building plan, which includes capacity-building actions for CONANP and project partners. One of the main challenges has been ensuring the consistent integration of these considerations across different project activities and partners; therefore, a gradual and adaptive approach will continue to be followed, taking into account specific local contexts. As part of this approach, the participation of women and men in project activities has been monitored, and gender considerations have been incorporated into planning and capacity-building processes. In four planning workshops, 27 women participated out of a total of 81 participants, while at the SICC by its Spanish acronym, 226 women participated out of a total of 430 participants, indicating favorable conditions for women's participation in project-related spaces. Although there is not yet sufficient evidence to identify broader qualitative changes in decision-making or gender relations, these results provide a basis for continuing to strengthen women's meaningful participation. For the next FY, FMCN will continue implementing the measures established in the GMP and ESMS, strengthen gender-related capacities among CONANP and project partners, maintain sex-disaggregated participation monitoring, and integrate gender considerations into POAs, ToRs, consultancies, and other implementation instruments, while progressively documenting qualitative outcomes related to women's participation and decision-making. Examples of gender-responsive considerations incorporated into the four POAs include the inclusive implementation of productive restoration projects under the principle of environmental precaution and following safety guidelines; training for staff, IPLC, and ANP users under conditions of equity and inclusion; the implementation and monitoring of sustainable management projects while ensuring an inclusive approach; and the establishment and equipping of community surveillance and monitoring brigades in an inclusive manner.

F. Knowledge Management

During FY26, the first year of MEx30x30 implementation, the Knowledge Management approach focused primarily on **documenting, sharing, and showcasing the project's objectives, initial experiences, progress, and lessons learned** through national and international forums. In this context, Knowledge Management was implemented through the generation, systematization, exchange, and dissemination of knowledge derived from the project's planning, coordination, and institutional strengthening processes. During the period, tools, methodologies, and materials related to project implementation in PAs were developed and documented, while efforts were also made to share the experiences and lessons learned generated through various knowledge-exchange platforms. Key knowledge-sharing and dissemination spaces included the **Knowledge Exchange Week on Conservation**, which brought together **430 participants**; participation in **RedLAC**, with approximately **300 participants**; and the **CBD COP**, where the project participated in a **high-level panel with 30 participants**. These spaces provided opportunities to present MEx30x30's objectives, progress, experiences, and actions aimed at contributing to closing Mexico's financing gap to meet its biodiversity conservation commitments toward 2030, as well as the strategic initiatives linked to this objective. These exchanges facilitated the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and lessons learned among diverse stakeholders, strengthened coordination among institutions and partners, and promoted the application of knowledge to conservation processes. In addition, knowledge, tools, and products generated during implementation have been incorporated into the project's monitoring and management mechanisms to facilitate their access, application, and use by institutions, partner organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

During FY26, project implementation focused primarily on creating the institutional, technical, and operational conditions required to begin POA implementation in October 2026. A key experience was the use of participatory planning processes through ZOPP workshops, which engaged institutional and local stakeholders in defining activities, expected results, and management actions. This process helped align planning across the project's four components with national conservation priorities and CONANP institutional processes, while also identifying coordination and capacity-strengthening needs for the next stage of implementation. Knowledge Management was implemented through the generation, systematization, exchange, and dissemination of knowledge derived from the project's planning, coordination, and institutional strengthening processes. During the period, tools, methodologies, and materials related to implementation were developed and documented, and spaces for exchange were established among stakeholders to share experiences, good practices, and lessons learned. The Knowledge Exchange Week on Conservation was particularly relevant in strengthening the exchange of experiences and promoting the uptake of knowledge relevant to conservation management. The project also continued consolidating its monitoring and tracking system in alignment with CI-GEF requirements. One of the main lessons learned during FY26 was that, for a project that depends on the coordination of multiple institutions and levels of intervention, it is essential to allocate sufficient time to joint planning and to clearly define roles and responsibilities before operational implementation begins. The experience also confirmed the importance of linking conservation activity planning with institutional strengthening and resource mobilization processes from an early stage, particularly

in the context of the PFP approach and the Transition Fund. These processes require continuous coordination and adjustments as institutional and financial conditions evolve.
Finally, the project recognized that Knowledge Management and monitoring should be integrated from the early stages of implementation to ensure that experiences and lessons learned can be used in a timely manner to improve decision-making. The lessons learned during FY26 will be used to strengthen POA implementation in FY27, particularly in institutional coordination, results monitoring, experience systematization, and adaptation of actions to the specific conditions of PAs and their stakeholders.

Additional optional topics (please choose two)

1. Engagement of the private sector
2. Scientific and technological issues
3. Interpretation and application of GEF guidelines
4. Financial management and co-financing
5. Project institutional arrangements, including project governance:

During FY26, the institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms required for project implementation were strengthened. POAs were prepared through ongoing coordination among FMCN, CONANP, and other relevant partners to ensure a common understanding of expected results, responsibilities, and monitoring mechanisms. The experience showed that having clear coordination and decision-making mechanisms, as well as defining roles among participating institutions at an early stage, is essential to reduce implementation risks and facilitate the implementation of a project involving multiple components and stakeholders.

6. Capacity building
7. Implementation of safeguard policies, including gender mainstreaming, accountability and grievance mechanisms, stakeholder consultations
8. Factors that improve likelihood of long-term sustainability of project impacts:

The experience gained during FY26 reinforced the importance of ensuring that conservation actions are accompanied by mechanisms that strengthen the institutional and financial sustainability of their results. In this regard, the project advanced in establishing the conditions for the Transition Fund and in linking project activities with broader resource mobilization and capacity-strengthening processes within CONANP. Aligning project interventions with existing institutional priorities and processes, together with capacity strengthening, monitoring mechanisms, and knowledge generation, provides an important foundation for increasing the likelihood that results will be sustained beyond the project's financing period.

Finally, the project identified that Knowledge Management and monitoring should be integrated from the early stages of implementation to ensure that experiences and lessons learned can be used in a timely manner to inform decision-making. The lessons learned during FY26 will be used to strengthen POA implementation in FY27, particularly in institutional coordination, results monitoring, experience systematization, and adaptation of actions to the specific conditions of PAs and their stakeholders.

Factors that encourage replication, including outreach, dissemination of lessons learned, and communications strategies.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	

Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	The Community Health, Safety, and Security Plan (CHSSP) establishes the indicator 'Percentage of measures implemented to ensure that potential health, safety, and security risks or impacts to communities affected by the project and project workers are avoided or mitigated.' We propose revising this indicator to 'Number of Annual Operating Plans (POA´s) that incorporate measures to prevent or mitigate potential health, safety, and security risks to communities affected by the project and project workers,' as, following the first year of Project implementation, this indicator is expected to provide a more practical and effective means of monitoring the systematic integration of these measures into the Project's annual planning process, in line with adaptive management and implementation under the GEF Environmental and Social Framework.
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Balam-Kú	18.55652	-89.94488	

Location Description:

Centroids of polygon

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bajos del Norte	19.098471	-104.28952	

Location Description:

Centroids of polygon

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Chimalapas cluster	16.86400000	-94.40900000	

Location Description:

Centroids of polygon

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cuenca Alimentadora del Distrito Nacional de Riego 043 Nayarit	21.83333	-104.83333	

Location Description:

Centroids of polygon

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Papigochic	28.23200000	-107.74100000	

Location Description:

Centroids of polygon

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tecuani	17.71100000	-100.50300000	

Location Description:

Centroids of polygon

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document	
Document Category M and E Document	Title 20260901_GBFF_Core_Indicator_Reporting_MEx30x30
Document Category M and E Document	Title 20260901_FY26 PIR_11510_MEx30x30