

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title

Mex30x30: Conserving Mexican biodiversity through communities and their protected areas

Region	GEF Project ID
Mexico	11510
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Mexico	GBFF
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency Project ID
CI	
Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza A.C .	CSO
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Biodiversity	3/29/2024
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GBFF	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
16,672,477.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
1,500,523.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
18,173,000.00	115,549,532.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
300,000.00	27,000.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)	
18,500,000.00	

Project Tags :

GBF Target 1, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 18, GBF Target 19, GBF Target 20, GBF Target 22, GBF Target 23, Support IPLC, GBF Target 2

Rio Markers

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

Provide a brief summary description of the project. (max. 2000 words, approximately 1/2 page)

MEx30x30 will advance biodiversity conservation by strengthening protected area (PA) financing in Mexico. Mexico's federal PA system faces an estimated annual financing gap of US\$87 million. In addition, the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) has increasingly certified Areas Voluntarily Designated for Conservation (ADVCs) in response to requests from Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LCs) who want to conserve their lands and need support. Consequently, these areas remain vulnerable to threats rooted in pressure for economic development and exacerbated by climate change; the resultant deforestation and degradation erode ecosystem services that are vital for biodiversity and rural livelihoods. To reinforce conservation management, MEx30x30 will strengthen the capacity of CONANP to pursue diverse financing options; use the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach to secure funding from other sources while public financing flows are developed; and invest in conservation, restoration and sustainable management of recently established PAs and ADVCs. Supporting enhanced IP&LC management of conservation areas is of particular importance as 51% of the land in Mexico belongs to IP&LCs and harbors 83% of biodiversity; thus, IP&LCs will be vital for further progress towards the 30x30 target.

The project aligns closely with GBFF Action Areas 1, 2 and 4, and will achieve GEF Core Indicator targets as follows: improve management effectiveness for 3,665,666 ha of terrestrial PAs and 22,241,504 ha of marine PAs; mitigate 9.43 million MtCO₂e of greenhouse gas emissions; and generate inclusive, gender-equitable socioeconomic benefits for 163,293 people (50% women). The project will be transformative by improving the effectiveness of all PAs, catalyzing progress towards Mexico's 30x30 target and putting in place the financial and institutional foundation to reach this target and then ensure robust management of the 30% of the country under conservation.

Project Description Overview

Project 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):

- Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Target: 3,665,666 ha)
- Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Target: 22,241,504 ha)
- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (Target: 5.7 million tons)
- Number of people experiencing socioeconomic benefits (male/female) (Target: 163,293 people; 50% female)

Project Components

Component 1: Strengthening CONANP to increase its budget and manage PAs and ADVCs effectively.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF

GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,690,290.00	100,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: CONANP's budget and capacity to effectively manage PAs and ADVCS has increased.

Indicator 1.1: % decrease (after third year of project implementation) in annual CONANP budget shortfall as a result of new revenue streams.

Target 1.1: 10% decrease (after third year of project implementation) in annual CONANP budget shortfall as a result of new revenue streams.

Output:

Output 1.1.1: New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are identified.

Indicator 1.1.1: # of feasibility reports and action plans for accessing new revenue streams completed.

Target 1.1.1: 1 feasibility report and action plan for accessing new revenue streams completed.

Output 1.1.2: New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are accessed.

Indicator 1.1.2: # of new revenue streams accessed and contributing to CONANP budget.

Target 1.1.2: At least one new revenue stream accessed and contributing to CONANP budget.

Output 1.1.3: The institutional capacity of CONANP is enhanced through expanding the Protected Areas Learning Community (community of practice).

Indicator 1.1.3a: % improvement in CONANP institutional capacity assessment score.

Target 1.1.3a: 15% improvement in CONANP institutional capacity assessment score.^[1]

Indicator 1.1.3b: Increase in Protected Areas Learning Community membership (disaggregated by gender and IPLC membership).

Target 1.1.3b: At least 100 new members are part the Protected Areas Learning Community, of whom at least 50% are women.

^[1] The project will prepare a capacity assessment tool and establish a baseline in the first year of implementation to capture the following areas prioritized for capacity strengthening: 1) CONANP capacities to face climate change events ; 2) Mainstreaming gender, environmental and social safeguards; 3) Monitoring and measuring efficiency of ADVCS; and 4) Governance and participation.

Component 2: Mobilizing funding to cover the financial gap in PAs while the public funding reaches its target.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,516,539.00	500,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Donor support is secured to cover the financing gap for effective management of existing PAs over the next 15 years.

Indicator 2.1: Percentage of required funding^[1] for a Transition Fund to cover PA financing gaps for 15 years.

Target 2.1: 100% required Funding pledged for phase one for a Transition Fund.

^[1] *Required funding* refers to the funding identified after the financial gap estimation and the financial model assessed for the objectives agreed by the coalition for the first phase, which includes steps 5 and 6 of Component 2 process.

Output:

Output 2.1.1: Funding pledged to address identified financial gaps.

Indicator 2.1.1: Amount of donor funding pledged to address financing gap for phase one during transition period.

Target 2.1.1 100% of required funding for phase one pledged to address financing gap during transition period (amount to be confirmed in step 5 and 6 of long-term sustainable finance mechanism design process).

Output 2.1.2: Long-term sustainable finance mechanism/PFP^[1] is designed.

Indicator 2.1.2: Number of long-term sustainable finance mechanism designed and ready for closing.^[2]

^[1] Long-term sustainable finance mechanism here refers to a single initiative that secures the funding necessary to meet specific conservation goals of the program over a defined long-term timeframe, to ensure the sustainability of the program.

^[2] Steps required before closing are: 1. Formation of a coalition of institutions; 2. Hiring and designation of long-term sustainable finance mechanism design team; 3. Development of a shared conservation vision; 4. Financial gap estimation; 5. Design of a conservation plan; 6. Design of a financial model or plan; 7. Design of the institutional arrangements for the adequate implementation of the initiative; 8. Assessment and development of domestic mechanisms for sustainable financing (through Component 1); 9. Design and implementation of a communications strategy.

Component 3: Strengthening recently established PAs, and ADVCS managed by IPLCs, to conserve, restore and sustainably manage territories.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
12,146,999.00	14,100,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: PAs and ADVCS are effectively managed and directly generating inclusive, gender-equitable benefits for IPLCs.

Indicator 3.1a: % improvement in PA management effectiveness score, as measured by i-effectiveness evaluation.^[1]

Target 3.1a:

For PAs with a rating of “Highly Effective” or “Outstanding”:

Maintained or increased management effectiveness score.

For PAs with a rating of “Ineffective” or “Partially Effective”:

i-effectiveness score increased by at least 15 points.

Indicator 3.1b: # people experiencing socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits through effective PA or ADVCS management (disaggregated by gender and IPLCs).

Target 3.1b: 163,200 people experiencing socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits through effective PA or ADVCS management (at least 50% female, desegregated by gender and IPLCs).

^[1] Management effectiveness of protected areas is measured by CONANP using the “i-effectiveness” tool, similar to METT. Management effectiveness of protected areas is measured by CONANP using the “i-effectiveness” tool, similar to METT. The tool assesses 48 indicators in 5 Components (Management; Context & Planning; Administration & Finance; Uses & Benefits; and Governance & Social Participation); 30 of these indicators are shared with the METT. PAs are then rated on a 100-point scale as Outstanding (84-100); Highly Effective (68-83); Partially Effective (52-67); Ineffective (36-51); or Insufficient Information (0-35).

Output:

Output 3.1.1: Five-year plans, and associated Annual Operating Plans (POAs), developed for PAs and ADVCS through an inclusive participatory process coordinated by CONANP.

Indicator 3.1.1: # of gender-responsive and inclusive POAs prepared and implemented.

Target 3.1.1: 1 gender-responsive and inclusive POAs prepared and implemented per PA or ADVCS per year of the project (6 total).

Output 3.1.2: Gender-responsive and inclusive training provided to local communities in PAs and ADVCS to enhance their skills and knowledge in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices.

Indicator 3.1.2: # of people trained in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices (disaggregated by gender, recording level of Indigenous participation).

Target 3.1.2: At least 100 people per PA or ADVCS trained in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices (at least 50% women; level of Indigenous participation proportional to Indigenous percentage of local population).

Output 3.1.3: IPLCs and local organizations implement gender-responsive and inclusive conservation, restoration and sustainable management actions defined in POAs.

Indicator 3.1.3: % of targets reached in POAs, which include gender-responsive and inclusive management actions implemented by IPLCs and local organizations in PAs and ADVCS.^[1]

Target 3.1.3: At least 80% of targets reached in POAs

Output 3.1.4: Emergency fund ^[2] expanded to support emergency-response brigades.

Indicator 3.1.4: % of valid emergency funding requests that result in financial support within 72 hours.

Target 3.1.4: at least 90% of funding requests resulting in delivery of financial support within 72 hours.

^[1] Each POA typically defines five principal Outputs to be achieved through the types of activities listed above, with at least five indicators and corresponding targets. Examples of indicators used in POAs include:

- Number of people who adopt better sustainable practices; number of people who participate in training;
- Number of citizen participation forums strengthened; number of partnerships between key stakeholders for the conservation of natural resources;
- Number of hectares implementing restoration processes; number of hectares under sustainable management activities such as agroforestry or sustainable livestock farming; number of hectares protected and/or maintained as biological corridors;
- Number of monitoring or management actions implemented for protected and endangered species.

^[2] 'Established or strengthened emergency fund' refers to a specific financial mechanism created or strengthened for the purpose of providing immediate and flexible financial resources in crisis or emergency situations.

Component 4: Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation for scaling-up impact.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
524,722.00	447,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: MEx30x30 and related programs and initiatives in Mexico and elsewhere benefit from gender-responsive and inclusive learning and knowledge exchange to inform future scale-up.

Indicator 4.1: # of scale-up strategy documents based on MEx30x30 experience.

Target 4.1: 1 scale-up strategy document based on MEx30x30 experience.

Outcome 4.2:

Robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework applied to the MEx30x30 project to assess the effectiveness of interventions and guide adaptive management.

Indicator 4.2: PIR, MTR and TE ratings.

Target 4.2.: PIR, MTR and TE ratings scored as “Satisfactory” to “Highly Satisfactory”

Output:

Output 4.1.1: Ongoing lessons learned from MEx30x30 and other long-term sustainable finance mechanisms and PA scaling experiences documented and disseminated.

Indicator 4.1.1: Number of lessons-learned knowledge products prepared and shared (including products with a focus on gender and inclusion).

Target 4.1.1: At least 4 lessons-learned knowledge products prepared and shared (including at least one with a focus on gender and one with a focus on IPLCs).

Output 4.1.2: National workshop and dissemination event held to finalize scale-up strategy document based on MEx30x30 experience.

Indicator 4.1.2a: # of national workshop and dissemination events held.

Target 4.1.2a: 1 national workshop and dissemination event held.

Indicator 4.1.2b: # of people participating in national workshop and dissemination event (disaggregated by gender, recording level of Indigenous participation).

Target 4.1.2b: 400 people participating in national workshop and dissemination event (at least 50% women, disaggregated by indigenous groups).

Output 4.2.1: Clear and robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework created and implemented.

Output 4.2.2: Project Implementation Reports, Mid-term Review, and Terminal Evaluation completed.

Indicator 4.2.2: % of required reports submitted to CI GEF Agency on time and determined to be satisfactory.

Target 4.2.2: 100% of required reports.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Strengthening CONANP to increase its budget and manage PAs and ADVCS effectively.	1,690,290.00	100,000,000.00
Component 2: Mobilizing funding to cover the financial gap in PAs while the public funding reaches its target.	1,516,539.00	500,000.00
Component 3: Strengthening recently established PAs, and ADVCS managed by IPLCs, to conserve, restore and sustainably manage territories.	12,146,999.00	14,100,000.00
Component 4: Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation for scaling-up impact.	524,722.00	447,000.00
Subtotal	15,878,550.00	115,047,000.00
Project Management Cost	793,927.00	502,532.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	16,672,477.00	115,549,532.00

Please provide Justification

- 1 This Objective is aligned with GBFF targets and responds to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Mexico.
- 2 The target for protected areas under improved management effectiveness is the total area of the 5 terrestrial protected areas in which the project will work to apply funding solutions and enhance management capacity.
- 3 The target for protected areas under improved management effectiveness is the total area of the marine protected areas in which the project will work to apply funding solutions and enhance management capacity, including 3 co-financed marine protected areas.
- 4 The target for Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated was calculated following the assumptions:
 1. Data from Hansen (2013) was obtained, which provides information on forest change patterns worldwide. Using this tool, deforestation was estimated for the period 2012 to 2022 in each of the selected ANP and ADVC for this analysis.
 2. Land use and vegetation were estimated for each polygon based on the Comprehensive Monitoring System for Biodiversity and Degradation in Protected Natural Areas PNUD (2018).
 3. The scenario for land use and vegetation was calculated for 20 years was estimated for each of the PA. To make this estimate, the set of models from the Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) software was used, based on the average observed deforestation rate.
 4. On the other hand, using the ex-ante carbon balance tool (EX-ACT) from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an estimate of the carbon reservoirs generated by each of the ecosystems present in the selected ANP was obtained.
 5. Once the aforementioned data was obtained, the amount of carbon that would be lost if the same patterns of forest cover loss observed between 2012 and 2022 continue was calculated using the InVEST tool, assuming the trend will continue in the absence of the project.
 6. In the case of conservation:

- a. It was assumed that the expected deforestation would convert forests and rainforest to agriculture in the absence of the project.
- b. It was assumed that support for protected areas in Mexico can protect up to 23% of the trend deforestation, derived from the GEF impact evaluation study for protected areas in Mexico (Hansen et al., 2015).

The expected avoided emissions from deforestation is 5.7M TCO₂eq

5 The target number of beneficiaries is the number of people resident within the PAs where MEx30x30 will be supported under Component 3, as documented by CONANP and the national population census.

PROJECT OUTLINE

A.CHANGES COMPARED TO PPG REQUEST

Please describe and justify any major changes to the project design, including to elements put forward in the PPG request to meet the following GBFF selection criteria:

- a. Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);
- b. The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;
- c. The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;
- d. Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and
- e. Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

The Project design remains consistent with the PPG Request that was endorsed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Outcomes and Outputs have been slightly reorganized and reworded as captured in the table below, but in substance of project remains unchanged in terms of Objective, Components, and the associated outcomes and outputs to achieve the targets.

	PPG Request	GEF CEO ER/ Prodoc	Rationale
Project Objective and Components			
Project Objective	To support Mexico to reach an effective management of the existing protected areas and contribute to conserve 30% of the territory by 2030 that is of global importance for biodiversity and of key priority in ecosystem services. This goal is aligned with GBFF targets and responds to the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan, ENBioMex.	To help Mexico advance toward the Global Biodiversity Framework 30x30 target through long-term sustainable financing for the existing national protected areas.	Slightly edits of wording for clarity and to focus overall project objective. New Annex K to detail alignment with ENBioMex.

Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	3,802,036 ha	3,665,666 ha	The total area of the 5 terrestrial protected areas under improved management was further refined after using official data of ANP polygons from CONANP, leading to a small downward adjustment.
Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO ₂ e)	8.3 MtCO ₂ eq	5.7 MtCO ₂ eq	The total indicator was modified to include conservation activities and using EX-ACT. The final calculation therefore - 5.7MtCO ₂ eq.
Component 2		Mobilizing funding to cover the financial gap in PAs while the public funding reaches its target.	Slight change in wording
Component 3		Strengthening recently established PAs, and ADVCS managed by IP&LCs, to conserve, restore and sustainably manage territories.	Slight change in wording
Component 4	Knowledge Management for scaling impact.	Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation for scaling-up impact.	Component 4 was revised to make explicit the need for knowledge management and emphasize the intent to catalyze scaling up. Two outputs were separated, where 4.1 is focused on Knowledge management and 4.2 on M and E
Project Outcomes			
Outcome 2.1	New funding to cover the financial gap has been mobilized.	Donor support is secured to cover the financing gap for effective management of existing PAs over the next 15 years.	Outcome 2.1 was revised to give additional details about funding gap to be covered and over what time frame.
Outcome 3.1	PAs and ADVs are effectively managed, benefiting IP&LCs directly.	PAs and ADVCS are effectively managed and directly generating inclusive, gender-equitable benefits for IP&LCs.	Outcome 3.1 was revised to reflect the project's prioritization of inclusive, gender-equitable benefits for IP&LCs.
Outcome 4 .1	Project monitoring and reporting system is efficient and utilized.	MEx30x30 and related programs and initiatives in Mexico and elsewhere benefit from gender-responsive and inclusive learning and knowledge exchange to inform future scale-up.	M&E moved to Outcome 4.2, so that 4.1 focuses on knowledge management with this new Outcome 4.1. The initial project did not contain a gender-responsive and inclusive learning and knowledge sharing outcome, leading to its addition for the final project's M&E system.

Outcome 4.2	None	Robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework applied to the MEx30x30 project to assess the effectiveness of interventions and guide adaptive management.	M&E moved to new Outcome 4.2, and corresponding outputs reworded to emphasize gender, inclusion and adaptive management. This new reflects the requirement of GEF Policy of a dedicated M&E budget., as expressed in pp11 of the policy “budgetary resources should be allocated separately for monitoring and evaluation activities”.
Project Outputs			
Output 1.1.1	New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are identified and accessed.	New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are identified.	Given the complexity of identifying and accessing new revenue streams, this output was split into two – the revised Output 1.1.1, and the new Output 1.1.2.
Output 1.1.2	The institutional capacities of CONANP to address the increase in the budget are enhanced.	New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are accessed.	With the revision of Output 1.1.1., accessing new funds was given its own separate output here. capacity is now addressed under Output 1.1.3.
Output 1.1.3	Gender-responsive and inclusive learning exchange increased through a community of practice.	The institutional capacity of CONANP is enhanced through expanding the Protected Areas Learning Community (community of practice).	Gender-responsive and inclusive learning exchange outputs were placed in Component 4, while capturing the need for CONANP to increase its institutional capacity to absorb the increased budget (former Output 1.1.2) was put here with slightly revised wording.
Output 2.1.1	Funding mobilized to address identified financial gaps	Funding pledged to address identified financial gaps.	This output was revised to focus on and specify funds pledged (rather than mobilized) to cover the financing gap in CONANP's budget.
Output 2.1.2	Transition fund designed is under implementation	Long-term sustainable finance mechanism/PFP is designed.	Output was revised to more accurately capture the need for a long-term finance mechanism or PFP to cover CONANP's financing gap and create more flexibility in development of the overall mechanism, which is more than the Transition Fund.
Output 3.1.1	Gender-responsive and inclusive Annual Operating plans for conservation, restoration and sustainable development of PAs and ADVCS, derived from five-year planning that will result from a participatory process developed by CONANP.	Five-year plans, and associated Annual Operating Plans (POAs), developed for PAs and ADVCS through an inclusive, participatory process coordinated by CONANP.	Output was slightly revised for clarity and to make explicit the emphasis on inclusive participatory processes.

Output 3.1.2	Gender-responsive and inclusive conservation, restoration and sustainable management initiatives implemented in ANP and ADVCS that yield environmental and socioeconomic benefits.	Gender-responsive and inclusive training provided to local communities in PAs and ADVCS to enhance their skills and knowledge in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices.	Former Outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 were <i>reordered</i> to first focus on enhancement of skills and knowledge through training, prior to implementation of management initiatives.
Output 3.1.3	People from local communities in PAs and ADVCS trained to enhance their skills and knowledge in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices.	IP&LCs and local organizations implement gender-responsive and inclusive conservation, restoration and sustainable management actions defined in POAs.	See above. Output 3.1.3 also slightly revised for clarity.
Output 3.1.4	None	Emergency fund expanded to support emergency-response brigades.	Stakeholder engagement on Component 3 identified the need for a financial mechanism to support emergency response brigades, ensuring that project conservation and restoration outcomes can be sustainably maintained.
Output 4.1.1	Progress on project workplan is measured according to M&E protocols.	Ongoing lessons learned from MEx30x30 and other long-term sustainable finance mechanisms and PA scaling experiences documented and disseminated.	With new Component 4, this output was added to capture how the project will promote learning and knowledge sharing in the areas of PA scaling and long-term sustainable finance mechanisms.
Output 4.1.2	None	National workshop and dissemination event held to finalize scaleup strategy document based on MEx30x30 experience.	As part of new Component 4, this output was added to ensure finalization of Mex30x30's scale-up strategy document, with broad-based national buy-in.
Output 4.2.1	None	Robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework applied to the MEx30x30 project to assess the effectiveness of interventions and guide adaptive management.	Output was moved and revised to capture the need for a Monitoring and Evaluation framework that is gender-responsive and inclusive.
Output 4.2.2	None	Project Implementation Reports, Mid-term Review, and Terminal Evaluation completed.	Output 4.2.2 was added to ensure PIR, MTR and TE project requirements are included as explicit key outputs of the M&E system.

GEF Budget			
	Component 1: 1,750,000 Component 2: 1,750,000 Component 3: 12,051,639 M&E: 326,911 PMC: 793,927 Total: 16,672,477	No change	Changes to include additional monitoring and evaluation activities that were previously under Component 1 and 2 are now included in Component 4. Component 1: 1,690,290 Component 2: 1,516,539 Component 3: 12,146,999 Component 4: 524,722 PMC: 793,927 Total: 16,672,477
Co-financing			
	Component 1: 100,000,000 Component 2: 1,750,000 Component 3: 14,100,000 M&E: 317,000 Total: 115,167,000	No change	Revised to include co-financing to C4 and PMC, plus co-financing from CI. C1: 100,000,000 C2: 500,000 C3: 14,100,000 C4: 447,000 PMC: 502,532 Total: 115,549,532

B. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation including: the global biodiversity problems that the project will address; the key elements of the system to be addressed by the project; 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).

Mexico's vast territory, geographic location (including the longest coastline of any Latin American country) and altitudinal gradients give the country an enormous diversity of climates, with multiple biomes including deserts, scrublands, numerous rainforest types, temperate forests, alpine regions and mangroves. As a result, Mexico is one of the world's 15 megadiverse countries, home to between approximately 10-12% of all global biodiversity. This includes ranking third globally in mammal diversity (over 564 species, 30% of which are endemic) and second for reptiles (over 860 species, 45% of which are endemic). The country is the genetic center of 118 crop species (notably maize) (CONABIO, 2017) comprising 15% of the human diet, and over 5,000 species of Mexico's flora are used by Indigenous and local communities for a wide range of traditional uses, including over 3,000 medicinal plant species (BIOFIN 2023). Given its wealth of biodiversity, several international classifications validate its importance, including: three of Conservation International's "Hotspots" (Mesoamerica, California Floristic Province and Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands), 122 of WWF's Global 200 ecoregions, and 275 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) (CEPF 2023; Olson et al. 2000; CBD 2021).

To safeguard its globally important biodiversity, Mexico has enacted a diverse set of ambitious initiatives over the last three decades, including the recent record in the expansion of the country's protected areas. At the beginning of 2024, approximately 14.6% of Mexico's total land and inland waters area (over 28.6 million ha) was under some form of protection, while over 21.5% of Mexico's total marine and coastal territory (70.8 million ha) was protected (UNEP-WCMC 2024). A significant majority of Mexico's protected areas (over 93 million ha) is managed by the federal Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP), which as of the beginning of 2024 was responsible for 226 federal terrestrial and marine protected areas.

Recognizing the importance of community participation, CONANP champions the creation of "Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation" (Spanish Acronym ADVC). ADVCs are established and officially recognized by CONANP at the

request of communities or landowners, and are designated for both conservation management and sustainable productive practices such as sustainable forestry, climate-smart agriculture, regenerative livestock and ecotourism. These areas, situated on private or communal land, serve a vital public interest function and are officially established through CONANP certification. Positioned in proximity to PAs, ADVCs contribute to connectivity of natural ecosystems and preservation of crucial environmental services, with a pivotal role in facilitating the movement of species and maintaining ecological flow. By the end of 2023, Mexico had legally recognized 395 legally ADVCs as part of its official protected area system, encompassing over 701,000 ha (CONANP 2024). The government has set a target of reaching 1 million hectares by 2030, as outlined in the National Determined Contributions (NDC) of 2022, underscoring a commitment to sustainable practices and the importance of community involvement.

Global biodiversity problem to be addressed

The objective of the MEx30x30 Project is to advance toward the Global Biodiversity Framework 30x30 target through long-term sustainable financing for the existing national protected areas. This objective is aligned with the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) as well as Mexico's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The design of MEx30x30 responds to two critical factors facing biodiversity conservation in Mexico: the current status of financing for protected areas (PAs), and the crucial role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LCs) in Mexico's efforts to achieve the 30x30 target.

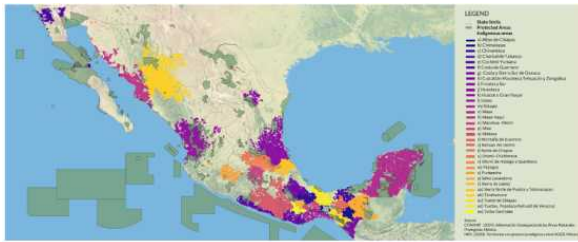
Current status of financing for PAs

The annual budget allocation from the central government to CONANP reached a record US\$92 million in 2023 and expects to reach US\$100 million in 2024. The Protected Areas Fund (FANP) –a public-private partnership between CONANP, the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN) (the national Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) of Mexico), was established with GEF support 26 years ago. FANP complements CONANP's budget with annual support for PA management totaling US\$10 million. However, a preliminary gap analysis conducted by CONANP suggests that US\$197 million per year will be needed over the next six years to meet the 30x30 goal. This leaves an annual shortfall of US\$87 million. Consequences of this shortfall include: insufficient resources for effective management of existing PAs; and virtually no budget for newly created PAs, a problem that will grow as Mexico extends protected status to additional areas in pursuit of the 30x30 target. This shortfall of financing endangers the commitment of the government of Mexico to achieve 30x30 goal, as the present administration has the record of more new PAs decreed in the history of Mexico.

Crucial role of IP&LCs

Mexico is a multiethnic and multicultural country with more than 68 Indigenous groups identified in the 2020 Population and Housing Census produced by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI); approximately 23 million people aged three years or above self-identify as Indigenous in Mexico, 19.4% of the country's total population (IWGIA 2023). Most of Mexico's 226 PAs are home to IP&LCs with deep cultural connections to the land and livelihoods that depend on effective PA management to maintain critical ecosystem services (see Figure 1 below). These communities play a critical role in conserving biodiversity due to their traditional ecological knowledge and management practices, and supporting sustainable livelihood options is essential to ensure biodiversity conservation. Forest ecosystems play a particularly outsized role in the economies of rural and Indigenous communities, with over 20 million Mexicans relying on forests for part or all their livelihood, and 5 million Indigenous people living in forested areas (World Bank 2018). Moreover, given the considerable additional area under PAs and ADVCs needed to reach the 30x30 target and the fact that IP&LCs may own more than half of Mexico's land (RRI 2015), adequate financing for appropriate involvement of IP&LCs in PA and ADVC creation and management will be essential.

Figure 1. Overlap between Indigenous Groups and PAs



Project Sites supported under component 3

To achieve 30x30, Mexico is in the process of expanding its system of protected areas and ADVCs. In addition to addressing the challenge of CONANP financing shortfalls, under Component 3 MEx30x30 will ensure that three recently created PAs (Balam-Kú, Bajos del Norte, and Tecuani), two previously created but under-resourced PA (Cuenca Alimentadora del Distrito Nacional de Riego 043 and Papigochic), and one set of 8 ADVCs (Chimalapas cluster), totaling 4,969,780 ha, meet the criteria of effective management. These areas were selected by CONANP as focal areas for MEx30x30 for their biological importance, the presence of IP&LCs, and diversity of regions and thus ecosystems. IP&LCs inhabit, use, and protect ecosystems in and around all the PAs and ADVCs included under Component 3. MEx30x30 will facilitate IP&LC conservation initiatives to ensure sustainable resource use and strengthen protected areas management through two approaches:

1) ADVCs are areas in which the legitimate owners are communities or individuals. The Chimalapas complex is a region where IP&LCs are the owners of eight ADVCs. These IP&LCs committed to protecting and sustainably managing their land; in return, the owners receive a federally-administered certification issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). In ADVCs, the decision-making process is typically collective and democratic, involving the participation of all community members with land rights. Decisions are usually taken in the General Assembly, the highest decision-making body, composed of all adult members of the community. These assemblies are typically held regularly, often monthly or quarterly, and serve as fora for discussing and deciding essential matters. In many ejidos and communities, decisions are reached through consensus rather than a majority vote. This means that all members are encouraged to express their opinions and concerns, and efforts are made to find acceptable solutions. Before making decisions, members of the ejido or community engage in thorough discussions and debates to ensure that all viewpoints are considered. This process can be time-consuming but is essential for reaching agreements that reflect the interests of the entire community. While all members have the right to participate in decision-making, ejidos and communities may also elect representatives or delegates to negotiate on behalf of the community in certain situations, such as dealing with external entities or government agencies. Given that ejidos and communities typically manage collectively owned land and natural resources, decisions often revolve around their sustainable use and conservation. It may involve agreements on farming practices, forestry management, water allocation, or other resource-related issues.

2) **Mexico is also unique because most protected areas (PAs) are home, under an established communal land tenure system, to Indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LCs) with deep cultural connections to the land.** These communities play a critical role in conserving biodiversity due to their traditional ecological knowledge and management practices. Protected Area Advisory Councils (and similar participatory bodies) provide a mechanism through which IP&LCs and other stakeholders can be aware, participate, advise, and support decision-making of the pertinent strategies to address the priority needs of the PAs. The Project will ensure that PA Advisory Councils or similar participatory bodies will be used as platforms to engage IP&LCs in developing the PA Annual Operating Plans (POAs for its Spanish acronym) and implementing the POAs' conservation, restoration, and sustainable management practices, creating community-based brigades and accessing capacity-building initiatives, job opportunities, and community-driven development projects for sustainable and equitable outcomes, particularly for women and Indigenous peoples. Many of the POA activities includes actions that improve socioeconomic wellbeing increased income from sustainable use and productive restoration supported, increased employment trough monitoring and fire brigades, increase governance and social cohesion through training.

See below for summary descriptions of each area supported under Component 3 and Figure 2 for a map, as well as summary information in Table 1; further details are provided in Annex J.

Balam-Kú

Balam Kú is a 463,441.76-hectare Biosphere Reserve (BR) in the state of Campeche on the border with Guatemala. The word *balam kú* is composed of the Maya words: *balam*, 'jaguar'; and *kú*, 'temple'. It alludes to the three jaguars that are represented in the archaeological zone located within the BR. Balam Kú is a contiguous neighbor of the Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve decreed in 1990, which has almost half a million hectares. Balam Kú is one of the potential areas to be supported by the GEF-8 Forest Biomes Project; the GBFF resources will be focused on financing the operational costs, while GEF-8 complement with communications, early warning systems, local governance structures, local training of CONANP staff, equipment. CONANP will coordinate both investments, to ensure complementarity. The Selva Maya, shared by Belize, Guatemala and Mexico, represents one of the most important ecological systems at a global level, because it is considered the largest continuous massif of humid and sub-humid tropical forest in Mesoamerica and the second largest tropical forest in America, after the Amazon Rainforest. Balam Kú is linked by bioclimatic corridors with Balam Kin Ecological Conservation Zone and the federal Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. Balam Kú is home to 889 people and two agrarian nuclei with Indigenous households in Kilometer 120 and Hecelchakán. The vegetation in this area consists mainly of low deciduous and sub-deciduous forests and wetlands. In the most arid zones, the vegetation can be xerophytic and be formed by thorny scrub and cacti. The conditions of the area allow the development of other types of vegetation characteristic of this zone such as the 'bajos', which are generally low flooded areas that present distinctive plant associations. A number of species are endemic to the region, including 8 reptile species, 4 species of mammals, and 660 (76 endemic) species of vascular plants. There are also a number of species that are priorities for conservation in Mexico, including the colorless juil (*Rhambdia guatemalensis*), the striped spiny iguana (*Ctenosaura similis*), the Yucatan spiny-tailed iguana (*C. defensor*), the swamp crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*), the masked duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*), sad pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*), blue-crowned parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) and dusky-headed parrot (*Pyrilia haematotis*). There are 19 species of amphibians, which represents 83 % of the state's amphibian diversity, and the area contains 21 % of the bat species distributed in Mexico. Main threats to the area include deforestation and illegal logging, forest fires, introduction of invasive exotic species, and climate change.

Bajos del Norte

Bajos del Norte is a national marine park in the Gulf of Mexico, covering 1,304,115 hectares. The reef areas of the northeastern end of the Yucatan Peninsula are transition zones between the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, therefore, this is considered a region of ecological connection and, therefore, of high biodiversity. The Bajos del Norte reefs are the second most relevant site as a larval source for areas in the northern, western and central Gulf of Mexico for several key fishery species for the region's economy. The area is characterized by its upwelling system and the so-called 'loop current', both of which are responsible for the balance of nutrients in the Gulf of Mexico shelf and for the genetic connectivity and biological exchange of reef species, especially those of fishery value. It is one of the main grouper fish (*Epinephelinae*) reproduction sites in the Gulf of Mexico. Species richness represents 6 % and 25 % of the species recorded for the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Caribbean, respectively. Five species of sea turtles are present: loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), white (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), which are listed as Endangered, as well as being priority species for conservation in Mexico. The area also hosts the threatened rocky star coral (*Orbicella annularis*). The area is important to the 68,944 people (6% of whom are Indigenous) that belong to fishing communities on the Yucatán coast. Two coastal fishing municipalities are relevant to Bajos del Norte: Progreso and Dzilam de Bravo. Main threats include pressure on fish stocks due to overfishing capture of the reproductive stock of larger and more fecund females in deep areas, and climate change.

Chimalapas

Los Chimalapas is a set of 8 Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation (ADVCS) in the State of Oaxaca, totaling 438,662.66 hectares. It is an ancestral Indigenous territory of the Zoque people, and is home to 16,286 people, 38% of

which are Indigenous. The protection of biocultural resources in the Los Chimalapas Region is important for generating important biological corridors with other nearby Protected Areas, in addition to protecting the area from mining and fossil fuel extraction. Important species include felines like Puma (*Puma concolor*), Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), Tigrillo (*Leopardus wiedii*) and Jaguar (*Panthera onca*); quetzal; various species of parrots, macaws, and eagles, toucans (*Rampasthus sulfurathos*) and pajuil (*Penelopina nigra*); endemic plant species; endemic amphibians including *Eleutherodactylus Lineatus macdougalli*, *Hyla sumichrasti*, and *Pseudoeurycea parva*; and endemic reptiles such as *Abronia bogerti*, *Abronia ornelasi*, *Adelphicos latifasciatus*, *Ctenosaura pectinata*, *Sceloporus internasalis*, *Anolis breedlovei*, *Anolis compressicaudua*, *Scincella gemmingeri*, and *Heloderma horridum*. Main threats to the area include deforestation and land use change, forest fires caused by agricultural burning, and poaching. Additionally, there are historical land tenure disputes in the border strip with the state of Chiapas.

Cuenca Alimentadora del Distrito Nacional de Riego 043 Nayarit

The 2,192,656.37-hectare Cuenca Alimentadora del Distrito Nacional de Riego 043 Nayarit is a natural protected area in the states of Jalisco, Sinaloa, Durango and Nayarit. More than 50% of the area is covered by oak-pine and pine-oak forests, providing important hydrological environmental services. Distrito Nacional de Riego 043 (Riego 043) is a large PA that has received GEF funding under the Conservation of Coastal Watersheds in the Context of Climate Change (known as C6 for its Spanish abbreviation) project. This support led to a 225,398 ha Biosphere Reserve decree in 2024 within Riego 043, which covers 2,192,657 ha. While C6 endowment funds will continue supporting the Biosphere Reserve, MEx30x30 will enable improved management in the full protected area of Riego 043 with technical and financial resources. The protected area's forests are essential for water catchment and the recharge of aquifers for supplying population centers such as Puerto Vallarta and Bahía de Banderas. This watershed is also important for maintaining Marismas Nacional in Nayarit, which includes extensive mangrove areas. The water from this protected area makes agricultural and livestock farming possible and provides drinking and industrial water to 38 municipalities in Jalisco and Nayarit. Home to 52,498 people, nearly 50% of the population is Indigenous, belonging to the Huicot or Gran Nayar region. Two of the four polygons that make up this protected area coincide with CONABIO's priority terrestrial regions, RTP-62 Sierra Vallejo-Río Ameca and RTP-60 Sierra Los Huicholes, as well as with the priority hydrological region: Río Baluarte - Marismas Nacionales. There are six areas of importance for bird conservation (AICAS): Quebradas de Sinaloa Nayarit and Durango, Guacamayita, La Michilia, Sierra de Valparaíso, El Carricito and Sierra Fría. The area hosts at least 15 endemic birds; around 80 species of mammals, with more than 15 endemic to Mexico and eight protected by Official Mexican Norms (NOM in Spanish) 059; more than 60 species of reptiles and 16 species of amphibians, more than half endemic to Mexico and at least ten threatened. Main threats to the area include deforestation, land use change, forest fires, presence of forest pests and diseases (e.g., defoliator, bark stripper, and parasitic plants), expansion of unsustainable extensive cattle ranching activities, illegal extraction of flora and fauna, soil degradation, presence of invasive exotic species, and climate change.

Papigochic

Papigochic is a 222,763.85-ha protected area in the state of Chihuahua, established in 2003. The type of vegetation that characterizes Papigochic is mixed conifer and oak forests. It has some of the last relics of old-growth forests in the world. The area coincides with CONABIO's priority terrestrial regions, Alta Tarahumara-Barrancas and Bassaseachic, and the priority hydrological region, Río Yaqui - Bassaseachic Waterfall. In addition, there is an area of importance for bird conservation (AICAS): Papigochic. Although only 10% of its population of 6,907 people is Indigenous, this protected area is the only one decreed on Rarámuri (Tarahumara) lands. The area is important for tourism and recreation and provides natural resources for local population, mainly related to the use of timber forest species for the construction of houses, fences, commercial purposes and fuel. Additionally, non-timber resources such as mushrooms and wild plants are used for food and medicine, and grasses, shoots and foliage are used for fodder. Main threats include deforestation, habitat modification or loss (reduction, fragmentation), natural phenomena (snowfall, north winds, hailstorms, cold fronts, rainfall, drought), forest fires, land cover conversion for the development of productive activities (forest exploitation, mining exploration and exploitation, agriculture, livestock), presence of forest pests, and population growth near forested lands.

Sierra Tecuani BR

The 348,140.97 hectare Sierra de Tecuani Biosphere Reserve, in the state of Guerrero, is a biological corridor for the jaguar in Mexico. The term tecuani is of Nahuatl origin and refers to the 'man-eater', in allusion to the various species of felines identified in the area. The Sierra Madre del Sur is in the transition zone of the Nearctic and Neotropical regions, which favors the presence of a great diversity of species, including several microendemic vertebrates such as the tree frog (*Charadrahyla tecuani*), the Guerrero rattlesnake (*Crotalus ericsmithi*), the short-crested coquette (*Lophornis brachylophus*) and the tropical shrew of the Sierra Madre del Sur (*Cryptotis goldmani*), among others. It is considered a zone of high endemism that harbors viable populations of different species with some degree of threat. Twenty-five species of fungi, 338 plant species, 16 invertebrate species, and 120 vertebrate species are endemic. 28% of the species at risk in the entire Sierra Madre del Sur are present in Tecuani. The 18 ejidos and communities^[1] (population: 17,768) that are part of the protected area have diverse populations, including Indigenous peoples. There is a high level of marginalization in some of the communities. Land-use change is one of the most significant threats to the area. The expansion of avocado plantations and cattle ranching exert considerable pressure on the forests, as they involve the clearing of large areas, from the lowlands to the mountain forests. Forest fires are another cause of changes in vegetation cover, in addition to timber extraction.

Figure 2: PAs (Balam-Kú, Riego043, Papigochic, Bajos del Norte, and Tecuani) and ADVCs (Chimalapas) where MEx30x30 will work.



Table 1. Summary of Protected Areas and ADVCs supported under Project Component 3

PA/ADVC	Mexico Category	IUCN Category	Terrestrial	Marine	Hectares	Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)	Important Bird Areas (IBA)
Balam-Kú	Biosphere Reserve (BR)	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	X		463,441.76		
Bajos del Norte	National Park (NP)	Strict Nature Reserve (Core Zone)		X	1,304,114.89		
Chimalapas cluster	Areas Voluntarily Designated for Conservation (ADVC)	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	X		438,662.66	X	X
Cuenca Alimentadora del Distrito Nacional de Riego 043 Estado de Nayarit	Natural Resource Protection Area (NRPA)	Protected landscape/seascape	X		2,192,656.37	X	X

Papigochic	Flora and Fauna Protection Area (APFF)	Habitat/species management areas	X		222,763.85	X	X
Tecuani	Biosphere Reserve (BR)	Strict Nature Reserve (Core Zone)	X		348,140.97	X	X

Environmental Problem: Root Cause, Drivers and Barriers

The root cause of threats to Mexico’s protected areas, in the absence of management capacity reinforced through enhanced financing, is pressure for economic development throughout the country and especially in poor and marginalized rural areas. This pressure leads to land use change and degradation, driven by deforestation, overgrazing, overharvesting of natural resources, agricultural conversion, and urbanization. These drivers, exacerbated by poor soil conditions in many areas as well as impacts of climate change (Ortiz García et al. 2022; see below), can take the form of encroachment on protected areas, undermining sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation. While the Federal Government has made important commitments towards conservation and natural resource management, including the GBF 30x30 target, funding for federal environmental agencies is not sufficient to fulfill the growing commitments and address climatic and environmental challenges.

For example, although the annual rate of forest loss has decreased over the last few decades, Mexico continues to lose forest cover at a 0.2 - 0.3% per year, with over 179,000 ha of forest lost in 2022 alone (Global Forest Watch 2023). Between 2001 and 2022, Mexico lost 4.66 million ha of tree cover (around 8.8% of the total), equivalent to 1.88 Gt of CO₂e emissions (Global Forest Watch 2023). Another example of pressure on ecosystems is land degradation, with about 12% of the country experiencing “severe or extreme soil degradation,” and nearly 60% experiencing impacts of desertification (Etchevers et al. 2020; CONAFOR-UACH 2013; Granados-Sánchez et al. 2013). Land degradation is a particular challenge for small family farms, which make up around 80% of all farmers on roughly 70% of land under cultivation. The high levels of poverty of many of these farms preclude investments in soil conservation or restoration, instead leading to clearing of new areas (Ortiz García et al. 2022). These deforestation and degradation trends pose a persistent threat to PAs as local resource users seek new areas for cultivation, livestock grazing, and resource extraction. One indication of the negative impact of such trends on Mexico’s biodiversity is that at least 2,606 species are deemed threatened or at risk of extinction (CONABIO 2017; NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010).

As noted, climate change further exacerbates pressure on Mexico’s ecosystems. Its position between two oceans, topography and reliance on agriculture leave the country particularly vulnerable, notably to extreme meteorological events such as Hurricane Otis in October 2023 which caused sudden and widespread damage to Acapulco, Guerrero and surrounding areas. Climate change forecasts for Mexico show increased and more frequent extreme weather events (World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal 2023); rural and high poverty areas, notably in Mexico’s southern states, are particularly susceptible to impacts from climate change, and their ability to mitigate and recover is low (Islam and Winkel 2017). Although the national government has moved forward on increasing Mexico’s readiness for the impacts of climate change, Notre Dame’s Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) currently ranks Mexico as 88th out of 185 countries in terms of readiness to address the impacts from climate change, indicating substantial room for improvement (ND-GAIN 2024).

Among the most urgent needs in order to respond to these trends is enhanced ability on the part of CONANP to mount an effective PA management response, ranging from monitoring and enforcement to disaster response to community engagement and support for sustainable livelihoods. Without the MEx30x30 project, the result of persistent budget shortfalls will be that: a. existing PAs and ADVCS experience continued and growing inadequacy to management responses, and b. new PAs and ADVCS established to meet the 30x30 area target will exist as paper parks without effective management. This in turn will lead to continued erosion of ecosystem services driven by encroachment,

conversion and unsustainable resource use. Habitat loss and degradation will put biodiversity at ever greater risk and undermine rural livelihoods that depend on natural resources.

The principal barrier to enabling CONANP to apply effective management to the entirety of Mexico's PA system is its budget shortfall, estimated at US\$87 million per year until 2030. This barrier is linked to capacity constraints of CONANP with respect to conservation finance strategies, including both mobilization of new revenue streams and optimization of the use of available funding. To address this barrier, MEx30x30 will pursue the following Outcomes:

- Outcome 1.1: CONANP's budget and capacity to effectively manage PAs and ADVCS has increased
- Outcome 2.1: Donor support is secured to cover the financing gap for effective management of existing PAs over the next 15 years.
- Outcome 3.1: PAs and ADVCS are effectively managed and directly generating inclusive, gender-equitable benefits for IP&LCs.

The proposed Project approach of MEx30x30 leverages several enabling factors: alignment with country priorities and strong political will and leadership, reflected in Mexico's 30x30 commitment; global recognition of need to increase funding to address the global biodiversity crisis together with the climate crisis; and global recognition of the important role of IP&LCs in achieving global biodiversity and climate change mitigation goals. Combined with their strong record of mobilizing conservation finance (as seen in the success of FANP), FMCN and CONANP are confident that the Outcomes summarized above will result in financial and institutional sustainability that ensures Mexico's enduring contribution to the GBF 30x30 target.

Project Stakeholders

Making the Project work requires active participation of the following stakeholders:

National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP): CONANP oversees 226 terrestrial and marine PAs throughout Mexico, encompassing over 90 million ha. The PAs encompass 14.6% of the land territory and 21.5% of Mexico's oceans. They are managed by a 1,680 staff that work daily with 35,000 members of local communities. As the federal agency leading this project, CONANP will ensure that the project is aligned with policy commitments and national strategies. The project will enhance the capacity of CONANP to close the financial gap for the system of federal protected areas by 2030, through a variety of revenue streams, as well as increasing CONANP's capacity to efficiently use this budget. Monitoring by CONANP will be strengthened, while prevention and rapid response to fires, droughts and hurricanes will be developed through a consolidation of a learning community of managers and rangers.

Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.(FMCN): A national conservation trust fund, FMCN has 30 years of experience in supporting conservation efforts in Mexico, including improved management of nearly 30 million ha of land (including 70 PAs through the 26-year-old Fund for Protected Areas, a public-private partnership with CONANP) and promoting the wellbeing of almost 80,000 people through its \$200+ million endowment and additional sinking funds. Its work includes large, landscape-scale projects in all regions of the country with partners as diverse as the Government of Mexico, the GEF, World Bank and the Green Climate Fund, from which it was the first Mexican organization to receive accreditation. FMCN projects are supported by multi-lateral funds, bi-lateral funds such as the Development Bank KfW and private foundations such as the Packard, Summit and Walton Foundations. It has implemented three successful projects (FANP 1, FANP 2 and Conservation of Coastal Watersheds in the Context of Climate Change Project), has one project under implementation (CONNECTA) and has one project in the pipeline corresponding to the GEF-8 allocation (ORIGEN). In total FMCN has received more than US\$70 million from GEF. FMCN has been supported by 146 donors and participates actively in conservation finance networks, such as Mexico Conservation Funders, the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) and a network of Mexican foundations. FMCN will serve as the Executing Agency, leading resource mobilization under Component 2 and managing the endowment for Component 3.

Conservation International-GEF Implementing Agency (CIGEF): As an Implementing Agency for GEF since 2013, CIGEF has a portfolio of more than 300 million USD mobilized across GEF focal areas and regions. In Mexico, the Agency has been working in GEF-funded projects since 2016 with a portfolio of 4 projects. (i) Maintaining and Increasing Carbon Stocks in Agro-silvopastoral Systems in Rural Communities of the Selva Zoque — Sumidero Canyon Complex as a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (GEF 5 project- closed); (ii) Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in priority landscapes of Oaxaca and Chiapas (GEF 6 project in its last year of implementation); and (iii) ORIGEN: Restoring Watersheds for Ecosystems and Communities (GEF 8 project in PPG phase with FMCN as Executing Agency) and now the first GBFF project in Mexico with FMCN as EA, and the support of together with CONANP.

Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LCs): IP&LCs inhabit, use, and protect ecosystems in and around all the PAs and ADVCs included in Component 3. ADVCs are areas in which the legitimate owners are local communities or individuals. The Chimalapas complex is a region where IP&LCs are the owners of eight ADVCs. These IP&LCs committed to protecting and sustainably managing their land; in return, the owners receive a federally-administered certification issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). Additionally, all Protected Areas in Mexico have an Advisory Council or similar participatory body, through which government institutions, civil society, academic and research entities, and representatives of the people living in the area (e.g., ejidos, communities, Indigenous groups, and women) can be aware, participate, advise, and support decision-making of the pertinent strategies to address the priority needs of the PAs. The Advisory Councils or similar participatory bodies will be used as platforms to engage IP&LCs in developing the PA Annual Operating Plans (POAs for its Spanish acronym) and implementing priority actions. Mex30x30 will build on lessons learned through the PAs Advisory Councils that date back to 1996 and through which IP&LCs participate in the management of the PAs. The project will strengthen the organizational capacity of IP&LCs for conserving and sustainably managing areas and territories under their stewardship and governance.

Legally Constituted Local Organizations (OLLCs): Legally constituted local associations, groups or organizations with the capacity to receive, manage and apply resources will act as intermediaries between FMCN and CONANP to administer the annual plans (POAs) for Protected Areas in Component 3. The Fund for Protected Areas Committee established since 1996 will select local organizations through a call for proposals process. The local organizations will work with CONANP to break the POAs into weekly plans, spend funds accordingly, prepare administrative reports and support CONANP with technical reports.

Other Donors: Using a long term-finance mechanism following the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach, the project will attract and mobilize funding to establish a transition fund to cover the financial gap in protected areas while public funding reaches its target. This funding will be from additional donors, mainly philanthropy.

Landscape of relevant recent and ongoing initiatives

FMCN and CONANP have more than two decades of shared collaborative experiences in improving protected area management effectiveness, securing financial sustainability and strengthening and expanding CONANP's institutional capacity. Recent and ongoing collaborative initiatives include:

Fund for Protected Areas (FANP), 1997-Present (endowment) (USD165 million): Initially started in 1997 with USD16.48 million in GEF funding, the Protected Areas Fund (FANP in its Spanish acronym) is a public-private partnership between FMCN, CONANP and 20 additional donors. At the beginning of 2024, FANP is supporting 70 PAs (55 with endowment funds), including activities in biological monitoring, restoration, fire management, and productive projects. Its total endowment has increased to US\$165 million owing to the contributions of 21 donors from the multilateral, bi-lateral, philanthropic and private sector. FANP has been widely recognized as “best practice” example, as PAs with additional operational financing by FANP in Mexico avoided up to 23% forest loss from 2001 to 2012 (Hansen *et al.*). Currently, FANP contributes \$10 million in additional funding CONANP's US\$92 million annual budget, allowing CONANP to cover operating costs, provide additional staff and support to local communities and lower CONANP's annual financial gap to US\$87 million.

Monarch Butterfly Fund, 2000-Present (endowment) (USD7.5 million): The Monarch Butterfly Fund is a public-private collaboration to support conservation and restoration of core area forests in the 56,259 ha Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in central Mexico, which is managed by CONANP. As part of FANP endowment, the US\$8.6 million endowment fund is administered by FMCN in collaboration CONANP, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the governments of the states of Mexico and Michoacán, and the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR, acronym in Spanish). The annual return of the endowment provides payments for ecosystem services to the IP&LCs that support the ecological integrity of the Reserve.

Sustainable Financing for New Protected Areas (FINANP), 2021-2026 (endowment) (Eur22 million): The Sustainable Financing for New Protected Areas (FINANP, acronym in Spanish) is a project funded by the KfW Development Bank with the collaboration of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), FMCN and CONANP. Phase I involves IUCN support for effective management of ADVCS. Phase II includes US\$14.1 million in endowment funds that are part of FANP. The annual return supports CONANP's effective management of three federal marine PAs covering over 22 million ha. This project provides beyond a 1:1 match in endowment funds to Component 3 of Mex30x30.

Biodiversity Conservation in the Sierra Madre Oriental and Gulf of Mexico (Sierra y Mar), 2019-endowment (Eur15 million) The Sierra y Mar project is a collaborative effort between KfW Development Bank, FMCN and CONANP to ensure effective conservation of 14 protected areas and ecological corridors. Principal activities include strengthening the management capacity of the 14 protected areas and productive capacity of local communities, securing financial sustainability for management activities and improving CONANP's capacity in critical cross-cutting issues, such as communications and monitoring and evaluation. It consists of an endowment managed by FMCN as part of FANP.

Connecting Watershed Health with Sustainable Livestock and Agroforestry Production (CONECTA, acronym in Spanish), 2021-2026 (USD 13.76 million). A Child Project under the GEF-7 funded Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program, CONECTA's main objective is to improve integrated landscape management and promote climate-smart production practices in 450,000 ha of selected watersheds in the states of Chiapas, Chihuahua, Jalisco, and Veracruz. Through a landscape-based approach, the project is focused on interventions in watersheds vulnerable to land use change, climate change and impacts of soil erosion. Principal activities include promoting productive and environmentally compatible practices that increase forest areas under sustainable landscape management and improve livelihoods, water quality, and biodiversity. The project is supported by National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC, acronym in Spanish), with FMCN overseeing fiduciary aspects and CONANP being a member of the governance structure's Coordinating Committee, which will scale CONECTA's impact by aligning public and private investments with project activities. CONECTA's funding is matched by the RIOS project (US\$9 million), which is the first Green Climate Fund (GCF) project in Mexico with FMCN as accredited entity. RIOS shares the institutional arrangements of CONECTA and complements funding in CONECTA's watersheds by restoring rivers as a mean to address adaptation to climate change.

CONECTA was built off the GEF financed **Coastal Watersheds Conservation in the Context of Climate Change Project (C6), 2014-2019 (USD 39.52 million)**. Undertaken collaboratively by INECC, CONAFOR, CONANP, and FMCN, all of which served as members of the governance structure's Project Committee, the C6 project successfully consolidated 1.1 million ha of protected areas and improved land and forest management, allowing for reduced carbon emissions in 1.027 million ha of watersheds. Six strategic watersheds successfully developed and implemented Integrated watershed/sub-watershed action plans (IWAPs) (World Bank 2019). Two Regional Funds, FONNOR in Jalisco and the Gulf of Mexico Fund (Fondo Golfo de México, FGM) in Veracruz were created by the project to undertake coordination and training activities in priority areas.

Enhancing Political Will for Sustainable Protected Areas Financing (USD2 million). The GEF financing and United Nations Environment Program as IA, and Conservation Council of Nations as EA, focuses on creating the necessary conditions in the legislative branch to increase the budget for PAs. It will complement MEx30x30 by supporting the required changes in legislation identified in Component 1.

Forest biomes of Mesoamerica. Mexico National Project – Mayan Rainforest (USD13.3 million). This GEF financing, IUCN as IA, will be implemented during 2025-2029. It seeks to support the transformative change towards the conservation of the Mayan rainforest by a set of interventions addressing the main drivers of deforestation and degradation. It is structured around four components: 1) Adoption of enabling policies and planning frameworks; 2) Accelerating the implementation of actions for forest protection and restoration; 3) Increased investment in rainforest landscapes; and 4) Enhanced regional coordination and cooperation. Other projects will work within the Balam Kú PA, and therefore the alignment of activities for conservation and sustainable use is expected to synergize. Forest Biomes is expected to begin in 2025. It will contribute to the following complementary efforts (not included in MEX30x30): (i) Strengthening of local and national governance structures to increase the effectiveness of primary forest protection and conservation; (ii) Early warning systems for timely transmission of alerts to field staff, (iii) Training of PA's staff; (iv) Procurement of tools and equipment and (v) Regional assessment of collapse risk. As CONANP participates in both projects, this will ensure that there is synergy with this project and the activities included in POAs under MEX30x30 Component 3.

Lessons learned from previous projects

The project will build on 26 years of successful public-private collaboration between CONANP and FMCN through the Protected Areas Fund (FANP). The following best-practices have been developed and will be applied to this project:

- FMCN is well-positioned to manage funds for federal PAs administered by CONANP so that resources are used for strategic conservation activities in the territory. It has been found that PAs with additional operational financing by FANP in Mexico avoided up to 23% forest loss from 2001 to 2012 (Hansen *et al.*).
- The Protected Areas Learning Community (CAAP) is an effective model for strengthening capacities of PA managers and local organizations through the exchange of experiences and peer-to-peer learning.
- Long-term monitoring of biological and socioeconomic indicators as well as management effectiveness is critical for assessing protected areas. CONANP and FANP have successfully developed monitoring protocols for PAs that may be adapted for ADVCS.
- The development of an emergency fund and community brigades has been instrumental in successful rapid response to fires, hurricanes, and other emergencies, which, according to climate change projections, are expected to increase in the project areas.

A central feature of the MEX30x30 project is using a long-term financing using the Project for Permanence (PFP) model to structure a transition fund that will cover CONANP's funding gap until federal funds can be secured to support longer-term protected area system costs. Cabrera *et al.* (2021), defined the PFP model as "an approach or single initiative that secures important policy changes, and all funding necessary to meet specific conservation goals of a program over a defined long-term timeframe, with the ultimate aim of achieving the ecological, social, political, organizational, and financial sustainability of that program."

A 2023 PFP evaluation commissioned by Enduring Earth (EE), a global collaboration between The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts, World Wildlife Fund and ZOMALAB, concluded that the PFP model offers a number of advantages that enable it to help countries achieve large-scale conservation commitments, including reaching 30x30 targets. The evaluation highlighted the model's ability to (EcoAdvisors 2023):

- 1) achieve compromise among diverse stakeholder interests in furtherance of ambitious-scale conservation and sustainable development
- 2) empower Indigenous-led conservation
- 3) reinforce institutions that champion and facilitate large-scale conservation
- 4) help make protected areas and conservation management resilient against adverse political pressure
- 5) enable the application of long-term perspectives to protected area planning and management
- 6) promote livelihoods and enterprise development grounded in sustainable resource management

The transition fund mechanism that FMCN and CONANP will use for the MEX30x30 project will draw on lessons learned from other PFP applications to achieve large-scale conservation outcomes. The model will mainly use lessons learned from Latin America from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru. For example, in Brazil a PFP structure was used to create

a US\$210 million sinking to support the country's Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA), the world's largest protected area system, until federal funds are available as of 2039 to cover the system's management costs. To date, ARPA has allowed Brazil to create over 62 million ha of protected and sustainable use areas (roughly 9% of the entire Amazon) and support the consolidation of over 40 million ha of protected and sustainable use areas (EcoAdvisors 2023).

The MEx30x30 project design reflects lessons and best practices for PFPs distilled from the experiences noted above. This includes:

- 1) Design, establishment and operation of PFP mechanisms must be grounded in participatory multi-stakeholder processes to cultivate broad-based buy-in and support.
- 2) The financing solutions provided by a PFP must be paired with technical capacity building for institutions responsible for conservation and sustainable resource management.
- 3) Safeguard policies and plans should be introduced from the beginning of the design process to be fully integrated into the long-term financial mechanisms (rather than grafted on afterwards as seen in some PFP processes), with the required allocation of budget and expertise.
- 4) For PFPs with IP&LCs as a major constituency, meaningful governance roles in the PFP mechanisms are necessary to ensure social legitimacy as well as responsiveness to IP&LC needs and priorities.
- 5) The ability of PFPs to involve civil society and strengthen civil society capacity with respect to advancing and participating in conservation and protected area management reflects untapped potential.
- 6) The scale at which PFPs operate may limit the extent to which design and launch processes can be truly inclusive, particularly on an ambitious timeline; this trade-off needs to be explicitly recognized and planned for, with a concerted outreach effort early in implementation.
- 7) The transition fund approach needs to be accompanied by other strategies to safeguard permanence: government commitments, cultivating a broad multi-stakeholder constituency to hold parties to their commitments, and advancing a diversified set of financing solutions to reduce vulnerability to changes in government priorities.

Provisions for knowledge management (KM) in MEx30x30 will incorporate the following lessons from other projects:

- Knowledge sharing should be founded on a demand-driven process where the needs of stakeholders are prioritized, as well as themes and experiences with the best potential for replication and scaling up.
- Traditional knowledge in the management of natural resources is often overlooked, therefore knowledge management and sharing and capacity building should also draw from diverse sources, including traditional knowledge of local communities.
- Projects should build on and link to existing structures for learning and knowledge management. Opportunities for collaboration and cost sharing with other initiatives and existing platforms should be taken when appropriate.
- Diverse, easily accessible and culturally and technologically appropriate dissemination mediums in multiple languages (publications, websites, workshops, webinars) should be employed to ensure broad and inclusive access to multiple audiences.
- In-person and virtual knowledge-sharing and exchanges should have clear objectives and understanding of participants' expectations, with appropriate translation provided. Robust and inclusive working stakeholder networks should be cultivated to allowing for regular exchanges of knowledge and experiences from multiple sources (local, traditional, customary, scientific, etc).

^[1] "Ejidos" and "comunidades" are communal land ownership systems, legally recognized under the Agrarian Law. In Mexico, *Comunidades* (or —agrarian communities) are long-standing rural population centers that have been given formal ownership of their traditional or customary lands. *Ejido* refers to a portion of land that has been titled to a rural population nucleus that was formed more recently or relocated from another area. Both types of community property are governed by a similar structure, with an "Asamblea" of all "ejidatarios" or "comuneros", a "Comisariado Ejidal" or "Comisariado de Bienes Comunes" and a "Consejo de Vigilancia".

C. 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 E). This section should be a cohesive narrative and not separate responses to the guiding questions in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

Theory of Change

As part of the Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework, Mexico has committed to effective protection of 30% of its territory by 2030. Accomplishing this goal will conserve the country’s enormous wealth of biodiversity but requires increased financial support to close the financing gap for Mexico’s PA system, including ADVCs, as well as a central role for IP&LCs. Therefore, the Theory of Change for MEX30x30 posits that:

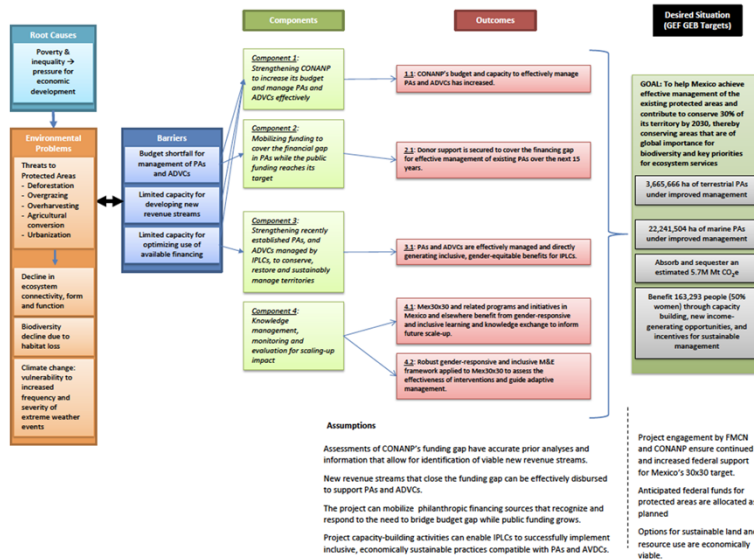
If federal PA management is strengthened by mobilizing adequate funding **and** IP&LCs are directly involved in and benefit from implementation of gender-responsive and inclusive conservation initiatives in PAs and ADVCs, **then** the ecosystem services, the ecological integrity, and the overall conservation of globally significant biodiversity will be ensured.

The proposed interventions reflect this Theory of Change as follows:

Theory of Change	Project Components
If federal PA management is strengthened by mobilizing adequate funding	Component 1 (<i>Strengthening CONANP to increase its budget and manage PAs and ADVCs effectively</i>) will enhance the capacity of CONANP to reduce the financing gap for PA management by developing new revenue streams, and Component 2 (<i>Mobilizing funding to cover the financial gap in PAs while the public funding reaches its target</i>) will apply the Project Finance for Permanence approach to mobilize funding that addresses the PA financing gap during a transition period in which CONANP develops the new revenue streams.
and IP&LCs are directly involved in and benefit from implementation of gender-responsive and inclusive conservation initiatives in PAs and ADVCs	Component 3 (<i>Strengthening recently established PAs, and ADVCs managed by IP&LCs, to conserve, restore and sustainably manage territories</i>) will focus on IP&LC roles in ADVCs and PA management, captured in Annual Operating Plans; provide training on sustainable management to IP&LCs such that they are able to fulfill these roles; and implement sustainable management initiatives that reinforce training and generate socioeconomic benefits for IP&LCs.
then the ecosystem services, the ecological integrity, and the overall conservation of globally significant biodiversity will be ensured.	Component 4 (<i>Monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management for scaling</i>) will verify conservation of globally significant biodiversity through protected areas under improved management effectiveness (3,665,666 ha terrestrial and 22,241,504 ha marine) and 9.43 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (as well as socioeconomic benefits for 163,293 people, 50% of whom will be women).

Collectively the components summarized above will ensure enduring outcomes by putting in place the long-term financing required for Mexico’s national protected area system. Although economic pressure for development and the accompanying threats of deforestation, degradation, agricultural conversion, and unsustainable resource use are expected to persist, full funding for the nation’s protected area system in perpetuity will provide a lasting foundation for sustaining CONANP’s capacity to work with IP&LCs to ensure effective management of PAs and ADVCs and respond to these threats.

Figure 3 below illustrates how the project design reflects this Theory of Change:



Component 1: Strengthening CONANP to increase its budget and manage PAs and ADVCs effectively

MEx30x30 will technically and financially support CONANP in closing its financial gap for existing federal protected areas through a variety of revenue streams, including federal appropriations, entrance and users' fees, payment for ecosystem services, and compensations. The aim will be to have public resources cover the overall costs of PA management and ADVCs within fifteen years. Furthermore, CONANP will also increase its institutional capacity commensurate with the increase in the budget. Monitoring and evaluation of the federal PA system by CONANP will be strengthened, as will prevention of and rapid response to fires, droughts and hurricanes. Learning will be accelerated through the PA management community of practice established by FANP to encompass ADVCs. The incremental contributions of Component 1 will be to achieve critical expansion in CONANP's capacity with respect to generating and managing funds, and better integration of ADVCs into management systems for the national PA network.

Outcome 1.1: CONANP's budget and capacity to effectively manage PAs and ADVCs has increased.

Under this outcome, CONANP will undertake a two-pronged process of both increasing its budget and gradually closing its funding gap by leveraging additional financial resources. Potential sources of additional revenue include (but are not limited to) further growth in federal appropriations, creating and/or updating frameworks for setting and collecting PA entrance and other user fees, expanding the application of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), and exploring the rapidly developing market for nature credits. Mex30x30 will coordinate activities with the GEF funded project "Enhancing Political Will for Sustainable Protected Areas Financing" implemented by the United Nations Environment Program and executed by the Conservation Council of Nations, which focuses on creating the necessary conditions in the legislative branch to increase the budget for PAs. Also, the project will collaborate where possible with Conservation International global and national initiatives related to conservation finance. Expanding the size and scope of revenue streams will require investment in capacity with respect to financing tools and financial management, as well as commensurate strengthening of CONANP's institutional and technical capacity to accommodate growth in the national PA system and expanding use of ADVCs as Mexico pursues its 30x30 national goal.

Indicator 1.1: % decrease (after third year of project implementation) in annual CONANP budget shortfall as a result of new revenue streams

Target 1.1: 10% decrease (after third year of project implementation) in annual CONANP budget shortfall as a result of new revenue streams.

Output 1.1.1: New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are identified.

CONANP's annual budget of approximately US\$110 million currently relies on several revenue streams, including federal appropriations, user and entrance fees from PAs, various PES schemes, international donations, environmental compensation payments and around US\$10 million per year from FANP. To close the budget gap of approximately US\$87 million per year, new and augmented existing revenue streams are needed. For Output 1.1.1, CONANP and FMCN will undertake an assessment to identify and analyze potential new revenue streams as well as options for increasing existing revenue streams to address the budget gap. Results of the assessment will be compiled into an action plan detailing steps to unlock the most promising (in terms of feasibility and yield) revenue streams to secure the projected budget needed to accommodate Mexico's 30x30 goal. To identify and structure these new revenue streams, the project will explore potential collaboration with the United Nations Development Program Finance for Biodiversity BIOFIN and CI conservation finance work including nature credits initiative.

Indicator 1.1.1: # of feasibility reports and action plans for accessing new revenue streams completed.

Target 1.1.1: 1 feasibility report and action plan for accessing new revenue streams completed.

Output 1.1.2: New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are accessed.

Once finalized the feasibility report, CONANP will work closely with FMCN to operationalize the revenue action plan, developing and securing the most likely target revenue sources identified in the feasibility assessment (Output 1.1.2). Recognizing that some revenue streams will take longer to develop than others, CONANP and FMCN will initially prioritize those sources that could be developed relatively quickly based on existing institutional and financial management capacity (such as increases in PA entrance and user fees), with longer-term sources developed later in the action plan's implementation in tandem with activities to install the requisite capacity (Output 1.1.3).

Indicator 1.1.2: # of new revenue streams accessed and contributing to CONANP budget.

Target 1.1.2: At least one new revenue stream accessed and contributing to CONANP budget.

Output 1.1.3: The institutional capacity of CONANP is enhanced through expanding the Protected Areas Learning Community (community of practice).

As CONANP's budget accesses new and augmented revenue sources, a commensurate effort will be made to increase and strengthen its institutional capacity. The avenue by which the project will deliver Output 1.1.3 is Mexico's existing PA Learning Community's (Comunidad de Aprendizaje de Áreas Naturales – CAAP, acronym in Spanish), which will be expanded to increase its inclusion, reach and impact. Since 2012, CONANP and FMCN have promoted the CAAP through FANP, as a network of CONANP's PA managers and local organizations to facilitate knowledge sharing and strengthen the capacities of its members to improve PA management and community development outcomes. Under this project, increased gender-responsive and inclusive learning and knowledge sharing approaches will be incorporated into CAAP, thereby allowing for greater participation and access to resources to a wider spectrum of stakeholders. Output 1.1.3 will include a particular focus on increasing participation of women from IP&LCs. Progress will be measured through CONANP's existing institutional capacity assessment scoring system, using the first year of implementation as the baseline. Priority areas for increased capacity will include: roles relating to revenue generation; improvement of Mexico's PA monitoring and evaluation system (including an adapted i-effectivity model for ADVCs); improved mainstreaming of key topics such as gender, safeguards, governance and IP&LCs; and augmented institutional capacity to prevent and respond to natural disasters and extreme weather events, including fires, droughts and hurricanes.

Indicator 1.1.3a: % improvement in CONANP institutional capacity assessment score.

Target 1.1.3a: 15% improvement in CONANP institutional capacity assessment score.

Indicator 1.1.3b: Increase in Protected Areas Learning Community membership (disaggregated by gender and IP&LC membership).

Target 1.1.3b: At least 100 new members are part the Protected Areas Learning Community, of whom at least 50% are women.

Component 2. Mobilizing funding to cover the financial gap in PAs while the public funding reaches its target.

MEx30x30 will design and deploy a long-term financing mechanism following the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach, including a transition fund to cover the funding gap while CONANP develops its revenue streams (Component 1) to increase public funding. The PFP is intended at a national level but the number of PAs included will be confirmed as the work starts in the proposed steps. A preliminary exercise conducted by FMCN determined that FANP already meets most requirements to serve as the home for a financing mechanism within a PFP framework, thereby making the application of the PFP approach relatively straightforward. To raise additional revenues to close the funding gap, CONANP and FMCN will build on the strong track record of their 26-year partnership, which has attracted a growing number of donors to raise US\$165M in endowment funds. Using networks and lessons learned from their shared FANP experience, CONANP and FMCN offer a strong basis for establishing a transition fund to support the financial gap of existing PAs that is approximately US\$200 million in (the capitalization target will be finalized based on financial analysis and modeling planned for the start of the implementation period, see steps 5 and 6 Output 2.1.2). Once this transition fund is established, it is anticipated that it will support PA and ADVC management costs for 15 years, as CONANP works to close its budget gap (the timeline also will be solidified through the aforementioned financial analysis and modeling). The clear and critical incremental contribution of Component 2 is that it will overcome the barrier of PA financing shortfalls and enable effective management of PAs while additional revenue streams are developed.

Outcome 2.1: Donor support is secured to cover the financing gap for effective PA management over the next 15 years.

CONANP and FMCN have a well-established track record spanning 26+ years in effective fundraising, raising over US\$165 million for the FANP. Using both its established network of prior and current donors, as well as using its proven record of success in attracting new donors, FMCN will develop and implement a strategic outreach plan to generate interest and commitments from likely donors. Given the financial gap of existing PAs, bi- and multi-lateral donors (national governments, multi-lateral institutions) will be critical funding partners, as will donors from the private and philanthropic sectors, notably large foundations and high net worth individuals. MEx30x30 will allocate a portion (US\$1 million) of its GBFF-funding as the initial contribution to the transition fund, to signal a starting contribution to an existing solid mechanism ready to grow. This mechanism will incorporate gender and inclusion considerations and may have one of more phases, depending on the financial gap identified under Output 2.1.2.

Indicator 2.1: Percentage of required funding for a Transition Fund to cover PA financing gaps for 15 years.

Target 2.1: 100% required Funding secured for phase one for a Transition Fund.

Output 2.1.1: Funding pledged to address identified financial gaps.

FMCN's will develop and execute the strategic outreach plan to secure donor commitments for the PFP. The intent is to secure pledges in advance as per other examples of the PFP approach,^[1] in which each donor commits to a simultaneous joint contribution to formally launch the PFP. In preparing the full design and financing model for the PFP (Output 2.1.2 below), CONANP and FMCN will determine the balance between the single close and continued post-launch capitalization work, reflecting the lesson from other PFPs that a single close does not eliminate the need for additional fundraising effort for MEx30x30. The activities include to develop outreach plan for each type of donors, obtain pledges from them, and to mobilize funds into the transition fund. The Transition Fund is a sinking fund with

multiple donors, that as part of the PFP process it is expected to cover the financial gap while the public funding sources rump up.

Indicator 2.1.1: Amount of donor funding pledged to address financing gap for phase one during transition period.

Target 2.1.1: 100% of required funding for phase one to address financing gap during transition period (amount to be confirmed in step 5 and 6 of the long-term sustainable finance mechanism design process; see below).

Output 2.1.2: Long-term sustainable finance mechanism/PFP^[2] is designed.

CONANP and FMCN will apply the PFP approach to develop a long-term financing mechanism to support management of the existing national protected area system. The long-term financing mechanism will incorporate gender and inclusion considerations (e.g., gender mainstreamed in conservation, restoration and sustainable development in PAs and ADVs, through the conservation plan). Using their shared experience with FANP and FMCN's expertise in developing and implementing effective conservation finance mechanisms, they will define the most appropriate structure for an effective and efficient financing mechanism, including governance and safeguards considerations. The priority design objective for the transition fund will be to direct funding to PA management in a timely and efficient manner. Key steps for the PFP design will include:

- i. Setting up the transition fund with USD 1 M. FMCN will create a dedicated account that will compose the transition fund for Mexico-PFP as a sinking fund. FCMN will use its own guidelines to manage the corresponding investment.
- ii. Formation of a coalition of institutions. A coalition will be formed to support and oversee the design of the PFP process.
- iii. Hiring and designation of a Mexico- design team. The design of a long-term financial mechanism following the PFP approach is a complex and time-consuming process. For this reason, FMCN will hire a team to be designated by the coalition as responsible for bringing the design process ready for the signing of the PFP agreement.
- iv. Development of a shared conservation vision. Members of the coalition will discuss and agree on a shared conservation vision for the PFP aiming at attracting other partners and funders.
- v. Financial gap estimation. Under component 1, experts will review and strengthen the financial gap estimation for the existent PAs. This will then input the PFP work.
- vi. Design of a financial model and/or plan. A technical working group will be formed by the coalition to lead the PFP financial plan that will include: PA Network and ADVs cost analysis, required funds for the transition fund and a strategy to generate revenues to fill the financial gap (complemented with the gap analysis from step v) and determine the transition fund amount required for a first phase to be implemented under this project.
- vii. Design of a conservation plan. A technical working group will be formed by the coalition to lead the preparation of a PFP conservation plan in a participatory process, particularly at a local level. This plan will include specific actions that consider gender and inclusion dimensions and associated budget. The plan has a national scope, the number of PAs involved will be confirmed depending on the agreements after the financial gap estimation and financial model work are completed.
- viii. Design the institutional arrangements for the adequate implementation of the initiative. The coalition will engage in the discussion of the PFP governance, focusing mainly in the organizational structure required by Mexico-PFP and will clearly define the roles of all participating institutions.

- ix. Diagnosis, strategy, and development of domestic mechanisms sustainable financing. This activity will focus on supporting CONANP with complementary budget to develop prioritized sustainable financing mechanisms that can bring durability to Mexico-PFP transformative actions.
- x. Design and implementation of a communications strategy. Mexico-PFP will require a sound communications strategy for its different phases. During the design phase it will be focused mainly in: generating political buy-out, awareness at the local level, and fundraising.

Indicator 2.1.2: Number of long-term sustainable finance mechanisms designed and ready for closing.

Target 2.1.2: One long-term sustainable financing mechanism designed and ready for closing.

Component 3. Strengthening recently established PAs, and ADVCS managed by IP&LCs, to conserve, restore and sustainably manage territories.

Using GEF funds, the MEx30x30 project will establish a US\$12 million endowment^[3] to ensure permanent funding for areas under conservation - three recently decreed PAs, two PA decreed prior to the present administration, and one complex of eight ADVCS recently established in the Chimalapas region of Oaxaca, an area with the highest biodiversity levels in all of Mexico. Specific PAs and ADVCS include Balam-Kú, Riego 043, Papigochic, Bajos del Norte, and Tecuani, located in five Indigenous regions. These areas were selected by CONANP for their biological importance, presence of IP&LCs, degraded areas eligible for restoration, regional and ecosystem diversity, and a mix of new and existing PAs. Advisory Councils or similar participatory bodies will be used as platforms to engage stakeholders in developing the Annual Operating Plans (POAs for its Spanish acronym) for the PAs and ADVCS (Output 3.1.1), with implementation of specific activities by IP&LCs and local organizations (Output 3.1.3). Training will be provided to IP&LCs in PAs and ADVCS (Output 2.1.2) to support implementation. With dedicated funding from the endowment, these PAs and ADVCS will serve as models for how biodiversity conservation can contribute to improved livelihoods through community management, with ADVCS in particular benefiting from technical assistance and financing to improve gender-responsive and inclusive sustainable use of natural resources and conservation activities. The incremental contribution of Component 3 will be to ensure effective management of 5 PAs and an ADVCS complex of 8 certified areas that otherwise would remain paper parks. Moreover, this will provide the basis for replication and scale up of MEx30x30 outcomes as CONANP will apply the lessons learned from these areas by establishing new PAs and ADVCS with provisions for strong, gender-responsive and inclusive community management, helping propel Mexico to its 30x30 goal. During project implementation, CONANP and FMCN will assess whether to continue operating this allocation as an endowment fund or if it will be integrated into the transition fund.

Outcome 3.1: PAs and ADVCS are effectively managed and directly generating inclusive, gender-equitable benefits for IP&LCs.

An endowment managed by FMCN will ensure funding to support management of Balam-Kú, Riego043, Papigochic, Bajos del Norte, Tecuani, and Chimalapas ADVCS. During the establishment of the Transition Fund, depending on pledges from donors and increase in CONANP budget, FMCN and CONANP will analyze the suitability of using part or all of the endowment as a contribution to the Transition Fund at a later stage. This decision will be based on careful financial analysis and modeling with clear indicators as part of the design under Component 2. Outcome 3.1 seeks to meet the requirement that these PAs are under effective management (for the 3,665,666 ha, including robust Annual Operating Plans prepared as Output 3.1.1 and disaster response through Output 3.1.4) and thus contribute to the 30x30 target. It also seeks to ensure that they deliver environmental and socioeconomic benefits from sustainable resource management, including ecosystem services provided by conservation management and income from productive activities with positive social and private returns grounded in sustainable resource use. These benefits will be achieved through training activities (Output 3.1.2) and implementation of sustainable management initiatives (Output 3.1.3). Through these efforts, 163,200 people will experience socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits (at least 50% female, disaggregated by gender and IP&LCs) in the long term. Although PA management effectiveness is readily measured using CONANP's i-effectiveness tool (analogous to METT scores), this tool was not designed for ADVCS; under the project, CONANP and FMCN will adapt the i-effectiveness tool to ADVCS.

Indicator 3.1a: % improvement in PA management effectiveness score, as measured by i-effectiveness.

Target 3.1a: For PAs with high rating: Management effectiveness score maintained; For PAs with medium or low rating: Management effectiveness score improved.

Indicator 3.1b: # people experiencing socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits through effective PA or ADVC management (disaggregated by gender and IP&LCs).

Target 3.1c: 163,293 people experiencing socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits through effective PA or ADVC management (at least 50% female, desegregated by gender and IP&LCs).

Output 3.1.1: Five-year plans, and associated Annual Operating Plans (POAs), developed for PAs and ADVCS through an inclusive participatory process coordinated by CONANP.

Using inclusive, participatory processes that it has successfully used across Mexico's PA system, CONANP will engage PA managers, IP&LCs and other important stakeholders, with outcomes of the processes being used to develop Annual Operating Plans for each area. Most Protected Areas in Mexico have an Advisory Council, through which government institutions, civil society, academic and research entities, and representatives of the people who inhabit, work, and use the ecosystems (e.g., ejidos, communities, Indigenous groups, and women) can be aware, participate, advise, and support decision-making of the pertinent strategies to address the priority needs of the PAs. The Advisory Councils or similar participatory bodies will be used as platforms to engage stakeholders in developing the Annual Operating Plans (POAs for its Spanish acronym). Priority components for each operating plan will include how the PAs and ADVCS can ensure conservation of their respective areas through adoption of sustainable development practices, and where appropriate, restoration activities that can be implemented to both improve biodiversity and key ecosystem services. The plans will include monitoring indicators, and budget aligning the different public policy instruments that affect the PA, such as its Management Program, CONANP 2040 Strategy, and the National Program for Protected Areas. Plans will also ensure that gender-responsive and inclusive elements are integrated into every aspect of the POA, with particular emphasis on how the plans can benefit women and marginalized members of the focal IP&LCs. Plans will be implemented under Outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.

Indicator 3.1.1: # of gender-responsive and inclusive Annual Operating Plans prepared and implemented.

Target 3.1.1: 1 gender-responsive and inclusive Annual Operating Plan prepared and implemented per PA or ADVC per year of the project (6 total).

Output 3.1.2: Gender-responsive and inclusive training provided to local communities in PAs and ADVCS to enhance their skills and knowledge in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices.

Using both its prior capacity-building experience with IP&LCs in Mexico's PA system and the gender-responsive and inclusive components of the Annual Operating Plans, CONANP and partners will carry out training sessions with the IP&LCs in the focal PAs and ADVCS, focusing on how conservation in each respective area can best be achieved by building skills and knowledge in sustainable land use practices and, where appropriate, restoration activities. While some training contents will be common across all the protected area (e.g., regulatory requirements, management principles, etc.), others will be tailored to each context, based on local needs and opportunity assessments conducted with the Advisory Councils or similar participatory bodies. Emphasis will be given to ensuring training sessions are gender-responsive and inclusive, particularly with Indigenous People who use PAs and ADVCS to support their livelihoods. This may include translating to Indigenous languages and using inclusive language in all communications, using communication channels and spaces that are relevant to women, and conducting women-only training sessions.

Indicator 3.1.2: # of people trained in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices (disaggregated by gender, recording level of Indigenous participation).

Target 3.1.2: At least 100 people per PA or ADVC trained in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices (at least 50% women; level of Indigenous participation proportional to Indigenous percentage of local population).

Output 3.1.3: IP&LCs and local organizations implement gender-responsive and inclusive conservation, restoration and sustainable management actions defined in POAs.

Legally constituted local organizations (OLLCs) with the capacity to receive, manage and apply resources will serve as liaisons between the project and PAs to administer the annual plans (POAs) described in Output 3.1.1. The Technical Committee of the Fund for Protected Areas (CTFANP for its Spanish acronym) will select local organizations through a call for proposals process. The call for proposals and selection process will be designed to encourage participation of women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant populations and other vulnerable groups' organizations. The local organizations will work with CONANP to define weekly plans based on the POAs, program and disburse funds accordingly, prepare administrative reports and support CONANP with technical reports. Examples of potential activities to include in POA by CONANP staff are:

- Forest cover restoration
- Community reforestation/restoration of riverbanks
- Soil conservation and restoration practices (living fences, stubble, cover crops, organic fertilizing, productive diversification)
- Acquiring equipment for fire prevention, control, and management
- Building capacities in communities for extraction and sustainable use of plants of interest (seed banks, nurseries, cover crops, organic fertilizing, productive diversification)
- Developing sustainable and diversified practices including agroforestry and agrosilvopastoral systems
- Establishing community-led brigades and engaging local communities in monitoring programs

These activities complement other subsidies and incentives managed by CONANP, which will be aligned and co-financed in each intervention area. Each POA typically defines an average of five principal Outputs to be achieved through the types of activities listed above, with indicators and corresponding targets. Examples of indicators used in POAs include:

- Number of people (disaggregated by gender) who adopt better sustainable practices; number of people (disaggregated by gender) who participate in training;
- Number of citizen participation forums strengthened; number of partnerships between key stakeholders for the conservation of natural resources;
- Number of hectares implementing restoration processes; number of hectares under sustainable management activities such as agroforestry or sustainable livestock farming; number of hectares protected and/or maintained as biological corridors;
- Number of monitoring or management actions implemented for protected and endangered species.

Indicator 3.1.3: % of targets reached in POAs, which include gender-responsive and inclusive management actions implemented by IP&LCs and local organizations in PAs and ADVCs.

Target 3.1.3: At least 80% of targets reached in POAs.

Output 3.1.4: Emergency fund expanded to support emergency-response brigades.

One of the most cited successes of the Fund for Protected Areas (FANP) is the Emergency Fund^[4]. The project will expand this Emergency Fund to cover the 5 supported PAs and ADVC complex. This is a specific financial mechanism that provides immediate and flexible financial resources in crisis or emergency situations. Much quicker than public resources, but of lesser amount, quickly deployed funds directed to events that threaten protected areas and buffer zones can be instrumental. For example, there have been instances where community brigades are available to fight fires in protected areas, but the necessary equipment is lacking. FANP emergency fund has successfully channeled financial resources to respond to forest fire events, hurricanes and sinking boats damaging coral reefs. During the first

half of 2023, this resulted in 21 forest fire events successfully addressed by community brigades in collaboration with CONANP and the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR). The existing mechanism in FANP will serve this role for the targeted PAs in case of emergencies including fires, floods and other emergencies.

Indicator 3.1.3: % of valid emergency funding requests that result in financial support within 72 hours.

Target 3.1.3: At least 90% of funding requests resulting in delivery of financial support within 72 hours.

Component 4: Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation for scaling impact.

Component 4 will entail close coordination between FMCN, CONANP, the donor community and IP&LCs to ensure that project activities and results are properly monitored and evaluated, and that knowledge management facilitates the efficient sharing of information at every level of the project. Given the central role of the PFP model in closing CONANP's funding gap, lessons learned from other PFPs that have achieved conservation at scale, such as ARPA in Brazil, will be gathered. This will include FMCN and CONANP engaging groups with PFP experience such as Enduring Earth to seek input on how best to structure the project's transition fund and secure the necessary financial resources, as well as environmental funds in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Peru, which have successfully launched PFPs. Given FMCN and CONANP's current and prior shared experience with project monitoring and evaluation and knowledge sharing (including with GEF-funded FANP, CONECTA and C6), lessons learned from these experiences will inform the development of MEx30x30 M&E and knowledge management systems, including explicit mechanisms to enable adaptive management and to account for gender and cultural differences at the institutional and PA or ADVC level, and development of culturally appropriate information dissemination mechanisms and communication strategies.

Outcome 4.1: MEx30x30 and related programs and initiatives in Mexico and elsewhere benefit from gender-responsive and inclusive learning and knowledge exchange to inform future scale-up.

The PFP approach has been used successfully in a number of countries to implement long-term financing solutions for conservation outcomes at scale, including for Brazil's ARPA, the world's largest protected areas program. Lessons learned from these prior PFP experiences, mainly in Latin America, will help shape MEx30x30; at the same time, MEx30x30's innovative application of the PFP approach will offer an important contribution to the growing global knowledge base for conservation and long-term financing at scale. MEx30x30 will also generate learning and knowledge relating to community co-management as an effective PA management tool, and cost-effective means for expanding PA networks to achieve the GBF 30x30 target; MEx30x30's lessons on this theme will be especially valuable given the central role of Indigenous Peoples in the Project. Thus, learning and knowledge exchange under Outcome 4.1 offers a rich contribution to global conservation practice, and will provide the basis for further definition of concrete steps towards Mexico's own 30x30 target to be captured in a scale-up strategy document. The incorporation of gender and inclusion considerations will be especially important to the outputs and activities under this Outcome, in processes for production and dissemination of materials but also as a thematic focus for the products themselves.

Indicator 4.1: # of scale-up strategy documents based on MEx30x30 experience.

Target 4.1: 1 scale-up strategy document based on MEx30x30 experience.

Output 4.1.1: Ongoing lessons learned from MEx30x30 and other long-term sustainable finance mechanisms and PA scaling experiences documented and disseminated.

The PMU will lead documentation of lessons learned and preparation of knowledge products, and dissemination of these materials. Learning topics of interest include nationally-led long-term sustainable finance mechanisms (such as those led by national protected area authorities and national protected area funds), and the relationship between such mechanisms and local or regional financing efforts. The publication plan will include dedicated products focused on the importance of gender integration and social inclusion in scale-up strategies and financing solutions, and knowledge products relating to management arrangements that facilitate IP&LC-led conservation and sustainable resource use. Dissemination channels will include the CAAP as well as FMCN's participation in networks such as RedLAC.

Indicator 4.1.1: Number of lessons-learned knowledge products prepared and shared (including products with a focus on gender and inclusion).

Target 4.1.1: At least 4 lessons-learned knowledge products prepared and shared (including at least one with a focus on gender and one with a focus on IP&LCs).

Output 4.1.2: National workshop and dissemination event held to finalize scale-up strategy document based on MEx30x30 experience.

A concluding activity of MEx30x30 will be to organize a national event to formally launch the scale-up strategy to achieve Mexico's 30x30 goal, based on the Project's learning and experience. To draft this document the PMU will facilitate a collaborative and consultative process led by CONANP and involving input from other government agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector. The lessons learned will be disseminated in a special event in FMCN's Exchange of knowledge Conservation Week, held every two years with over 400 key stakeholders. The event itself also will solicit representation from the full range of stakeholders implicated in national PA creation and management, with emphasis on ensuring the participation of women and IP&LCs (stakeholder identification and engagement provisions will be detailed further in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to be elaborated during the initial part of the project implementation phase). Thus, Output 4.1.2 will achieve broad-based recognition and buy-in for Mexico's 30x30 ambitions, and visibility for the concrete steps to achieve those ambitions. This includes engagement with CBD and in support of Mexico completion of GBF targets as per the country's NBSAP.

Indicator 4.1.2a: # of national workshop and dissemination events held.

Target 4.1.2a: 1 national workshop and dissemination event held.

Indicator 4.1.2b: # of people participating in national workshop and dissemination event (disaggregated by gender, recording level of Indigenous participation).

Target 4.1.2b: 400 people participating in national workshop and dissemination event (at least 50% women, disaggregated by Indigenous).

In relation to monitoring and evaluation and given FMCN and CONANP's current and prior shared experience with project monitoring and evaluation (including with GEF-funded FANP, CONECTA and C6), lessons learned from these experiences will inform the development of MEx30x30 M&E framework, including explicit mechanisms to enable adaptive management and to account for gender and cultural differences at the institutional and PA or ADVC level.

Outcome 4.2: Robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework applied to the MEx30x30 project to assess the effectiveness of interventions and guide adaptive management.

Outcome 4.2 entails the preparation and deployment of a robust, gender-responsive and inclusive M&E system for the MEx30x30 project. Timely, high-quality project reporting is critical for adaptive management, and given the scope of MEx30x30, adaptive management will likely be required during implementation. This highlights the importance of both designing appropriate systems and processes and staffing project management with appropriate M&E skills and capacity. Both FMCN and CONANP have considerable experience with successfully developing and implementing rigorous and adaptive monitoring and evaluations systems, including national-level projects such as FANP (which includes monitoring of over 52 million ha of PAs), as well sub-national projects such as CONECTA and C6. The reporting framework will be designed to meet the M&E needs under the GEF and CI GEF Agency with respect to impact measurement, as well as FMCN's own institutional monitoring requirements. Moreover, data and assessments from CONANP's "i-effectiveness" platform will be incorporated into the project's M&E system. This effectiveness evaluation platform incorporates information under five different themes (context and planning; administrative and financial; governance and participation; stewardship; and benefits provided) to calculate an index of management effectiveness, identifying both areas of strength as well as where improvements can be made (Bezaury-Creel 2024). As the i-effectiveness tool was designed for PAs, a valuable contribution of the Project will be to refine adaptation of the tool

to ADVCs under Component 1. Finally, the reporting system also will reflect the need to facilitate sharing of data and information between stakeholders to promote knowledge exchange under Component 4. Key indicators to track progress under the MEx30x30 system include performance ratings in Project Implementation Reports (PIR), the Mid-term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE).

Indicator 4.2: PIR, MTR and TE ratings.

Target 4.2: PIR, MTR and TE ratings scored as “Satisfactory” to “Highly Satisfactory”.

Output 4.2.1: Clear and robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework created and implemented.

The Results Framework (Annex C) is aligned with requirements and institutional metrics prescribed in the FMCN Operational Manual and will be tracked using its Project Tracking System (SISEP). The M&E system will be vital for both project governance and for substantive project delivery and reporting. The system will also serve as an accessible depository for data and information, as well as the products developed using that data and information, while reliably tracking and documenting the evolution and execution of product development processes. These functions combine the needs of project delivery and project oversight and will also generate the material that will inform knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and with other GEF-funded projects. The M&E system will incorporate (among other considerations) specific gender-related indicators, as per the project’s Gender Mainstreaming Plan. FMCN will be the lead party responsible for Output 4.2.1, with dedicated capacity in the project PMU.

Indicator 4.2.1: Number of M&E frameworks in operation.

Target 4.2.1: One M&E framework in operation.

Output 4.2.2: Project Implementation Reports, Mid-term Review, and Terminal Evaluation completed.

A core responsibility of MEx30x30 M&E capacity will be to ensure timely preparation and submission of PIRs. As part of M&E, the GEF Core Indicators will be updated in mid-term and final review and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report; the Mid-term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) will verify the information in these tracking tools. Per GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy the project will be subject to an MTR to be commissioned and launched by the Project Lead before the project reaches its mid-point, and to a TE at the end of the project. The MTR and TE will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office and will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools, as relevant. Both will be carried out using a participatory approach including consultations with parties that may benefit or be affected by the project, identified in the stakeholder analysis. The Project Steering Committee is the CT-FANP, and will participate in the MTR and oversee a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. Project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing. The draft TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comment. The final TE report will be publicly disclosed.

Indicator 4.2.2: % of required reports submitted to CI GEF Agency on time and determined to be satisfactory.

Target 4.2.2: 100% of required reports.

With these Outcomes and Outputs, the additionality offered by MEx30x30 with respect to Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) will be to advance the GEBs captured as Objective level indicators:

- Core Indicator 1: Improve management of 3,665,666 ha of terrestrial PAs

- Core Indicator 2: Improve management of 22,241,504 ha of marine PAs
- Core Indicator 6: Absorb and sequester an estimated 5.7 million MtCO₂e through improved PA management
- Core Indicator 11: Benefit at least 163,293 people (of which 50% will be women) through training for and implementation of sustainable management activities

A summary of incremental benefits of MEx30x30 that will make these advances on GEBs possible are tabulated below in Table 1.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF INCREMENTAL BENEFITS FROM THE PROJECT'S INTERVENTIONS

Business as Usual (without project)	Incremental Benefits (with project – contributions to baseline)
<i>CONANP budget shortfall</i>	<p>In the long term, the project will help close the financing gap by providing technical assistance to CONANP to develop new revenue streams (Output 1.1.1, 1.1.2). Identification of the revenue streams to prioritize will take place early in the implementation phase, but examples of likely options for consideration include Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), user fees, increased federal government budget appropriations, and environmental fees, fines and compensation. By developing these types of additional CONANP revenue, MEx30x30 will help the Government of Mexico discharge its public financing responsibility for the national protected area system.</p> <p>In the short to medium term, while public PA financing expands, MEx30x30 will address the annual financing gap by applying a long-term financial mechanism following a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach, which will include the mobilization of domestic and international funding sources to capitalize a Transition Fund to help cover CONANP's annual budget shortfall (Output 2.1.1, 2.1.2).</p>
<i>Insufficient CONANP capacity to pursue and use a diversity of revenue streams</i>	To ensure that CONANP houses the requisite capacity to develop and utilize new revenue streams, MEx30x30 will include training and capacity-building on conservation finance, administrative and financial requirements for different revenue sources, and optimization of use of available financial resources, not only for CONANP but also for its partners involved in on-the-ground management through the PA Learning Community (Output 1.1.3). This will address not only the needed technical capacities but also the institutional absorptive capacity to make efficient, cost-effective, and impactful use of additional funding.
<i>Recently established PAs and ADVCs exist as paper parks</i>	MEx30x30 will generate a direct incremental benefit by making available the funding needed to ensure effective management of 5 PAs and 1 complex of ADVCs (Output 3.1.1). Without the project these areas will be paper parks that remain vulnerable to various forms of pressure on their ecosystems: deforestation and degradation, encroachment, overharvesting of resources, and other unsustainable land use. Combined with training (see below), the GEF funds represent critical additionality that contributes directly to the Global Environmental Benefits sought by the project.
<i>IP&LCs in recently established PAs and ADVCs have insufficient capacity for sustainable management</i>	Sustainable management and effective participation by IP&LCs as co-managers of PAs and managers of ADVCs requires a specific knowledge base and skill sets. MEx30x30 will deliver incremental benefits by building capacity through training (Output 3.1.2) and then solidifying training and socioeconomic benefits through IP&LC sustainable management projects in each of the focal PAs/ADVCs (Output 3.1.3).
<i>Gender inequality in natural resource use and management</i>	MEx30x30 will mainstream gender considerations throughout its activities, with explicit targets for reduced gender inequality. A portion of communications, knowledge management, technical assistance, and capacity-building activities explicitly will be devoted to gender and social inclusion considerations, with specific attention to roles in natural resource management.

MEx30x30 will have a transformative impact by helping Mexico close the financing gap for the entirety of its protected area system. This not only will make it possible for Mexico to reach its 30x30 goal in terms of the number of hectares designated for conservation, but also will ensure that this area is under effective conservation management. Moreover,

effective conservation management is understood to encompass appropriate involvement of IP&LCs in PAs as well as ADVCS, which is critical as the only way that Mexico can achieve its 30x30 target will be to catalyze enormous scale-up in ADVCS designation.

A significant innovation of the project will be to deploy a long-term financial mechanism following a PFP approach for the first time led by a national institution (FMCN) rather than international NGOs. The evaluation of PFP initiatives to date commissioned by the Enduring Earth partnership found that the rate at which use of PFPs can expand appears constrained by the technical and human resource bandwidth of champions of the approach such as TNC and WWF. The important precedent that MEx30x30 will set is that the PFP approach does not need to rely heavily on international environmental NGOs, but that domestic conservation actors (notably existing Conservation Trust Funds of sufficient scale and capacity) can lead the implementation of ambitious financing strategies. Global progress toward sustainable financing for PA systems and achieving the GBF 30x30 target may be significantly accelerated as domestic actors in other countries follow this precedent.

Domestically, MEx30x30 will contribute to innovation through enhanced integration of ADVCS into CONANP's protected area management frameworks and processes, as a key community-lead strategy that directly contributes to 30x30 goals. One example in this regard will be the adaptation of CONANP's i-effectiveness tool for measuring effectiveness of PA management to make it suitable for measuring effectiveness of ADVCS management.^[5] The project will facilitate this adaptation effort and pilot the use of the adapted tool in its Chimalapas cluster site. This innovation will address a significant current gap, as provisions for monitoring of management effectiveness in ADVCS remains underdeveloped.

^[1] Prior PFPs such as Costa Rica Forever have utilized a "single close" approach, where all partners agree to meet a clear set of one-time prerequisites, such as committed funding, prior to implementation of fund activities (see Cabrera et al 2021).

^[2] Long-term sustainable finance mechanism here refers to a single initiative that secures important policy changes, and all funding necessary to meet specific conservation goals of the program over a defined long-term timeframe, to ensure the sustainability of the program.

^[3] During project implementation, it will be assessed if it will continue to operate as an endowment fund or if it will be converted to sinking fund and be part of the transition fund supported under Component 2. In both cases, the activities supported under Component 3 in the selected PAs will be implemented as described in this component and according to the results framework.

^[4] The Emergency fund is part of FANP, and currently operational in 70 PAs, under this project it will be expanded for the PAs supported under Component 3. The operational details of the Emergency Fund is described in FMCN [operations manual](#) (pp. 128).

^[5] Management effectiveness of protected areas is measured by CONANP using the "i-effectiveness" tool, similar to METT. The tool assesses 48 indicators in 5 Components (Management; Context & Planning; Administration & Finance; Uses & Benefits; and Governance & Social Participation); 30 of these indicators are shared with the METT. PAs are then rated on a 100 point scale as Outstanding (84-100); Highly Effective (68-83); Partially Effective (52-67); Ineffective (36-51); or Insufficient Information (0-35).

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Implementing and Executing Agencies

Conservation International (CI-GEF) is the GEF Implementing Agency for this project. Overall, the CI-GEF Implementing Agency will be responsible for technical and financial oversight of the project, being accountable to GEF. CI-GEF, ensures the project complies with the GEF's policies and procedures, including M&E, Gender, stakeholder engagement, and safeguards. CI-GEF Agency will also make recommendations to optimize project performance, support strategic

decisions and adaptive management as needed and ensure the resolution of any execution conflicts. Specifically, CI-GEF will undertake the following tasks:

- Facilitate interactions with the GEF Secretariat.
- Provide technical and financial oversight to the Executing Agency.
- Oversee and monitor implementation of the project including reviewing technical and financial project reports, undertaking annual project site visits/desk reviews, and monitoring the implementation of and compliance with safeguards.
- Ensure that project management practices (technical, financial, and administration) comply with GEF requirements.
- Monitor the project's implementation and achievement of the project outputs.
- Ensure proper use of GEF funds.
- Review and approve any changes in budgets or work plans.
- Quality assurance includes ensuring that audits are undertaken by external auditors.
- Oversee the preparation of the annual project implementation report (PIR) for submission to the GEF Secretariat (GEFSEC).
- Commission the project's Mid-Term Review and Terminal evaluation.

The Executing Agency (EA) will be the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN), which has implemented three successful projects (FANP 1, FANP 2 and Conservation of Coastal Watersheds in the Context of Climate Change Project), has one project under implementation (CONECTA) and has one project in the pipeline corresponding to the GEF-8 allocation (ORIGEN). In total FMCN has received more than US\$70 million from the GEF. The EA will guide and lead the day-to-day execution, administration, and monitoring of the project; be responsible for financial management of the project; and facilitate knowledge sharing and information flow. FMCN will host the PMU and ensure coordination with key stakeholders including CONANP as the government counterpart and partner of this project.

The EA (through the PMU) will report technically and financially to CI-GEF by preparing and submitting the annual budget and work plan, quarterly financial and technical progress reports, the annual Project Implementation Report (PIR), an annual project and program-level progress report and the Final project and program Project Report. Specific tasks of the EA include:

- With guidance from CI-GEF, the EA will be responsible for the day-to-day project management and overall coordination of the MEx30x30 project.
- The EA will be responsible for ensuring that key entities such as executing teams, delivery partners, external-sub-grantees, and service providers deliver efficiently and effectively in line with project outputs/outcomes and in contribution to the targets.
- The EA will be responsible for Monitoring & Evaluation, including verification that gender, stakeholder engagement, and safeguards requirements are met.
- The EA will support the mobilization of co-financing and report its materialization to CI-GEF.
- The EA will ensure timely financial and technical progress reporting to CI-GEF.
- The EA will participate in the MTR and TE processes leading the coordination at a national level with the external consultants.
- The EA will lead the organization and participate in the supervision visits conducted annually by CI-GEF.
- Host the PMU including the provision of technical input across components and guidance on operations.
- Guide preparation of Terms of Reference and manage consultants' contracts to ensure delivery of outputs.
- Maintain records of all project-related documentation
- Guide the preparation and dissemination of knowledge management products.
- Ensure financial auditing of the project.

The Project Management Unit (PMU)

The EA will recruit and host a team of specialists that will comprise the PMU; this team will be distributed among FMCN functional units (see PMU composition below, and distribution of positions among Components in Figure 5). With

guidance from the EA, the PMU will be responsible for overall project management, supervising consultants, ensuring project success, and EA reporting to the CI-GEF Agency. The PMU Lead will report to the EA.

Overall, the PMU will be responsible of day-to-day project activities and monitor progress, and coordinate and support external sub-grantees and service providers as needed to ensure efficient and effective delivery of the project's target results. As needed, consultants will be hired to provide technical assistance for specific tasks requiring expertise that cannot be undertaken by the PMU and executing partners. The composition of the Project Management Unit (PMU) is listed below, by position title and FMCN unit housing the position:

- a. Project Lead (FMCN Conservation Unit, part-time)
- b. Conservation Technical Officer (FMCN Conservation Unit, full-time)
- c. Follow-up Officer (FMCN Finance Unit, full-time)
- d. Institutional Strengthening Coordinator (FMCN Conservation Unit, supporting CONANP full-time)
- e. Funding Mobilization Coordinator (FMCN Research and Development unit, part-time)
- f. Safeguards and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Coordinator (FMCN Research and Development unit, part-time)^[1]
- g. Communications Specialist (FMCN Research and Development unit, part-time)

Generally, the PMU will be responsible for:

- Financial management, including procurement and record-keeping
- Reporting and disbursements (financial)
- Project and program monitoring and reporting (technical)
- Preparation and submission of all technical and financial reports to the CI-GEF Agency
- Monitoring and reporting materialization of co-financing to CI-GEF
- Actively coordinate the flow of inputs, procurement, outputs, and work streams to ensure the project runs smoothly and delivers the specified outputs and overall objectives, including those of CIGEF when needed.
- Organizing and facilitating workshops and travel, including supervision visits and evaluations.
- Identification of potential risks to project activities and implementation of mitigation measures to overcome them.
- Knowledge Management.
- Setting up, monitoring, and reporting implementation progress of environmental and social safeguards.
- Ensure the smooth running of the project through continuous monitoring, coordination, and communication among partners, consultants, stakeholders, etc.

Project Steering Committee

MEx30x30 will build on FANP institutional arrangements, which have been recognized as best practice by GEF project completion reports. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be the FANP Technical Committee (CTFANP) that was established in 1997 and will have its 92nd meeting in April 2024. According to its by-laws, CTFANP is composed of nine members selected by the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) and ratified by the FMCN Board, representing the social, private, public and academic sectors. CTFANP is part of FMCN's legal structure, reporting to both the FMCN Board and CONAP.

- By law CONAP is an advisory body on PAs to the Environmental Ministry. It has 30 members that come from the public, private, social and academic sectors and has held 62 meetings since it was first established in 1996. CONAP is currently renewing its membership to achieve gender balance.
- The FMCN Board is composed of seven members (four women and three men) that report to a 25-member Assembly composed of private, public and social sectors (11 women and 14 men).

CTFANP responsibilities include the allocation of funds per PA; the review of annual operating plans and their reports; and the selection of organizations that administer annual operating plans for PAs, as well as consultants. It also addresses challenges and opportunities that arise in the supported PAs, and it authorizes requests for emergency funds in response to fires, hurricanes, as well as damages to coral reefs. The connection of CTFANP to CONAP allows for coordination with other initiatives that take place in PAs throughout Mexico. Through FMCN, CTFANP interacts with

initiatives overseen by FMCN's four additional technical Committees, which include projects in marine conservation, regenerative ranching, development of community enterprises, watershed management and sustainable cities. During the first meeting after MEX30x30 approval, FMCN will propose the CTFANP to include the Ministry of Finance (SHCP) and the Ministry of Environment's International Affairs Coordinating Unit (SEMARNAT- UCAI) as observers. Also, during the next phase FMCN will discuss with CONANP and FMCN board the potential to integrate CI-GEF as an observer in specific sections of CTFANP that address MEX30x30. Specifically, CTFANP will review and approve the Annual Work Plans and Budget as well as the M&E plan for the project. Additionally, the CTFANP is required to authorize any substantive deviation from the agreed Annual Work Plan (AWP) and budget lines to be included in budget revisions submitted to CI-GEF. Specific roles and responsibilities of the CTFANP include:

- Foster adaptive management.
- Ensure that project objectives are fulfilled in an effective and efficient manner.
- Ensure institutional coordination and facilitate an effective communication and decision-making process between the EA, CONANP and CI-GEF.
- Monitor project implementation to ensure consistency with the approved work plans and results framework of the project.

Detailed Institutional Arrangements

In 1997 the first GEF project in Mexico created the Fund for Protected Areas (FANP) in FMCN. FANP is the result of a public-private partnership between CONANP and FMCN established through collaboration agreements that have been renewed through five federal administrations in 26 years. FANP started channeling the annual interest of US\$16.48 million in 1998 to ten protected areas (PAs). Today its capital has reached US\$165 million, which supports 55 PAs. Non-endowment funds support an additional 15 PAs. In total, in 2024 FMCN will be channeling a projected US\$10 million to these 70 PAs under the management of CONANP. In this way, FANP acts as an umbrella mechanism inside FMCN, with several different accounts for different projects.

By statute, CONANP cannot receive funds directly; therefore, after signing a grant agreement with CI-GEF, FMCN will manage GEF funding for execution of project activities led by CONANP. FMCN is recognized for its administrative capacities and conducts all procurement for FANP. The FMCN Operational Manual, which reflects lessons learned in 26 years, describes its procurement procedures, project cycle, reporting and oversight. In MEX30x30 CTFANP will review and approve the annual operating plans for components 1 and 2, which will focus on increasing the fiscal budget for CONANP and raising funds from additional public, philanthropic and private sources while the financial gap is closed by CONANP. For component 1 a project coordinator hired with project funds within FMCN's Conservation Area will develop annual plans and ensure that the required consultancies and workshops taking place according to procedures. For component 2 FMCN will strengthen its Research and Institutional Development (R&D) Area with one coordinator and one communication specialist (both part-time, FMCN will provide funds to cover these positions fully) to raise a transition fund that covers the financial gap while public funds increase and the PFP process is ready. The coordinator will provide reports on advances to CTFANP. Annual interest from the endowment will be channeled to each PA or ADVC according to the distribution agreed by CTFANP. FMCN will hire a technical analyst in its Conservation Area and an administrative analyst in its Finance Area to support CONANP in the development of Annual Operating Plans (POAs), and a safeguards and monitoring and evaluation specialist (part-time) will support overall project monitoring and implementation of safeguards tools and plans. POAs will be derived from five-year plans developed by CONANP with the support from project staff. CTFANP will select local organizations to administer the POAs per PA. Local organizations work with CONANP to break POAs into weekly plans, proceed to spend funds accordingly, prepare administrative reports and support CONANP with technical reports. MEX30x30 reports will be coordinated by FMCN's Conservation Area.

In terms of the endowment funds in component 3, FMCN will be responsible for the financial management building on its 30-year experience. FMCN has an Investment Committee composed of seven finance specialists who oversee asset investment according to the Investment and Spending Policy included in FMCN's Risk Control Manual. They rely on an independent financial advisor who presents investment options according to the requirements of each project and a long-term vision. The Finance Area at FMCN ensures that the decisions made by the Investment Committee are executed. The independent financial advisor provides the instructions to the custodian for the purchase and sale of

instruments. The selection of both the custodian and independent financial advisor is reviewed every five years. FMCN closed 2023 with a 17.63% annual return and an endowment of US\$192.5 million. In the last twenty years FMCN's endowment has had an average annual return of 5.63% in US\$ and is invested almost fully in financial instruments with an overall A rating grade for ESG standards (MSCI classification).

FMCN undergoes internal and external audits. The Institutional Accompaniment Committee (CAI) oversees risks and internal audit reports. The internal auditor reports to this Committee and also has direct access to FMCN's Board as she is the contact for any disputes or serious complaints that require analysis and response. External auditors report to the President of the CAI, the Commissioner and the General Director. The Commissioner, as the Oversight Body of FMCN, attends all Board meetings and informs the Assembly at its meeting every June on its opinion based on the review of the report of the external auditors. FMCN held its 120th Board meeting in March 2024.

Figure 4: Flows of Funds

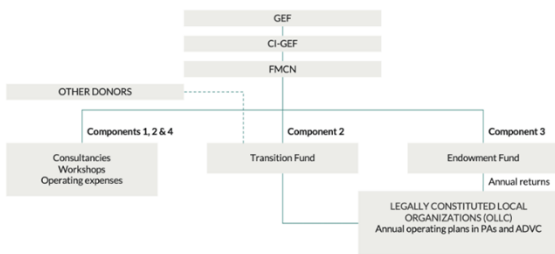
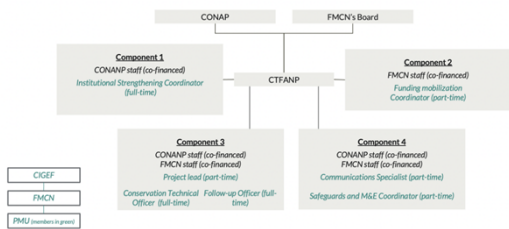


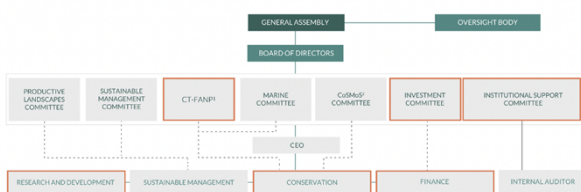
Figure 5: Institutional Arrangements



Note: FMCN will propose the CTFANP to include the Ministry of Finance (SHCP) and the Ministry of Environment's International Affairs Coordinating Unit (SEMARNAT-UCAI) as observers. Also, during the next phase FMCN will discuss with CONAP and FMCN board the potential to integrate CI-GEF as an observer in specific sections of CTFANP that address MEX30x30.

Note: FMCN will propose the CTFANP to include the Ministry of Finance (SHCP) and the Ministry of Environment's International Affairs Coordinating Unit (SEMARNAT-UCAI) as observers. Also, during the next phase FMCN will discuss with CONAP and FMCN board the potential to integrate CI-GEF as an observer in specific sections of CTFANP that address MEX30x30.

Figure 6: FMCN organizational structures involved in MEx30x30.



¹ FANP: Protected Areas Fund.
² CoM&S: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mountains and Mountain Ranges.

FMCN organizational structures involved in MEx30x30.

[\[1\]](#) In addition to the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, the project will be supported by a co-financed Safeguards Officer hosted at FMCN Conservation Unit

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

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 (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines.

As per the GBFF Programming Directions, the GBFF performance will be monitored using the GEF Trust Fund Core Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and all their sub indicators as well as 9 and sub-indicators 9.4 and 9.5 (see Annex 3 of the Programming Directions). Projects are encouraged to capture any co-benefits from the project in other GEF core indicators.

Additional indicators will be introduced to monitor policy elements of projects supported by the GBF Fund. They may draw on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework once it is agreed.

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)
3802036	3665666.04	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)
3802036	3665666.04	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
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Balam KA			463,441.76	463,441.76					
C.A.D.N. R. 043 Estado de Nayarit			2,329,026.76	2,192,656.80					
Chimalapa Complex			438,662.66	438,662.66					
Papigochic			222,763.85	222,763.85					
Sierra Tecuani			348,140.97	348,140.97					

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
22241503.99	22241503.95	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	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 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
22241503.99	22241503.95	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Bajos del norte			1,304,114.89	1,304,114.89					
Caribe Mexicano			5,754,055.40	5,754,055.36					
Islas del golfo			374,553.60	374,553.60					
Revillagigedo			14,808,780.10	14,808,780.10					

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)
0	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)

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)

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)

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)

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)	8300000	5700000	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)	8,300,000	5,700,000		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025	2025		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

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	83,000	83,000		
Male	80,293	80,293		
Total	163,293	163,293	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)

Core Indicator 1: The target for terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness is the total area (per official government geospatial data) of the 4 terrestrial PAs (Balam-Kú, Riego043, Papigochic, Tecuani) and and the ADVC complex (Chimalapas) in which the project will work to apply funding solutions, enhance management capacity, and implement sustainable management initiatives with IPLCs.

Core Indicator 2: The target for protected areas under improved management effectiveness is the total area (per official government geospatial data) of the marine protected area (Bajos del Norte) in which the project will work to apply funding solutions, enhance management capacity, and implement sustainable management initiatives with IPLCs, and three other marine protected areas (Caribe Mexicano, Revillagigedo, Islas del Golfo) that will participate in the project's capacity-building processes.

Core Indicator 6: Mitigated emissions. We used the following assumptions:

1. Data from Hansen (2013) was obtained, which provides information on forest change patterns worldwide. Using this tool, deforestation was estimated for the period 2012 to 2022 in each of the selected ANP and ADVC for this analysis.
2. Land use and vegetation were estimated for each polygon based on the Comprehensive Monitoring System for Biodiversity and Degradation in Protected Natural Areas PNUD (2018).
3. The scenario for land use and vegetation was calculated for 20 years was estimated for each of the ANP. To make this estimate, the set of models from the Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) software was used, based on the average observed deforestation rate.
4. On the other hand, using the ex-ante carbon balance tool (EX-ACT) from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an estimate of the carbon reservoirs generated by each of the ecosystems present in the selected ANP was obtained.
5. In the case of conservation:

- a. It was assumed that the expected deforestation would convert forests and rainforest to agriculture in the absence of the project.
- b. It was assumed that support for protected areas in Mexico can protect up to 23% of the trend deforestation, derived from the GEF impact evaluation study for protected areas in Mexico (Hansen et al., 2015).

Core Indicator 11: The target number of beneficiaries is the number of people resident within the PAs and ADVCS where MEx30x30 will be supported under Component 3, as documented by CONANP and the national population census.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	<p>Assessment: Mexico is vulnerable to the impacts from climate change. Climate change-related risks include failure to adequately determine the extent to which and to what degree priority areas for conservation, protected area boundaries and sustainable livelihoods will be impacted by climate change over various timeframes, thereby undermining the ability to fully achieve environmental and socioeconomic objectives over the long term. Climate change impacts and their variability can manifest in many different forms and could occur more quickly or slowly than currently projected. Impacts from climate change could alter priority areas for conservation, make existing protected area boundaries less effective, and increase threats to the country's most important ecosystems and biodiversity. Adaptive measures implemented by the project, particularly with regards to the capacity to accurately foresee likely impacts on priority areas for conservation, could also be inadequate. Mitigation Measures: The Government of Mexico and CONANP have taken a number of measures and developed specific strategies to ensure projections from the likely impacts of climate change are understood and incorporated into planning, decision-making and management components of the country's protected natural area system. For example, from 2013-2021, CONANP, CONAFOR and CONABIO implemented the GEF-UNDP funded "RESILENCIA" project, which allowed for the country's protected area system to be spatially configured and managed to improve resilience of the system given the likely projected impacts from climate change on key ecosystems and</p>

		<p>biodiversity. The RESILENCIA project was implemented in 17 terrestrial, coastal and marine protected natural areas covering 7.8 million ha in 12 eco-regions. Lessons learned from the project have enabled for increased institutional capacity and more effective management system for protected natural areas facing impacts from climate change.</p>
Environmental and Social	Moderate	<p>Assessment: It is not expected that the project could bring adverse environmental and/or social impacts. There may be some unintended outcomes from project activities that do not fully account for the environmental and socioeconomic contexts involved with protected natural area and ADVC management and restoration, notably when IP&LCs and other vulnerable communities are involved. Effective planning and management of protected natural areas and restoration of degraded areas includes outreach, engagement and collaboration with local communities, many of which are heavily dependent on natural resources and often rely on complex and/or unresolved land tenure arrangements. This is particularly true with IP&LCs, notably ones with ancestral territorial claims. Inappropriate restoration strategies, such as the use of non-native species that could displace biologically and/or economically important flora and fauna, could also create both environmental and social risks. Failure to adequately address these risks could lead to conflicts among and within communities over a wide spectrum of land use issues, undermining both the environmental and socioeconomic objectives of the program. Mitigation Measures: To mitigate environmental and social risks from the project's protected natural area and restoration activities, the project will draw heavily on the considerable prior and current experience within both CONANP and FMCN to successfully design and implement projects that comprehensively address environmental issues while simultaneously safeguarding and enhancing socioeconomic wellbeing of project participants. Specific environmental and social risks associated with IP&LCs will be addressed and mitigated through both FMCN and CONANP's previously used and successful model of partnerships with these stakeholders. Both CONANP and FMCN have robust policies and procedures to assess and mitigate environmental and social risks. Safeguard screening for the project has also considered principal environmental and social risks and will be used to inform development of relevant safeguard plans for all identified issues, notably those focused on gender, stakeholder consultation processes and Indigenous peoples. CONANP capacities on gender, social and environmental safeguards will be further strengthened under component 1.</p>
Political and Governance	Moderate	<p>Assessment: The project faces political and governance risks that could undermine fully achieving its proposed outcomes. Many of Mexico's protected areas, ADVCs and IP&LC territories are in rural, high poverty areas, heavily dependent on natural resource use and often under</p>

		<p>unsustainable practices that maximize shorter-term gains. Protected natural area management and restoration priorities run the risk of colliding with shorter-term priorities, both with communities as well as municipal and/or state leaders. The issue of territorial claims from IP&LCs can also create political and governance risks, particularly is there are unresolved legal aspects to the claims. Several of the project areas are also characterized by security concerns, posing a risk to both communities and any personnel involved in the project development and management process. The reason why the risk is moderate is because National elections will also take place in 2024, creating the potential risk of changes in key personnel with government agencies supporting Mexico’s protected natural areas system project and/or changing policies and priorities of a new government, notably with regards to fulfilling funding commitments for conservation and restoration-related initiatives. Mitigation Measures: To mitigate these risks, the project has aligned its outcomes and governance structure with government policies and priorities, notably those of CONANP and its strategies and frameworks for managing the country’s protected area’s system as well as the larger MEx30x30 national commitment to achieve effective management of 30% of Mexico’s important areas for biodiversity by 2030. This commitment is enshrined in Mexico’s National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan, ENBioMex, thereby creating a strong mechanism to help guarantee continuity with future administrations. Furthermore, CONANP and FMCN have worked together successfully for well over two decades with five federal administrations, regions, and IP&LCs, building close, collaborative links to advance Mexico’s biodiversity-and sustainable development-related goals. The project will use this long collaboration, its joint partnership in the Protected Areas Fund (FANP) and project governance structure to mitigate political risks and ensure continuity and successful completion of its objectives.</p>
<p>INNOVATION</p>		
<p>Institutional and Policy</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Assessment: Mexico is an OECD country with strong political and economic institutions, and ambitious international commitments to safeguard its globally important biodiversity. However, the country continues to face significant socio-economic challenges with high levels of poverty, socioeconomic marginalization and heavy dependence on natural resources to sustain livelihoods, particularly in rural areas and IP&LCs. These challenges create considerable risks to Mexico’s policies related to conservation and restoration, and by extension, to the goals of the project. Specifically, strategies and policies could change to focus more on socio-economic development over conservation, notably through measures that maximize short-term growth and unsustainably use natural resources. Mitigation Measures: To mitigate institutional and policy risks, the project will align outcomes and activities closely with Mexico’s national-level strategies, priorities and policies, notably</p>

		<p>Mexico’s National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan, ENBioMex, and its MEx30x30 commitment. At the project design and implementation level, FMCN will coordinate all activities with CONANP and relevant government agencies, using its 26 year successful track record with FANP and multiple projects to ensure outcomes align with and strengthen national policies. In particular, CONANP’s role as the leading federal agency in the project will ensure continued alignment and complementarity with Mexico’s environmental and socio-economic strategies and politics.</p>
Technological		Does not apply
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	<p>Assessment: The MEx30x30’s model focuses launching a long-term financial mechanism following a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach that includes a transition fund to cover CONANP’s funding gap with other donor revenues until public revenues increase to cover costs needed to reach Mexico’s 30x30 goals. Primary risks include: 1) Financial assumptions and projections that form the basis of the PFP and CONANP’s funding gap are incorrect, resulting in larger than anticipated gaps and operational shortfalls in protected area management; 2) FMCN is unable to secure the necessary funds from other donors to cover CONANP’s funding gap, thereby undermining CONANP’s ability to increase the necessary capacity to reach project and 30x30 goals, and/or; 3) anticipated federal funds to support CONANP’s expanded protected areas network and requisite capacity for effective management are not allocated as planned. Mitigation Measures: To mitigate the project's financial model risks, both FMCN and CONANP will draw on their long, successful history of securing funding sources and developing effective finance mechanisms for Mexico’s natural protected area system. Specifically, the CONANP-FMCN partnership with the FANP has been in place for over a quarter of a century, raising over \$165 million from 25 donors from various sectors and supporting effective management for 70 protected areas. Individually, FMCN has nearly three decades of fundraising and financial mechanisms development experience, securing funding and creating effective mechanisms for over \$200 million in endowment and sinking funds, including the establishment of regional funds. FMCN has demonstrated a continued ability to secure funding from a broad range of sectors, helping to mitigate any potential financial shortfall risks with the project. As a member of the Latin American Environmental Funds network (RedLAC), FMCN is recognized for its best practices and efficient fundraising and sound financial mechanism development. RedLAC provides a network platform for Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs), who many have successfully mobilized financing for PFPs. FMCN also holds membership in Mexico Conservation Founders (MCF) and Ensemble -the two networks of philanthropies in Mexico, thereby deepening its ability to secure diverse funding sources. To mitigate financial risks from its end, CONANP will draw on its</p>

		<p>experiences and expertise in maintaining strong support from multiple successive administrations to conserve Mexico’s most important biodiversity and achieve international conservation commitment goals like 30x30. Moreover, CONANP will access its deep expertise in developing a diverse range of successful funding streams for Mexico’s protected area system including federal-level appropriations, entrance and use fees, payments for ecosystem services and other related compensatory measures.</p>
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	<p>Assessment: While Mexico has strong project management and institutional capacity, given the project’s objectives of closing the funding gap, increasing CONANP’s institutional capacity and improving management of natural protected areas and ADCVs, there are a number of risks for this project. Key risks include: 1) not securing adequate funding to fill the funding gap and successfully launch the PFP, leading to lower than needed levels of capacity and failure to achieve the expansion of CONANP’s ability to meet MEx30x30 goals; 2) failure to effectively use secured funding to adequately and sustainably improve protected area and ADVC management, and; 3) project restoration efforts lack the capacity and resources necessary to ensure effective implementation and long-term sustainability of restored areas. Mitigation Measures: Both CONANP and FMCN have individually and through their 26-year partnership with FANP demonstrated high levels of institutional capacity and over multiple projects, the ability to successfully build additional capacity and ensure sustainability of project outcomes. CONANP oversees a system of 226 protected areas , consistently demonstrating its ability to increase protected area coverage while simultaneously increasing both institutional and site-level management capacity. Likewise, FMCN has built considerable institutional capacity and is a recognized leader in securing resources and developing financial mechanisms (trust, sinking funds) to help secure sustainable outcomes. Jointly, they both have successfully administered the FANP since 1997, supporting 70 federal protected areas 36.6 million ha, which corresponds to 39% of the protected territory (13% terrestrial and 26% marine). To mitigate institutional capacity risks for this project, the following measures will take place during implementation: 1) Close coordination between CONANP and FMCN to identify current and potential capacity gaps at the institutional and site-level and ensure project design includes capacity-building measures, with adequate resources allocated in the budget; 2) Through the project monitoring and evaluation system, identifying capacity gaps that arise during implementation and making adaptive management corrections as needed, and; 3) Working closely with key stakeholders, including the Government of Mexico and the donor community, to both secure the funding needed to launch the PFP and fill the funding gap, as well as</p>

		ensure federal appropriations are sufficient to reach the long-term budget goals.
Fiduciary	Low	<p>Assessment: Failure to conduct adequate financial management and procurement presents several risks to the project, including misuse or misallocation of funds. As securing additional funds to launch a PFP, fill a funding gap and build additional CONANP capacity are key project objectives, there are multiple levels at which improper financial management can create risks to effective implementation. Mitigation Measures: To mitigate fiduciary risks, both CONANP and FMCN will use the financial management system, which includes policies and procedures that they have developed and successfully used in other GEF-funded projects, including CONECTA and C6, as well as in its effective management of FANP since 1997. These system include detailed operational manuals with policies and procedures for all aspects of project financial management, including procurement, oversight and reporting. Regular reporting to GEF will include detailed financial reports in line with agency reporting requirements, thereby allowing for any discrepancies to be identified and remedied. Internal and external audits are conducted as part of all FMCN projects.</p>
Stakeholder	Low	<p>Assessment: Project success depends on effective stakeholder engagement and commitment to achieving institutional- and site-level objectives. Ineffective or incomplete engagement processes could result in a full or partial failure to implement project activities. Specific stakeholder engagement risks for the project include: unintended exclusion of key stakeholders at the federal level, protected area stakeholders and/or IP&LC level; failure to develop an inclusive and culturally appropriate engagement strategies, notably with IP&LCs, women and other vulnerable populations in project areas; and inadequate and/or inappropriate knowledge-sharing and communication of project objectives and progress to key stakeholders. Mitigation Measures: Both CONANP and FMCN have extensive, recognized experience and expertise with stakeholder engagement and facilitating multi-stakeholder processes, so their collective experience and guidelines will be utilized to mitigate stakeholder engagement risk. Specifically, to mitigate stakeholder engagement risk, the project will: 1) Apply lessons learned from prior CONANP, FMCN and similar projects for effective stakeholder engagement, including those supported by GEF; 2) Ensure all project activities comply with GEF environmental and social safeguards, including gender mainstreaming, stakeholder engagement, Indigenous peoples and development of grievance accountability and redress mechanisms; 3) Fully utilize the project's governance structure to conduct outreach with key stakeholders from the national to local level, and; 4) Develop culturally appropriate communication and knowledge sharing strategies and mechanisms to ensure key stakeholder groups</p>

		understand project objectives and progress, can access necessary information, and can effectively address grievances.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Low	Mexico has strong project management and institutional capacity, given the project’s objectives of closing the funding gap, increasing CONANP’s institutional capacity and improving management of natural protected areas and ADCVs. CONANP and FMCN have individually and through their 26-year partnership with FANP demonstrated high levels of institutional capacity and over multiple projects, the ability to successfully build additional capacity and ensure sustainability of project outcomes and stakeholder engagement. FMCN has robust fiduciary and monitoring systems

D. ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Identify the specific GBFF Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.

Please identify in the project tags which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how in this section.

For Multi-Trust Fund projects, please explain alignment with the 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. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

MEx30x30 will directly contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by advancing Goals A, B and D (relating to conservation, sustainable use and adequate implementation, respectively), and several GBF targets, as summarized in the table below.

GBFF Action Areas	GBF Targets	MEx30x30 Components
Action Area One: Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use and spatial planning	Targets 1 (spatial planning), 2 (restoration), and 3 (biodiversity conservation, including 30x30 for PAs-OECMs)	Component 3 will support conservation and restoration actions in PAs and ADVCS, defined in Annual Operating Plans and implemented jointly with IP&LCs.
Action Area Two: Support to IP&LC stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters	Targets 1 (spatial planning), 2 (restoration), 3 (biodiversity conservation, including 30x30 for PAs-OECMs), and 22 (IPLCs)	Component 3 will focus on enabling IP&LCs to undertake sustainable management in PAs and AVDCs, with training and support for implementation of sustainable management activities. Component 1 will strengthen governance capacity of IP&LCs

		through training provided through learning exchanges.
Action Area Four: Resource mobilization	Targets 18 (incentives) and 19 (financing)	In Component 1 CONANP will develop and deploy new revenue streams to address the PA system budget shortfall. Component 2 will design and launch a Project Finance for Permanence initiative to address the PA financing gap while CONANP develops revenue streams.
	Target 23 (gender)	Gender-responsiveness and social inclusion are integrated throughout the design of MEx30x30.

Mexico's National Biodiversity Strategy (ENBioMex) and 2016-2030 Action Plan seek to increase efforts that positively impact biodiversity and reduce the direct causes of its loss. ENBioMex is a public policy instrument that aims to achieve, by 2030: the continuous provision of ecosystem services for the development of life and well-being; the fair and equitable distribution of benefits derived from biodiversity; a joint commitment of government and society to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem functionality. The design of MEx30x30 is closely aligned with these instruments, particularly the strategic axes pertaining to Knowledge, Conservation and restoration, Attention to pressure factors, and Mainstreaming and governance, and the action areas relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the action areas: 1.1 Generation, documentation and systematization of knowledge, 1.2 Traditional knowledge, 1.4 Development of tools for access to information, 2.1 In situ conservation, 2.3 Restoration of degraded ecosystems, 4.2 Prevention, regulation and control to avoid over-exploitation of species, 4.3 Prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, 4.6 Reduction of biodiversity vulnerability to climate change, 4.7 Land use planning and sustainable urban development, 6.1 Harmonization and integration of the legal framework, 6.2 Consolidation of the institutional framework and public policies for integration and mainstreaming, and 6.3 Social participation for biodiversity governance. See Annex K for a mapping of MEx30x30 components to key elements of ENBIOMEX.

The MEx30x30 components build on over two decades of investment and lessons learned from prior and current GEF investments, including the FNAP, CONECTA and C6 projects. MEx30x30 also aligns closely with GEF's Mesoamerica IP through its reinforcement of Mexico's protected area network, mobilization of new financial resources, and knowledge sharing and capacity building.

E. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Yes

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

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:

Amount (\$) of GBFF project financing to support actions by IPLCs	PIF Stage	CEO endorsement stage
	12,051,639.00	12,146,999.00

If resources have been identified here, please provide a short justification for why they were included, with cross-reference to relevant project components and/or outputs:

The success of MEx30x30's goal of creating or improving the management of over 28 million ha of protected areas and ADVCS (22.2 million ha of marine and 3.6 million ha of terrestrial) will depend in large part on IP&LCs having the requisite skills and knowledge to not only successfully manage these areas, but to also receive tangible, sustainable socioeconomic benefits. To ensure effective management that delivers sustainable benefits for IP&LCs, MEx30x30 will allocate over US\$12 million for Component 3 (*Strengthening recently established PAs, and ADVCS managed by IP&LCs, to conserve, restore and sustainably manage territories*), matched with an additional US\$14.1 million in co-financing. Component 3's allocation will: 1) engage IP&LCs and other stakeholders in an inclusive participatory process to develop Annual Operating Plans for the project's focal PAs and ADVCS; 2) provide training and capacity-building to

IP&LCs in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices; and 3) support IP&LCs and local organizations to implement the Annual Operating Plans . To ensure the sustainability of PA and ADVC management and restoration, a funding mechanism will also be established to provide long-term support to emergency-response brigades with IP&LC team members in and around the focal PAs and ADVCS. These brigades will allow for rapid responses to natural disasters such as forest fires, landslides and floods, which if unchecked, could undermine the long-term sustainability of PA/ADVC management and restoration efforts. From this US\$12.05M, over \$5.8 M will support directly GBFF Action Area 2.

Development of Annual Operating Plans, training and implementation will all be undertaken through a robust gender-responsive and inclusive approach, carefully considering the needs of women and marginalized members of IP&LCs. Given the large-scale nature of the focal PAs and ADVCS (over 28 million combined hectares in six different regions across Mexico, including Indigenous areas) and target beneficiaries (over 163,000, half of which will be women), Component 3 will require a substantial investment by GEF and CONANP in community engagement, capacity-building, knowledge sharing and oversight.

Are IPLCs to receive and manage resources for the execution of project components/activities?

Yes

Are IPLCs leading the design and management of some project activities but do not manage financial resources?

Yes

Does the project provide in-kind support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity?

Yes

Are IPLCs part of the project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body?

No

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

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

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

F. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project, these have been clearly described in the Project Description, and they will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

Total GEF Financing Table

Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds. All GEF sources of funds should be included here.

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
CI	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	9,169,862.00	825,288.00	9,995,150.00
CI	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	5,835,367.00	525,183.00	6,360,550.00
CI	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	Grant	1,667,248.00	150,052.00	1,817,300.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						16,672,477.00	1,500,523.00	18,173,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

300,000.00

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

27,000.00

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
CI	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	165,000.00	14,850.00	179,850.00
CI	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	105,000.00	9,450.00	114,450.00
CI	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	30,000.00	2,700.00	32,700.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					300,000.00	27,000.00	327,000.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for non-GBFF GEF resources (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Actual Focal Area Programming	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
Total GEF Resources					0.00

Action Area Elements (and Focal Area Elements for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	9,169,862.00	63,724,380.00

GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	5,835,367.00	40,308,450.00
GBFF Action Area 4	GBFF	1,667,248.00	11,516,702.00
Total Project Cost		16,672,477.00	115,549,532.00

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	CONANP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	FMCN	Grant	Investment mobilized	12,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	FMCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,067,000.00
GEF Agency	Conservation International	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,482,532.00
Total Co-financing				115,549,532.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

From FMCN, USD \$12,000,000, which are endowment funds for marine PAs provided by KfW Development Bank resources to complement Mex30x30 for Component 3 (already deposited). In addition, USD \$1,067,000, which will cover recurrent expenditures for Component 2, 4 and PMC.

From CONANP, \$100,000 in-kind co-financing, to represent CONANP's complete annual budget upon the successful completion of the project in 2030.

From Conservation International, \$2,482,532 in-kind co-financing to cover organizations costs during project implementation.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification :

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
		Daniela Carrion		dcarrion@conservation.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFF	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Israel Alejandro Camacho Bahena	Sustainable Finance Director	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit	2/29/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also copy and paste the Project Results Framework from the project document below.

Objective:	To help Mexico advance toward the Global Biodiversity Framework 30x30 target through long-term sustainable financing for the existing national protected areas. ^[1]
Indicator(s):	<p>a. Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (<i>Target: 3,665,666 ha</i>)^[2]</p> <p>b. Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (<i>Target: 22,241,504 ha</i>)^[3]</p> <p>c. Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (<i>Target: 5.7 million tons</i>)^[4]</p> <p>d. Number of people experiencing socioeconomic benefits (male/female) (<i>Target: 163,293 people; 50% female</i>)^[5]</p>

Component 1: Strengthening CONANP to increase its budget and manage PAs and ADVCs effectively.			
<p>Outcome 1.1: CONANP's budget and capacity to effectively manage PAs and ADVCs has increased.</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1: % decrease (after third year of project implementation) in annual CONANP budget shortfall as a result of new revenue streams.</i></p>	<p>Baseline 1.1: 0% decrease in annual CONANP budget shortfall as a result of new revenue streams.^[6]</p>	<p>Target 1.1: 10% decrease (after third year of project implementation) in annual CONANP budget shortfall as a result of new revenue streams.</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are identified. <i>Indicator 1.1.1: # of feasibility reports and action plans for accessing new revenue streams completed.</i> <i>Target 1.1.1: 1 feasibility report and action plan for accessing new revenue streams completed.</i></p> <p>Output 1.1.2: New revenue streams to increase CONANP's budget are accessed. <i>Indicator 1.1.2: # of new revenue streams accessed and contributing to CONANP budget.</i> <i>Target 1.1.2: At least one new revenue streams accessed and contributing to CONANP budget.</i></p> <p>Output 1.1.3: The institutional capacity of CONANP is enhanced through expanding the Protected Areas Learning Community (community of practice). <i>Indicator 1.1.3a: % improvement in CONANP institutional capacity assessment score.</i></p>

			<p>Target 1.1.3a: 15% improvement in CONANP institutional capacity assessment score. [7]</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.3b: Increase in Protected Areas Learning Community membership (disaggregated by gender and IPLC membership).</p> <p>Target 1.1.3b: At least 100 new members are part the Protected Areas Learning Community, of whom at least 50% are women.</p>
Component 2: Mobilizing funding to cover the financial gap in PAs while the public funding reaches its target.			
<p>Outcome 2.1: Donor support is secured to cover the financing gap for effective management of existing PAs over the next 15 years.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1: Percentage of required funding for a Transition Fund to cover PA financing gaps for 15 years.</i></p>	<p>Baseline 2.1: 1 M funding secured for a Transition Fund through MEx30x30.</p>	<p>Target 2.1: 100% required Funding^[8] pledged for phase one of a Transition Fund.</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: Funding pledged to address identified financial gaps.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.1: Amount of donor funding pledged to address financing gap for phase one during transition period.</i></p> <p><i>Target 2.1.1 100% of required funding for phase one pledged to address financing gap during transition period (amount to be confirmed in step 5 and 6 of long-term sustainable finance mechanism design process;).</i></p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Long-term sustainable finance mechanism/PFP^[9] is designed.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.2: Number of long-term sustainable finance mechanism, designed and ready for closing. [10]</i></p> <p><i>Target 2.1.2: One long-term sustainable finance mechanism designed and ready for closing.</i></p>
Component 3: Strengthening recently established PAs, and ADVCS managed by IPLCs, to conserve, restore and sustainably manage territories.			
<p>Outcome 3.1: PAs and ADVCS are effectively managed and directly generating inclusive, gender-equitable benefits for IPLCs.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1a: % improvement in PA management effectiveness score, as measured by i-effectiveness evaluation. [11]</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1b: # people experiencing socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits through effective PA or ADVCS management</i></p>	<p>Baseline 3.1: 0 improvement in PA management i-effectiveness score.</p> <p>Baseline 3.1b: people experiencing socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits through effective PA or ADVCS management (disaggregated by gender and IPLCs).</p>	<p>Target 3.1a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For PAs with a rating of “Highly Effective” or “Outstanding”: Maintained or increased management effectiveness score. For PAs with a rating of “Ineffective” or “Partially Effective”: i-effectiveness score increased by at least 15 points. <p>Target 3.1b: 163,200 people experiencing socioeconomic and/or environmental benefits</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1: Five-year plans, and associated Annual Operating Plans (POAs), developed for PAs and ADVCS through an inclusive participatory process coordinated by CONANP.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.1: # of gender-responsive and inclusive Annual Operating Plans prepared and implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.1: 1 gender-responsive and inclusive Annual Operating Plan prepared and implemented per PA or ADVCS per year of the project (6 total).</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Gender-responsive and inclusive training provided to</p>

<p>(disaggregated by gender and IPLCs).</p>		<p>through effective PA or ADVC management (at least 50% female, desegregated by gender and IPLCs).</p>	<p>local communities in PAs and ADVCS to enhance their skills and knowledge in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.2: # of people trained in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices (disaggregated by gender, recording level of Indigenous participation).</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.2: At least 100 people per PA or ADVC trained in sustainable land management, conservation and restoration practices (at least 50% women; level of Indigenous participation proportional to Indigenous percentage of local population).</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.3: IPLCs and local organizations implement gender-responsive and inclusive conservation, restoration and sustainable management actions defined in POAs.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.3: % of targets reached in POAs, which include gender-responsive and inclusive management actions implemented by IPLCs and local organizations in PAs and ADVCS.^[12]</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.3: At least 80% of targets reached in POAs.</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.4: Emergency fund expanded ^[13] to support emergency-response brigades.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.4: % of valid emergency funding requests that result in financial support within 72 hours.</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.4: at least 90% of funding requests resulting in delivery of financial support within 72 hours.</i></p>
<p>Component 4: Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation for scaling impact.</p>			
<p>Outcome 4.1: MEx30x30 and related programs and initiatives in Mexico and elsewhere benefit from gender-responsive and inclusive learning and knowledge exchange to inform future scale-up.</p>	<p>Baseline 4.1: No scale-up strategy documents based on MEx30x30 experience.</p>	<p>Target 4.1: 1 scale-up strategy document based on MEx30x30 experience.</p>	<p>Output 4.1.1: Ongoing lessons learned from MEx30x30 and other long-term sustainable finance mechanisms and PA scaling experiences documented and disseminated, with a focus on nationally led long-term sustainable finance mechanisms.</p>

<p><i>Indicator 4.1: # of scale-up strategy documents based on MEx30x30 experience.</i></p>			<p><i>Indicator 4.1.1: Number of lessons-learned knowledge products prepared and shared (including products with a focus on gender and inclusion).</i> <i>Target 4.1.1: At least 4 lessons-learned knowledge products prepared and shared (including at least one with a focus on gender and inclusion).</i></p> <p>Output 4.1.2: National workshop and dissemination event held to finalize scale-up strategy document based on MEx30x30 experience. <i>Indicator 4.1.2a: # of national workshop and dissemination events held.</i> <i>Target 4.1.2a: 1 national workshop and dissemination event held.</i> <i>Indicator 4.1.2b: # of people participating in national workshop and dissemination event (disaggregated by gender, recording level of Indigenous participation).</i> <i>Target 4.1.2b: 400 people participating in national workshop and dissemination event (at least 50% women, desaggregated by indigenous).</i></p>
<p>Outcome 4.2: Robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework applied to the MEx30x30 project to assess the effectiveness of interventions and guide adaptive management.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.2: PIR, MTR and TE ratings.</i></p>	<p>No ratings.</p>	<p>Target 4.2: PIR, MTR and TE ratings scored as “Satisfactory” to “Highly Satisfactory”.</p>	<p>Output 4.2.1: Clear and robust gender-responsive and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation framework created and implemented. <i>Indicator 5.1: Number of M&E frameworks^[44] in operation.</i> <i>Target 4.2.1: One M&E framework in operation.</i></p> <p>Output 4.2.2: Project Implementation Reports, Mid-term Review, and Terminal Evaluation completed. <i>Indicator 4.2.2: % of required reports submitted to CI GEF Agency on time and determined to be satisfactory.</i> <i>Target 4.2.2: 100% of required reports.</i></p>

^[4] This Objective is aligned with GBFF targets and responds to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

^[2] The target for protected areas under improved management effectiveness is the total area of the 5 terrestrial protected areas in which the project will work to apply funding solutions and enhance management capacity.

^[3] The target for protected areas under improved management effectiveness is the total area of the marine protected areas in which the project will work to apply funding solutions and enhance management capacity, including three co-financed areas.

1. ^[4] Data from Hansen (2013) was obtained, which provides information on forest change patterns worldwide. Using this tool, deforestation was estimated for the period 2012 to 2022 in each of the selected ANP and ADVC for this analysis.
2. Land use and vegetation were estimated for each polygon based on the Comprehensive Monitoring System for Biodiversity and Degradation in Protected Natural Areas PNUD (2018).
3. The scenario for land use and vegetation was calculated for 20 years was estimated for each of the ANP. To make this estimate, the set of models from the Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) software was used, based on the average observed deforestation rate.
4. On the other hand, using the ex-ante carbon balance tool (EX-ACT) from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an estimate of the carbon reservoirs generated by each of the ecosystems present in the selected ANP was obtained.
5. Once the aforementioned data was obtained, the amount of carbon that would be lost if the same patterns of forest cover loss observed between 2012 and 2022 continue was calculated using the InVEST tool, assuming the trend will continue in the absence of the project.
6. In the case of conservation:
 - a. It was assumed that the expected deforestation would convert forests and rainforest to agriculture in the absence of the project.
 - b. It was assumed that support for protected areas in Mexico can protect up to 23% of the trend deforestation, derived from the GEF impact evaluation study for protected areas in Mexico (Hansen et al., 2015).

^[5] The target number of beneficiaries is the number of people resident within the PAs where MEx30x30 will be supported under Component 3, as documented by CONANP and the national population census.

^[6] Early in the first year of implementation CONANP and FMCN will develop a refined analysis of the current financing gap; this analysis will include determination of the baseline budget shortfall for this indicator.

^[7] The project will prepare a capacity assessment tool and establish a baseline in the first year of implementation to capture the following areas prioritized for capacity strengthening: 1) CONANP capacities to face climate change events ; 2) Mainstreaming gender, environmental and social safeguards; 3) Monitoring and measuring efficiency of ADVCS; and 4) Governance and participation.

^[8] *Required funding* refers to the funding identified after the financial gap estimation and the financial model assessed for the objectives agreed by the coalition for the first phase, which includes steps 5 and 6 of Component 2 process.

^[9] Long-term sustainable finance mechanism here refers to a single initiative that secures the funding necessary to meet specific conservation goals of the program over a defined long-term timeframe, to ensure the sustainability of the program.

^[10] Steps required before closing are: 1. Formation of a coalition of institutions; 2. Hiring and designation of long-term sustainable finance mechanism design team; 3. Development of a shared conservation vision; 4. Financial gap estimation; 5. Design of a conservation plan; 6. Design of a financial model or plan; 7. Design of the institutional arrangements for the adequate implementation of the initiative; 8. Assessment and development of domestic mechanisms for sustainable financing (through Component 1); 9. Design and implementation of a communications strategy.

^[11] Management effectiveness of protected areas is measured by CONANP using the “i-effectiveness” tool, similar to METT. Management effectiveness of protected areas is measured by CONANP using the “i-effectiveness” tool, similar to METT. The tool assesses 48 indicators in 5 Components (Management; Context & Planning; Administration & Finance; Uses & Benefits; and Governance & Social Participation); 30 of these indicators are shared with the METT. PAs are then rated on a 100-point scale as Outstanding (84-100); Highly Effective (68-83); Partially Effective (52-67); Ineffective (36-51); or Insufficient Information (0-35).

^[12] Each POA typically defines five principal Outputs to be achieved through the types of activities listed above, with at least five indicators and corresponding targets. Examples of indicators used in POAs include:

- Number of people who adopt better sustainable practices; number of people who participate in training;
- Number of citizen participation forums strengthened; number of partnerships between key stakeholders for the conservation of natural resources;
- Number of hectares implementing restoration processes; number of hectares under sustainable management activities such as agroforestry or sustainable livestock farming; number of hectares protected and/or maintained as biological corridors;
- Number of monitoring or management actions implemented for protected and endangered species.

[13] 'Emergency fund' refers to a specific financial mechanism existent under FANP that will be expanded under this project for PAs under Component 3 for the purpose of providing immediate and flexible financial resources in crisis or emergency situations.

[14] This Results Framework will be aligned with the criteria of the FMCN manual and will be tracked using the Project Tracking System (SISEP).

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Personnel-Project Design and Coordination	171,000.00	0.00	171,000.00
International Consultant- ProDoc Development	75,000.00	0.00	75,000.00
International Consultants- Safeguards, Permanence Financing Project (PFP), Carbon Mitigation	54,000.00	0.00	54,000.00
Total	300,000.00	0.00	300,000.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

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	23.06172222	-88.95700000	

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:

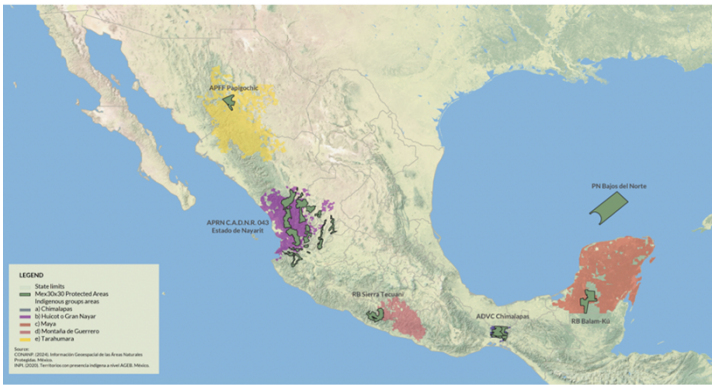
Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tecuani	17.71100000	-100.50300000	

Location Description:

Centroids of polygon

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

- 20240423 CI-GEF GENDER MAINSTREAMING PLAN (GMP)
- 20240423 Accountability & Grievance Mechanism (AGM)
- 20240423 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (ESMP)
- 20240423 Community Health Safety and Security Plan (CHSSP)
- 20240423 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)
- 20240423 Indigenous Peoples Plan IPP
- 20240423 ESS Preliminary Screening Form
- 20240423 CI GEF ESS Screening Report Mex30x30

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (US\$eq.)						Total (US\$eq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)	
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4		Sub-Total			PMC
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 4.1 KM	Outcome 4.2 M&E				
	Personnel- Project Lead						-	100,972	100,972	
	Personnel-Institutional Strengthening Coordinator	566,084					566,084		566,084	
	Personnel-Funding Mobilization Coordinator		263,109				263,109		263,109	
	Personnel-Communications Specialist				235,064		235,064		235,064	
	Personnel-Conservation Technical Officer			22,772		21,879	44,650		44,650	
	Personnel- Technical Development Officer (Follow-up Officer)			22,772		21,879	44,650		44,650	
	Personnel- Safeguards Officer and M&E Coordinator					22,134	22,134		22,134	

Personnel and Professional Services	Personnel- Finance Director						-	303,647	303,647	Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN)
	Personnel- Treasury Specialist						-	140,178	140,178	
	Personnel- Administrative and Procurement Officer						-	90,239	90,239	
	Personnel- Internal Audit Specialist						-	19,668	19,668	
	Personnel- Research and Institutional Development Director						-	61,864	61,864	
	Contractual Services-Diagnosis, strategy, and development of sustainable financing mechanisms	500,000					500,000		500,000	
	Contractual Services- Strengthening the methodology and measurement of the effectiveness of the ANP system including ADVCS	200,000					200,000		200,000	
	Contractual Services-Strengthening institutional safeguards and gender of CONANP	250,000					250,000		250,000	
	Contractual Services- Natural Disaster Management, including rapid response systems	50,000					50,000		50,000	
	Contractual Services-Annual Project Audit						-	77,359	77,359	
	International Consultant- Mid-term and Terminal Evaluation					120,000	120,000		120,000	
Contractual Services- Financial Model and Transition Fund Design		250,000				250,000		250,000		
Travel, Meetings and Workshops	Workshops to socialize the Financing Strategy	51,901					51,901		51,901	
	Experience Exchange Workshops				36,000		36,000		36,000	
	Capacity Strengthening Workshops for Safeguards, Gender, and PA Management	55,047					55,047		55,047	
	Workshop to evaluate the Effectiveness Index	11,468					11,468		11,468	
	FMCN Planning Workshops to each PA and 1 ADVC			17,192			17,192		17,192	
	FMCN Supervision Visits to 5 PAs and 1 ADVC			77,804			77,804		77,804	
	Inception Workshop					728	728		728	
	Annual CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions ²					39,274	39,274		39,274	
Grants and Agreements	Closing Workshop					22,909	22,909		22,909	
	Endowment to 5 PAs and 1 ADVC complex			12,000,000			12,000,000		12,000,000	
Equipment	Transition fund to cover the financial gap in PAs		1,000,000				1,000,000		1,000,000	
	Computers	3,030	3,030	6,060	3,030		15,150		15,150	
Other Operating Costs	Bank Fees	400	400	400	800		2,000		2,000	
	Stationery and office supplies	2,360					2,360		2,360	
Grand Total	Communication supplies				1,026		1,026		1,026	
		1,690,290	1,516,539	12,146,999	275,920	248,802	15,878,550	793,927	16,672,477	

Footnotes
1: Safeguards Officer will be covered by co-financing
2: CI-GEF Agency costs will be covered by Agency Fees

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX H: BLENDED-FINANCE RELEVANT ANNEXES

Please use the most up to date templates per the most recent call for proposals.

ANNEX H.1: Termsheet

Instructions. This termsheet to be submitted with the PIF/PFD should include sufficient details to allow a financial expert to understand and judge the financial viability of the proposed investments. Indicative terms and conditions should be used when specific details are not yet available. An equivalent termsheet used for internal Agency purposes is acceptable but must include sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality.

ANNEX H.2: Agency capacity to implement blended finance projects

Instructions. Any financial returns, gains, interest or other earnings and remaining principal will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. and the GEF Non-Grant Instrument Policy.