Strengthening of Biosphere Reserves of Ecuador, as a Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Development

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
11018

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

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

Project Title
Strengthening of Biosphere Reserves of Ecuador, as a Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Development

Countries
Ecuador

Agency(ies)
UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)
Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecorregion (CONDESAN)

Executing Partner Type
CSO

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Pasture Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity, Biomes, Tropical Dry Forests, Tropical Rain Forests, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Communications, Education, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Participation, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management

Sector
AFOLU

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date
4/29/2022

Expected Implementation Start
9/1/2022

Expected Completion Date
5/1/2026

Duration
44In Months

Agency Fee($)
173,516.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Landscapes and marine habitat under improved management (excluding protected areas	GET	1,826,484.00	11,243,550.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**1,826,484.00**	**11,243,550.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

The project seeks to strengthen the management of the seven biosphere reserves (BR) of Ecuador through the design and implementation of multi-level and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, the adoption of planning tools with a landscape approach and the improvement of governance, training and communication. The project also aims to improve the conservation, sustainable development and research functions in two specific BRs: Bosque Seco in Loja (RBBS) and Choc? Andino in Pichincha (RBCAP).

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1 Enabling environment for the management of biosphere reserves in Ecuador	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1 Key tools that mainstream the landscape approach into territorial management and contribute to sustainable development in Ecuador applied by official entities involved in the management of biosphere reserves at national and subnational levels, as measured by: a) 2 national interinstitutional coordination or governance mechanisms, including: -1 intersectoral, multilevel governance mechanism with technical and administrative procedures operating, established through an inter-institutional agreement and -National MAB committee with official national and local representation and civil society participation created and operational, with relevant participation of	Output 1.1 Intersectoral and multilevel coordination and governance mechanisms are available and operational to promote better dialogue and foster information exchange between national and subnational stakeholders involved in biosphere management in Ecuador Output 1.2 Methodologies and tools are designed and available to guide local governments on how to integrate biosphere reserve management and the landscape approach in their territorial planning.	GET	149,705.00	2,429,346.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2 Enhanced capacities for conservation and sustainable land management	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2 Tools applied and capacities of local stakeholders increased to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems, and halt land degradation in Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserves, as measured by: a) Increase of 20% in the knowledge of key stakeholders involved in local management committees about issues related to sustainability and the importance of functionality of biosphere reserves, as a result of the implementation of the communications strategy with a gender equality approach, as measured through an an evaluation administered at the outset and end of project. b) 2 local management committees, operational and strengthened in Choc? Andino	Output 2.1 Governance systems within targeted BRs are improved through the strengthening of local management committees. Output 2.2 Improved tools for the management of local conservation areas are available to protect and restore high conservation value ecosystems in each targeted BR. Output 2.3 Capacities of local stakeholders are improved to effectively manage Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco biosphere reserves through training, research and learning activities. Output 2.4 Communication actions increase awareness of stakeholders in RBCAP and RBBS and facilitate stakeholder engagement in	GET	602,736.00	4,560,621.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3 Value chains and sustainable land management practices that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3 Incomes of local producers in the Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserves increased through the adoption of SLM practices and strengthening of bio-enterprises, ensuring broad participation of men and women, as measured by: a) At least 14,519 hectares within RBCAP and RBBS under improved management to benefit biodiversity through conservation and sustainable use b) 140 ha of forest areas important to recover connectivity restored c) 481 ha of high conservation value forest loss avoided d) At least 200 ha of landscapes under SLM practices in productive systems e) 220 629 tCO2-e avoided	Output 3.1 Bio-enterprises are strengthened in the two targeted BRs to support the integration of SLM practices in key value chains. Output 3.2 Sustainable land management practices are adopted by local farmers in the targeted biosphere reserves. Output 3.3 Knowledge management and dissemination increase implementation of best SLM practices and improve decision making.	GET	826,526.00	1,758,627.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
M&E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4 M&E mechanisms established by the project for adaptive management as measured by: a) All annual reports (PIRs) submitted b) Safeguards compliance c) Terminal evaluation	Output 4.1 Project monitoring and evaluation are carried out.	GET	81,476.00	1,393,654.00
				Sub Total ($)	**1,660,443.00**	**10,142,248.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	166,041.00	1,101,302.00
Sub Total($)	**166,041.00**	**1,101,302.00**
Total Project Cost($)	**1,826,484.00**	**11,243,550.00**

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Mancomunidad de Municipalidades del Sur Occidente de la provincia de Loja "Bosque Seco"	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	79,395.00
Recipient Country Government	Mancomunidad de Municipalidades del Sur Occidente de la provincia de Loja "Bosque Seco"	Grant	Investment mobilized	231,075.00
Other	UNESCO - Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences and Secretary of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,556,000.00
Other	Programa de Apoyo al Sistema Nacional de ?reas Protegidas (KfW)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Other	Programa de Apoyo al Sistema Nacional de ?reas Protegidas (KfW)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transici?n Ecol?gica	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	872,748.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transici?n Ecol?gica	Grant	Investment mobilized	552,900.00
Civil Society Organization	CONDESAN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	225,519.00
Other	REM PROGRAMME	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,148,000.00
Other	REM PROGRAMME	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,502.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Gobierno Aut?nomo Descentralizado de la Provincia de Pichincha	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	880,253.00
Recipient Country Government	Gobierno Aut?nomo Descentralizado de la Provincia de Pichincha	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,263,532.00
Recipient Country Government	Secretar?a de Ambiente de Quito	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	328,626.00
Recipient Country Government	Secretar?a de Ambiente de Quito	Grant	Investment mobilized	305,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**11,243,550.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

1.Mancomunidad de Municipalidades del Sur Occidente de la provincia de Loja "Bosque Seco": equipment for bioenterprises of bamboo, honey, sugar cane and cabuya was considered as investment mobilized. 2.Secretar?a de Ambiente del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito: activites such as evaluation and monitoring of conservation actions, generation and updating of management instruments and wildfire suppression were considered as investment mobilized. 3.Gobierno Aut?nomo Descentralizado de la Provincia de Pichincha: equipment for restoring infrastructure of reserves, equipment for monitoring, control and research, restoration activities, training, workshops, improvement of facilities and maintenance, computer, cameras, drones and support to improve the governance of the reserve were considered as investment mobilized. 4.Programa de Apoyo al Sistema Nacional de ?reas Protegidas (KfW): activities such as financing bioenterprises, strengthening capacities in Biosphere Reserves, and equipment were considered as investment mobilized. 5.Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transici?n Ecol?gica: a technological platform was considered as investment mobilized. 6.REM Program: activities such as consultancies to strengthen forest governance in Biosphere Reserves, restoration and sustainable livestock activities, support to bioenterprises, training on natural resources conservation, implementation of management plans, and equipment and machinery were considered as investment mobilized.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,826,484	173,516	2,000,000.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**1,826,484.00**	**173,516.00**	**2,000,000.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **false**

PPG Amount ($)

PPG Agency Fee ($)

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

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	140.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	140.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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 shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	15200.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	14,519.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	200.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	481.00		

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	220629	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (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 CO?e (direct)		220,629		

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2023		
Duration of accounting		14		

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 CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (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)

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		645		
Male		645		
Total	0	1290	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

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

1. Ecuador is one of the 17 megadiverse countries of the world and is home to three of the world?s biodiversity hot spots namely the humid forests of the northwest, outside faces of the mountain range and the Amazon forests of the northeast (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2021). However, Ecuador faces ecosystem degradation and land use changes that are leading to habitat and biodiversity loss. Several authors have argued that deforestation is one of the major causes of biodiversity loss. Official data shows a tendency toward reducing net annual deforestation rate; however, the net annual rate of deforestation between 2008 and 2014 is still significant with a loss of 47,497 hectares (FAO, 2017). The main drivers of deforestation in the country are the expansion of agricultural and livestock areas (where unsustainable land use practices are predominantly applied), urban growth, and extractive activities (Sierra 2013, FLACSO, MAATE, PNUMA 2008). Infrastructure construction, such as opening roads, encourages new waves of colonization and further fronts for deforestation (particularly in the Amazon region) that enables oil exploitation, mining (including illegal mining), logging, poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. In addition, environmental pollution as well as climate change exacerbate processes that drive habitat loss and degradation (MAE 2014). Finally, the effect and expansion of invasive species which occupy habitats or prey on local and endemic flora and fauna pose a serious threat to biodiversity in Ecuador, particularly in the Galapagos.

2. Ecuador has developed several responses to address these threats, including the establishment of protected areas that cover approximately 20% of its territory, and more recently the creation of Biosphere Reserves (BR), under the umbrella of UNESCO?s Man and Biosphere Program (MAB). According to the UNESCO, a BR integrates three main functions : i) conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity; ii) economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable; and iii) research, monitoring, education, and training to underpin development. The focus of BR management is to promote a landscape approach where synergies among sustainable practices, conservation strategies and restoration goals are enhanced, while strengthening mechanisms to foster collaboration and participation is also critical. In this context, BRs provide a learning and coordination platform where points of view from representatives from civil society, public and private sector, academia, and local communities converge to promote sustainability goals in the management of their territory.

3. Thus far, Ecuador has created seven BRs (Archipi?lago de Gal?pagos, Yasun?, Sumaco, Podocarpus-El C?ndor, Macizo de Cajas, Bosque Seco (which is part of the Reserva Transfronteriza Bosques de Paz, Ecuador, Paz), Choc? Andino de Pichincha), which cover an accumulated area of more than 3 million hectares. The first BR established was the Gal?pagos Archipelago in 1984, while the most recent is the Choc? Andino de Pichincha in 2018. All seven BRs are part of a network coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) in line with guidelines provided by the Lima Action Plan. In 2009, an Action Plan of the BR was agreed with relevant stakeholders and four strategic lines were established: i) redesign of the National MAB Committee and set up Management Committees for each BR, ii) foster the exchange of experiences among BRs, iii) articulate local development planning tools within BRs, and iv) monitoring BR management.

4. The management of BRs faces critical barriers that undermine their contribution toward sustainable development in Ecuador:

? Weak governance and interinstitutional coordination mechanisms to foster collaboration among stakeholders at different levels within BRs.

? Lack of appropriate land use planning tools that help managers address BR functions (including zoning, effective guidelines for sustainable use, control mechanisms and monitoring) and based on very limited information about the biodiversity in core zones (e.g., no inventories have been done on gamma diversity).

? Inappropriate use of natural resources and unsustainable land management practices, which undermines the viability of local livelihoods in the long run; limited access to credit, training and technical assistance to support sustainable land management are issues that limit options for small landowners.

? Products from sustainable agricultural practices and emergent bio-enterprises that have limited access to markets and with weak links within critical value chains, while conventional productive activities lack sustainable practices.

? Significant gaps between available knowledge, participation of stakeholders and weak sharing mechanisms to foster mutual learning.

5. By promoting the widespread adoption of SLM practices, bioenterprises and the associated value chains have the potential of reducing land use change pressures on remaining ecosystems in BRs, fostering the diversification of local livelihoods towards activities that add value and products that have access to markets that put a premium on sustainability. In the case of the Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve (RBBS), local actors have developed different strategies to foster the conservation of key dry forest ecosystems including bioenterprises aimed at adding value to bamboo (e.g. through the

production of handicrafts) and honey from native bee species. Both value chains have the potential of fostering ecosystem conservation and restoration, which is especially challenging in the dry forest due to difficulties in accessing water and fertile soils by smallholder farmers. In the case of the Choc? Andino Biosphere Reserve (RBCAP), tourism has become a promising economic alternative in the area given the proximity from/to Quito, which has driven new investments in recent years from newly arrived residents from Quito?s urban areas, as well as companies that develop nature-based tourism (particularly birdwatching). Furthermore, a local network of young environmental leaders is working on an initiative called La Chala, which aims to facilitate access to local and urban markets in Quito for food items produced using agroecological principles. Also, farmer associations in the parish of Pacto produce and export organic raw cane sugar. The potential to diversify and escalate the adoption of conservation, restoration and sustainable production practices in the RBCAP is linked to the short and medium term market opportunities that the resulting products will have. Therefore, there is a potential to commercialize agroecological products in urban markets close to the two BRs (e.g. Quito, Loja and other intermediate cities) that the project will build upon.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

6. Co-financing during the lifetime of the project and relevant projects that the Country Office will implement to support BRs are presented as the baseline, which amounts to a total of USD 20,151,634. This amount includes co-financing from public institutions such as the local government of Pichincha, which will support the governance of the RBCAP to strengthen conservation efforts, improve facilities and maintenance of infrastructure, contribute to monitoring and research activities, promote sustainable productive projects of bamboo and coffee, and implement restoration projects (USD 2,143,785). The Secretary of Environment from the Municipality of Quito will support specific areas of the RBCAP such as the Yumbos and Yunguilla, the Ecological Corridor Reserve of the Andean Bear, and the Pichincha Atacazo Area of Special Intervention and Recovery with evaluation and monitoring of conservation actions, generation and updating of management instruments, wildfire suppression, promotion and dissemination of the importance of protected areas, among others (USD 633,626). The Ministry of Environment will support interinstitutional coordination among the Biosphere Reserves with the update of an existing technological platform and personnel for technical assistance and oversight (USD 1,425,648).

7. The UNESCO MAB Program will contribute to strengthening the management of Biosphere Reserves in Ecuador by enhancing capacities for knowledge management, conservation and sustainable land management (USD 1,556,000). The Support Program for the Protected Areas National System will finance bio-enterprises in the Yasun? Biosphere Reserve as well as strengthen the capacities of the communities in the Yasun? Biosphere Reserve (USD 1,600,000). The REM Program will support BRs by strengthening local governance to prevent deforestation and develop a territorial management model for sustainable development in the Condor Podocarpus Biosphere Reserve. The REM Program will also

support the strengthening of the management committee of the Choco Andino Biosphere Reserve, promote the development of sustainable bioenterprises in the RBCAP and RBBS along with sustainable livestock practices and restoration activities and carry out awaraness campaigns to prevent deforestation in both reserves (USD 3,348,502). The Mancomunidad de Bosque Seco will provide equipment for bio-enterprises of bamboo, honey, sugar cane and cabuya (USD 310,470). Condesan will provide technical assistance for the implementation of sustainable land management practices and capacity building for conservation (USD 217,168).

8. Additional projects that the Country Office will implement to support BRs during the lifetime of this project are the seventh operational phase of the GEF Small Grants Program, which supports community bio-enterprises and initiatives that promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in the Yasun? Biosphere Reserve (USD 87,134). The Results Based Project REDD+ will incentivize the local governments of Zapotillo (RBBS) and Quito (RBCAP) to implement conservation and restoration activities in their territories (USD 206,997) , and it will begin the restoration process of 1000 hectares in the province of Zamora Chinchipe which partially covers the Podocarpus-El Condor Biosphere Reserve (USD 1,200,000). The PROAmazon?a Program will strengthen the capacities of local governments in the Amazon, (applicable to the Yasun?, Podocarpus-El Condor and Sumaco Biosphere Reserves) to implement land use plans that incorporate sustainable production, climate change, conservation, gender and interculturality criteria and the use of interinstitutional coordination platforms (USD 133,313). In addition, the PROAmazon?a Program is supporting bio-enterprises of non timber forest products (NTFP) and the transitioning to sustainable production of coffee, cacao, and livestock in the Zamora Chinchipe province, which covers a significant area of the Podocarpus-El Condor Biosphere Reserve (USD 2,000,000). In the Napo and Orellana provinces, which cover the Sumaco Biosphere Reserve, the Program is supporting the strengthening of forest control, bio-enterprises of NFTP, and the transition to sustainable production systems of palm oil, livestock, coffee and cocoa (USD 3,500,000). The project Integrating landscape considerations in wildlife conservation, with emphasis on jaguars will support the conservation of jaguars and associated wildlife and their habitats in landscapes across Andean Amazonian foothills and southern Amazonia Condor- Kutuk? mountain range (relevant for Podocarpus - El Condor and Sumaco Biosphere Reserves) (USD 1,788,991). Additional baseline investments will be identified during project implementation and the project will work to maximize relevant linkages, synergies and knowledge exchange.

9. Approximately 2 million people live within the boundaries of the seven BRs and heavily rely on ecosystem services, natural resource management and agricultural activities. Approximately 13% of BR inhabitants self-identify as indigenous people (~252,932), who primarily live in rural areas (~158,422). Access to ecosystem services is key to their wellbeing (particularly regarding water provision and regulation), especially when BR inhabitants face critical poverty levels in terms of unmet needs (41.7%), almost doubling the national average (26.8%). Deforestation and loss of biodiversity in BR directly affects women, indigenous people and marginalized groups in particular, since their livelihoods depend on the availability and quality of natural resources. In this context, supporting small landowners to transition toward sustainable pathways is fundamental to guarantee healthy and

diversified livelihoods, with increased income generation opportunities, food security and risk management.

The Choc? Andino de Pichincha Biosphere Reserve

10. The Choc? Andino de Pichincha Biosphere Reserve (RBCAP) covers an area of 268,834 hectares. It was added to the network of biosphere reserves in 2018. It is located in the North Andes Ecoregion and is part of the Choc? Biogeographic Region. Several researchers point to the diversity and high endemism of the area, including Dinerstein (1995) ; Sierra et.al. 2001 and Justicia (2007) . The area is a global hotspot of biodiversity and endemism of vascular plants and birdlife and has been identified as a national priority for biodiversity conservation (Cuesta et al. 2017) .

11. Several endangered or threatened species are found in the area, such as: spectacled bear (Tremarctos ornatus), gallo de la pe?a (Rupicola peruviana), olingo (Bassaricyon gabbii), and tigrillo (Leopardus spp.). Among the amphibians, a highlight is the presence of Cochranella orejuela registered in the area of Mashpi for the first time in Ecuador , in addition to 31 species of the genus Pristimantis (cutines). The Andean marsupial frog (Gastrotheca riobambae) and the guagsa (Stenocerecus guntheri) are also part of the registered herpetofauna.

12. The economic activities in the Reserve revolve around tourism, agricultural production (coffee, cocoa, palm hearts, sugar cane-panela-brown sugar loaf) and cattle ranching for milk and meat.

13. The Choc? Andino Reserve just completed the development of its management model. Its management committee has been devised but is not yet operational.

Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve

14. The Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve (RBBS) is located in the Provinces of Loja (Paltas, Celica, Pindal, Puyango, Zapotillo, Macar?, Sozoranga cantons) and El Oro (Las Lajas canton of El Oro Province).

15. The Association of Municipalities of the Southwest of Loja Province - Bosque Seco (Bosque Seco Association) is the organization that promoted the recognition of the territory as a

biosphere reserve. It was formed in 2007 and legally constituted in 2011. It aims to manage, enhance and optimize financial, material, human and technological resources, to obtain greater effectiveness in the integral management of water, environmental quality, roads and community tourism within the framework of principles of equity, solidarity, honesty and transparency with common policies and strategies (Mancomunidad de Bosque Seco, 2018) . The Association covers some basic expenses for the management of the Reserve and has a person in charge of the coordination of the Association and the Reserve. The Association has had a coordinating and motivating role for actions aimed at improving the management of the Reserve since it has legally recognized statutes and institutionality.

16. The territory of the Province of Loja contains more than 90% of the Reserve, therefore the provincial government is an important stakeholder. Although it has not been visibly involved in the management of the reserve, nor in its declaration, it carries out conservation activities, sustainable development, water resource management and training in the territory of the Reserve.

17.

Another important stakeholder is the Regional Water Fund (FORAGUA), formed by 12 municipalities in the southern part of Ecuador, plus the NGO Nature and Culture International (NCI). Four of these municipalities are inside the fund (Macar?, Pindal, Celica and Puyango). FORAGUA's aim is to promote the conservation of water sources for human consumption, through actions to protect water bodies and to preserve and restore ecosystems.

18. The Bosque Seco Reserve constitutes the Ecuadorian portion of the Peace Forests Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, shared with Peru. It was established in 2017 and has a governance agreement involving the respective national management committees, in the case of Ecuador the Bosque Seco Reserve Management Committee (coordinated by the Bosque Seco Association) and for the Peruvian side, the Northeast Amotapes-Mangroves Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Committee.

19. The Bosque Seco Reserve has a management model that should be assessed and a management committee that needs to be strengthened.

20. Efforts to manage BRs in Ecuador have been largely driven by local stakeholders particularly local governments and civil society. In the two targeted reserves, the Choco Andino and Bosque Seco Reserves, conservation measures have been established, such as local conservation areas created by local governments and private reserves. These efforts have allowed the conservation and recovery of ecosystems. However, many of these initiatives lack frameworks/guidelines/tools to align individual efforts toward common goals, enhance management skills, reinforce positive organizational behavior. Additionally, participatory biodiversity monitoring systems are rare and local data available to assess BD conservation are limited.

21. Furthermore, no farm-level sustainable land management plans (SLM) have been implemented under the two targeted BR management plans. Financial entities operate in the two BRs (including credit unions, cooperatives, banks), but offer conventional financial products, without any analysis of sustainability indices. There are no specific green financial products to support SLM practices. The lack of access to financing is a major limitation for the adoption of SLM practices.

22. Efforts are needed to strengthen the institutional leadership from the national environmental authority, developing strategic management, establishing effective coordination mechanisms between different levels of government, and strengthening monitoring within BRs. Furthemore, there are several Biosphere Reserve management initiatives in the country, whose results and lessons have not been compiled nor disseminated and which do not support improved decision-making at the local and national levels. Communications and promotional actions have been scarce and isolated and there is no communications strategy for biosphere reserves. At the subnational level, Ecuador has not yet implemented specific territorial actions for strengthening BRs or developed alternative means to harmonize conservation and development goals in the wider landscapes.

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

23. The project objective is to strengthen the management of Biosphere Reserves in Ecuador using a landscape approach, contributing to sustainable development through a territorial framework that emphasizes equal opportunities for women and men. Fostering effective management of biosphere reserves in Ecuador is key to conserve biodiversity, and involves strengthening capacities, developing management tools and fostering the adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices. Within these two BRs, the project will support the governance and participatory management within local conservation areas (which are areas co-managed by local actors such as Municipalities, communities, and private owners to promote sustainable territorial management), promoting sustainable land management practices and the promotion of bio-enterprises for key value chains. By promoting the widespread adoption of SLM practices, bioenterprises and the associated value chains have the potential to reduce land use change pressures on remaining ecosystems in RBCAP and RBBS, fostering the diversification of local livelihoods towards activities that add value and products that have access to markets that put a premium on sustainability.The gender equality approach and sustainability are cross-cutting elements and are present in all the designed activities.

24. The management model of BR promotes collaborative actions between stakeholders to achieve sustainable development within their territories. Land tenure within BRs is predominantly private and / or communal. Contrary to national protected areas, the BR management model does not establish or enforce land use regulations that effectively restrict access to natural resources; instead, the BR model promotes synergies between sustainable land practices and conservation and restoration activities using a landscape approach. The project will develop incentives that promote changes in behavior and in the decision-making of stakeholders to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices, as well as strengthen mechanisms to foster the participation of local communities.

25. BRs in Ecuador do not have a specific enabling legal or administrative framework. Given that their management requires different approaches and tools from those of protected areas, it is necessary to develop a specific institutional framework that seeks to enhance governance within BRs. Political-administrative procedures need to be developed to support coordination among all the stakeholders at both national and subnational levels. This involves coordination between central State agencies from different sectors (e.g. environment, agriculture, forestry, planning), sub-national governments, productive organizations, civil society organizations, private stakeholders and academia. Therefore, fostering multilevel and multi-stakeholder coordination, with clear roles and responsibilities for all parties, and enhancing governance within and among BRs will be pursued throughout the project. Additionally, it is important to enhance capacities among stakeholders (particularly subnational governments regarding land use planning) to take into consideration the functions of the reserves in the planning and management of their territories.

26. Additionally, the project will carry out on-the-ground actions in two targeted BRs: Choc? Andino (RBCAP) and Bosque Seco (RBBS). Both BRs are among the most recently created in Ecuador and include key biodiversity areas within their limits. In both cases, their lands are managed by private owners, containing habitats of endangered and threatened species. Several owners have established privately owned conservation areas, where municipalities have supported local efforts through ordinances and public investments for conservation and sustainable use.

27. The Theory of Change of the project specifies the actions at the national and local levels that the project will undertake to address the capacity and other barriers identified to tackle the direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss within BRs, which will be implemented using a landscape approach. It also identifies the causal pathways and the assumptions underlying the ToC. As shown in the Theory of Change diagram that follows, the project outputs will ensure that intersectoral-multilevel coordination and governance mechanisms are available and operational (such as a national Man and Biosphere Reserve- MAB- Committee) and develop and apply different methodologies and tools, such as a spatially explicit tool to identify priority areas for the provision of key ecosystem services and incorporate them into land use planning in the two targeted BRs. The assumption is that key stakeholders at different scales will align efforts and that authorities will promote the involvement of

all key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration. Through the inter-institutional coordination and governance causal pathway, this in turn will lead to Outcome 1 of having ?key tools that mainstream the landscape approach into territorial management and contribute to sustainable development in Ecuador applied by official entities involved in the management of biosphere reserves at national and subnational levels.?

28. At the level of the two target biosphere reserves (RBCAP and RBBS), project outputs to put in place tools to strengthen local management and to build the capacities and awareness of local stakeholders will be carried out through the capacity development causal pathway. The assumption is that good governance and communication enable local actors to effectively manage the BRs, which will lead to Outcome 2 of ?Tools applied and capacities of local stakeholders increased to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems and halt land degradation in Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserves.? In specific sites, the project will work with beneficiaries to strengthen bio-enterprises, promote sustainable land management practices and disseminate best practices as part of the sustainable land management and bioenterprises causal pathway. Based on the assumptions that strengthening bio-enterprises and supporting the adoption of SLM practices foster sustainable value chains, that SLM practices are adopted when knowledge and financial barriers are addressed and that strategic knowledge is shared among stakeholders to improve BR management, these outputs will lead to Outcome 3 of ?incomes of local producers in the Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserves increased through the adoption of SLM practices and strengthening of bio-enterprises, ensuring broad participation of men and women.? Finally, with the M&E pathway, the project will carry out various M&E activities, such as monitoring the different project indicators, annual reports and the Terminal Evaluation to achieve the Outcome 4 of having M&E mechanisms established by the project for adaptive management.

[1] Furthermore, under the MAB's guidelines, a biosphere reserve must: i) conserve landscapes, ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity, ii) achieve sustainable economic and human development from the socio-cultural and ecological points of view, iii) support local, regional and global projects for demonstration, education, training, research and permanent observation related to the environment and sustainable development.

[2] Noteworthy to mention is that no indigenous territories are within or intersect with the project?s two target biosphere reserves and that the project?s intervention areas are limited to rural landscapes.

[3] Dinerstein, E., D.M. Oldson, D.J. Graham, A.L. Webster, S.A. Primm, M.P. Bookbinder & G. Ledec.1995. A Conservation Assessment of the Terrestrial Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. World Bank - World Wildlife Fund.
[4] Sierra, R. F. Campos, J. Chamberlin. 2001. Assessing Biodiversity Conservation Priorities: ecosystem risk and representativeness in continental Ecuador. Landscape and Urban Planning 59 (2002) 95-110. ELSEVIER.
[5] Justicia. R. 2007, Ecuador?s Choco Andean Corridor: A Landscape Approach for Conservation and Sustainable Development, PhD Dissertation., University of Georgia.

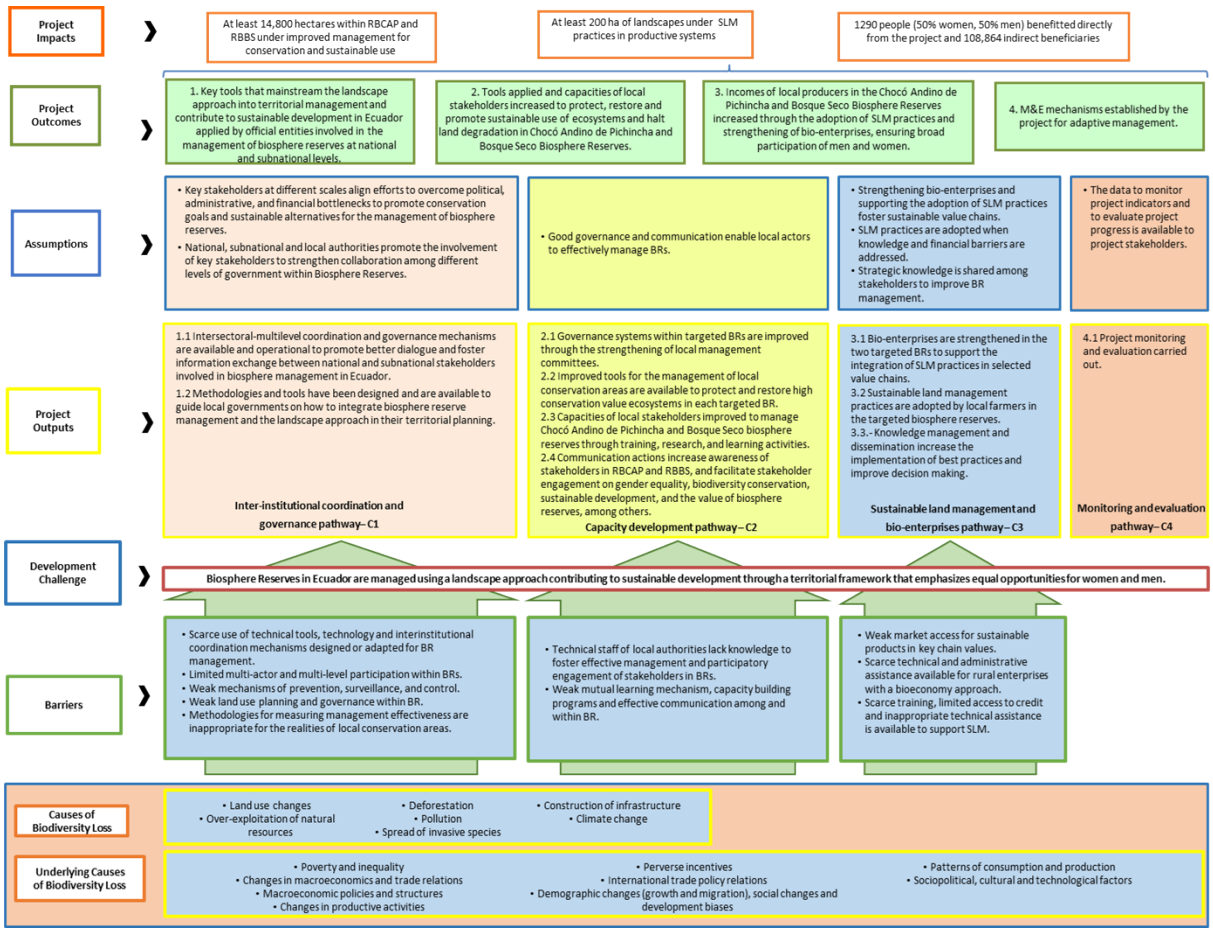
[6] Cuesta, F., M. Peralvo, A. Merino-Viteri, M. Bustamante, F. Baquero, J. F. Freile, P. Muriel, and O. Torres-Carvajal. 2017. Priority areas for biodiversity conservation in mainland Ecuador. Neotropical Biodiversity 3 (1):93-106.

[7] Arcos, I., Ulloa, R., Torres, O. & C. Mart?nez. 2011. (unpublished). Informe T?cnico de Base - Mashpi. Propuesta de declaratoria de un ?rea protegida municipal (microcuencas de los r?os Mashpi, Guaycuyacu, Chalpi y Sahuangal), Parroquia Pacto, Distrito Metropolitano de Quito. Conservaci?n Internacional Ecuador, Aves&Conservaci?n, Secretar?a Ambiental del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito, EcoFondo. Quito, Ecuador.

[8] Mancomunidad de Bosque Seco. 2018. Mancomunidad Bosque seco Qui?nes somos. Taken from http://www.mancomunidadbosqueseco.gob.ec/quienes-somos/ January 12, 2018.

[9] The Key Biodiversity Areas in the Choc? Andino BR are: Volcan Atacazo, Mindo and western foothills of Volcan Pichincha, Maquipucuna-R?o Guayllabamba, Mashpi-Pachijal, Valle de Guayllabamba, and Mitad del Mundo.

The Key Biodiversity Areas in the Bosque Seco BR are: Bosque Protector Jatumpamba-Jorupe, Tambo Negro, Ca??n del r?o Catamayo, Reserva Natural Tumbesia-La Ceiba-Zapotillo, Cazaderos-Mangaurquillo, Catacocha, El Sauce, South of Alamor, Alamor-Celica, Bosque Protector Puyango and La Tagua.



29. The project will have four outcomes with actions for each, described below:

Component 1: Enabling environment for the management of biosphere reserves in Ecuador

Outcome 1. Key tools that mainstream the landscape approach into territorial management and contribute to sustainable development in Ecuador applied by official entities involved in the management of biosphere reserves at national and subnational levels

30. This outcome aims to develop tools to enhance collaboration and coordination among official entities and stakeholders involved in the management of the seven |biosphere reserves (BRs) at national and subnational levels. These include institutions such as MAATE, MAG, Planifica Ecuador, Binational Plan, and local governments at provincial, municipal, and parish levels. In addition, it will provide support for land use management and territorial planning to contribute toward the biosphere functions of conservation, sustainable development, and logistical support. The project will not create regulations or laws that could restrict access to natural resources, rather actions are aimed at improving coordination mechanisms between key stakeholders.

Output 1.1 Intersectoral and multilevel coordination and governance mechanisms are available and operational to promote better dialogue and foster information exchange between national and subnational stakeholders involved in biosphere management in Ecuador

31. The project will design and develop in collaboration with stakeholders an intersectoral and multilevel coordination mechanism to support BR management in Ecuador. This mechanism will provide and gather technical and administrative information for the existing BRs, fostering a learning, communication and coordination platform where stakeholders from civil society, public sector, academia, private sector, and local communities converge to promote sustainability goals within these territories. The coordination mechanism will draw upon MAB?s strategic-operational plans (e.g. Lima Action Plan 2016-2025) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders will be agreed upon within a proposal for an improved management model for BRs. A pilot will be implemented for the RBCAP, including a technological platform to support information exchange between national and subnational governments.

32. The project will support the creation and operation of the National MAB Committee with the participation in the decision-making processes of official national entities, civil society, and local representation (including women and youth networks). The statutes and regulations for the operation of the MAB National Committee in Ecuador will be developed with the participation of key stakeholders. The project will facilitate committee meetings and will provide technical, operational, and strategic support to its members. Its structure and functioning will be in line with the requirements of MAB-UNESCO, as well as with national policies and regulatory frameworks. This will involve activities with institutional actors outside the environmental sector such as the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), the National Planning Authority (Planifica Ecuador), and other relevant actors.

Output 1.2 Methodologies and tools are designed and available to guide local governments on how to integrate biosphere reserve management and the landscape approach in their territorial planning

33. The project will develop technical and methodological guidelines for local governments to incorporate a landscape approach into development and territorial management plans in the context of BRs. As part of this process, the project will facilitate roundtables of technical dialogue and linkages with key national and subnational institutions involved in land planning and will consider proposals developed previously by MAATE, ProAmazon?a, and other relevant organizations. PROAmazonia provided technical support to MAATE and Planifica Ecuador to develop guidelines for local governments to design land use plans. This includes methods and criteria to mainstream climate change, steer local efforts towards accomplishing SDGs, and establish follow-up mechanisms. This project will build upon these previous efforts, broadening available guidelines and toolboxes to promote additional and complementary approaches relevant for BR management. For instance, this project will design methods and pilot spatially explicit tools (such as land use zoning proposals) where

priority areas for key ecosystem services are identified to later be included within wider land-use planning processes (e.g., Territorial Development and Land Use Plans, or Municipal Land Use Plans), where synergies among sustainable practices, conservation, and restoration goals will also be encouraged to support BR functions. Additionally, these tools will be applied in the two targeted Biosphere Reserves: RBBS and RBCAP to showcase their usefulness. In addition, the project will adapt the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) so it can be used to evaluate management effectiveness of BRs in Ecuador and it will be applied in the two targeted BRs of the project.

Component 2: Enhanced capacities for conservation and sustainable land management

Outcome 2.- Tools applied and capacities of local stakeholders increased to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems and halt land degradation in Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserves

34. This outcome will implement activities exclusively in the RBCAP and the RBBS and entails a set of targeted interventions aimed at improving the management of BRs to support their functions. Improved local governance is also a fundamental pillar of this component of the project, as well as improving local management capacities through training, research, and learning activities. Additionally, within the two targeted BRs, conservation areas (many of which are core areas within BR zoning schemes) require improved tools and capacities to strengthen their management.

Output 2.1.- Governance systems within targeted BRs are improved through the strengthening of local management committees

35. The project will work to improve the governance systems within the two targeted BRs. Each BR has its management plan and committees. Nonetheless, the level of development and implementation varies significantly between both BRs since the management plan for RBCAP was recently created and the management committee is in the process of formal establishment. Taking that into consideration, the project will develop collaborative agreements and work plans agreed among key local stakeholders (particularly representatives of management committee in RBCAP and RBBS) to align efforts with the management plans in each BR. Additionally, participatory assessment of management plans and other key tools available in each BR will be carried out. Actions are proposed to strengthen the management committees of both reserves, promoting participatory fora. Management committees will enhance mechanisms for accountability, specialized commissions, and promotion of citizen oversight of the territorial action of local governments. Besides, participatory mechanisms for monitoring land and resource use, planning and implementing conservation and restoration measures, and promoting sustainable land use practices in the reserves will be developed, among other mechanisms prioritized by the management committees in each BR. These mechanisms, employing a bottom-up approach, will be linked with official institutions to strengthen the synergies among their mandates, the promotion of sustainability goals, the needs of local populations, and the mitigation of threats and risks to the reserves.

Output 2.2.- Improved tools for the management of local conservation areas are available to protect and restore high conservation value ecosystems in each targeted BR

36. Specific activities will be carried out to strengthen the management effectiveness of local conservation areas established within the RBCAP and RBBS. These include assessment of the management needs of local conservation areas, technical and logistical support to governance processes and management committees, including organizing local workshops and meetings to foster institutional arrangements in the targeted BR. Local conservation areas in the two BRs are managed under a broad set of management regimes, such as municipal areas and private reserves. The project will elaborate guidelines and tools to enhance positive organizational behavior and promote effective management of local conservation areas in the targeted BRs (e.g., guidelines for participatory decision making and tools for effective local communication, among others).

37. Based on a rapid participatory appraisal of local conservation areas? needs, specific activities will be defined in each targeted BR. These may include efforts to enhance the skills of local managers to formulate proposals for new funding, identify sustainable financing strategies, manage socioenvironmental conflicts, and/or communicate the importance and need for sustainable use of resources within BR. Finally, the project will develop participatory biodiversity monitoring to be implemented in selected local protected areas within the two targeted BRs. Specific monitoring indicators and protocols will be established to allow periodic measuring, including proxies that capture values of ecosystem functions and services. Local governments, communities, and universities will be engaged in monitoring efforts.

Output 2.3.- Capacities of local stakeholders are improved to effectively manage Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco biosphere reserves through training, research, and learning activities

38. A training and learning plan to strengthen local capacities for BR management will be developed. The training plan will cover several key topics, such as management (approaches and tools), planning, governance, negotiation and conflict resolution, conservation and biodiversity monitoring and legal frameworks of BRs. Training needs and the specific topics and structure of the plan will be developed at the start of the project. The plan will focus on improving the technical knowledge of those involved in the management of RBCAP and RBBS (e.g., local management committees, government officials, municipal staff, representatives of local organizations, and others). Training materials will be designed, including online resources to be used while COVID-19 mitigation measures are still in place. The training plan will include exchanges of national and international experiences and case studies, including, when possible, field visits and workshops, but also promoting the use of virtual learning platforms.

39. Aiming to improve capacities in RBCAP and RBBS, the project will reinforce ongoing efforts led by or supporting youth groups and women. This entails engaging these groups in the management of BRs and fostering edu-communication initiatives (e.g., Red de J?venes Comunicadores del Choc? Andino- Network of Young Communicators of the Choc? Andino, Red de Bosques Escuelas- Network of Forest Schools). The purpose of these activities is to foster networking and learning among individuals working toward sustainable development and conservation in the targeted BRs.

40. Complementarily, successful programs to develop capacities for natural resource management will be adapted and replicated in both targeted BRs. These include a) bringing back to action the Water Schools (i.e. Escuelas del Agua), a nationwide program strengthening capacities of local governments and other stakeholders to improve water management, b) developing Agroecology Schools (Escuelas de Agroecolog?a) in the two intervention sites, as a peer-to-peer knowledge sharing mechanism to support agroecological transitions of local farmers, c) strengthening Forest Schools Network to showcase ecological restoration processes and sustainable land management practices with local participation. This project aims to articulate these initiatives to ongoing processes within each BR, such as the Mancomunidad del Choco Andino in the Northwest of Pichincha and in the case of the Dry Forest in Loja to the work developed with local productive associations.

Output 2.4- Communication actions increase awareness of stakeholders in RBCAP and RBBS and facilitate stakeholder engagement on gender equality, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and the value of biosphere reserves, among others

41. A communication strategy will be designed and implemented targeting key local stakeholders and inhabitants living in the two targeted BRs. The communication strategy aims to raise awareness about the important role played by biosphere reserves in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for men and women. This will also support the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 3) and the National MAB Committee, allowing feedback mechanisms and networking, socialization of results, and consultations among stakeholders. Communication tools adapted to the prioritized target groups at local levels will be developed. Local social-environmental communication networks (including those led by youth organizations) will be supported in both BRs. The communication actions will support the implementation of sustainable land management practices and bioproduct promotion, mainly in the targeted reserves. Additionally, this strategy will consider national guidelines to strengthen the national biosphere reserves network.

Component 3: Value chains and sustainable land management practices (SLM) that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity

Outcome 3.- Incomes of local producers in the Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserves increased through the adoption of SLM practices and strengthening of bio-enterprises, ensuring broad participation of men and women

42. Supporting and guiding the transition toward sustainable agricultural and food systems requires contextualized solutions to be delivered to solve local problems, combining science with the practical local knowledge of farmers (FAO 2018). Outcome 3 will address the root causes and barriers that limit the implementation of SLM practices (e.g., lack of market access, limited access to financial resources), supporting local producers through broad participation across genders and generations within RBCAP and RBBS. Given the rise of COVID-19 and its impact on rural communities, this outcome will contribute to introduce natural resource management (NRM) practices that generate global environmental benefits (GEBs), food security and resilience, as well as promoting sustainable solutions especially related to agroecology, landscape restoration, agroforestry, and conservation of key ecosystem remnants, among others.

Output 3.1.- Bio-enterprises are strengthened in the two targeted BRs to support the integration of SLM practices within selected value chains

43. The project will focus its work on at least one value chain per BR. The selection will consider its potential to provide and upscale incentives for the adoption of SLM, to improve people?s incomes and to reduce pressures on biodiversity. Work done during the design phase allowed the preliminary identification of opportunities in tourism, native bamboo, honey production and agroecological food products. At the start of the project, a participatory assessment will be carried out locally to identify needs and key actions to foster sustainability in key value chains and integrate SLM practices. A gender approach will be incorporated from the beginning to ensure that the project contributes to bridging the opportunity gap for women?s participation. Additionally, the project will develop a sustainability indicator for value chains, which will be measured in at least one of the selected value chains in the targeted BR.

44. This output aims to strengthen bio-enterprises in the prioritized value chains within the two targeted BRs. Bio-entrepreneurship refers to productive alternatives based on the use of biodiversity that apply a business approach to promote the transformation and added value of products and services, integrating the principles of sustainability, equity, and access benefit-sharing. The project will support bio-enterprises with specialized training on good production practices, financial management, organizational strengthening, gender approaches, and environmental sustainability. A contest of Good Land Management Practices will be organized in each BR to help identify ongoing initiatives in the key value chains selected. This will provide a robust starting point to focus the activities of the project on a set of initiatives with high potential to foster sustainability goals. These will include local productive associations that empower women, youth networks or other vulnerable groups. The most promising initiatives (at least two) will receive a more direct support, in the form of seed funds to strengthen their operation, organizational capacity, and specific mechanisms for improved access to markets.

45. However, the project will also implement activities that will address the needs of the broader set of bio-enterprises identified through the contest of Good Land Management Practices. The project will assess specific needs of local initiatives, such as the network of bio-shops in the RBBS (Red de Bio-tiendas), to develop new market access strategies that can support adoption of SLM practices among local producers. These mechanisms include assistance to develop marketing/commercialization strategies or strengthened local Participatory Guarantee Systems (i.e. alternative certification mechanism to develop quality assurance systems that are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange among local producers that agree on common management standards, SLM branding strategy, strategic commercial alliances).

46. The value chains initially identified (i.e. nature based tourism, honey production, bamboo and agroecological food products) are all present in RBCAP and RBBS, and have provided an opportunity to foster livelihood diversification. For example, in the RBCAP, La Chala initiative is building a mechanism to facilitate access to local markets for organic fruits and horticultural products. In RBBS, the network of bio-shops (Red de Bio-tiendas) has a similar goal for products from the honey and bamboo value chains. However, currently these and other value chains centered around sustainability goals face important barriers in terms of capacity to add value and articulation to local markets in better conditions. There is a potential to commercialize these products in the urban markets close to the two BRs (e.g. Quito, Loja and other intermediate cities) that the project will build upon.

47. Additionally, the project will develop new or strengthen existing innovative financial mechanisms to support the adoption of SLM practices within bio-enterprises and key value chains. The project will work closely with local and extra-local finance actors in the design or adaptation of appropriate financial mechanisms that respond to the social and economic context of local producers. The main rationale is that limited access to credit is a barrier that undermines the adoption of SLM practices and the development of added-value strategies. Thus, the project will promote partnerships to develop new or modify existing financing schemes that alleviate the short-term capital constraints of local producers.

Output 3.2- Sustainable land management practices are adopted by local farmers in the targeted biosphere reserves

48. The project will promote the adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices in the RBCAP and RBBS. SLM practices involve a wide range of practices seeking to improving agricultural production, restoring functionality, and conserve ecosystems. Participatory management farm plans will be used in the project as an essential tool to identify on-the-ground solutions with local farmers. Through the farm plans, gender-sensitive interventions will be designed at the farm level and

viable SLM practices will be agreed upon with the direct participation of farmers. SLM practices for agricultural systems to be applied will include those that promote diversified farming systems, soil conservation, water management, and comprehensive pest management. SLM practices aimed at restoration in agricultural systems are mostly based on agroforestry and analog forestry techniques, while restoration processes in natural ecosystems will include active restoration and natural regeneration. Additionally, conservation practices may be agreed on with landowners to protect water sources and riparian ecosystems. The project will support investments in a total of 140 farms, evaluating at least 8 different SLM practices for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use/production. These practices can be integrated at the farm level and the benefits can be scaled to the landscape level.

Output 3.3.- Knowledge management and dissemination increase the implementation of best practices and improve decision making

49. Best management practices in BRs will be analyzed to identify successful experiences that are worth replicating, not only in targeted reserves but in the entire country. Relevant scientific and grey literature, as well as fieldwork in the RBCAP and RBBS will be systematized to gather a comprehensive state-of-the-art. The study will use a meta-analysis approach of effective Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices relevant to BR goals. This document will provide important information and knowledge that can be used for training key stakeholders included in the training plan mentioned previously. Broader adoption of SLM practices will be promoted through communication activities, while the capacity building program will support upscaling of the actions of the project. As part of the project's knowledge management efforts, the project will implement the gender action plan to ensure that all knowledge items (including lessons learned) take into consideration a gender approach. Finally, the project will facilitate sharing experiences between BRs through the organization and participation in the IberoMaB meeting to be held in Ecuador.

Component 4: Monitoring &Evaluation

Outcome 4.- M&E mechanisms established by the project for adaptive management

50. This outcome will ensure that the project?s progress is tracked, and periodic evaluations are conducted for learning and adaptive management. Outcome 4 will be delivered through the following outputs:

Output 4.1.- Project monitoring and evaluation carried out.

51. At the start of the project, an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) will be developed (based on the Guidelines for the effective engagement of indigenous peoples included in the ProDoc) and implemented during the project?s lifetime to ensure the broad participation of indigenous groups linked

to BR management. Effective implementation and monitoring of environmental and social safeguards will be carried out by Chief Technical Advisor the and the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. The project?s M&E system will be established to measure project progress and impacts in terms of multiple global environmental benefits, as well as local social and economic benefits. Project indicators will be monitored to assess the project progress toward mid-term and final targets in the project results framework, which will be reported through annual project reports (PIRs) submitted to the GEF Secretariat. A Terminal Evaluation will be conducted and will include the review of project reports, web-based information, and field visits to selected sites, among others, with recommendations for ensuring the sustainability of project outcomes.

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

52. The project is aligned with two main objectives of the GEF-7 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy.

53. Objective 1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes. The project will contribute to this objective by improving communication channels and coordination procedures between national and local actors to promote inter-sectoral agreements that include sustainability goals aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in landscapes with high conservation value. The project will also use methodologies and tools to guide local governments on how to integrate biosphere reserve management and the landscape approach in their territorial planning. Furthermore, one of the main drivers of habitat and species loss is the expansion of the agricultural frontier. The project will address this driver by promoting sustainable land use practices at the farm level, including conservation activities and improving farm productivity using sustainable practices combined with incentive mechanisms (including supporting bio-enterprises). The project will strengthen the governance of local networks that are currently working towards achieving sustainability in local productive systems. The project will also promote the generation of key knowledge materials to support policy development including a meta-analysis of effective SLM alternatives relevant for biosphere reserve management.

54. Objective 2: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species. The project will contribute to this objective by improving tools for the management of local conservation areas to protect and restore high conservation value ecosystems in each targeted Biosphere Reserve. At the local level, the project will improve the capacities of local management committees through training and exchanges. At the national level, the project will support the creation of the National MAB

committee to provide strategic and political advice for the management of biosphere reserves. Through these activities, the project will develop tools and enhance capacities to address drivers of habitat and species loss in order to promote habitat conservation.

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

55. Contributions to the project?s baseline and co-financing are presented in detail in Section IV ?Results and Partnerships? and in Section VIII ?Financial Planning and Management? of the ProDoc. The total amount of co-financing committed is USD 11,243,550, with USD 6,700,507 as cash co-financing and USD 4,543,043 as in kind cofinancing.

56. Significant investments will be made by the key relevant institutions in all outcomes of the project, with the highest amount of cofinancing (USD 4,575,477) going to Outcome 2 to enhance capacities for conservation and sustainable land management in the two target reserves. The cofinancing is allocated to cover costs of staff assigned to project activities, capacity building, equipment for bioenterprises and reserve infrastructure, training, restoration actions and awareness campaigns.

57. GEF resources will be used to address efforts to improve the management of biosphere reserves in Ecuador by reducing capacity limitations (technical and administrative). In particular, both Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco reserves require assistance to promote sustainable land management practices, bioenterprise value chains, gender equality and multilevel institutional strengthening for better local territorial management. This will be done through the provision of incremental funding to add on to investments already being made by the project partners.

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

58. The project will contribute to global environmental benefits in biodiversity by strenthening multi-stakeholder and multilevel coordination mechanisms, and improving governance, training and communication to support biosphere reserve management in Ecuador. The project will also promote

sustainable land management practices and local bioenterprise value chains using a bioeconomy approach.

59. The scale of the intervention is two-fold. The enabling activities will support strengthened management for the entire biosphere reserve network in Ecuador, which currently includes 7 biosphere reserves and cover more than 3 million hectares. Sustainable land management actions under Component 3 in territory will focus on two specific biosphere reserves: RBCAP and RBBS. By promoting the widespread adoption of SLM practices, bioenterprises and the associated value chains have the potential of reducing land use change pressures on remaining ecosystems in RBCAP and RBBS, fostering the diversification of local livelihoods towards activities that add value and products that have access to markets that put a premium on sustainability. In the case of RBBS, local actors have developed different strategies to foster the conservation of key dry forest ecosystems including bioenterprises aimed at adding value to bamboo (e.g. through the production of handicrafts) and honey from native bee species. Both value chains have the potential of fostering ecosystem conservation and restoration, which is especially challenging in the dry forest due to difficulties in accessing water and fertile soils by smallholder farmers. In the case of the RBCAP tourism has become a promising economic alternative in the area given the proximity from/to Quito, which has driven new investments in recent years from newly arrived residents from Quito?s urban areas, as well as companies that develop nature-based tourism (particularly birdwatching). Furthermore, a local network of young environmental leaders is working in an initiative called La Chala, which aims to facilitate access to local and urban markets in Quito for food items produced using agroecological principles. Also, farmer associations in the parish of Pacto produce and export organic raw cane sugar. The potential to diversify and escalate the adoption of conservation, restoration and sustainable production practices in the RBCAP is linked to the short and medium term market opportunities that the resulting products will have. Therefore, there is a potential to commercialize agroecological products in urban markets close to the two BR (e.g. Quito, Loja and other intermediate cities) that the project will build upon.

60. Specific sites for on-the-ground activities will be selected at the start of the project through a participatory process and validation with the stakeholders associated to the two Management Committees to foster the articulation of the activities to the current land management context in the two BRs. By design, the activities geared towards strengthening local protected areas will prioritize core zones and Key Biodiversity Areas, whereas the sustainable land management activities will involve landscapes in transition and buffer zones. For example, in the RBCAP strengthening management capacities for the Andean Bear Ecological Corridor overlaps directly with the main core area in the western zone of this BR.

61. Given the rise of COVID-19 and its impact on rural communities, the project will contribute to introduce natural resource management (NRM) practices that generate global environmental benefits (GEBs), food security and resilience, as well as promoting sustainable solutions especially related to

agroecology, landscape restoration, agroforestry, conservation of key ecosystem remnants, among others.

62. Specifically, the project will provide the following benefits:

? At least 15,000 hectares in target BRs under improved management practices for biodiversity protection outside protected areas, through conservation, restoration, sustainable use practices, strengthened governance mechanisms and trainings.

? 1,290 direct beneficiaries and 108,864 indirect beneficiaries.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

63. The generation of a multilevel and multiactor coordination mechanism for the management of biosphere reserves, with a jointly defined administrative procedure and a legal framework, supported by information technology and utilizing a change management process with the involved governmental entities will ensure the empowerment of stakeholders and sustainability of project results.

64. The project will also link strategically and operationally with the new guidelines for drafting land use plans in the context of BRs. Guidelines were created by SENPLADES with support from the PROAMAZONIA program, integrating the dimensions of environment, climate change, risk management and conservation. These guidelines are applicable nationwide and are being used by sub-national governments since 2019 to update their land use plans. The project will complement this initiative, operationalizing these guidelines in the territories of BRs, supporting the sub-national governments to also integrate the dimensions of sustainability and landscape approaches in the different land use plans (e.g., Planes de Desarrollo y Ordenamiento Territorial-PDOTs; Planes de Uso y Ocupaci?n del Suelo-PUOS). This can be scaled up to other territories in the rest of the BRs of the country.

65. Additionally, the project seeks to strengthen the generation of knowledge and experimentation in the BR network, through sharing experiences and through analysis, using an integrated approach to the multidimensional conditions that drive the territorial decisions affecting the

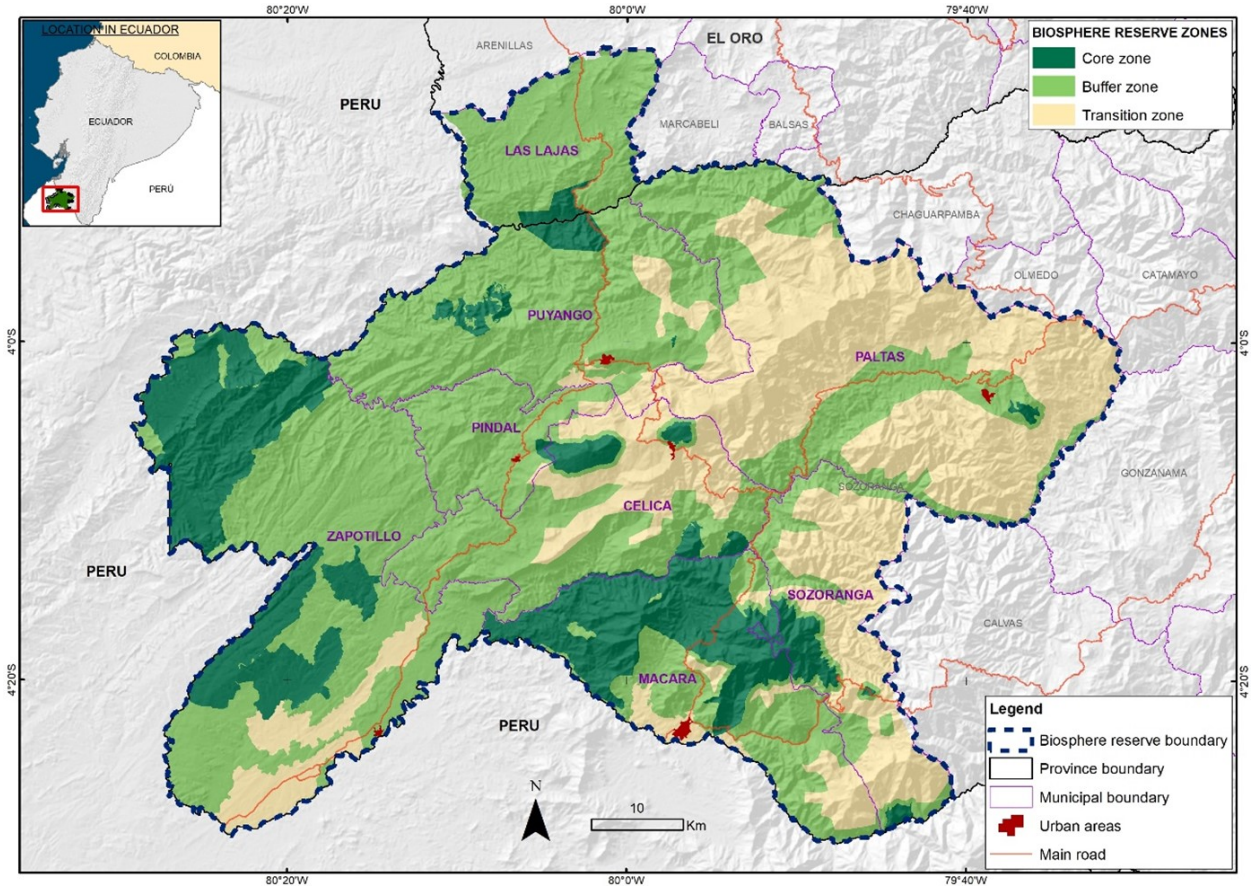
integrity and functions of the reserves. In addition, the PMU, through its Communication expert, will undertake the task of systematizing and disseminating the experiences of the project.

66. The project will work with microfinance operators to design financial products with considerations that support bio-entreprises and sustainable land management, which can then be employed by other initiatives seeking financial support for bio-enterprises. The strengthening of management models for BRs that promote accountability and citizen oversight of the actions of sub-national governments in the biosphere reserves are innovative aspects that can be replicated in other areas within and outside of the country.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Map 1.- Choc? Andino Biosphere Reserve (Map composition: CONDESAN)



Map 2.- Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve (Map composition: CONDESAN)

Map3. Project?s targeted Biosphere Reserves and Key Biodiversity Areas (Map composition UNEP)

1c. Child Project?

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

N/A

2. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan provided as an Annex.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

67. Local stakeholders (governments and communities) and national stakeholders (Ministry of the Environment Water, and Ecological Transition) and others such as international cooperation agencies were involved in the project design process. Local representatives for each of the target BRs will be participating in the Project Board, where they will have a voice and ability to vote on key decisions, such as the approval of operational plans and budgets.

68. Productive associations and other local associations will be considered at the time of defining the support services for sustainable land management practices, bioenterprises, the design of financial products and the refinement of the management models, where they will have key positions in monitoring and control activities, as well as oversight.

69. Indigenous peoples? rights, livelihoods and culture will be considered in the execution of the different components and activities of the project. An Indigenous People?s Plan will be developed at the beginning of the project to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of indigenous people in biosphere reserve management both at local and national scales. The Plan will consider indigenous people?s needs and include measures to promote and protect their interests in the project?s productive activities, bioenterprises and the design of financial incentives in the two selected biosphere reserves. The number of IPs in the project?s intervention area within the two targeted BRs is very small. IPs live scattered within the territory, and are not organized into local associations or groups. No

activities will be implemented that may affect indigenous peoples until this Plan has been developed and until FPIC has been secured for any activities that could affect indigenous people?s rights.

70. Men and women will be equally represented in the activities of the project. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be supported by the training plan and the communication strategy. The complete Stakeholder Engagement Plan can be found in Annex 3 of the ProDoc.

71. The estimated budget for stakeholder engagement is USD 779,024.00 and is included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. It focuses on activities specifically designed to promote the effective participation of actors at the national and local scales. The actual investment in stakeholder participation will likely be higher as most of the planned activities incorporate mechanisms for communication and coordination with different actors.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

72. Given their different roles, responsibilities and needs, women and men use natural resources in various manners and influence biosphere reserves in different ways. During the preparation phase of this project, a gender analysis was carried out to identify the different roles and needs of the men and women who inhabit the biosphere reserves and an action plan to mainstream gender equality was

developed with gender dissagregated indicators and financial resources identified (see Annex 8). The objectives of the Gender Action Plan are the following:

73. Objective 1: Improve the knowledge and capabilities of the project's technical team and other key stakeholders on gender issues.

Objective 2: To promote the participation and empowerment of women respecting their use of time, by designing specific activities to be included in the implementation of the project to improve their well-being and that of their families.

Objective 3: To help improve living conditions of the women in the two target biosphere reserves by generating socioeconomic benefits.

74. Ensuring the participation and empowerment of women and men considering their ethnic diversity within all activities and throughout the life cycle of the project will contribute to strengthening the processes of inclusive governance and sustainable development based on a landscape approach within the territorial framework of the biosphere reserves. In addition, it will improve working conditions and social welfare especially in the target BRs. The complete Gender Analysis and Action Plan can be found in Annex 8 of the ProDoc.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on private sector engagement in the project, if any

75. There are several private entities working on issues similar to those identified by the project in the targeted Biosphere Reserves. Details of the actions of the entities identified during the formulation phase are presented in the table below:

Maquipucuna Foundation	? It is one of the most important private stakeholders, active in the area for 30 years with the establishment of the Maquipucuna Protective Forest. ? Has promoted management, conservation and governance initiatives in the area. ? Their work, especially in nature tourism, involves other communities near natural areas within the reserve. ? Published research has been carried out in the Maquipucuna Reserve. ? They have information on ecology and biodiversity in the area. ? Within the project they will be considered as a stakeholder that can collaborate in the identification of local actors, and as a source of technical and scientific information.
Private Forests Network	? This network groups owners of natural areas who are voluntarily committed to conservation. ? The network can provide the project with information, experiences and linkages to tourism, conservation and productive activities with the local population.
Private Technical University of Loja (UTPL)	? Has carried out several interventions in the area, mainly in research and consultancies linked to the interests of the project. It currently implements the Sustainable Tourism Development Initiative for the Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage in Tacamoros, one of the core areas of the Bosque Seco reserve. The university technically, pedagogically and technologically supports the nation wide program called Water Schools to strengthen local capacities of governments and other stakeholders to improve water management in Ecuador. ? The UTPL could contribute with information, knowledge and leadership in the training program proposed by the project, since they have abundant experience in adult training and distance education.
Fundaci?n Futuro	? Linked to the Mashpi Reserve tourist operations ? The project will benefit from its business approaches and experience in tourism activities.

Ecuadorean Populorum Progressio Fund (FEPP)	? Carries out support activities for small producers within the reserve and is one of the oldest and largest non-governmental organizations (NGO) in the country. ? Offers technical assistance and microcredit. ? Maintains technical personnel permanently in the field. ? For the project, FEPP is a powerful stakeholder that can help in the generation of the specialized support services for bioenterprises.
Nature and International Culture Foundation (NCI in Spanish)	? NGO dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity and water resources. ? Maintains several projects to support the creation of local protected areas. ? It owns several natural areas dedicated to conservation. ? Other activities of the foundation in the Bosque Seco reserve are related to environmental education, research, sustainable production, ecosystem connectivity and restoration.

76. Engagement of the private sector through the active participation of productive associations in key value chains within the BRs will be pursued and collaboration agreements with financing institutions will be developed to support new financial services and products targeting SLM practices.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

RISK	**CLASSIFICATION**	**MITIGATION STRATEGY**	**MONITORING**

Changing political priorities and staff turnover pose challenges for collective action among actors at different governance levels	S	- Secure participation of key stakeholders in inception workshop. - Socialize the project with new actors, including its impacts and benefits, in the event of staff turnover - Promote the effective participation of a broad base of stakeholders to mitigate the risk of having a low response from any individual actor.	Project Management Unit (PMU), Project Board, Management Committees in RBBS and RBCAP
The proposed activities do not appeal to the key target groups, including local producers and representatives of local governments.	M	- The project will have a communication strategy that encourages the local population to get involved with the activities. - The project incorporates local activities to support sustainability goals in productive systems, providing incentives for the participation of local producers and their associations. Additionally, the project?s efforts to promote bio-enterprises are expected to generate sustainable sources of income to locals and enhance the adoption of SLM practices, which should also increase agricultural productivity.	Project Management Unit (PMU)
Co-financing may be delayed or re-oriented due to budget cuts or changes.	L	Co-financing will be monitored annually to assess financial flows from the different sources. Potential opportunities to involve new co-financiers will be identified during project implementation. Effective coordination between stakeholders will be sought to optimize synergies and promote long-term results.	Project Management Unit (PMU)
Women might be excluded from the decisions that will affect them (directly or indirectly) related to this project, or they may not equitably benefit from the project	M	- During the preparatory phase, a gender analysis was carried out to specifically understand the potential impacts of the project on women and men. Specific mitigation measures were included in the Gender Strategy and Action Plan. In addition, human and financial resources have been set aside in the project design to monitor the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.	Project Management Unit (PMU),

Proposed project activities will take place within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas and could inadvertently negatively impact habitats within the two Biosphere Reserves	L	- All the activities of the project are geared towards conservation, sustainable land management, communication and awareness raising. - No negative impacts on sensitive /critical areas are foreseen. - Monitoring activities will be carried out throughout the implementation of the project to prevent negative impacts.	Project Management Unit (PMU)
Indigenous people might be excluded from the decisions that will affect them (directly or indirectly), they may not equitably benefit from the project	M	-The project will carry out a number of activities in a highly participatory manner that are expected to benefit indigenous peoples, in particular strengthening value chains associated with sustainable management practices. -The Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including an Indigenous Peoples Framework, details the strategy to ensure that local communities are properly consulted (in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidelines and national legislation), encouraging their participation in project activities and decision making. -An Indigenous Peoples Plan at the local and national level will be developed at project outset to maximize IP participation in decision making processes and project activities. The Plan will take into account IPs? specific needs and livelihood characteristics in biosphere reserves. FPIC will be sought if any project activities trigger this requirement. - Mechanisms will be put in place for the consideration of local perspectives (e.g., traditional knowledge) of indigenous populations in the activities of the project.	Project Management Unit (PMU), Management Committees in RBBS and RBCAP

Climate change is contributing to a worsening of droughts in Ecuador, which could adversely affect habitat and species found in the country?s biosphere reserves.	L	By enhancing the management of biosphere reserves, the project is effectively enhancing ecosystem and species resilience to the expected effects of climate change.	Project Management Unit (PMU)
There was no FPIC consultations carried out on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned.	L	The Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including an Indigenous Peoples Framework, details a strategy to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are properly consulted (in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidelines and national legislation), encouraging their participation in project activities and decision making. An Indigenous Peoples Plan at the local and national level will be developed at project outset to maximize IP participation in decision making processes and project activities. The Plan will take into account IPs? specific needs and livelihood characteristics in biosphere reserves. FPIC will be sought if any project activities trigger this requirement. The decision to delay the formulation of FPIC until the beginning of the project was strongly influenced by the effects of COVID-19, which limited the possibilities to carry out consultations, as well as the difficulties to clearly identify who should participate in the process since this will ultimately depend on where various actions of the project will be implemented. Adequate mechanisms for the consideration of local perspectives (e.g., traditional knowledge) of indigenous populations in both Biosphere Reserves will be implemented.	Project Management Unit (PMU), Management Committees in RBBS and RBCAP

The project could result in potential increased health risks from the COVID-19 pandemic. Covid-19 could also delay the implementation of project activities, especially those requiring travel and field work.	M	A review of the annual workplan and procurement plan will be conducted to adapt the project?s activities based on the evolution of the pandemic and the country?s emergency status. Part of this review will include advancing desk activities during periods of travel restrictions and encouraging virtual meetings, with the corresponding budget for facilitators and specific software requirements. In addition, a safety plan with biosecurity measures will be developed, which will include measures to prevent the transmission of the disease among project staff and during field work with local communities.	Project Management Unit (PMU)
The project could receive grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders, which could result in lower rates of participation from local stakeholders in project activities.	L	Several communication and engagement approaches will be employed to promote effective local participation, including meetings, workshops, and interviews. These approaches will be streamlined in the implementation of the project?s activities to ensure an effective participation of a broad set of stakeholders in the attainment of the proposed results, and to support the sustainability of the implemented actions. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes grievance mechanisms based on the principles detailed in the Guidance Note on Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GMR)[1][1]. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for receiving and processing complaints, according to the Grievance Report Mechanism (GRM) manual. In cases where the above procedure does not offer satisfactory closure to the complaint, a report will be prepared and delivered to UNDP representatives who will provide further assistance on how to address it.	Project Management Unit (PMU)

The project is located in Ecuador, a country that is subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami, landslides, or volcanic eruptions. Any of these events could have adverse effects on the population depending on their magnitude.	L	The location of project activities, for example the selection of farms to implement sustainable land management practices, will take into consideration local conditions to minimize risks such as floods and landslides. The target BRs are not located in the coastal region, therefore, there is no risk of tsunamis. The Andes mountains also prevent the formation of severe winds. Ecuador is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, therefore, it is a seismically and volcanically active country. However, most earthquakes are small and barely noticeable, and the bigger ones typically only occur once every 20 to 30 years. Predicting the timing and magnitude of volcanic eruptions is still nearly impossible and the same applies to earthquakes.	Project Management Unit (PMU)

H=High Risk, S=Substantial Risk, M=Medium Risk, L=Low Risk

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[1] https://info.undp.org/sites/bpps/SES_Toolkit/SES%20Document%20Library/Uploaded%20October%202016/Supplemental%20Guidance_Grievance%20Redress%20Mechanisms.pdf

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

77. Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this NGO executed project is the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecorregion (CONDESAN), a regional environmental NGO with a legal presence in Ecuador. CONDESAN has been working over the last 25 years in the seven countries that share the Andean range. The mission of CONDESAN is to promote the conservation of the Andean ecosystems, and the sustainable development of the people that live in the Andean landscapes. The work of CONDESAN is structured in three thematic areas: biodiversity, water management, and sustainable livelihoods and landscapes. CONDESAN operates its projects in the region through its main office in Lima, and its subsidiary office in Quito.

78. The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:
? Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to

ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.

? Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this Project Document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.

? Procurement of goods and services, including human resources;

? Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets;

? Approving and signing the multiyear workplan;

? Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,

? Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

79. Project stakeholders and target groups: The main mechanisms for participation in decision making of the project stakeholders and target groups will be through the functioning of the Biosphere Reserve Management Committees (which will be strengthened through this project). In turn, each Management Committee Coordinator (in RBCAP and RBS) will be part of the Project Board.

80. UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance functions in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

81. The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) is responsible for:

? Providing strategic guidance during the execution of the project and, within the framework of the Project Board, and approving and signing the annual and multiyear workplan;

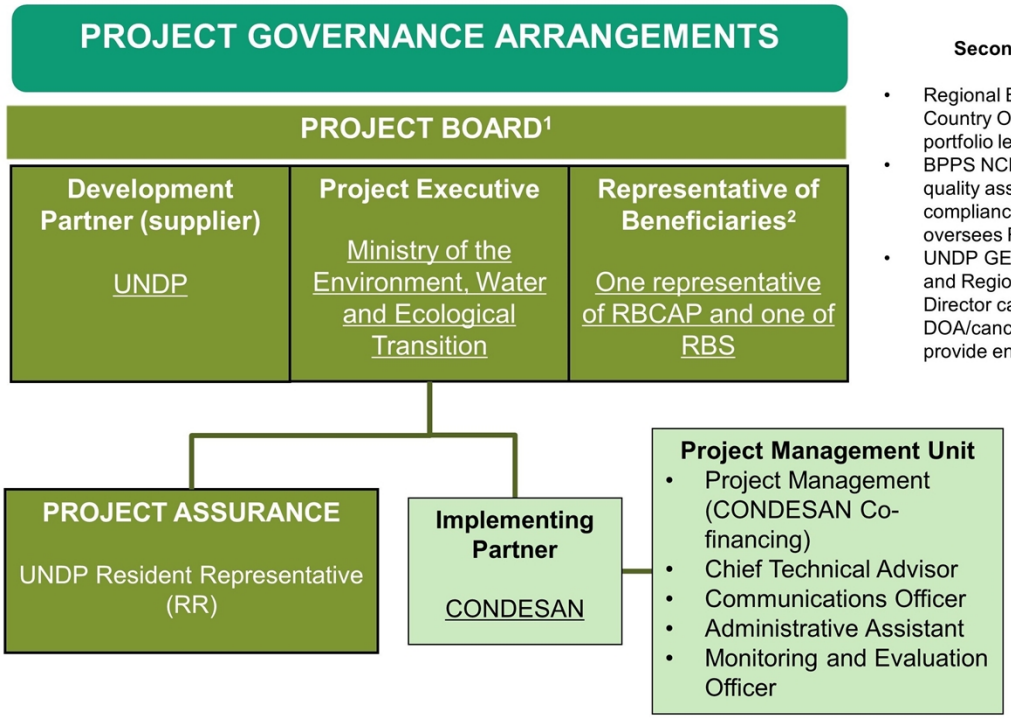
? Receiving the quarterly financial reports that CONDESAN will deliver to UNDP supporting the quarterly and annual expenses.

? Receiving the combined delivery report at the end of the year.

? Receiving and being informed of yearly audit reports.

Project governance arrangements

82. The project will be executed by CONDESAN. The project governance arrangements (summarized in the figure below) will consist of a Project Board, Project Assurance and a Project Management Unit (PMU). Roles and responsibilities are described below



Notes:

1, The IP (CONDESAN) and the GEF Operational Focal Point will attend the Project Board meetings as observers -without voting rights.

2 Each beneficiary representative has one voting right.

83. In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-?-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

Roles and Responsiblities of the Project Organization Structure:

a) Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

84. The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Provide Oversight? section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports,

evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
2) Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Manage Change? section of the POPP).

85. Composition of the Project Board: the composition of the project board must include individuals assigned to the following roles:

Project Executive: Is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Board. The Executive is normally the national counterpart for nationally implemented projects. The Project Executive for this project is: Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition or his/her delegate

Beneficiary Representatives: Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often civil society representative(s) can fulfil this role. The Beneficiary representative is: Two representatives delegated by the Management Committees for both RBCAP and RBBS.

Development partner: Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner for this project is:
UNDP, Resident Representative

Additional observers on the Board (without voting rights) include: The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing the project under its own policies and procedures as long as they are consistent with UNDP?s policies. The IP will formally report to the board on the day-to-day management and activities of the project. The observer from the implementing partner will be the Executive Director of CONDESAN. The GEF Operational Focal Point will keep track of project progress and provide feedback for the project?s annual reports (PIR).

b) Project Assurance: Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in

certain cases UNDP?s project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is the Program Officer.

c) Project Management ? Execution of the Project: The Project Manager (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is: Project Manager to be hired.

Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives:

86. The project will adapt green financing mechanisms developed by the PROAmazonia Program which is composed of two projects: the full-sized GEF project entitled Sustainable Development of the Ecuadorian Amazon: integrated management of multiple use landscapes and high value conservation forests and the GCF funded project Priming Financial and Land Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation for the selected value chains. In addition, the project will contribute to the implementation of the updated land use plans of local autonomous governments that currently include criteria on climate change, sustainable production, conservation, gender and interculturality. The inclusion of these criteria in local land use planning was promoted by the PROAmazon?a Program, and this project will support the application of environmental considerations such as climate change and sustainable production in the territories of the two selected BRs, supporting the local governments to also integrate the landscape approach in their land use plans and soil management plans.

87. Ecuador is promoting a model that is based on a bio-economy, which incorporates sustainable livelihood alternatives for rural populations that depend on natural resources for their subsistence. The latter also aligns with UNDP?s Covid-19 integrated recovery response, where the development of a green, inclusive economy is vital to tackle social and environmental challenges related to climate change and biodiversity loss. Therefore, this project aligns perfectly with Ecuador?s CPD and UNDP?s practices as it will contribute to the strengthening of value chains based on biodiversity and sustainable land management practices.

88. Specific mechanisms will be implemented to foster synergies with other projects funded by the GEF in Ecuador. One such project is: ?Establishing land degradation neutrality targets and restoration of degraded landscapes in the western Andes and coastal areas?, which will develop and implement an operative

framework to support sustainable land management practices and measure their impact on the recuperation of degraded lands. This project will work in landscapes adjacent to the Choco Andino Biosphere Reserve. Coordination with this project will promote the interchange of information between these initiatives. For example, field visits by local beneficiaries to farms where sustainable land management practices have been implemented will allow farmer?to?farmer exchange of experiences and joint learning.

89. Another project that generates opportunities for coordination is ?Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the sustainable use areas of the State Subsystem of Protected Areas (SEAP) of Ecuador and its buffer zones?, which shares with this project the application of a landscape approach to promote sustainable land use transitions in and around protected areas. Workshops and other spaces for collaboration will be implemented in order to promote the exchange of information, especially in relation to the strengthening of multi-level and multi-actor governance systems to support sustainability goals. The opportunities for collaboration with these projects is enhanced by the fact that CONDESAN is the implementing partner of these two initiatives financed by the GEF.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

90. In its constitution, Ecuador has pledged to promote a development model that seeks to align conservation and sustainable management. Ecuador?s National Development Plan ?Toda Una Vida? calls for key actions to safeguard nature?s rights, reduce the dependence on extractive activities, shifting towards a knowledge-based economy through the sustainable use of renewable biological resources to produce food, energy and industrial goods (SENPLADES 2017). The project is consistent with national policies, especially with Ecuador?s National Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2030. The project also contributes to strategic lines # 1 and # 2 of the National Climate Change Strategy 2012-2025, which seeks to strengthen the capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to face the impacts of climate change; and create favorable conditions for the adoption of measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sinks. In addition, the project is aligned with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), specifically with measures to protect the country?s natural heritage, such as: increase natural cover, implement sustainable practices, establish conservation and restoration corridors to maintain landscape connectivity, and strengthen capacities on climate change and management of natural heritage. The implementation of sustainable value chains also aligns with the NDC?s adaptation strategy, since the NDC identifies the implementation of sustainable practices in natural resource management as necessary to protect high biodiversity areas. Furthermore, the project will promote food security and sovereignty by implementing initiatives oriented towards sustainable production, which are also mentioned in the NDC.

91. Complementarily, both the constitution as well as relevant national policies also pursue gender equality, aiming to reduce gender gaps. In addition, the Technical Secretariat for Planning (Planifica

Ecuador) and MAATE have mainstreamed climate change and risk management into land use planning for local governments.

8. Knowledge Management

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

92. There is a specific outcome in the project (Outcome 3.3) that will involve knowledge management and dissemination actions to increase the implementation of best practices and improve decision making. Best management practices in BRs will be analyzed to identify successful experiences that are worth replicating, not only in the targeted BR reserves but in the entire country. Relevant scientific and grey literature, as well as fieldwork in the RBCAP and RBBS will be systematized to gather a comprehensive state-of-the-art assessment. The study will use a meta-analysis approach of effective Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices relevant to BR goals. This document will provide important information and knowledge that can be used for training key stakeholders included in the training plan. Broader adoption of SLM practices will be promoted through communication activities, while the capacity building program will support upscaling of the actions of the project. As part of the project's knowledge management efforts, the project will implement the gender action plan to ensure that all knowledge items (including lessons learned) take into consideration a gender approach. Finally, the project will facilitate sharing experiences between BRs through the organization and participation in the IberoMaB meeting to be held in Ecuador.

Outputs	Activities	Budget	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4		
			T1 (3)	T2 (6)	T3 (9)	T4 (12)	T1 (15)	T2 (18)	T3 (21)	T4 (24)	T1 (27)	T2 (30)	T3 (33)	T4 (36)	T1 (39)	T2 (42)	T3 (44)
Output 3.3.- Knowledge management dissemination to increase implementation of best practices and improve decision	3.3.1. Analyze the state-of-the-art of best management practices in BRs and disseminate it among BR stakeholders	USD 29,580		X	X												

Outputs	Activities	Budget	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4		
			T1 (3)	T2 (6)	T3 (9)	T4 (12)	T1 (15)	T2 (18)	T3 (21)	T4 (24)	T1 (27)	T2 (30)	T3 (33)	T4 (36)	T1 (39)	T2 (42)	T3 (44)
making.	3.3.2. Sharing experiences between BRs as part of the *IberoMaB* meeting	USD 33,000					X										
	3.3.3 Systematize lessons learned of the project	USD 24,372									X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	3.3.4. Development of Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)	USD 18,044	X	X													
	3.3.5. Mainstreaming the gender approach in the lifecycle of the project	USD 10,200	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total		**USD 115,196**															

[1] The Ibero-MAB Network aims at strengthening UNESCO?s Man and Biosphere Programme in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal by consolidating their MAB National Committees and co-operative links and promoting the creation of new biosphere reserves. Ibero-MAB develops an Action Plan to address issues such as governance, financing, education and training among BRs.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:		
GEF M&E requirements	**Indicative costs**	**Time frame**

	(US$)	
Inception and Closure Workshops and Reports	8,156	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	15,965	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	14,353	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring all risks (UNDP risk register)	4,984	On-going.
Monitoring of safeguards management frameworks and/or plans as relevant	11,018	Annually
Supervision missions	2,000	On-going.
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	25,000	February 01, 2026
TOTAL indicative COST **5 % when GEF project grant up to USD 5 million.*	**81,476***	*Add to TBWP component 4*

10. Benefits

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

93. The project will benefit 108,864 (57,215 men and 51,649 women) indirectly, who represent the rural population of both the Choc? Andino and Bosque Seco Reserves. The project will benefit 1290 people directly (645 women and 645 men) who will participate in capacity building activities, farm planning, and value chain support. . The project will implement multi-stakeholder and multilevel coordination mechanisms, and improve governance, training and communication to strengthen biosphere reserve management in Ecuador. The project will promote sustainable land management alternatives and support the growth of local bioenterprise value chains using a bioeconomy approach. Also, the project will support the sustainable diversification of local livelihoods, through the implementation of SLM practices in selected farms in the two prioritized biosphere reserves.

Under Output 3.1, the project will support bio-enterprises with specialized training such as on good management practices, financial management, organizational strengthening, gender approaches, and environmental sustainability. At least 2 local productive associations or bio-enterprises that empower

women, youth networks or other vulnerable groups will be strengthened in the project through training and technical assistance. .. In addition, existing UNDP-supported projects BIOFIN and PROAmazon?a are generating financial products to be offered for bioenterprises. They will be operated by public and private banks and consider the uniqueness of these kinds of ventures, promoting appropriate interest rates and grace periods. The project will adapt these mechanisms to the conditions of the selected bio-enterprises and local microfinance operators.

94. Under Output 3.2, the project will support SLM practices for agricultural systems including those that promote diversified farming systems, soil conservation, water management, and comprehensive pest management. SLM practices aimed at restoration in agricultural systems will be implemented based on agroforestry and analog forestry techniques. These SLM practices will support maintenance of the natural resources upon which the farmers depend as well as restoration practices and will also support increased productivity.

95. Capacities will be strengthened at various levels such as individual (training), institutional (planning tools) and systemic (coordinating mechanisms) in order to promote a development that is responsible from an ecological and human point of view. For example, a national MAB committee with official national and local representation will be created and operational. The participation of civil society in this committee will be promoted as well as the participation of women in decision-making processes. By balancing these needs, the project will contribute to the achievement of global environmental benefits such as conserving biodiversity, improving ecosystem services, applying sustainable land management practices and ensuring the equal participation of men and women in natural resource management.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
PIMS 6308 Ecuador Biospheres cleared SESP	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	

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

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Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
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Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and all its impacts
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CPD Output 2.2: Conservation and sustainable forest management activities as well as sustainable supply chain good practices carried out.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Project Objective:	*Biosphere Reserves in Ecuador are managed using a landscape approach. contributing to sustainable development through a territorial framework that emphasizes equal opportunities for women and men.*			
	Indicator 1: No. of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project in the two target Biosphere Reserves (BRs), disaggregated by gender	0	Direct beneficiaries in the 2 target BRs: 225 males 225 females Indirect beneficiaries in the 2 target BRs corresponding to the rural population in the parishes of the 2 BRs: 22,886 males 20,660 females 43,546 total inhabitants	Direct beneficiaries in the 2 target BRs**:** 645 males 645 females 1290 total Indirect beneficiaries in the 2 target BRs: 57,215 males 51,649 females 108,864 total inhabitants

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	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
	Indicator 2: Hectares of land under improved management to benefit biodiversity in RBCAP and RBBS (CI 4.1). -	BRs provides a valuable territorial framework to foster conservation and where sustainable use can be enhanced. However, RB management requires to be improved at national and local level through strengthened tools, effective governance mechanisms, and enhanced capacities.	At least 10,000 hectares within RBCAP and RBBS are under improved management to benefit biodiversity (through conservation and sustainable use), in core and transitions areas of both BR.	At least 14,519 hectares within RBCAP and RBBS are under improved management to benefit biodiversity through conservation and sustainable use (as a result of strengthened governance mechanisms, training, tools and practices) in core and transition areas of both BR.
	Indicator 3: Area of forest and forest land restored (CI 3.2)	Forest restoration, especially through natural regeneration of forest is needed in RBCAP and RBBS to recover habitat connectivity	90 ha of forest areas important to recover connectivity restored	140 ha of forest areas important to recover connectivity restored

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	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
	Indicator 4: Area of High Conservation Value Forest loss avoided (CI 4.4)	Ongoing deforestation can compromise the ecological integrity of core areas in RBCAP and RBBS	250 ha of high conservation value forest loss avoided	481 ha of high conservation value forest loss avoided
	Indicator 5: Area of landscapes under improved land management in production systems (CI 4.3).	Productive systems in both RBCAP and RBBS lack viable sustainable production alternatives.	100 ha of landscape under SLM practices in productive systems in buffer and transition zones of RBCAP and RBBS.	At least 200 ha of landscapes under SLM practices in productive systems, such as conservation, restoration and sustainable use practices in buffer and transition zones of RBCAP and RBBS.
	Indicator 6: Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (CI 6.1)	Baseline is 0 as project activities to sequester carbon or avoid emissions have not yet started.	100 000 tCO2-e avoided emissions from SLM practices, restoration and conservation	220 629 tCO2-e avoided emissions from SLM practices, restoration and conservation
Component 1:	**Enabling environment for the management of biosphere reserves in Ecuador**			

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	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Outcome 1 **Key tools that mainstream the landscape approach into territorial management and contribute to sustainable development in Ecuador applied by official entities involved in the management of biosphere reserves at national and subnational levels**	Indicator 7: Number of national interinstitutional coordination or governance mechanisms to enhance management of the national network of seven biosphere reserves.	There is currently no multilevel, intersectoral coordination mechanism for the management of biosphere reserves. The country does not have a national committee for UNESCO?s MAB Program, nor does it have official fora for the provision of technical, strategic, or political advice for the management of biosphere reserves. This makes it difficult to comply with the country?s agreements under the MAB program.	1 intersectoral, multilevel governance mechanism proposed and discussed with key stakeholders in order to establish an inter-institutional agreement.	2 national interinstitutional coordination or governance mechanisms, including: - 1 intersectoral, multilevel governance mechanism with technical and administrative procedures operating, established through an inter-institutional agreement (including one pilot of the multi-level coordination mechanism implemented in the targeted BRs with a technological platform to support information exchange among stakeholders) - National MAB

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CPD Output 2.2: Conservation and sustainable forest management activities as well as sustainable supply chain good practices carried out.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
	Indicator 8: Number of methodologies and tools to guide local governments on how to integrate biosphere reserve management and the landscape approach in their territorial planning.	Subnational governments do not consider the management of biosphere reserves, nor the landscape approach in their Development and Land Use Plans (PDOTs) nor in their Land Use and Occupancy Plans (PUOs). There are no official guidelines or instruments to do so. The GEF and GCF-funded PROAmazonia program provided MAATE and Planifica Ecuador support to develop guidelines for local governments to design their land use plans. This includes methods and criteria to mainstream climate change, steer local efforts towards accomplishing SDG, and establish follow-up mechanisms. This project will build upon these previous efforts, broadening available guidelines and toolboxes to promote additional and complementary approaches relevant for RB management.	Technical and methodological guidelines to incorporate a landscape approach into development and territorial management plans METT framework adapted to assess changes in BR management.	2 methodologies and tools, including: - A spatially explicit tool (e.g., zoning proposal) to identify priority areas for the provision of key ecosystem services and incorporate them into land use planning applied in the two targeted Biosphere Reserves -METT adapted framework applied in both target BRs

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	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	Output 1.1 Intersectoral and multilevel coordination and governance mechanisms are available and operational to promote better dialogue and foster information exchange between national and subnational stakeholders involved in biosphere management in Ecuador Output 1.2 Methodologies and tools are designed and available to guide local governments on how to integrate biosphere reserve management and the landscape approach in their territorial planning.			
Component 2	**Enhanced capacities for conservation and sustainable land management**			
Outcome 2: **Tools applied and capacities of local stakeholders increased to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems, and halt land degradation in Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque**	Indicator 9: Number of governance systems or tools to strengthen management within the two targeted BRs (RBCAP and RBBS)	The Choc? Andino Reserve (RBCAP) is the newest in Ecuador and just completed the development of its management model. Its management committee has been devised but is not yet operational. The Bosque Seco Reserve (RBBS) has a management model that should be assessed and a management committee that needs to be strengthened.	Two work plans aligned with BR management plans, agreed with the representatives of the management committees of the RBCAP and RBBS	2 local management committees, operational and strengthened in Choc? Andino and Bosque Seco Reserves, which foster women?s participation and define clear roles, responsibilities and mechanisms for decision making

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	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Seco Biosphere Reserves	Indicator 10: Number of guidelines or tools that are developed and implemented and that strengthen the management of local conservation areas in the two targeted BRs (RBCAP and RBBS)	In both targeted BRs, novel conservation measures have been established, such as local conservation areas created by local governments and private reserves. These efforts have allowed the conservation and recovery of ecosystems in the RBBS and RBCAP. However, many of these initiatives lack frameworks/guidelines/tools to align individual efforts toward common goals, enhance management skills, or reinforce positive organizational behavior. Additionally, participatory biodiversity monitoring systems are rare and local data available to assess BD conservation are limited.	At least 2 tools are developed to improve management skills of local stakeholders in local conservation areas within RBCAP and RBBS. Guidelines to enhance organizational culture, behavior and management of local conservation areas available in both target BRs Systems for participatory monitoring of biodiversity in place in both target BRs.	At least 4 tools to improve management skills of local stakeholders in local conservation areas within RBCAP and RBBS are implemented (e.g., guidelines for participatory decision making, tools for effective local communication, follow-up mechanisms, tools to monitor progress towards effective management in RB, sustainability indicator, systems for participatory monitoring of biodiversity in place and reporting in each BR) and strengthen the

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CPD Output 2.2: Conservation and sustainable forest management activities as well as sustainable supply chain good practices carried out.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
	Indicator 11: Percentage change in knowledge of key stakeholders involved in the local management committees of the RBCAP and RBBS about issues related to sustainability (including gender equality and biodiversity conservation) and the importance of functionality of biosphere reserves, among others, as measured through an evaluation administered at the outset and end of project.	Communications and promotional actions have been scarce and isolated and there is no communications strategy for the biosphere reserves. Baseline level of knowledge of stakeholders on these topics to be determined at the outset of the project through a tailored evaluation.	1 Communication strategy designed to raise awareness of the importance of BR to achieve sustainability goals	Increase of 20% in the knowledge of key stakeholders and decision makers involved in the local management committees about issues related to sustainability and the importance of functionality of biosphere reserves as a result of the implementation of the communications strategy with a gender equality approach, as measured by an end-of-project evaluation.

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	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	Output 2.1 Governance systems within targeted BRs are improved through the strengthening of local management committees. Output 2.2 Improved tools for the management of local conservation areas are available to protect and restore high conservation value ecosystems in each targeted BR Output 2.3 Capacities of local stakeholders are improved to effectively manage Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco biosphere reserves through training, research and learning activities. Output 2.4 Communication actions increase awareness of stakeholders in RBCAP and RBBS and facilitate stakeholder engagement in gender equality, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and the value of biosphere reserves, among others.			
Component 3	**Value chains and sustainable land management practices that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity**			

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CPD Output 2.2: Conservation and sustainable forest management activities as well as sustainable supply chain good practices carried out.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Outcome 3: **Incomes of local producers in the Choc? Andino de Pichincha and Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserves increased through the adoption of SLM practices and strengthening of bio-enterprises, ensuring broad participation of men and women**	Indicator 12: Number of local bio-enterprises in selected value chains in targeted biosphere reserves that integrate SLM practices	In the targeted BRs, opportunities to develop the tourism, bamboo and honey production value chains have been identified. At the beginning of the project, a rapid assessment will be carried out to select the value chains in which the project will work, and where the market access of bio-enterprises will be strengthened. There are no sustainability indicators to assess value chains, so it is proposed to measure them in at least one chain in one of the BRs. Financial entities operate in the two BRs (including credit unions, cooperatives, banks), but offer conventional financial products, without any analysis of sustainability indices. There are no specific green financial products to support SLM practices. The lack of access to financing is a major limitation for the adoption of SLM practices.	At least 1 innovative mechanism established (including appropriate financial mechanisms to support bio-enterprises that integrate SLM practices in selected value chains At least 2 local productive associations or bio-enterprises that empower women, youth networks of other vulnerable groups strengthened through technical assistance and training	At least 2 bio-enterprises in the two selected value chains (1 per BR) strengthened through technical assistance, training, and access to seed funds to facilitate investment for improved market access and sustainability

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	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
	Indicator 13: percentage of change in local producers? income (i.e. sales) in the two target BRs (RBCAP and RBBS)	0	5% increase in income of local producers who adopt SLM practices	10% increase of income of local producers who adopt SLM practices
	Indicator 14: Number of local farmers implementing SLM practices for conservation, restoration and sustainable use/production in the two target BRs (RBCAP and RBBS)	No farm-level SLM plans have been implemented under the two targeted BR management plans	50 local farmers implementing SLM practices for conservation, restoration and sustainable use/production	140 local farmers implementing SLM practices for conservation, restoration and sustainable use/production

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Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

This project will contribute to the following country outcome included in the UNDAF/Country Programme Document:
UNDAF 2019-2022 Impact 2: By 2022 Ecuador has strengthened its regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks to improve natural resource management in order to make it more sustainable, participatory and gender responsive, promoting more responsible production and consumption patterns in the context of climate change.
CPD Output 2.1: Instruments and mechanisms are applied at national or local level to manage natural resources in a sustainable way to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation and their effects, and to transition towards more sustainable productive systems;
CPD Output 2.2: Conservation and sustainable forest management activities as well as sustainable supply chain good practices carried out.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
	Indicator 15: Number of knowledge products to support better strategic and technical decision making and capacity strengthening regarding the management of biosphere reserves.	There are several Biosphere Reserve management initiatives in the country, whose results and lessons have not been compiled nor disseminated and which do not support improved decision- making at the local and national levels.	1 Meta-analysis of effective SLM alternatives relevant for Biosphere Reserve management	At least one knowledge product that systematizes lessons learned about SLM practices and BR management, disseminated to key stakeholders involved in BR management
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	Output 3.1 Bio-enterprises are strengthened in the two targeted BRs to support the integration of SLM practices in key value chains Output 3.2 Sustainable land management practices are adopted by local farmers in the targeted biosphere reserves Output 3.3 Knowledge management and dissemination increase implementation of best SLM practices and improve decision making			
Component 4	**Monitoring & Evaluation**			

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s):
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
Goal 5.- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
Goal 11.- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and all its impacts
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

This project will contribute to the following country outcome included in the UNDAF/Country Programme Document:
UNDAF 2019-2022 Impact 2: By 2022 Ecuador has strengthened its regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks to improve natural resource management in order to make it more sustainable, participatory and gender responsive, promoting more responsible production and consumption patterns in the context of climate change.
CPD Output 2.1: Instruments and mechanisms are applied at national or local level to manage natural resources in a sustainable way to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation and their effects, and to transition towards more sustainable productive systems;
CPD Output 2.2: Conservation and sustainable forest management activities as well as sustainable supply chain good practices carried out.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 15 -16 indicators)	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Outcome 4: **M&E mechanisms established by the project for adaptive management**	Indicator 16: Monitoring and Evaluation System in place.	NA	Biannual progress reports submitted PIRs submitted annually Periodic monitoring of indicators and safeguards (Indigenous Peoples Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan) and Gender Action Plan Core Indicators follow-up	All annual reports (PIRs) submitted Safeguards compliance Terminal evaluation
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	Output 4.1 Project evaluation and monitoring are carried out.			

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

N/A since this is a one-step MSP.

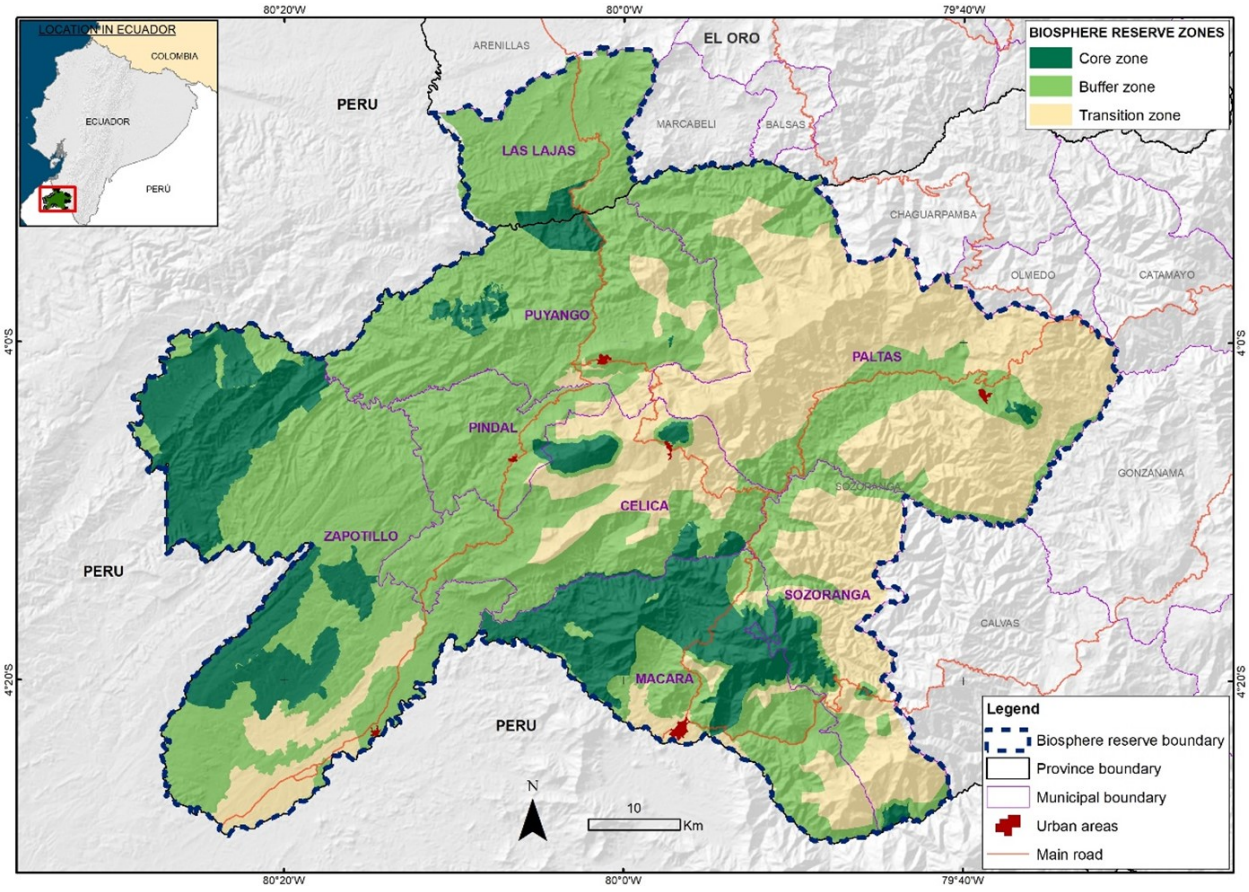
ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

N/A since no PPG funds were granted.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

Map 1. Choc? Andino Biosphere Reserve (Map composition CONDESAN)



Map 2. Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve (Map composition CONDESAN)

Map3.- Project?s targeted Biosphere Reserves and Key Biodiversity Areas (Map composition: UNEP)

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Vehicle	$38,000 ? Acquisition of a vehicle (4x4 pickup)			38,000	38,000			38,000	CONDESAN
Equipment	$13,200: This corresponds to dedicated internet and communications ($300/month * 44 months) for project staff.				-		13,200	13,200	CONDESAN
Equipment	$29,300: Acquisition of equipment for participatory monitoring of biodiversity in the 2 BR. These include camera traps ($20,000), SD memories ($3,000) and battery packs ($300). Acquisition of field microphones for participatory bioacoustic monitoring of local ecosystems in the two BR ($3,000 in each BR).		29,300		29,300			29,300	CONDESAN
Equipment	$14,591: 5 laptop computers for project personnel ($1,750 each) + software ($350* 5 PCs): Windows + office suit + antivirus, 1 Printer ($675) equipment insurance. Software licenses ($3,416), including Zoom and HW/SW materials.				-		14,591	14,591	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Equipment	$8,740 - Vehicle maintenance ($4,720) and vehicle registration ($4,020)			8,740	8,740			8,740	CONDESAN
Grants	$15,000: Involves grants to be transferred to selected bio-enterprises (at least 2) in key areas to strengthen organizational capacity, develop marketing/commercialization strategies, or enhance operation as part of a Good Management Practice Contest for bioenterprises. Grants will have to follow UNDP policy on Low Value Grants.			15,000	15,000			15,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Individual	Chief Technical Advisor salary: *Component 1 (C1) - CTA Total Cost: $56,196 (31.58% of total cost of contract, 42 months, salary $4,460 per month including benefits. Year 1: 10 months, C1-CTA Cost/year1: $13,380; Year 2-3: 12 months each year, C1-CTA Cost/year2-3: $16,056; Year 4: 8 months, C1- CTA Cost/year4: $10,704) to provide technical support to promote better dialogue and foster information sharing among BR in Ecuador through effective multilevel coordination and governance mechanisms. *C2- CTA Total Cost: $56,196 (31.58% of total cost of contract, 42 months, salary $4,460 per month including benefits. Year 1: 10 months, C2-CTA Cost/year1: $13,380; Year 2-3: 12 months each year, C2-CTA Cost/year2-3: $16,056; Year 4: 8 months, C2- CTA Cost/year4: $10,704) to plan technical activities with key local stakeholders in each BR. *C3- CTA Total Cost: $56,196.00 (31.58% of total cost of contract, 42 months, salary $4,460 per month including benefits. Year 1: 10 months, C3-	56,196	56,196	56,196	168,588	9,360		177,948	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Individual	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer salary: *C1-M&EOfficer Total Cost: $16,170 (14% of contract of employment, 42 months, salary $2,750 per month including benefits. Year 1: 10 months, C1-M&EOfficer Cost/year1: $3,850; Year 2-3: 12 months each year, C1-M&EOfficer Cost/year2-3: $4,620; Year 4: 8 months, C1-M&EOfficer Cost/year4: $3,080) to assist the design of a multi-level, multi-actor coordination mechanism for BR management in Ecuador. *C2-M&EOfficer Total Cost: $13,860 (12% of total cost of contract of employment, 42 months, salary $2,750 per month including benefits. Year 1: 10 months, C2-M&EOfficer Cost/year1: $3,300; Year 2-3: 12 months each year, C2-M&EOfficer Cost/year2-3: $3,960; Year 4: 8 months, C2-M&EOfficer Cost/year4: $2,640) to prepare work plans in each BR with relevant stakeholders and monitor their implementation. *C3-M&EOfficer Total Cost: $48,510 (42% of total cost of	16,170	13,860	48,510	78,540	36,960		115,500	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Individual	Specialist in Value Chains and Bioenterprises salary: *C2-VC&B Specialist Total Cost: $21,960 (30% of total cost of contract, 24 months, salary $3,050 per month including benefits. Year 1: 6 months, C2-VC&B Cost/year1: $5,490; Year 2: 12 months, C2-VC&B Cost/year2: $10,980; Year 3: 6 months, C2-VC&B Cost/year3: $5,490) for participatory assessment of management plans and other key tools available in each BR. *C3-VC&B Specialist Total Cost: $51,240 (70% of total cost of contract, 24 months, salary $3,050 per month including benefits. Year 1: 6 months, C3-VC&B Cost/year1: $12,810; Year 2: 12 months, C3-VC&B Cost/year2: $25,620; Year 3: 6 months, C3-VC&B Cost/year3: $12,810) to assess needs and provide technical assistance to foster sustainability into key value chains and integrate SLM practices and gender in RBCAP and RBBS.		21,960	51,240	73,200			73,200	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Individual	Communications Officer salary: C2-Communication Officer Total Cost: $58,320 (100% of total cost of contract, 36 months, salary $1,620 per month including benefits. Year 1: 6 months, C2-Communication Officer Cost/year1: $9,720; Year 2-3: 12 months each year, C2-Communication Officer Cost/year2-3: $19,440; Year 4: 6 months, C2-Communication Officer Cost/year3: $9,720) to design and carry out the implementation of the Communication Strategy. The Communications Officer will organize workshops (announcement, invitation, logistics, refreshments, confirmation, reports). Includes the systematization and communication of lessons learned, results and main impacts of the Project during its implementation.		58,320		58,320			58,320	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Individual	Administrative Assistant salary: PMC-Admin Assistant Total Cost: $84,840 (100% of total cost of contract of employment, 42 months, salary $2,020 per month including benefits. Year 1: 10 months, PMC-Admin Assistant Cost/year1: $20,200; Year 2-3: 12 months each year, PMC-Admin Assistant Cost/year2-3: $24,240; Year 4: 8 months, PMC-Admin Assistant Cost/year4: $16,160). The Administrative Assistant?s main responsibilities are to provide administrative support to the project, including accounting records, contracts formulation, acquisitions, and logistical support. Specific duties and responsibilities are detailed in the Terms of Reference of the position (See Annex 5).				-		84,840	84,840	CONDESAN
Contractual services-Individual	IT Specialist salary: CONDESAN Staff member that provides IT support services (Total Cost $4,830; equivalent to $115 per month for IT services).				-		4,830	4,830	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Company	$238,000: Several Contracts. Consultancies (Contractual Services3; several contracts with average cost $15,000; Total cost: $60,000) to design and implement participatory biodiversity monitoring system with at least 4 campaigns ($15,000 each campaign 4-month duration each; 2 x BR). Cost includes payment to researchers, fieldwork, per diem for researchers, and bioacoustic processing of samples. 1 Consultancy (Contractual Services4; 9 months, $65,000) for the design and implementation of the training plan (WP 2.3.1-2.3.3) to be built upon the principles and scope of Forest School including the development of materials. The company will organize at least 6 training events and workshops for exchange of experiences. It must undertake an initial assessment in prioritized thematic areas to feed and guide the training plan. 2 Consultancies (Contractual Services5; $25,000 each, with 4-month duration each; Total Cost $50,000) for the implementation of Water Schools (Escuelas del Agua) aimed mainly at technicians, officials		238,000		238,000			238,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Company	$62,400: 3 Consultancies. 1 Consultancy (Contractual Services7; $10,000, 4 months) to develop a Good Management Practice Contest for bioenterprises to support sustainable land management practices in the two selected biosphere reserves (RBCAP and RBS). A contest of Good Land Management Practices will be organized in each BR to help identify ongoing initiatives with high potential to foster sustainability goals in selected value chains. The consultant will systematize ongoing initiatives, set criteria to identify the most promising initiatives, conduct fieldwork and disseminate the contest. 2 Consultancies (Contractual Services8 & Contractual Services9, total cost $48,000, $24,000 each) to develop innovative mechanisms (including financial mechanisms and market access schemes) to support bioenterprises in targeted BR. 2 Consultancies to enhance institutional capacity building within CONDESAN, including gender mainstreaming (Contractual Services9, 3 months, Total Cost:			62,400	62,400			62,400	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Contractual services-Company	$64,000: 2 Consultancies. Consultancy (Contractual Service1; $34,000; 6 months) aims to design a multi-level, multi-actor communication and coordination mechanism for BR in Ecuador (Work Plan/WP: 1.1.1-1.1.2). A pilot will be implemented for RBCAP, including a technological platform to support information exchange between national and subnational governments (WP:1.1.3). Statutes and regulations for the operation of the MAB National Committee in Ecuador will be developed with stakeholders (WP:1.1.4). Consultancy (Contractual Service2; $30,000, 4 months) will generate a document with technical and methodological guidelines to incorporate a landscape approach into land use planning tools (WP: 1.2.1) to pilot guidelines in RBBS and RBCAP to showcase their usefulness. Also, the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) will be adapted in the context of the Biosphere Reserves model (WP: 1.2.4). The consultancy	64,000			64,000			64,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
International Consultants	$25,000: Consultancy for the final evaluation of the project in Spanish and in English. UNDP will be in charge of this activity.				-	25,000		25,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Local Consultants	$103,000: Hiring of consultants (Local Consultant1; several contracts with an average cost $6,500) up to a total of $78,000 to provide technical assistance to local conservation areas to enhance operational and organizational capacities. 2 Local Consultants to provide support in each BR to local communication networks led by young leaders (i.e. Redes de comunicaci?n de j?venes) (Local Consultant4; $10,000 each, 6 months). 1 Consultancy (2 months, $5,000) to assess awareness increases among local stakeholders about the important role played by biosphere reserves in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for men and women (Local Consultant5). The assessment will be carried out in each of the targeted BR taking into account the project baseline established at the start of the project. The consultant is in charge of the organization of the necessary workshops (notifications, logistics, refreshments, confirmation, reports); per diem and travel expenses of the team and printed materials		103,000		103,000			103,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Local Consultants	$224,180 Hiring of consultants (Local Consultant 2; several contracts to be defined during technical assistance to bioenterprises) up to a total of $57,600 to provide specialized training in good production practices, financial management, organizational strengthening, gender approaches, and environmental sustainability. 2 Local Consultants (Local Consultant3; total $112,000; 1 Local Consultant for each BR; 40 months, $1,400 per month each Local Consultant) to provide support in the field to sustainable land management practices in selected farms in the two selected biosphere reserves (RBCAP and RBS). 1 Consultancy (Local Consultant6, 6 months, $29,580) to implement a study that gathers information (including fieldwork) and analyzes the state-of-the-art of relevant grey and scientific literature about Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices and effective management of the Biosphere Reserves in Ecuador (Local Consultant6). The consultant is in charge of the organization of the necessary workshops (notifications, logistics,			224,180	224,180			224,180	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	$21,000: Implementation of workshops in each targeted BR (at least 1 per month during 40 months in both BR) to support the management committees with broad participation of local stakeholders and woman (Total cost $20,000). Plus $1,000 to cover costs associated to workshops for consultation (2), presentation (2), and media training (WP: 2.4.2) to develop and disseminate communication materials.		21,000		21,000			21,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	$23,000: Implementation of 10 workshops in the targeted BR ($200 each) to assess needs and foster sustainability in key value chains (total $2,000). Local workshops to support the implementation of SLM practices in privately owned farms in the two targeted BR (total $14,600). All costs to support sharing experiences between BRs as part of IberoMaB meeting ($4,000) and organization of local workshops in each BR for consultation and follow up of the IPP and safeguards ($2,400).			23,000	23,000			23,000	CONDESAN
Training, Workshops, Meetings	$8,000: 2 workshops ($800 each) to discuss and validate guidelines to promote dialogue and linkages between key national and subnational institutions involved in land use planning within BR (WP: 1.2.2). 8 Workshops to strengthen the operation of the MAB National Committee ($800 USD each; total $6,400. WP: 1.1.2; 1.1.4).	8,000			8,000			8,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	$8,156: Inception workshop ($800) and final workshop for exchange of experiences, travel cost, lodging ($7,356)				-	8,156		8,156	CONDESAN
Travel	$2,000 ? Supervision missions for M&E (2 visits; Cost/supervision mission: $1,000)				-	2,000		2,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Travel	$20,000: National travel and daily stipends. 50 per diems of $100 for travel and meetings to support management committee for project personnel and counterparts ($5,000; WP 2.1.4). 30 per diems of $100 for travel and meetings to support management of local conservation areas; includes per diems for project personnel and counterparts ($3,000; WP 2.2.3). 70 per diems of $100 for travel, meetings to implement and evaluate training activities and exchange of experiences among local stakeholders in the two targeted BR ($7,000; WP 2.3.3). 50 per diems of $100 for travel and meetings to support participation and engagement of women and young people in management committee in BR ($5,000; WP 2.3.4).		20,000		20,000			20,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Travel	$5,000: National travel (tickets and per diem). Per diem defined at $100 per day, both for project staff and counterparts. Includes per diems for all Component 1 workshops and national travel for counterparts, MAB Committee and project team.	5,000			5,000			5,000	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Travel	$50,650: National travel and daily stipends; 149 daily stipends of $100 for project personnel and local participants to provide technical assistance to bioenterprises ($14,900; WP 3.1.5), and 90 daily stipends of $100 for project personnel and local participants to assess and provide follow up to support Sustainable Land Management practices implemented in privately owned farms ($9,000, WP 3.2.4). ? Plus $26,750 for knowledge management dissemination. including international travel to support participation of young leaders involved in BR management in other countries including air flight tickets (14 leaders per $1,250 cost/person), and two day field work activities for 40 participants, including local transportation costs ($1,250), and daily stipends ($100 per diem, 2 days, 40 participants; Total cost $8,000) for field trip activity costs, including accommodation, food and logistics of visits for the IberoMaB meeting.			50,650	50,650			50,650	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Office Supplies	$3,380: Office materials: paper, toners, folders, various items.				-		3,380	3,380	CONDESAN
Other Operating Costs	Premises - $13,200: 18% of office use ($300/month) * 44 months				-		13,200	13,200	CONDESAN
Other Operating Costs	$32,000: 3 Audits and HACT assurance activities ($32,000). UNDP will be in charge of these activities.				-		32,000	32,000	CONDESAN
Other Operating Costs	$41,100: Operating budget for the development and implementation of the Communication Strategy ($38,700), plus the development of a web page of the project ($2,400) to spread news and relevant information about BR.		41,100		41,100			41,100	CONDESAN
Other Operating Costs	$339: Bank Charges to process wire transfer from funds administered by CONDESAN.	339			339			339	CONDESAN
Other Operating Costs	$4,560 - Vehicle insurance ($4,560; estimated annual cost of 3% of vehicle value)			4,560	4,560			4,560	CONDESAN

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Other Operating Costs	$244,050: Purchase of goods and materials to support sustainable land management practices in 140 privately owned farms (total $210,000). Purchase of goods to build local greenhouses (total cost $32,000; 2 per BR; $8,000 each greenhouse). Acquisition of protective equipment supplies for project staff and meeting participants for COVID-19 ($2,050)			244,050	244,050			244,050	CONDESAN
Grand Total		**149,705**	**602,736**	**826,526**	**1,578,967**	**81,476**	**166,041**	**1,826,484**	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

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

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

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