

# GEF-8 PPG REQUEST FOR GBFF PROJECTS

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Indicative Project Overview .....	4
<b>PROJECT COMPONENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PROJECT CONCEPT DESCRIPTION.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Core Indicators.....	12
<b>ANNEX A: PROJECT FINANCING TABLES .....</b>	<b>15</b>
GEF Financing Table .....	15
Project Preparation Grant (PPG) .....	15
Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation .....	16
Indicative Action Area Elements .....	16
Indicative Co-financing .....	17
<b>ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS .....</b>	<b>18</b>
GEF Agency(ies) Certification .....	18
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):.....	18

## General Project Information

Project Title:

Mexico Blue Prosperity, IPLC-led conservation in the Gulf of California

Region:

Latin America and the Caribbean

GEF Project ID:

12237

Country(ies):

Mexico

Type of Project:

GBFF

GEF Agency(ies):

IADB

GEF Agency Project ID:

Anticipated Executing Entity(s):

Conservation International Mexico

Anticipated Executing Type:

GEF Agency

GEF Focal Area (s):

Biodiversity

Submission Date:

12/17/2025

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Stakeholders, Focal Areas, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Biodiversity, Civil Society, Local Communities, Private Sector, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Gender results areas

Type of Trust Fund:

GBFF

Project Duration (Months)

72

GEF Project Financing: (a)

8,932,420.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

848,580.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

9,781,000.00

Total Co-financing:

115,813,414.23

PPG Amount: (e)

200,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

19,000.00

PPG total Amount: (e+f)

219,000.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

10,000,000.00

Project Tags:

Blended finance, Support IPLC, GBF Target 1, GBF Target 2, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 17, GBF Target 18, GBF Target 22

## Indicative Project Overview

Establish Marine Prosperity Zones (MPZs) as IPLC-led socio-ecological territories that integrate ecosystem conservation, regenerative blue livelihoods, shared governance and innovative finance, demonstrating an inclusive model of marine conservation co-developed with government, civil society and IPLCs, and generating national guidance for replication toward Mexico's 30x30 goals.

### Project Components

#### Component 1. Creating the Enabling Environment for Mexico's New Integrated Social-Ecological Marine Conservation Model

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,040,890.00	51,845,014.03

Project Outcomes:

**1.1 Marine-coastal governance strengthened through IPLCs-led intercultural governance systems and regulatory pathways enabling the development, formal recognition and operationalization of MPZs and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) as effective multi-level conservation model**

Project Outputs:

**1.1.1 Participatory socio-ecological and territorial diagnosis completed** and IPLCs territorial **priorities** established to **inform MPZs development, regulatory pathways** and intercultural governance arrangements.

**1.1.2 MPZs operational frameworks co-developed and validated**, establishing objectives, zoning schemes, use regulations, co-management mechanisms and monitoring requirements.

**1.1.3 Interinstitutional and IPLCs co-management agreements formalized**, establishing shared responsibilities, defined roles and coordinated decision-making structures for MPZs governance.

**1.1.4 Community-based and intercultural governance platforms** established to support shared decision-making, coordination and biocultural monitoring in MPZs territories

**1.1.5 Regulatory pathways for MPZs recognition as OECMs identified and validated** through intercultural processes with IPLCs and key institutional stakeholders

**1.1.6 National MPZs scaling strategy developed** based on the systematization of lessons learned, documented best practices, and a replicability analysis.

#### Component 2: Nature-based Solutions for strengthening marine Social-Ecological Systems

Component Type	Trust Fund
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Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,900,648.70	23,742,874.00

Project Outcomes:

**2.1 Marine Socio-Ecological Systems strengthened in MPZs territories through IPLC-led restoration of priority habitats and improved ecological connectivity.**

Project Outputs:

**2.1.1 Participatory restoration plans co-developed and validated**, incorporating IPLCs ecological knowledge and aligned with the National Environmental Restoration Programme (PNRA) and territorial land-use frameworks

**2.1.2 Restoration of priority marine-coastal habitats initiated in MPZs territories**, integrating community-led monitoring and adaptive management

**2.1.3 Island restoration actions implemented to recover ecological integrity** through invasive species control and natural regeneration

**2.1.4 No Taken-Zones (NTZs) and MPZs strengthened or established** to enhance sustainable resource management and support integrated conservation.

**2.1.5 Ecological connectivity corridors** identified and under implementation to link Protected Areas (PAs), NTZs, MPZs and OECMs, improving functional landscape and seascape connectivity.

**2.1.6 Site-level restoration monitoring and compliance** reports produced to support transparency, accountability and adaptive management

### Component 3. Catalyzing an Inclusive Blue Economy for diversified livelihoods

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,300,776.00	7,880,148.40

Project Outcomes:

**3.1 Diversified and strengthened blue livelihoods enabled** through IPLC-led, gender-responsive finance, sustainable market integration and strategic partnerships

Project Outputs:

**3.1.1 IPLC-led business plans developed** to identify primarily collective—Livelihood activities, informed by bioeconomic assessments, aligned with community vocation —such as ecotourism, value-added processing, or diversified fisheries products— supporting sustainable income generation and market integration.

**3.1.2 Sustainable market integration** strengthened through **community-based certification systems, biocultural labeling and market-access mechanisms**, with the **Marine Economic Diversification Roundtable** activated to connect IPLC-led regenerative blue enterprises with sustainable value chains.

**3.1.3 Innovative gender-responsive blended blue finance instruments developed and operationalized**—including concessional microcredit, guarantees and tailored credit lines—with dedicated measures to **expand women’s access to finance and decision-making roles**.

**3.1.4 Strategic partnerships established with trust funds, financial institutions, IDB Lab**, the Bioregional Platform for Systemic Change and **value-chain actors to mobilize private-sector co-financing** and long-term market access for IPLC-led regenerative blue livelihoods.

3.1.5 **Responsible fishing practices** adopted, and **regenerative mariculture and aquaculture** units —aligned with ecosystem-based approaches— established and operated by IPLCs groups, delivering biodiversity and livelihood co-benefits.

## Knowledge, Capacity and Learning Systems to sustain and replicate inclusive marine conservation models

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
818,131.00	23,111,561.00

Project Outcomes:

4.1 **Institutional, IPLCs and civil society capacities strengthened** to sustain and replicate MPZs and other OECMs

Project Outputs:

4.1.1 **Territorial capacity-building systems established** offering inclusive training programmes on restoration, governance, regenerative production, financial inclusion and gender-responsive financial management, with curricula co-designed with IPLCs and leadership pathways for Indigenous women and youth.

4.1.2 **Community and Inter-Regional Learning Platforms Operational** under implementation to facilitate knowledge exchange across communities and regions.

4.1.3 **Collective learning and traditional knowledge recovery initiatives** implemented to document, revitalize and transmit Indigenous ecological knowledge relevant to MPZs governance and restoration.

4.1.4 **Marine-coastal Guardians Networks established, with a focus on IPLCs women and youth leadership**, to support stewardship, surveillance and community engagement in MPZs territories.

4.1.5 **Communication for Development (C4D): Storytelling Strategy implemented** featuring storytelling-based products to enhance awareness, participation, and behavioral change

## M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
446,621.30	3,671,278.90

Project Outcomes:

5.1 **Evidence-based adaptive management and full GBFF/GEF compliance**

Project Outputs:

5.1.1 **Participatory socio-ecological monitoring protocols co-developed and adopted**, integrating biocultural indicators, continuous evaluation and community accountability mechanisms

5.1.2 **Gender- responsive M&E system designed and operational, applying the Ocean Health Index** and aligned with CONANP, CONABIO and CONAPESCA platforms, including core indicator tracking, participatory audits and learning products

5.1.3 **Mid-term review and Terminal Evaluation** conducted to inform adaptive management and strengthen project sustainability

## Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1. Creating the Enabling Environment for Mexico's New Integrated Social-Ecological Marine Conservation Model	1,040,890.00	51,845,014.03
Component 2: Nature-based Solutions for strengthening marine Social-Ecological Systems	2,900,648.70	23,742,874.00
Component 3. Catalyzing an Inclusive Blue Economy for diversified livelihoods	3,300,776.00	7,880,148.40
Knowledge, Capacity and Learning Systems to sustain and replicate inclusive marine conservation models	818,131.00	23,111,561.00
M&E	446,621.30	3,671,278.90
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,507,067.00</b>	<b>110,250,876.33</b>
Project Management Cost (PMC)	425,353.00	5,562,537.90
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>8,932,420.00</b>	<b>115,813,414.23</b>

Please provide justification

## PROJECT CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

**Project Concept Description (No more than seven pages total, including 5 pages of text maximum. Concepts longer than 7 pages will be returned. Please note the portal entry will be limited to up to 19,400 characters of text and up to two figures.)**

**Project rationale:** Mexico's seas cover only **1% of the planet yet host ~10% of global marine species**, including six of seven sea turtle species and over 30 marine mammals such as the critically endangered vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*). These ecosystems are vital for national food security, climate resilience and coastal livelihoods. Despite advances in conservation—11.76% of land and 23.78% of marine areas under protection—significant gaps persist: 36.62% of Key Biodiversity Areas lack protection and 46.13% are only partially protected, with similar gaps across Ramsar Sites and Biologically Significant Marine Areas. Mexico is advancing the KMGBF through full marine ecological zoning (Target 2), ecosystem restoration and commitments to conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030 (Target 3) and strengthened tools for sustainable fisheries (Target 10). SEMARNAT has committed to managing all marine areas and restoring 30% of degraded marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030.

Spanning 247,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the **Gulf of California is a global biodiversity hotspot** comprising 244 islands and 12 protected areas and hosting ~6,000 marine species. It connects Pacific and continental ecosystems and supports 70% of Mexico's fisheries, 50,000+ artisanal fishers, 2M+ tourists annually, and irrigation districts supplying 40% of national agriculture. It is also a biocultural seascape where Indigenous Peoples, Comcáac, Cucapá, Yaqui, Yoreme, Wixárika and Tepehuano del Sur live. Under the National Environmental Restoration Programme (PNRA), launched in 2025, Mexico has recognized the need for a territorial conservation model that integrates restoration, sustainable use, governance and community prosperity, applicable to priority restoration sites through 2030 and beyond.

**However, the Gulf faces accelerating ecological degradation.** Overfishing, IUU fishing (>40%), mangrove loss, wetland degradation, pollution and climate impacts have severely reduced ecological integrity: 69% of assessed fish stocks have collapsed, 11% are overexploited, and only 20% are sustainably managed. PAs often function as isolated "blue islands," ecological connectivity is weak, and restoration efforts rarely link to sustainable production, limiting incentives for stewardship. These pressures are compounded by fragmented governance across National Commission for Protected Natural Areas (CONANP), National Fisheries Commission (CONAPESCA) and National Fisheries Institute (IMIPAS), which constrain coordinated action, while IPLC conservation initiatives remain under-financed and excluded from OECM frameworks. While OECMs offer a pathway to recognize Indigenous territories, voluntary reserves and community-managed fisheries, they remain weakly integrated into national planning and financing frameworks, reflecting a mismatch between long ecological recovery timelines and the immediate livelihood needs of coastal communities.

**Socioeconomic constraints exacerbate these challenges.** IPLCs, cooperatives and women-led groups face limited access to credit, including lack of collateral and formal credit history, high certification costs and constrained market pathways for low-impact blue economies. Despite their central role, **women represent nearly half of the fisheries workforce but hold only around 6% of permits**, facing persistent barriers to training, technology and decision-making. These constraints underscore the need for an inclusive model linking ecosystem recovery and sustainable production.

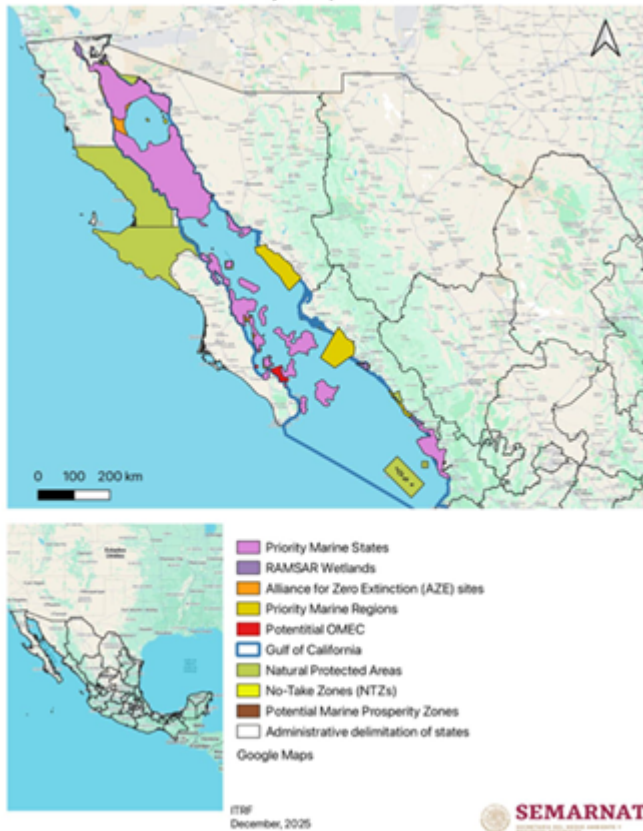
**Mexico Blue Prosperity addresses these challenges** by establishing **Marine Prosperity Zones (MPZs) as IPLC-led socio-ecological territories** that integrate conservation, restoration, regenerative blue livelihoods and inclusive governance. MPZs strengthen Indigenous leadership, embed traditional ecological knowledge and advance ocean equity through gender-responsive governance, regulatory innovation, tailored financing and community-based biocultural monitoring. Co-designed with IPLCs, government and civil society, MPZs reinforce existing instruments—including PAs, NTZs and Ramsar Sites—while creating the enabling conditions for OECMs recognition and future national scaling.

The **MPZs approach builds on Gulf of California experiences**, such as Cabo Pulmo, El Manglito and La Reforma, that gave rise to the Marine Prosperity Areas concept, demonstrating how IPLC-led governance, restoration and livelihood diversification can jointly deliver ecological and socio-economic resilience. The **Gulf of California will serve as the national testbed for this integrated model**. The project supports PNRA goals to restore or establish 10 conservation areas in degraded Gulf zones by 2030, showcasing how MPZs unify restoration, sustainable production, governance, and adaptive monitoring within an integrated territorial framework. The initiative operationalizes OECMs principles and contributes directly to KMGBF Action Areas 1, 2 and 4. By **strengthening key Eastern Tropical Pacific ecosystems**, the **project addresses core drivers of biodiversity loss and climate vulnerability**, including overfishing, IUU fishing, habitat degradation and ecological fragmentation.

The project will be delivered **through four integrated components**: (1) an enabling environment for new social-ecological conservation models; (2) Nbs restoration of priority habitats; (3) a diversified, regenerative and inclusive blue economy; and (4) the knowledge, capacity and learning systems needed to sustain and replicate MPZs and OECMs models nationwide, in line with KMGBF and Mexico's 30x30 commitments.

## Fig. 1. Project impact areas

Mexico Blue Prosperity IPLC-led conservation in the Gulf of California  
Project impact areas



**Theory of Change.** The Mexico Blue Prosperity Project’s ToC is based on the premise that **if** IPLCs’ co-leadership in MPZs design and governance, together with local coastal and fishing communities’ engagement in ecosystem restoration, ecological connectivity and diversified blue livelihoods supported by inclusive finance, within an enabling policy and regulatory environment, will result in resilient socio-ecological territories where biodiversity recovery, climate resilience and community well-being reinforce each other. **Then** MPZs can then be recognized and scaled nationally as inclusive conservation models, contributing to Mexico’s 30x30 commitments and KMGBF Targets 1, 2, 3, 18, 19, and 22.

**Component 1. Enabling Environment for Mexico’s New Integrated Social-Ecological Marine Conservation Models.** This component strengthens the legal, institutional and governance frameworks required to establish MPZs as IPLC-led socio-ecological conservation territories. It supports participatory territorial planning, intercultural governance arrangements and regulatory pathways to formally recognize MPZs and other IPLC-managed areas as OECMs with NBSP and marine spatial planning frameworks.

**Activities include:** participatory socio-environmental and territorial diagnostics to define IPs & LCs priorities, governance structures and MPZ operation; co-development of MPZs operational frameworks, including zoning, use regulations, co-management arrangements and monitoring requirements; formalization of intercultural co-management agreements between IPs, LCs and relevant institutions; identification and validation of regulatory pathways for MPZs recognition as OECMs within national legal and policy frameworks; development of a national MPZs scaling strategy to guide replication and policy integration.

**Component 2. NbS for strengthening marine Social-Ecological Systems.** This component **strengthens marine socio-ecological systems in MPZs territories** by supporting IPLC-led NbS, restoring priority habitats, reinforcing sustainable use zones and improving ecological connectivity. These restoration actions are co-designed with IPLCs, aligned with the PNRA, and based on indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and adaptive management.

**Key activities include:** co-designing and validating of IPLC-led restoration plans, including ecological assessments, spatial delimitation and community planning; restoration of priority marine and coastal habitats, including mangroves, seagrasses, corals, rocky reefs, wetlands, and island ecosystems; providing technical support for establishing No-Take Zones (NTZs) within MPZs to support stock recovery and sustainable fisheries; identification and

implementation of ecological connectivity corridors linking PAs, NTZs, MPZs and other OECMs; participatory monitoring and compliance reporting.

**Component 3. Catalyzing an Inclusive Blue Economy for diversified livelihoods.** This component **strengthens diversified and resilient blue livelihoods in MPZs territories** by enabling IPLC-led conservation- and restoration-based economic activities, supported by inclusive and gender-responsive finance, sustainable market integration and strategic public–private partnerships that strengthen incentives for long-term stewardship, and professionalize community-led restoration as a viable economic activity supporting sustainable blue economies.

**Key activities include:** developing IPLC-led business plans aligned with community vocation and conservation priorities, including restoration-based economic activities to guide diversified and sustainable livelihood strategies; strengthening certification, biocultural labeling and market-access mechanisms to connect IPLC-led enterprises with sustainable value chains; deploying inclusive, gender-responsive blended finance instruments, including concessional microcredit delivered through Finance for Wellbeing (FINABIEN), guarantees and tailored credit lines, to reduce financial risk and expand access to capital for IPLCs, small-scale producers and women, with measures to strengthen women's participation and decision-making; promoting strategic partnerships with financial institutions, IDB Lab, the Bioregional Platform for Systemic Change and value-chain actors to mobilize private-sector co-financing, innovation and long-term market access; establishing IPLC-owned or community-managed regenerative aquaculture and mariculture units that deliver co-benefits for biodiversity recovery, livelihood diversification and reduced pressure on overexploited fisheries; strengthening IPLC and institutional capacities to develop bankable projects aligned with IPLC-led business plans, enabling potential access—where applicable—to national mechanisms such as SEMARNAT's Environmental Responsibility Fund, subject to regulatory approval and PPG definition.

**Component 4. Knowledge, Capacity and Learning Systems to sustain and replicate inclusive marine conservation models.** This component strengthens the knowledge, capacities, and learning systems necessary for sustaining, scaling, and replicating MPZs and other OECMs. It promotes long-term stewardship by reinforcing territorial capacities, revitalizing traditional ecological knowledge, establishing participatory monitoring and learning platforms, and strategically shifting social norms.

**Key activities include:** establishing IPLCs co-designed territorial capacity-building systems, delivering inclusive training on ecosystem restoration, intercultural governance, regenerative production and inclusive financial management, with emphasis on women and youth leadership; operationalizing community and inter-regional learning platforms to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange among IPs, fishing communities, cooperatives, CSOs and institutions; revitalizing, documenting and transmitting indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, integrating Indigenous knowledge systems; establishing marine–coastal guardian networks led by IPLCs women and youth to support stewardship, surveillance and community engagement; implementing a C4D strategy, using storytelling to shift social norms and build public and policy support for MPZs; institutionalizing participatory socio-ecological monitoring and learning systems, ensuring that evidence generated by IPLCs informs adaptive management, policy dialogue and long-term replication.

**Cross-cutting M&E.** This component establishes participatory, gender-responsive MEL to demonstrate results, ensure GBFF/GEF compliance and support adaptive management and scaling of MPZs and OECMs models. It integrates socio-ecological, biocultural and governance indicators to generate evidence on GEBs and inform decision-making.

**Key activities include:** co-developing participatory socio-ecological monitoring protocols with IPLCs, integrating biocultural indicators, continuous evaluation and community accountability; operationalizing a gender-responsive M&E system aligned with institutional platforms, applying the Ocean Health Index and tracking GBFF core indicators; conducting a MTR & TE to inform adaptive management, learning and long-term sustainability.

Fig 2. ToC graph.



The project promotes policy coherence, coordinated action and strategic partnerships to advance conservation-led prosperity in the Gulf of California. Led by the federal government, the partnership is centered on IPLCs, with support from subnational governments, CSOs, academia and the private sector.

**Government stakeholders:** (a) **National. SEMARNAT provides environmental leadership and policy stewardship**, ensuring alignment with national frameworks and Mexico’s KMGBF commitments. The **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoA) and the Ministry of Finance, as OFP**, contribute to policy, sectoral and financial coordination. SEMARNAT leads to the enabling framework for MPZs and the integration of IPLC-led initiatives into national planning and financing. (b) **Subnational. Gulf of California Well-Being Alliance.** A high-level agreement between SEMARNAT, MoA and the subnational governments of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa and Nayarit will formalize a regional cooperation framework for marine and coastal conservation, restoration, sustainable development and community well-being.

**Indigenous peoples and local communities**, including Comcaac, Cucapá, Yaqui, Yoreme, Wixárika and Tepehuano del Sur co-lead in accordance with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), territorial planning and decision-making (see Annex 1), contribute traditional ecological knowledge to restoration, monitoring and adaptive management, and act as stewards of marine-coastal ecosystems. IPLCs directly execute project activities, play an active role in resource management through agreed governance and financial arrangements, and design and implement regenerative fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture and nature-based enterprises supported through blended finance, including concessional livelihood initiatives and projects potentially supported by the Environmental Responsibility Fund.

**Civil Society and Academia** are strategic partners in scaling inclusive and regenerative marine solutions, including the Bioregional Platform for Systemic Change, a collaborative initiative led by Pronatura Noroeste, the University of California Santa Barbara, CO Systemic and the International Community Foundation, which integrates knowledge generation, collective action and blended finance to place ocean health and sociocultural identity at the core of community prosperity.

**Private sector and philanthropic organizations** support knowledge generation, ecosystem restoration, community-based conservation and regenerative blue economy activities through their funds, platforms and initiatives. They play a key role in mobilizing co-financing and fostering innovation. Where appropriate, private-sector environmental compensation resources may be channeled through national mechanisms such as the Environmental Responsibility Fund.

**The proposal aligns with the GBFF action areas as follows: AA1.** Integrated marine spatial planning and governance to enable biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and OECM-based area management (Targets **1, 2 and 3, primary**). **Components 1 & 2. AA2.** Ecosystem restoration through NbS with IPLC leadership, gender-responsive participation and community-based monitoring, strengthening long-term stewardship and inclusive governance (Targets **2 and 22, primary; Targets 1 and 3, co-benefits**). **Components 2 & 4. AA4** Mobilization of public and private finance through blended and results-based instruments to support biodiversity-positive investments and sustainable livelihoods (Targets **18 and 19, primary**). **Component 3.**

**The Project will generate measurable GEBs** aligned with GBFF core indicators and Mexico's commitments under the KMGBF by establishing MPZs as IPLC-led socio-ecological territories that integrate conservation, ecosystem restoration, sustainable use and inclusive governance. Through IPLC-led restoration and improved management of priority marine and coastal ecosystems—including mangroves, wetlands, reefs, seagrasses and island systems—the Project will expand and strengthen protected and conserved areas, improve ecological connectivity, and enhance fisheries sustainability in the Gulf of California (CI 1, CI 2, CI 5, CI 8). Restoration of blue carbon ecosystems and regenerative mariculture will contribute to climate mitigation and resilience (CI 6), while coastal wetland restoration will address land degradation in productive marine–coastal landscapes (CI 3). These benefits will be sustained through intercultural governance, participatory monitoring and capacity-building systems, and complemented by innovative resource-mobilization approaches, including blended finance and partnerships with financial institutions, IDB Lab and philanthropic actors.

**Promotion of the implementation of the NBSAP and PNRA.** The project is fully aligned with Mexico's national environmental, biodiversity and climate policy framework. It contributes to the National Development Plan 2025–2030 (PND, Axis 4) by advancing marine conservation, ecosystem restoration and climate mitigation, and supports the NBSAP (ENBioMex) by restoring priority ecosystems and the strengthening of IPLC-led governance. It directly contributes to Mexico's commitment to restoring 50% of degraded ecosystems by 2030 under the PNRA, integrating community participation, NbS and innovative financing mechanisms. The project also aligns with the National Policy for the Sustainable Management of Seas and Coasts (PNMSMC) by strengthening marine spatial planning, sustainable fisheries, land–sea connectivity and ecosystem resilience, and with Mexico's Nationally Determined Contributions, NDC 3.0, through EbA, blue carbon restoration and emissions mitigation.

**Financial structure.** The project has a **blended finance structure centered on FINABIEN's concessional microcredit**, designed to mitigate risk and increase access to financing for IPLCs, small producers, women, and other vulnerable groups in alignment with Mexico's sustainable finance mobilization strategy led by the Ministry of Finance. FINABIEN's concessional microcredit for cooperatives and productive groups provides a scalable mechanism applicable to small-scale fisheries, aquaculture and other conservation-aligned livelihoods. This instrument is supplemented by innovative financing mechanisms promoted in collaboration with IDB Lab and the Bioregional Platform for Systemic Change, leveraging public resources to mobilize private capital and support scalability. **Annex 2** details the financial structure and flows. See also **Annex 3** (Termsheet) and **Annex 4** (GEF Agency eligibility).

## Core Indicators

### Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5806622	0	0	0

### Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
5806622	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
			5,806,622.00						

### Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2346229	0	0	0

#### Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
111640	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
			111,640.00			

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

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
2234589	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
			2,234,589.00						

### Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
394090.5	0	0	0

### Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
394,090.50			

### Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,730,358.00			

### Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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#### Type/name of the third-party certification

### Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
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### Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	187,260			
<b>Male</b>	186,712			
<b>Total</b>	<b>373,972</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

A geospatial analysis was performed to identify the polygons located in the Gulf of California region currently under some category of protection. Their proportion with respect to the total marine and coastal area of the region was obtained. Based on the diagnoses of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas and the General Directorate of Conservation and Management of Seas and Coasts, the potential areas for protection and potential areas for strengthening for sustainable management were estimated. Furthermore, based on the PNRA, the mapping of Priority Marine Sites, the existence of RAMSAR sites, and the Mexican Mangrove Monitoring System (SMMM) of the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), the area for direct restoration was estimated; however, the set of estimated areas (including the expansion of protection coverage and strengthening of management effectiveness) will also be carried out through environmental regeneration processes. The estimates presented will be detailed in the next phase.

Core Indicators 5.3, 6.5, 6.6, 8 will be defined during project design.

## ANNEX A: PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
IADB	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	1,786,484.00	169,716.00	1,956,200.00
IADB	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	4,019,589.00	381,861.00	4,401,450.00
IADB	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	3,126,347.00	297,003.00	3,423,350.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>					<b>8,932,420.00</b>	<b>848,580.00</b>	<b>9,781,000.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

200000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG (\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IADB	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	80,000.00	7,600.00	87,600.00
IADB	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	60,000.00	5,700.00	65,700.00
IADB	GBFF	Mexico	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	Grant	60,000.00	5,700.00	65,700.00
<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>						<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>

Please provide justification

### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

(Only for Multi-Trust Fund projects where GEF TF is included)

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

### Indicative Action Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	1,786,484.00	23,362,682.87
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	4,019,589.00	51,566,036.39

GBFF Action Area 4	GBFF	3,126,347.00	40,884,694.97
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>8,932,420.00</b>	<b>115,813,414.23</b>

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

Amount

6,000,000.00

**Indicative Co-financing**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Government of Mexico	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	68,313,414.23
GEF Agency	IDB	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	iAlumbra / Plataforma	Grant	Investment mobilized	16,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Fundación Alumbra Innovation	Grant	Investment mobilized	12,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Fondo Catalítico	Grant	Investment mobilized	15,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Océanos Vitales CI	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>115,813,414.23</b>

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The Government of Mexico, through SEMARNAT, CONANP, the CONAPESCA and the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), will provide co-financing through the implementation of ongoing federal programmes in the project region. These programmes complement project activities related to diagnostics, co-design and implementation of MPZs and inter-institutional co-management agreements (Component 1), as well as the restoration of priority marine and coastal ecosystems (Component 2). Relevant programmes include the Programme for the Protection and Restoration of Ecosystems (PROREST), the Conservation Programme for Sustainable Development (PROCOCODES), the PNRA, national monitoring efforts for the vaquita marina as a priority endemic species of the Upper Gulf of California, and forest restoration and fire, pest and disease prevention programmes.

In parallel, collaboration with the Bioregional Platform for Systemic Change will mobilize additional co-financing and technical resources for knowledge generation and decision support through the application of the Ocean Health Index methodology. This initiative, led by the University of California, Santa Barbara, involves a multidisciplinary working group assessing the health of the marine socio-ecological system across ten dimensions, including biodiversity, small-scale fisheries, food provision, carbon sequestration, coastal protection, livelihoods and sense of place. These contributions support Components 1, 2 and 4, while also enabling collective restoration actions (Component 2) and strengthening the evidence base for blended finance mechanisms (Component 3).

Furthermore, IDB Lab is committed to supporting the consolidation of MPZs territorial innovation hubs where science, technology, impact investment and social entrepreneurship converge. IDB Lab is currently preparing a complementary project aimed at establishing strategic partnerships with private sector actors and mobilizing additional capital for biodiversity-positive enterprises and inclusive blue economy solutions. These efforts are aligned with Components 3 and 4 and reinforce the achievement of the overall project objectives.

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Gmelina Ramírez	12/17/2025			gmelinar@iadb.org
Project Coordinator	Omar Samayoa	12/17/2025			omars@iadb.org
Project Coordinator	Fatima López	12/17/2025			fatimal@iadb.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Raúl Fernando González Romero	GEF Operational Focal Point and Director of Sustainable Financing	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico	12/16/2025