

# Integrated Management of Water Resources of the Mira-Mataje and Carchi-Guaitara, Colombia–Ecuador Binational Basins

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

9566

**Countries**

Regional (Colombia, Ecuador)

**Project Name**

Integrated Management of Water Resources of the Mira-Mataje and Carchi-Guaitara, Colombia–Ecuador Binational Basins

**Agencies**

UNDP

**Date received by PM**

5/29/2019

**Review completed by PM**

6/1/2020

**Program Manager**

Christian Severin

**Focal Area**

International Waters

**Project Type**

FSP

**PIF**

**CEO Endorsement**

**Project Design and Financing**

**1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes

6th of February 2020 (cseverin): At PIF stage the project was to deliver in two transboundary rivers. In the current submission the Core Indicator framework mentions three transboundary rivers, however, Pitia River is not transboundary, as it solely runs in Colombia, hence please adjust so that it reverts back to what was listed at PIF

stage. Or ensure that rivers mentioned in the core indicator framework are transboundary, maybe consider to insert the name of carchi guaitara river, which would then align with the rivers mentioned throughout the project document.

18th of May 2020 (cseverin): Addressed

## **Response to Secretariat comments**

**03 APR 2020**

Core indicator adjusted to show Carchi Guaitara River

### **2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?**

#### **Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): partly.

- 1) Please insert a map illustrating the connectivity between the three rivers, as well as the Tulcan Aquifer.
- 2) Please include description on how the project interventions, as well as the TDA/SAP process will impact the tulcan Aquifer and the management between these three unique transboundary interconnected rivers,
- 3) Please elaborate on how the project is planning to be executed in the project areas that experience illegal crop production and processing.
- 4) The TDA/SAP will be informed by a complex process, including input from three transboundary river systems and one aquifer. Please elaborate on how this process is foreseen to be developed, and how it will lead to one TDA and one SAP.
- 5) The four thematic reports under the TDA seems to omit datasharing agreements and how a data sharing mechanism is to be set up and managed in a way so both countries have full confidence in the system and the data it hosts.
- 6) Insert paragraph on 1% of GEF financing will be supporting IWLEARN activities, such as setting up and hosting a project website, sharing of project achievements, among others through atleast one experience note. Further these funds will also support project participation in relevant IWLEARN organised events as well as all IWCs during project implementation.
- 7) The results framework have no quantifiable indicators to measure the impact of the demo investments. Please insert
- 8) There are several co-financing letters missing.

9) Cofinancing amounts may have been reversed. Reason for this statement, is that the majority of the cofinancing has been listed as grant financing, and the much smaller part as in-kind. This is truly unique. Please explain.

10) under Core indicator 7, no shared water systems have been listed at PIF stage. Please change so that the database entry reflects upon the same as at time of CEO Endorsement.

11) will the project be working towards establishing a regional management organisation between the two countries to facilitate cooperation on the transboundary system(s) to be worked on in this proposed investment?

9th of July 2019 (cseverin): Partly, most comments addressed. However, please address below comments:

1) the results framework presented in table B of the submission, includes formulation that alludes to the fact that the project will be formulating ONE SAP, that bring together the three subbasins. This is fully aligned with the GEFSEC view on the process, however, please confirm this is the case.

2) Annex 11 is said to include quantifiable indicators in results frameworks. However, only one results framework have been included for one of the demonstration projects. Please include the results frameworks for all demo projects and provide stress reduction impacts in quantifiable terms. Further, it is not clear what will be delivered in the case of the first demo project, as it includes mentions of 5000m<sup>3</sup> water to decontaminated (is this per year???) and 2203 lt/sg (is this l/s???) The 5000m<sup>3</sup> at end of initial project implementation year, is equivalent to 150 ml water to be cleaned per second. That is an extremely low impact, that will more likely than not have ANY impact on the environmental status. Please double check to see if this is indeed correct. On the other hand if the 2203 l/s (if this is the unit) water decontaminated will on annual basis deliver 6947380 m<sup>3</sup> decontaminated water per year. Please ensure that the units are similar and preferably is included as m<sup>3</sup>/yr if that is a functional way to illustrate impact.

Even though such stress reduction is not the main purpose of the TDA/SAP process, please do include these numbers in table B and in the overall project log frames (including what has been included as Annex A).

3) Please ensure that RIO markers have been duly noted upon in the Taxonomy section of the project submission.

4) The prodoc mentions in para 273 that the governments have requested UNDP to provide support to the national implementation modalities. Please provide proof of this request. Further, please also verify that UNDP will be implementing agency and that project execution will be carried out by the two ministries (SENAGUA and MADS) included on the GEF template for request for CEO endorsement. This is particular important, as the UNDP prodoc, ONLY mentions SENAGUA, and hence omits MADS. Please make changes to ensure that both executing entities are featuring in all submitted documents.

5) Please consider if the original envisioned start date of 1st of August 2019 is still a possible start date or if this needs to be revised.

10th of September 2019 (cseverin): Partly addressed. As implementing agency UNDP can NOT self execute. This modality is for exceptional circumstances only. Therefore please move, the activities that have been singled out to be "directly implemented, in Annex 13" , to be executed by the executing agencies instead.

On the matter of formulation of ONE regional SAP, it is encouraged that this process is stimulated through the establishment of a binational commission for watershed management, throughout the lifetime of the project.

28th of October 2019 (cseverin): Partly Addressed. There are relatively large differences between the cost of the national and the transboundary direct execution activities. Please revise the budgets and particular focus on lowering the cost of the Direct Executed Activities focused on transboundary activities.

6th of January 2020 (cseverin): Addressed.

18th of May 2020 (cseverin):UNDP still features as Senior Supplier in the Prodoc, please ensure that UNDP is removed as senior supplier from all documents and portal entry. Reason being to avoid the implementing agency providing executing activities.

1st of June 2020 (cseverin): addressed

## **Response to Secretariat comments**

UNDP Response, 2 July 2019

1) Please insert a map illustrating the connectivity between the three rivers, as well as the Tulcan Aquifer.

See figure 2 of the PRODOC, it shows the three transboundary river basins. The same figure has been included in the CEO Endorsement Request.

There is no official map for the Tulcán - Ipiales aquifer (information is very scant). The only rough estimate of its location, size and shape is presented in UNESCO (2007). This map has been included in both the PRODOC and CEO Endorsement Request.

UNESCO. 2007. Sistemas Acuiferos Transfronterizos en la Américas – Evaluación Preliminar. Serie ISARM Américas N°1: 178 pp. En línea: <http://www.oas.org/dsd/Water/Documentos/Sistemas%20Acu%C3%ADferos%20Transfronterizos%20en%20las%20Am%C3%A9ricas.pdf>

2) Please include description on how the project interventions, as well as the TDA/SAP process will impact the tulcan Aquifer and the management between these three unique transboundary interconnected rivers,

This is explained in the strategy section of the PRODOC (paragraphs 83-86) and paragraph 52-55 of the CEO Endorsement Request. The current situation is quite complex; therefore, the proposed project will focus on fostering binational cooperative work to build a binding strategic programme. The implementation of the TDA / SAP process will facilitate to understand the key role of water governance (which is very weak) as well as the need to address other key matters like domestic pollution, assess the status of and strengthen conjunctive management of the Tulcán – Ipiales aquifer (one of the thematic reports focus on the aquifer) and to improve information sharing and exchange.

3) Please elaborate on how the project is planning to be executed in the project areas that experience illegal crop production and processing.

The project will apply conflict-sensitive planning and will prepare and implement a security plan with guidance from UNDP security personnel. This is indicated in risk 2 of Table 11 of the PRODOC and section A5 of the CEO Endorsement Request. As indicated in these sections, a conflict analysis will be conducted at project start, project personnel will be trained to operate in challenging security environments, a security plan will be prepared and executed and conflict-sensitive approaches (based on the risk analysis and security plan) will be mainstreamed into the multi-year and annual work plans. Budget notes 22 and 30 describe the resources to be invested in these matters.

4) The TDA/SAP will be informed by a complex process, including input from three transboundary river systems and one aquifer. Please elaborate on how this process is foreseen to be developed, and how it will lead to one TDA and one SAP.

The process to be followed was agreed by both countries and is explained in figures 10 and 11 of the CEO Endorsement Request and figures 17 and 18 of the PRODOC. As mentioned in the documents (paragraphs 98 - 99 of the PRODOC and 67-68 of the CEO Endorsement Request) local consultation and participation will be key to foster local engagement and understanding of the linkages between local water courses and the transboundary dimension.

During project preparation it was not possible to reach an agreement on having one or three SAPs for the transboundary watersheds. The three basins are quite different necessitating the need for separate TDAs; since the SAPs involve bi-national policy harmonization, it is possible that the 3 basins could be treated under a single overarching SAP, with subsidiary elements specific to each basin as required. Therefore, it was agreed during PPG that during TDA preparation it will be decided the best course of action. Regarding the Tulcán – Ipiales aquifer, existing information is negligible therefore the proposed project will (i) call attention to the need to advance towards collaborative management and (ii) generate some information, it will be for the countries to decide during the TDA and SAP process how to proceed.

5) The four thematic reports under the TDA seems to omit data sharing agreements and how a data sharing mechanism is to be set up and managed in a way so both countries have full confidence in the system and the data it hosts.

At the moment data sharing is very limited. This matter will be addressed through pilot 2 (see paragraphs 74 and 77 of the CEO Endorsement Request). This binational intervention will allow that the pertinent entities build protocols and agreements to share hydrological and meteorological information. In addition, the

results framework includes in indicator 3 to have (i) a binational protocol for monitoring water quality and (ii) a binational protocol to exchange and share hydrometeorological information.

6) Insert paragraph on 1% of GEF financing will be supporting IWLEARN activities, such as setting up and hosting a project website, sharing of project achievements, among others through at least one experience note. Further these funds will also support project participation in relevant IWLEARN organised events as well as all IWCs during project implementation.

Included new paragraphs 113 in PRODOC and 82 in CEO Endorsement Request.

7) The results framework have no quantifiable indicators to measure the impact of the demo investments. Please insert

Each pilot has a set of indicators in its Results Framework, please see Annex 11 of the PRODOC.

8) There are several co-financing letters missing.

There are 20 contributors and 19 cofinancing letters. MAE and SENAGUA have their contributions outlined in a single letter. The cofinancing letters have been merged in the file "5753 co-financing letters".

9) Cofinancing amounts may have been reversed. Reason for this statement, is that the majority of the cofinancing has been listed as grant financing, and the much smaller part as in-kind. This is truly unique. Please explain.

In line with GEF guidance on co-financing, we have included as grant contributions the following:

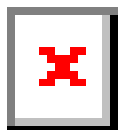
- Ongoing projects and future projects financed by bilateral donors, international organizations and international NGOs that have similar objectives or the same objectives as the project.
- Ongoing projects and future projects financed by government entities (e.g., central government, sectional governments, municipality).

We have included as in-kind contributions the following:

- Ongoing and future activities undertaken by the government that support the review and adoption of regulatory and legislative measures that are critical for the project (for example, review / development of regulatory measures related to the project theme). In this case, the estimated amount of funds spent by the government in these processes (most of the personnel expenses) are considered in kind co-financing.
- The costs of government personnel and public institutions (e.g., ministries, research institutions) that will participate actively in the implementation of the project -- for example, percentage of staff costs of people who implement day-to-day monitoring activities or serve as project counterparts, participate in meetings, participate in field visits, help with documentation review (technicians and authorities). Such activities are considered in kind co-financing.
- The costs incurred by project beneficiaries and project partners in the process of improving their practices are considered in kind co-financing.

10) under Core indicator 7, no shared water systems have been listed at PIF stage. Please change so that the database entry reflects upon the same as at time of CEO Endorsement.

The PIF of this project did not include Core Indicators (it is GEF 6). The figures in the CEO Endorsement Request are correct, at the moment there are zero shared ecosystems under new management. It is expected to have improved conditions by mid-term.



11) will the project be working towards establishing a regional management organisation between the two countries to facilitate cooperation on the transboundary system(s) to be worked on in this proposed investment?

Possibly. There are already binational structures that can be used as a platform for transboundary management (see paragraphs 78-80 of the PRODOC) and it is anticipated the project will build upon existing instruments. There are also preliminary conversations about signing an agreement to establish a binational commission for watershed management. This matter will be discussed and decided during the TDA / SAP process.

#### **UNDP Response, 13 August 2019**

1) As indicated before, during project preparation the countries did not reach an agreement on having one or three SAPs (see answer to comment 4 above). It was agreed that during TDA preparation both countries will decide the course of action. A factor that will influence this decision will be the development of ongoing conversations to develop an agreement to establish a binational commission for watershed management. However, these conversations are at very a very initial stage.

2) The three pilot interventions do have quantifiable indicators in their results frameworks. Please see:

Pilot 1. Vermifilters. Page 27 of Annex 11.

Pilot 2. Hydro-meteorological information system. Page 44 of Annex 11.

Pilot 3. Bioengineering for landslides. Page 72 of Annex 11.

Only pilot 1 is in line with one of the 19 stress reduction measures listed in the International Waters tracking tool. This is: "Municipal wastewater pollution reduction - N, P & BOD (kg/yr)".

The other two pilots have quantifiable indicators in their results frameworks, but they are aligned with the scope of the intervention (e.g., number of people trained in community bioengineering). In the overall results framework (Annex A of the CEO endorsement request form), additional indicators for the pilot intervention were included (see indicators 14 to 17 in Annex A):



Indicator 14: (corresponds to pilot 1)

The discharge of each treatment plant complies with the pertinent national standard.

Indicator 15: (corresponds to pilot 2)

Number of people accessing hydrometeorological information of the transboundary basins

Indicator 16: (corresponds to pilot 3)

Surface (ha) protected from landslides with bioengineering

Indicator 17: (corresponds to the prefeasibility study)

Public investment (USD) that finances improvements in water systems in Nariño

As requested, the stress reduction indicator for pilot one has been included in the overall results framework in Annex A of the CEO endorsement request and section VI of the PRODOC

With regards to volume of domestic wastewater to be treated by the vermifilters, the target is 11,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year. Indeed, the treated volume is very low with regards to the total size of the three watersheds. However, it has to be taken into account that;

1. The pilot is aimed at introducing practical demonstration of the use of vermifilters to treat domestic wastewater in rural communities. The purpose is to introduce a low-cost easy-to-use technology that in addition generate humus and an effluent that can be used for irrigation.

2. The pilot intervention will be developed in four rural communities that have a low population. The number of direct beneficiaries is about 41,156 people (see table 11 in page 13 of Annex 11).

3) Rio Markers for climate have been detailed in section F and Annex F of the CEO endorsement request.

4) Paragraph 190 of the PRODOC indicates that UNDP will be implementing agency and that SENAGUA and MADS will be the executing entities in Ecuador and Colombia, respectively. Being a binational project, the implementing partner is the agency that is responsible for managing the binational actions on behalf of both countries (in this case SENAGUA, as agreed by both countries) and the corresponding national activities. MADS will administer the corresponding national activities. This is explained in paragraphs 140 – 144 of the CEO endorsement request and paragraphs 190 and 234-237 of the PRODOC. Letters from GEF OFPs for both countries are attached to this resubmission.

5) New start date would depend on CEO End approval.

## **UNDP Response, 22 October 2019**

- The PIF format of GEF projects does not include governance arrangements and the implementation modality is set during the ProDoc phase. However, in the PIF phase it was specified in the "stakeholder" section that the role of UNDP could be to provide support services in the implementation as stated in the following sentence of the document approved by the donor:

*o UNDP: Implementing agency of the GEF that will provide guidance, institutional support, and administrative and technical assistance, as well as national-level theoretical and practical knowledge, for effective project execution. Upon request from the executing partners, UNDP could also provide financial and administrative services for project execution.*

This same section also includes the role of UNDP in conjunction with the implementing partner in the case of Ecuador (SENAGUA):

*o SENAGUA: Executing Partner. It will be responsible for the direction, coordination, execution, and supervision of the project in Ecuador, as well as for maintaining adequate communication with other executing partners, UNDP, and the GEF. Responsible for elaborating and applying the national Integrated management of water policies and in charge of executing the activities of the Project.*

- During the ProDoc elaboration phase, all the options of available implementation models (NIM, NIM supported, implementation through NGOs) were raised through the different workshops and meetings with both the implementing partners in both countries, the focal points of the State portfolios designated for the construction of the ProDoc of this project and the GEF focal points of both countries. In this process, by decision of the governments of the two countries, two important things were agreed: that the implementation be carried out under NIM-supported and that the host country be Ecuador. Supporting document of February 4, 2019 is attached.

- In the ProDoc development phase we received notification that GEF focal points should send a letter of support to the costs of DPC to provide implementation services during project execution. The letters were presented with their respective signature by both Colombia and Ecuador (the letters are attached). In addition, the ready-to-sign models of the respective LoAs were already built from these signed letters (also attached).

- Given GEF's comment on the modality of implementation, as a country responsible for the implementation of the binational and national component, we proceeded to consult the Project Implementing Partner, SENAGUA, who has ratified the need to maintain the modality of Implementation for the reasons presented in the attached letter of October 1, 2019.

- Finally, we propose that this case be considered as an exception given that:

o The binational implementation in itself has a complex nature in the execution and especially because of the political sensitivity of the central themes of the project (TDA / SAP), as expressed by the Implementing Partner of the host country, SENAGUA, in its letter.

o On the other hand, the negotiation process of the PRODOC has taken more than a year, where we have worked with all the government and local stakeholders for the implementation of the project, and the decisions on modalities of implementation and governance have already been approved.

o The most important thing is that the governments of the two countries are requesting UNDP to support the execution of the project.

**UNDP Response 26 November 2019:**

UNDP CO from Ecuador and Colombia analyzed the project's DPC costs and reduced \$3,557 from the binational DPC, which now is presented for a total of \$134,750. DPC charges in national budgets were also removed, \$14,566 from Ecuador, and \$19,872 from Colombia. Changes included in the TBWP in the Prodoc.

**UNDP Response 20 MAY 2020**

"Senior supplier" term has been removed and replace with "Development partner" in all documentation.

**3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes. However, please explain question 9 above

9th of July 2019 (cseverin): Addressed

6th of February 2020 (cseverin): Please provide justification and description of the roles of staff, which time is partly charged to the different components.

18th of May 2020 (cseverin): Addressed

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**17 FEB 2020**

Please see attached Annex 04 with the description of staff shared between components highlighted in light blue.

**4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request** 6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?**

### **Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Partly, please ensure all cofinance letters have been uploaded and further please explain the unique blend of cofinance in this project.

10th of July 2019 (cseverin): Partly, the cofinancing letter from INAMHI mentions a grant amount of \$169299, however, in table C a grant financing amount of 169230 has been included. Please make sure there is coherency between cofinancing letter amounts and what is included in the tables. throughout the submission.

10th of September 2019 (cseverin) Addressed.

6th of February 2020 (cseverin): Please ensure that all cofinancing letters have been uploaded, including an English translation. it seems that four are still uploaded in their original language

18th of May 2020 (cseverin): Addressed

22nd of June 2020 (cseverin): one of the cofinancing letters indicate in-kind co-financing of \$17,396,715 while in Portal it is indicated as grant. Please make sure there is consistency between these letter and the portal entry.

17th of July 2020 (cseverin) Addressed

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

UNDP Response, 2 July 2019

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Partly, please ensure all cofinance letters have been uploaded and further please explain the unique blend of cofinance in this project.

Response to Secretariat comments

All cofinance letters have been uploaded. As explained in the answer to question 9, grant co-financing is high because of the criteria used to classify grant and in-kind contributions. There was a very positive response from local governments (provincial, departmental and municipal). They identified all their interventions (present and future) that will contribute to the generate information, finance the pilot interventions, build local capacities and implement actions to address the key issues identified during project preparation. Local governments are very keen to contribute to implement coordinated actions to address transboundary problems.

### **UNDP Response, 13 August 2019**

The USD 1.0 of the INAMHI cofinancing letter has been adjusted in the PRODOC and the CEO endorsement request. All the other values have been validated.

03 APR 2020

Co financing letters with English translation included.

UNDP Response 01 JUL 2020

Inputs corrected in the portal.

**6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?**

### **Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): NA

6th of february 2020 (cseverin): Please consider if it would be possible to capture the 9490 Ha of restored land under core indicator 3.

18th of May 2020 (cseverin): Addressed, through included explanation.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

03 APR 2020

Since this is a foundational project, there will be no land restoration activities that could be included in core indicator 3, therefore it was not included.

**7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?**

### **Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request** NA

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request** 6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

### **Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes

6th of February 2020 (cseverin): Please remove the cost of Audit from the M&E budget as this cost is not eligible under this budget.

18th of May 2020 (cseverin): Addressed

22nd of June 2020 (cseverin): Please move the translation costs for MTR and TF to be moved from the M&E Budget to the Project Management budget.

17th of July 2020 (cseverin): Addressed.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

03 APR 2020

Audit costs have been removed from M&E budget and re-allocated under PMC.

UNDP Response 01 JUL 2020

Translation costs have been moved to PMC component

**10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request** 6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

Agency Responses

**11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:**

**GEFSEC**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request** 6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes,

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**STAP**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request** 6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**GEF Council**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request** 6th of June 2019 (cseverin): Yes

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**Convention Secretariat**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**Recommendation**

**12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?**



**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

6th of June 2019 (cseverin): No, please address above comments.

9th of July 2019 (cseverin): Please address remaining comments above.

10th of September (cseverin): Please address remaining comments above.

28th of October 2019 (cseverin): Please address comment

6th of December 2020 (cseverin): Yes CEO Endorsement is being recommended.

6th of February 2020 (cseverin): Please address above comments

18th of May 2020 (cseverin): Please address above comment.

1st of June 2020 (cseverin): Yes, CEO Endorsement is being recommended.

22nd of June 2020 (cseverin): No, please address comments

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**Review Dates**

	Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request	Response to Secretariat comments
<b>First Review</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request****Response to Secretariat comments****Additional Review (as necessary)****Additional Review (as necessary)****CEO Recommendation****Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

The Mira, Mataje and Carchi - Guáitara are transboundary basins between Colombia and Ecuador. About 1.1 million persons live in this area. Water resources and biodiversity are threatened by natural and anthropogenic pressures (e.g., land use change, pollution from untreated sewage). The area is also impacted by the expansion of illegal crops, drug processing and trafficking and illegal armed groups. The condition of the three basins has deteriorated and there are evident symptoms of problems in several areas.

The transboundary basins face a complex situation. A number of issues can be addressed with more (i) stringent monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations and (ii) investment in public infrastructure and development projects. But at the basis of the causal chain analysis is weak water governance. Good water governance will be fundamental to implement IWRM, as it strive to balance conflicting economic interests over water resources and the present and future needs of the various user groups.

This project will focus on water governance, which is one of the root causes of the present situation in the area. The project will be a catalyst that will contribute to: (i) build a common vision based on IWRM, (ii) establish common planning to guide actions at the binational, national, and local levels, and (iii) mobilise and involve key stakeholders for the integrated transboundary management. The project will 1) develop a participatory process to generate an integrated diagnosis on the current situation of the transboundary basins and a formal binding instrument adopted by both countries, 2) build human and social capital through training, and 3) implement some practical exercises to generate learning on key issues (inadequate wastewater treatment, climate-related landslides, and hydrometeorological data sharing).