



Resilient Landscapes Management Project

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

9579

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Title

Resilient Landscapes Management Project

Countries

Nicaragua

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s):

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Influencing models, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Local Communities, Consultation, Participation, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Awareness Raising, Participation and leadership

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

416,980

A. Focal Area Strategy Framework and Program

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1_P1	Programme 1	GET	2,145,000	9,737,807
BD-4_P9	Programme 9	GET	2,244,261	6,646,269
			Total Project Cost(\$)	4,389,261
				16,384,076

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Project Objective: Strengthening the National System of Protected Areas and support sustainable land use and restoration practices in selected areas of Nicaragua's Dry Corridor and the northern Caribbean coast to promote biodiversity conservation, resilient landscapes and local livelihoods.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Strengthening the systems for protected area management and biodiversity conservation	Investment	1.1 Improved biodiversity habitats across 82,279 hectares of conserved or restored land (implementation of pine forest management and conservation, conduct of planned silvicultural treatments and natural regeneration) to increase resilience, protection and connectivity between 9 protected areas and remnants of forests of the genus <i>Pinus</i> and <i>Quercus</i> ; <i>Pinus patula sub. sp. tecunumanii</i> and <i>Pinus caribaea</i> , and reforestation in an additional area of some 59,076 hectares (buffer areas), bringing the total area earmarked for restoration to 141,355 hectares.	1.1.1 Improved planning, management and monitoring in 9 protected areas. 1.1.2 Implementation of participatory management on an equity and equality basis between men and women involved in forest conservation, sustainable production practice and support for local livelihoods. 1.1.3 Funding mechanisms set in place for 9 protected areas.	GET	2,078,432	9,737,807

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2 Landscape restoration for biodiversity, resilience and local livelihoods	Investment	2.1 Comprehensive social and environmental benefits generated in equal opportunities for women and men through the ENDE-REDD+ results-based payment pilot project and sustainable land management in the Pine Corridor.	2.1.1. ENDE-REDD+ results-based payment pilot project implemented. 2.1.2. Forest restoration mechanism implemented.	GET	1,338,249	3,640,935
Component 3: Incorporation of biodiversity and restoration of resilient landscapes in the institutional and development sectors	Investment	3.1. Contribution to at least 5 strategic thrusts of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and tracked by the biodiversity monitoring system that will be developed within the framework of the project.	3.1.1. Actions developed and implemented to incorporate biodiversity and landscape restoration into national sectoral development agendas, strategies and plans.	GET	530,380	1,125,805

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Biodiversity M&E system	Investment	4.1. Species of interest or indicators of ecosystems monitored.	4.1.1. Participatory biodiversity M&E system designed and set in operation.	GET	162,000	335,000
Sub Total (\$)					4,109,061	14,839,547
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	280,200	1,544,529
Sub Total(\$)					280,200	1,544,529
Total Project Cost(\$)					4,389,261	16,384,076

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	Amount(\$)
Government	MEFCCA - NICAVIDA - 2000001242	Loans	2,300,055
Government	MEFCCA - NICADAPTA - 1100001683	Loans	4,237,809
Government	MEFCCA - PAIPSAN	Loans	636,878
Government	MARENA (Recurrent expend.)	In-kind	1,879,529
Government	MARENA - REDD+ (FCPF099264)	Grant	704,000
Government	MARENA - COSUDE (Rio Dipilto)	Grant	5,500,000
Government	INAFOR	In-kind	1,125,805
Total Co-Financing(\$)			16,384,076

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	NGI	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Nicaragua	Biodiversity		No	4,389,261	416,980
Total Grant Resources(\$)						4,389,261	416,980

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

PPG Amount (\$)

136,986

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

13,014

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	NGI	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
World Bank	GET	Nicaragua	Biodiversity		No	136,986	13,014
Total Project Costs(\$)						136,986	13,014

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	141,355.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	141,355.88	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
Akula National Park Alamikamba	125689 34691	SelectHabitat/Species Management Area		3,809.60			41.00		

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
Akula National Park Cañón de Somoto	125689 107231	Select Natural Monument or Feature		636.80			57.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Cerro Quiabuc-Las Brisas	125689 61050	Select Habitat/Species Management Area		25,463.36			61.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Cerro Tisey-La Estanzuela	125689 12680	Select Habitat/Species Management Area		22,094.87			63.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Cerro Tomabú	125689 12670	Select Habitat/Species Management Area		2,134.70			58.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Limbaika	125689 61071	Select Habitat/Species Management Area		4,897.50			41.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
Akula National Park Serranía Dipilto Jalapa	125689 12657	Select Habitat/Species Management Area		52,625.84			56.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Tepesomoto La Pataste	125689 61049	Select Habitat/Species Management Area		21,542.65			50.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Yucul	125689 30629	Select Strict Nature Reserve		8,150.56			41.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

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	10000.00	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)

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)
	10,000.00		

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)
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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)
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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)
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0.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00
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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)
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10,000.00			
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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 ₂ e (direct)	0	150000	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	710000	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 ₂ e (direct)		150,000		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)		710,000		
Anticipated start year of accounting		2021		
Duration of accounting		4		

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 ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ 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		333		

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Male		1,009		
Total	0	1342	0	0

PART II: Project JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Description

1.a Project Description

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

1. In addition to the information presented in the section of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project identification form (PIF) for this project, this section presents updated information that was collected over the course of the project preparation grant (PPG) phase.

2. **Global Context:** The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): “Climate Change and Land”, published on 7 August 2019, a special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas flows in terrestrial ecosystems,[1]¹ indicates that reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors, including land and food, is the only way to keep global warming well below 2°C. The report highlights that coordinated initiatives to tackle climate change can simultaneously improve land, food security and nutrition and help end hunger. Better land management also supports biodiversity conservation.

3. **IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:** This report, published on 4 May 2019,[2]² reveals that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many of these in decades, more than ever before in human history. The average abundance of native species in most major terrestrial habitats has declined by at least 20%, mainly since 1900. More than 40% of amphibian species, nearly 33% of reef-forming corals, and more than one-third of all marine mammals are threatened. The picture is less clear for insect species, but available evidence supports a tentative estimate that 10% are threatened. At least 680 vertebrate species have become extinct since the sixteenth century and more than 9% of all domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture became extinct by 2016, with at least 1,000 breeds further endangered. To strengthen the policy relevance of the report, the authors of the assessment have classified, for the first time on this scale and based on an exhaustive analysis of the available evidence, the five direct driving forces behind change in nature with the greatest relative global impacts so far. These are, in descending order: (1) changes in land and sea use; (2) the direct exploitation of organisms; (3) climate change; (4) pollution; and (5) invasive alien species. The report highlights the importance, among other factors, of the adoption of integrated management and cross-sectoral approaches that take into account trade-offs in food and energy production, infrastructure, freshwater and coastal management, and biodiversity conservation.

4. **Bonn Challenge:** The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.[3]³ The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment, but rather a practical means of meeting many of the existing international commitments, including Target 15 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which urges countries to restore at least 15% of their degraded ecosystems by 2020, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) target, REDD+ and the Rio+20 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target. Nicaragua's voluntary commitment to the Bonn Challenge is to achieve the ecological restoration of 2.8 million hectares by 2030 and to continue to consolidate collaborative and cooperative efforts on environmental and climate change issues.

5. **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030:** On 1 March 2019, the United Nations General Assembly declared the period 2021–2030 as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,[4]⁴ which aims to scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a tried and tested means of combating climate change and enhancing food security, water supply and biodiversity. The initiative, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO in coordination with other partners, will be a global call to action, bringing together political support, scientific research and financial capacity to scale up restoration from successful pilot initiatives to cover areas measuring millions of hectares. In addition, it will act as a catalyst and accelerator for current global restoration goals, such as the Bonn Challenge, Initiative 20x20 and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), among others.

6. **National context:** During the project preparation grant, information on the country's policy framework was updated, including the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted in September 2018.[5]⁵ In January 2019 Nicaragua presented the Forest Reference Emission Levels for Deforestation and Forest Degradation (NREF) for the period 2005–2015[6]⁶ and in February 2019 approved the National Policy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (PNMACC) and the creation of the National System for Response to Climate Change and Variability (SNRCC).[7]⁷ Nicaragua also signed the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean on 27 September 2019.[8]⁸

7. According to the document on Forest Reference Emission Levels for Deforestation and Forest Degradation (NREF), Nicaragua has an exceptional wealth of natural resources that contribute significantly to economic growth and food and energy security. In all, 60% of the national territory is forested, with more than twenty varied ecosystems, rich in biodiversity, fauna and flora. The potential of the forestry sector to contribute to the development of the Nicaraguan population is high, but is currently underused. In economic terms, the forestry sector contributes 1% of gross domestic product (GDP). Nicaragua's forest resources are based on natural forests (broadleaf and coniferous) and plantations. In 2015, the

total forest area was estimated at 3.4 million hectares (ha), representing 30% of the country's total area. The contribution of the forestry sector to the development of indigenous peoples is invaluable, since their livelihoods are intrinsically related to the forest and 70% of the country's natural forests lie in indigenous areas (INAFOR 2009).[9]⁹

8. **Priorities in Nicaragua's Nationally Determined Contribution:** Nicaragua's NDC indicates the national priorities for mitigating and adapting to climate change, along with the economic, social and environmental benefits of addressing those priorities.[10]¹⁰ Where mitigation is concerned, the priority is the land use and land-use change sector (LULUCF), given that it accounts for 67.8% of emissions in 2010, followed by the energy sector, representing 29.4% of emissions in 2010. In terms of adaptation, the priorities are to develop a national programme to collect water and promote irrigation systems in Nicaragua's dry corridor, increase the effectiveness of the protection of biosphere reserves through a programme of land management and reforestation, capacity-building, access to technology and financing in the agricultural sector, and by implementing programmes for the resilient management of prioritized ecosystems with a landscape approach. These priorities are included as guidelines 5, 6 and 7 of the National Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Policy, and represent the guidelines to which the resilient landscape management project contributes.

9. **National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE-REDD+):**[11]¹¹ Nicaragua intends to achieve its mitigation objectives in the LULUCF sector through the implementation of the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE-REDD+). Beginning in 2008, Nicaragua commenced negotiations to develop the preparation process within the framework of REDD+, and in 2013 a REDD+ initiative was approved, funded by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and administered by the World Bank, to implement an Emission Reductions Programme Document (ERPD).[12]¹² which was approved at the twentieth meeting of the Carbon Fund on 8 July 2019.[13]¹³ It will enter into force between 2020 and 2024 and will aim to reduce emissions by 11 million tons of CO₂eq.

10. The ENDE-REDD+ Strategy has 6 strategies and 37 guidelines for action, projected over a 22-year time-scale (2018–2040), which are interrelated with public policy instruments, national and regional plans and programmes that are currently being implemented or are already in force and that contribute positively to reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation, including reforestation campaigns, the designation of private wildlife reserves, and the administration, oversight and updating of the country's protected areas management plans.

11. To implement ENDE-REDD+, there are plans to launch activities in phases, taking into account the economic resources, the duly prioritized direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation and the current stock of natural forests. For these purposes, a programme (ERPD) has been initiated on the Caribbean coast. The second priority will be the northern central region, where the largest areas of natural and coniferous forests are located. The last in order of priority is the Pacific region, as the region with the smallest area of forest under conservation. The Resilient Landscapes Management Project contributes to the management of two protected areas in priority zone 1, in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN), and seven protected areas in priority zone 2, in the northern central region of the country.

12. **Updated institutional framework in Nicaragua:** In February 2019, creation of the National System for Response to Climate Change and Variability (SNRCC) was approved, article 8 of which defines its constituent institutions and designates the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) as coordinator. It comprises 14 representatives from 12 institutions of the National Government, including the National Forestry Institute (INAFOR), the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER), alongside two institutions with responsibility for local-level coordination, the Caribbean Coast Development Secretariat (SDCC), which facilitates coordination with the Autonomous Regional Governments of the Caribbean Coast, and the Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development (INIFOM), which coordinates with municipal governments, the National Council of Universities and representatives of the private sector. Article 8 states that the National System of Response to Climate Change and Variability may interact and articulate activities with other government and civil society institutions and authorities and, in particular, with the National System of Production, Consumption and Commerce. The creation of the SNRCC strengthens the role of MARENA in promoting the incorporation of biodiversity and the restoration of landscapes in the plans for the sectors of agriculture, livestock and forestry.

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

13. In addition to the information presented in the GEF FIP section for this project, this section presents updated information collected during the project preparation grant (PPG) phase.

14. **Project area.** Nine protected areas were selected for this project, seven within the country's dry corridor in the pine and encino oak ecoregion and two in the Caribbean pine forest ecoregion in the tropical rainforest in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN).

Table 1. Basic information on the nine protected areas that this project will protect within the pine and oak forest corridor in the pine and encino oak ecoregion of the dry corridor, and two protected areas in the Caribbean pine forest ecoregion in the tropical rainforest of Nicaragua.

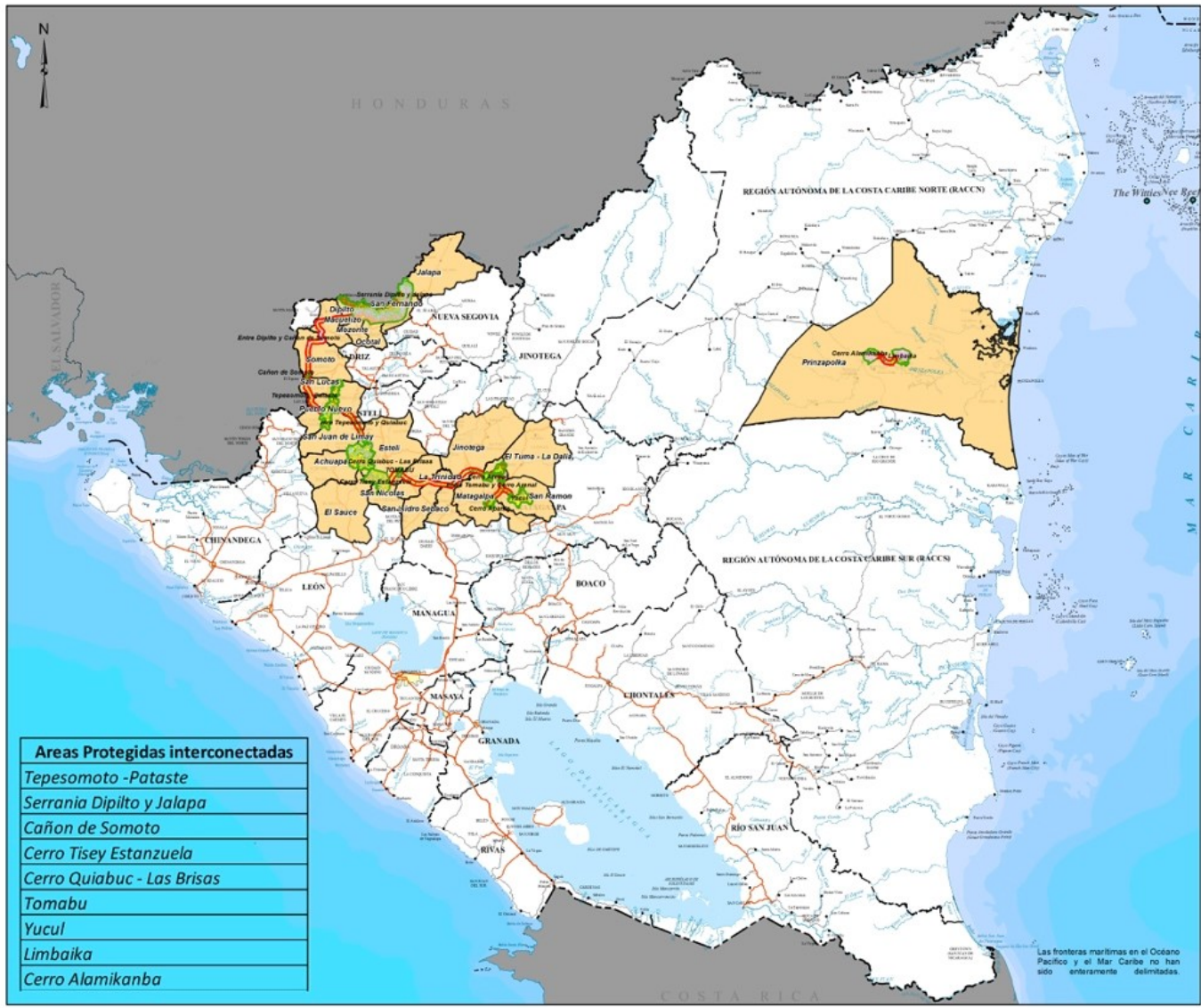
No.	Protected area	Core area in hectares	Area of buffer zone in hectares	Buffer zone and core area in hectares	Municipality/ Department/Region
1	Serranía Dipilto and Jalapa Natural Reserve	32,555.76	20,070.08	52,625.84	Dipilto, Jalapa, San Fernando, Mosonte in the Department of Nueva Segovia
2	Somoto Canyon National Monument	163.40	473.40	636.8	San Lucas in the Department of Madriz
3	Tepesomoto – Pataste Natural Reserve	10,068.83	11,473.82	21,542.65	Somoto, San Lucas, Las Sabanas, San José de Cusmapa in the Department of Madriz
4	Cerro Quiabuc – Las Brisas Natural Reserve	14,627.48	10,835.88	25,463.36	Estelí, La Trinidad, in the Department of Estelí

5	Cerro Tisey - Estanzuela Natural Reserve	9,754.29	12,340.58	22,094.87	Estelí y San Nicolás in the Department of Estelí and El Sauce in the Department of León
6	Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve	5,584.52	2,566.04	8,150.56	San Ramón in the Department of Matagalpa
7	Cerro Tomabú Natural Reserve	818.40	1,316.30	2,134.7	Estelí in the Department of Estelí
	Subtotal	73,572.68	59,076.10	132,648.78	
8	Cerro Alamikamba Natural Reserve	3,809.60		3,809.6	Prinzapolka in RACCN
9	Limbaika Natural Reserve	4,897.50		4,897.5	Prinzapolka in RACCN
	Subtotal	8,707.10		8,707.1	
	TOTAL	82,279.78	59,076.10	141,355.88	

Source: MARENA 2019.

Map 1. Project area: seven protected areas in the pine and encino oak ecoregion in the dry corridor and two protected areas in the Caribbean pine forest ecoregion in the tropical rainforest of Nicaragua.

Nicaragua: Biological corridors and municipalities affected



- Áreas Protegidas interconectadas**
- Tapesomoto -Pataste
 - Serranía Dipilto y Jalapa
 - Cañon de Somoto
 - Cerro Tisey Estanduela
 - Cerro Quiabuc - Las Brisas
 - Tomabu
 - Yucul
 - Limbaika
 - Cerro Alamikanba

MARENA
Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales

40 años
Cobertura de Reconstrucción y Unidad Nacional
de Paz, Prosperidad y 2019

NICARAGUA

Corredores biológicos y Municipios de incidencia

SIMBOLOGÍA CONVENCIONAL

- Capital de la República
- Cabezera departamental
- Cabezera municipal
- Otras poblaciones
- Límite internacional
- Límite departamental
- Carretera pavimentada
- Carretera no pavimentada
- Ríos

Corredor Biológico

Un Corredor Biológico es un espacio geográfico delimitado que proporciona conectividad entre paisajes, ecosistemas y hábitats, naturales o modificados, y asegura el mantenimiento de la diversidad biológica y los procesos ecológicos y evolutivos.

Legenda

Uso de suelo corredores 2015

- Agua
- Bosque de palma
- Bosque de pino abierto
- Bosque de pino cerrado
- Bosque latifoliado abierto
- Bosque latifoliado cerrado
- Centros poblados
- Cultivos anuales
- Cultivos perennes
- Pasto
- Sabana natural
- Suelo sin vegetación
- Tacotal
- Tierras sujetas a inundación
- Vegetación arbustiva
- Vegetación herbácea

ESCALA 1:1,800,000

0 100 200 300 400 Kilómetros

1 cm en el mapa equivale a 18,000 m en el terreno

Altitud: 0-500 m
 Temperatura: 20-30 °C
 Datum horizontal: UTM 18N
 Datum vertical: UTM 84

FUENTES

- * Toponimia: Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (INETER, 2016)
- * Límites administrativos: Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (INETER, 2016)
- * Red vial: Ministerio de Transporte e Infraestructura (MTI)
- * Cobertura de suelo 2015: INETER

UBICACIÓN

Las fronteras marítimas en el Océano Pacífico y el Mar Caribe no han sido enteramente delimitadas.

Evaluations during the project preparation phase. As part of the formulation of this project, baseline studies were carried out on land-use, biodiversity, socioeconomics and indigenous peoples. The main findings of these studies are presented below.

16. A baseline study of the current land-use, management of the pine and broadleaf forest in the project's protected areas and affected corridors was carried out. The main findings of this study are as follows: (i) Comparing the land use of the year 2000 with 2015 it appears that in the Pine Corridor located in the northern region of the country there is a high rate of decline in pine forest of 25.5%. The annual rate of change (TAC) for the Pine Corridor is -1.1, rated as average, with an average annual loss of 759.7 ha. Protected areas with a negative TAC are: the Tisey-Estanzuela Natural Reserve, with -3.5, which is considered high, equivalent to an average loss of 21.2 ha per year. The Serranía Dipilto and Jalapa Natural Reserve with -0.9 (27.8 ha) and the Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve with -0.1 (0.5 ha), which is classified as low. (ii) The analysis carried out in the entire Pine Corridor (*Pinus oocarpa*) shows that, of the total 190,941.7 ha, 53.3% (101,750.3 ha) is in the category of overused, posing a high risk for the degradation of soils and existing natural resources. The protected areas of the Somoto Canyon, Tepesomoto-Pataste and Yúcul are the sites with the highest rates of overuse. (iii) The population of the pine bark beetle is not currently so high as to represent a pest for the moment, but this is always a risk.

17. A **baseline study was conducted on the state of conservation and use of biodiversity** in the project's protected areas and intervention corridors and other protected areas in the central north. The main findings of this study are as follows: (i) The viability of the populations of the species studied is threatened by changes in land use. (ii) The landscape, in general, is severely fragmented, reflected in the high number of components, links and nodes; this dynamic represents a serious threat to the sustainability of the species in the protected areas studied. (iii) A cartographic database was created on the possible distribution of four species that represent the health of the ecosystem and environmental change for the protected areas of the central north. The following species are included: (a) birds, the quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) and the bell bird (*Procnias nudicollis*); the habitat of these species has been drastically reduced and the areas on which they depend are ever less accessible and smaller. (b) The presence of big cats (puma – *Puma concolor* and jaguar – *Panthera onca*) as an indicator of conservation status, since they require large uninterrupted areas of forest; thus, owing to forest fragmentation in the different areas of interest, there was no sign of these species in areas where their presence had previously been reported, with the constant reduction of natural habitats. In the case of the protected areas covered by the project, for dry ecosystems, the quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) and woodpecker (*Careto careto*) will be followed as the indicator species for birds, and for the protected areas in the humid tropics, the white heron (*Ardea alba*) and wild duck (*Anas platynchos*). In the case of plants, the populations of *Pinus* (*oocarpa*, *maximinoi*, *patula ssp. tecunumanii*, *caribaeae*) will be monitored.

18. The **socioeconomic baseline study** was carried out in the project's protected areas and intervention corridors. The main findings of this study are as follows: where the economic situation is concerned, the main activity is agriculture, followed by services and trade; in general these are small-scale economies, with a lack of product diversification and little value added to the products. As for the size of the properties, 65% of the owners have areas with averages between 0 and 5 blocks (0–3.5 ha); they are personal properties and 46% have title deeds; the rest have other forms of ownership. On the environmental side, most families are aware that they live in a protected area or buffer zone, although the proportion is lower when they were consulted about the regulations or their limits. Overall, the general perception of the community about the natural resources situation is unfavorable, representing a critical point in terms of the environment, but at the same time, providing an opportunity to reinforce a range of regulatory and promotional activities in the areas. With respect to social tendencies, there is a presence of governmental institutions and a diversity of non-governmental organizations in the communities; it appears, however, that most of their work is inconsistent. It was observed that the creation and operation of collaborative groups is a process that should be strengthened in some areas. Governance and institutional

synergies were the subjects of recommendations that emerged during the interviews, including the entire strategic and operational framework for the protected areas and in coordination with local stakeholders (maintaining a single approach), in order to make the most of the available resources.

19. A **baseline study of indigenous peoples** in the project's protected areas and intervention corridors was carried out. The main findings of this study are as follows: Three indigenous peoples are present: Matagalpa Pueblo (indigenous locality) in the municipality of San Ramón, Chorotega Pueblo in the municipalities of Cusmapa, San Lucas and Mosonte in the Northern Region and Prinzu Awala Pueblo in the municipality of Prinzapolka in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN); these peoples have their own internal governing mechanisms and feel an important attachment to their territory, a fact that plays a transcendental role in their collective life, as they link their existence to their ancestors in specific territories, and the time over which they have occupied this territory enables them to have a vision of it as the "Mother Earth" that provides them with products and resources for their survival. There was constant concern on the part of the authorities of the indigenous peoples about the environment and biodiversity, placing special emphasis on the deforestation of the protected areas. They also consider it important that the MARENA officials publicize the manifestos on the protected areas to the indigenous peoples; equal concern is also attached to the environmental and social assessments, and the need to strengthen the participation of indigenous women and natural indigenous leaders. A social reality faced by indigenous families is migration, driven by unemployment problems in the area: women migrate as single mothers, men to find work and support their families. This is an indicator which must be taken into due consideration when reviewing the participation of families, their limitations and strengths. Among the main environmental problems that they experience is their vulnerability to extreme natural phenomena, such as drought, heavy rainfall and landslides, and the severe impact on them of forest fires, deforestation, changes in land use and the inappropriate use of agrochemicals; they also lack environmental awareness. The leaders of the executive boards and indigenous authorities (Councils of Elders) highlight the need for training for community development in parallel with the development of the project. The indigenous peoples expressed their interest in being, rather than beneficiaries of the projects, its direct executors. In this way, they themselves would be the guarantors in the protection of the forest and would not continue to be stripped of their territories and ancestral culture. They wish to be strengthened through tools of governance and procedures for the management of natural resources and the management, development and monitoring of forests; they call for all management and monitoring of all natural resources to be brought under the jurisdiction of the indigenous people; they want to be taken into account for the approval of management plans within their territory. The indigenous authorities hope that in the coordination between the institutions, forest issues and respect for territorial autonomy will always be prioritized and, in addition, that the principle of free, prior and informed consent will be respected and carried out, directly with the formal and traditional authorities, in the process of launching the project, during its implementation and following its conclusion, with the indigenous people where the protected area is located.

20. **Emission reduction potential.** The proposed project could help avoid GHG emissions and maintain or increase the removals, emissions and absorptions of CO₂ in the recent past due to land use changes that took place in the pine forest corridor over the period 2010–2015. The following are estimates calculated by the use of methodology developed by MARENA for reference emission calculations for ENDE-REDD+, based on the IPCC guide.[14]¹⁴ In the area of the resilient landscapes management project (PGPR), a gross deforestation rate of 13,542 ha is estimated for the 2005–2015 period and an increase in forest cover of 5,440 ha, resulting in a net deforestation rate of 8,102 ha over the entire period under analysis. In the 10 years between 2005 and 2015, the PGPR intervention area emitted 1.7 million tons of CO₂, caused by deforestation and forest degradation; however, 572,000 tons of CO₂ were absorbed from an increase in forest cover. The annual reference level for the intervention area is 113,604 tons of CO₂. Taking into account the intervention area and the type of existing coverage, an estimation has been made of the potential for GHG emission reductions. Of the total area of the nine protected areas that will be supported with the

PGPR, areas with forest cover and where forest restoration activities or degraded areas will be developed were taken into account; populated centres, water bodies and land outside the interconnected area were not included in the total area. In total, the area which was used to estimate the potential emissions is 69,637 ha, of which 46,285 ha corresponds to the core zone of protected areas and 23,352 ha to the interconnecting biological corridors. The project will promote the restoration, conservation and recovery of areas through the improvement and intensification of sustainable production systems, the sustainable use and management of forests and the promotion of natural regeneration practices, so as to reduce pressure on the forests and reduce forest emissions by 0.86 Mt CO₂ (0.15 million tons of CO₂ emissions reduction and 0.71 million tons of CO₂ removals) over the five years of the project's duration. In all, 25% of the potential emission reductions will be reached in year 2 and the remaining 75% at the end of the project (See Annex N).

21. **Baseline projects.** Below is a list of relevant national projects implemented in the project's protected areas and intervention corridors. These are the projects with which this project will be most closely coordinated. Table 2 presents a general description of the projects, their relevant products and links to the PGPR.

Table 2. Reference projects in Nicaragua.

Project	Description	Outcomes relevant for the PGPR
ENDE-REDD+ / FCPF/ TF 099264 / project No. P120657 / BM	<p>Title: Support for the Preparation of the Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE-REDD+)</p> <p>Target: To prepare a proposal to support the implementation of the National Strategy for the Avoidance of Deforestation (ENDE-REDD+).</p> <p>Time frame: 2018–2020</p> <p>Funding source: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. FCPF/ TF 099264 / Project No. P120657 / BM</p> <p>Executor: MARENA in coordination with INAFOR, INETER, MHCP, SDCC-GRACCN.</p> <p>Financing amount: US\$ 5,000,000</p>	<p>Most relevant outcomes for the PGPR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Preparation of the document Reference Levels of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (NREF) of Nicaragua, already submitted to the UNFCCC. · Assessment of land use, factors causing changes in land use, forestry legislation, policies and institutional management. · Design and implementation of the National Forest Monitoring System and setting of the MRV table in operation. · Development of a biodiversity monitoring system for avifauna to provide information on non-carbon-related priority benefits in the framework of the ERPD design. <p>These outcomes serve as the baseline for implementing the activities of outcomes 1.1.1, 2.1.1, 3.1.1 and 4.1.1 of the PGPR.</p>

Project	Description	Outcomes relevant for the PGPR
Emissions reduction project (ERPD)	<p>Title: Emissions Reduction Programme to Combat Climate Change and Poverty in the Caribbean Coast, the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (ERPD).</p> <p>Target: To reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 50% by 2040; to conserve and increase carbon stocks; and to contribute to the protection of Mother Earth from climate change.</p> <p>Time frame: 2020–2026 (two years of preparation and five years of activities)</p> <p>Funding source: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. FCPF/Carbon Fund.</p> <p>Executor: MARENA in coordination with MHCP, MEFCCA, INETER, INAFOR, MAG, SDCC and regional and territorial governments.</p> <p>Financing amount: US\$ 57,300,000 (investment to guarantee the payment of the results of the FCPF Carbon Fund).</p>	<p>Most relevant outcomes for the PGPR:</p> <p>Measurement, monitoring and reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nicaragua is implementing a National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (SNMRV). · The Carbon Module will measure, monitor, report and verify (MRV) the condition and status of Nicaragua's forests, along with deforestation and forest restoration. It will report on the avoidance of emissions and on emissions due to changes in national carbon stocks. · Development of a bird biodiversity monitoring system to provide information on non-carbon priority benefits in the framework of the ERPD design. <p>These outcomes serve as a baseline for implementing the activities of outcomes 2.1.1, 3.1.1 and 4.1.1 of the PGPR in the geographical area of the Pine Corridor on the Northern Caribbean Coast.</p>

Project	Description	Outcomes relevant for the PGPR
<p>Community Management Project in the Dipilto River Basin / SDC</p>	<p>Title: Programme in Community Management of the Dipilto River Basin</p> <p>Target: To increase the adaptive capacity of individuals, families and communities in the municipalities of Dipilto and Ocotal and the ecosystems of the Dipilto river basin in the face of the effects of Climate Change.</p> <p>Time frame: 2016–2020</p> <p>Source of financing: SDC</p> <p>Executor: MARENA in coordination with ENACAL, FISE, ANA, INETER and the Municipalities of Ocotal and Dipilto.</p> <p>Financing amount: US\$ 6.7 million</p>	<p>Most relevant outcomes for the PGPR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A “green” component (effect 2), that focuses on the restoration of ecosystems, in particular the forest, through the promotion and adoption by producers of climate-adapted agroecological practices that contribute to soil recovery and increased forest cover, water infiltration and the reduction of run-off, demonstrating sustainable, positive and visible changes in the landscape, reducing the degradation conditions of the basin and their respective microbasins. The transformation of the productive systems to increase productivity and therefore the generation of higher incomes in the producers will be included among the benefits that this component will seek. <p>These outcomes serve as a baseline for implementing the activities of outcomes 1.1.2, 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the PGPR in the geographical area of the Pine Corridor in the Northern Region of the country.</p>

Project	Description	Outcomes relevant for the PGPR
<p>Sustainable Development of Rural Family Livelihoods in the Dry Corridor of Nicaragua – NICAVIDA. Funding from IFAD-BCIE.</p>	<p>Title: Sustainable Livelihood Development Project for Rural Families in the Dry Corridor of Nicaragua – NICAVIDA</p> <p>Target: To contribute to the achievement of the national objectives of "improving the living conditions of rural families and indigenous peoples of the Dry Corridor". As a result, rural families and indigenous peoples in the project area will increase their incomes, make appropriate use of natural resources, improve food and nutritional security and reduce their vulnerability to climate change.</p> <p>Time frame: 2017–2022.</p> <p>Source of financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Financing agreements/contracts No. 2000001603 signed by IFAD on 27 October 2016 and by the Government of Nicaragua on 8 November 2016; and · Contract No. 2189 with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) on 9 May 2017 <p>Executor: Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA)</p> <p>Financing amount: US\$ 48,463,000</p> <p>The project is funded by: (i) the Government of Nicaragua with a contribution of US\$ 5.97 million; (ii) IFAD with a loan of US\$ 20.5 million; (iii) BCIE with a loan of US\$ 15 million; and (iv) the proponents. With an in kind contribution estimated at US\$ 6.98 million.</p>	<p>Most relevant outcomes for the PGPR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The NICAVIDA project is framed within the priorities and public policies in force and is aligned with the strategic lines and axes of the Strategic Framework for the Dry Corridor (MECS). NICAVIDA will focus on the Strategic Axis: Agriculture and Food and Nutritional Security, contributing axes of Environment, Forests and Diversity; Climate Information Management and Risk Management; Water Resources Management; and Management of Drinking Water and Sanitation Services; with the aim that the strategic focus of the project will be "Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Activities and Food and Nutritional Security". · Component 2 consists of financing proposals that have been formulated and approved as a result of the activities of Component 1. Family plans, business plans and territorial plans will be financed through the Family, Territorial and Business Investment Fund. · NICAVIDA will give priority to 37 municipalities in eight departments (Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Estelí, Matagalpa, Boaco, León, Chinandega and Managua). <p>These outcomes serve as a baseline to implement the activities of outcomes 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the PGPR in the geographical area of the Pine Corridor in the Northern Region of the country..</p>

Project	Description	Outcomes relevant for the PGPR
<p>Support for small-scale producers in climate change adaptation of coffee and cocoa production in suitable agroclimatic zones (NICADAPTA)</p>	<p>Title: Project on support for small-scale producers in climate change adaptation of coffee and cocoa production in suitable agroclimatic zones (NICADAPTA)</p> <p>Goal: Sustainably to improve the living conditions of rural families producing coffee and cocoa in four geographical areas there Programme activities are being conducted, introducing them in markets and reducing their vulnerability to climate change.</p> <p>Time line: 4 January 2014–31 March 2020 Funding source: BCIE, IFAD (loans and donations)</p> <p>Financing amount: IFAD loan US\$ 5,231,138 IFAD donation US\$ 5,230,433 Small-Scale Agriculture Adaptation Programme (ASAP) donation US\$ 3,752,204 BCIE loan US\$ 4,174,836 Government US\$ 1,852,484</p> <p>Executor: Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA)</p>	<p>The most relevant products are the activities of its Component 1: Sustainable development of coffee and cocoa productivity</p> <p>Outcome 1: The competitiveness of producer cooperatives and their members is improved through increased productivity and the adoption of practices that facilitate adaptation to climate change and market conditions, improving incomes and the standard of living of rural families.</p> <p>This involves the production under shade of semi-perennial species (coffee and cocoa), following agroforestry systems that allow the implementation of resilient landscapes, contributing to the habitat and transit of local flora and fauna species.</p> <p>The implementation of the agroforestry systems contribute to the Resilient Landscape Management Project in the restoration of forested areas in buffer zones (Ch. 1; para. 1.1.2.) and in the restoration of degraded areas and implementation of resilient landscapes (Ch. 2; para. 2.1.1.) in the municipalities of (San Nicolás, Estelí), (38 cooperatives of 10 municipalities of the departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz and Estelí); (San Fernando and Jalapa, Nueva Segovia); (San Fernando and Jalapa, Nueva Segovia); and in the restoration of degraded areas and implementation of resilient landscapes (Ch. 2; para. 2.1.1.) in the municipalities of (San Nicolás, Estelí), (38 cooperatives of 10 municipalities of the departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz and Estelí); (San Fernando and Jalapa, Nueva Segovia).</p>
<p>PAIPSAN</p>	<p>Title: Support Project for the increase of productivity, food and nutritional security in the Nicaraguan Caribbean coast (PAIPSAN CCN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Source: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program-Canada • Financing Amount: U \$ 33,900,000.00 million dollars • Validity: November 2015- December 2019 • Institutions involved: MEFCCA, IPSA, MAG, INTA, INPESCA and Regional Governments. <p>Executor: Ministry of Community, Cooperative and Associative Family Economy (MEFCCA)</p>	<p>The most relevant products are the activities of the Innovative Development Plans (IDPs), being investment plans to support agricultural production and improve food security, availability and consumption of families, through capitalization with goods, materials and inputs to communities from the Caribbean Coast. The IDPs can be agricultural, artisanal fishing and aquaculture, agribusiness, small businesses or non-agricultural.</p> <p>It contributes to component 2 of the PGPR in the municipality of Prinzapolka in the RACCN</p>

Project	Description	Outcomes relevant for the PGPR
Resilience / GEF ID: 5277 / FAO	<p>Title: Strengthening the resilience of multiple-use protected areas to provide multiple global environmental benefits.</p> <p>Target: To strengthen the effectiveness of multiple-use protected areas management (APUM) and promote the sustainable use of humid and dry forests in the broad landscape of the western and north-central regions of Nicaragua, to ensure the flow of multiple ecosystem services, ensuring biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, mitigation of climate change due to changes in land use.</p> <p>Time frame: 2020–2024</p> <p>Funding source: GEF ID: 5277 / FAO as implementing agency.</p> <p>Executor: MARENA</p> <p>Financing amount: US\$ 5,885,515</p>	<p>Most relevant outcomes for the PGPR project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Component 1: Strengthening of 12 protected areas. · Component 2: Sustainable management of forests and land outside protected areas in four biological corridors. · It includes the implementation of a REDD+ ENDE pilot project based on protected area performance between the Peñas Blancas Massif and Cerro Kilambé offering a functional incentive for the conservation of humid forest blocks covering a total of 30,000 ha. <p>These outcomes serve as a baseline for implementing the activities of the PGPR project outcomes 2.1.1, 3.1.1 and 4.1.1 in the geographical area of the Pine Corridor on the Northern Caribbean Coast.</p>

Project	Description	Outcomes relevant for the PGPR
Bioclimate project	<p>Title: “Integral climate action to reduce deforestation and increase resilience in the Bosawás and Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserves”.</p> <p>Target: Bio-CLIMA aims to transform the extensive livestock, agriculture and logging practices that cause deforestation and forest degradation in the buffer zones of the Bosawás and Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserves into sustainable, more intensive and deforestation-free forms of production that integrate the conservation of ecosystems and their services with the production of goods and services.</p> <p>Time frame: 2021–2028</p> <p>Funding source: Global Climate Fund (GCF) (at the stage of the detailed formulation of the proposal for funding with FAO technical assistance, to be presented by BCIE as an accredited entity to the GFC).</p> <p>Executor: MARENA</p> <p>Financing amount: US\$ 110 million</p>	<p>Most relevant outcomes for the PGPR project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Component 1: Preserving and producing for life. Bio-CLIMA will offer producers financial incentives, technical assistance and market access facilitation for the sustainable intensification of livestock production, the cultivation of coffee and cocoa through agroforestry systems and the productive restoration of idle lands, often degraded by secondary vegetation ("tacotales"), along with the sustainable management of natural forests. · Component 2: Good governance. Relevant public institutions in charge of environmental protection, law enforcement, forest conservation and sustainable climate-adapted agricultural production will be equipped with additional technical staff, logistical means, vehicles, information technologies, equipment and budgets for operating expenses. · Component 3: Capacity building. To move from a fragmented sectoral approach to land use to the integrated and sustainable approach to farm, landscape and ecosystem use and conservation that Bio-CLIMA will promote, a major training and capacity building effort will be required: technical staff of public extension services, producers and stakeholders will receive training in integrated land use planning and management (POF), implementation and maintenance of models, innovations in administrative processes, legislation and standards, strengthening of local organizations, quality management and market access, among others. <p>The intervention area for component 1 is the core and buffer zone of the Bosawás Natural Reserve (RNB), Cerro Saslaya National Park (PNCS), and also within the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve (RBIM).</p> <p>The measures to create the enabling conditions for ENDE-REDD+, and to strengthen the territorial management of the GTIs, will be applied by Bio-CLIMA across the entire accounting area of the ERPD in the 23 indigenous territories. This includes the two indigenous territories to be covered by the PGPR in RACCN.</p> <p>These products serve as a complementary means of implementing the activities of outcomes 2.1.1, 3.1.1 and 4.1.1 of the PGPR in the geographical area of the Pine Corridor in the Northern Caribbean Coast.</p>

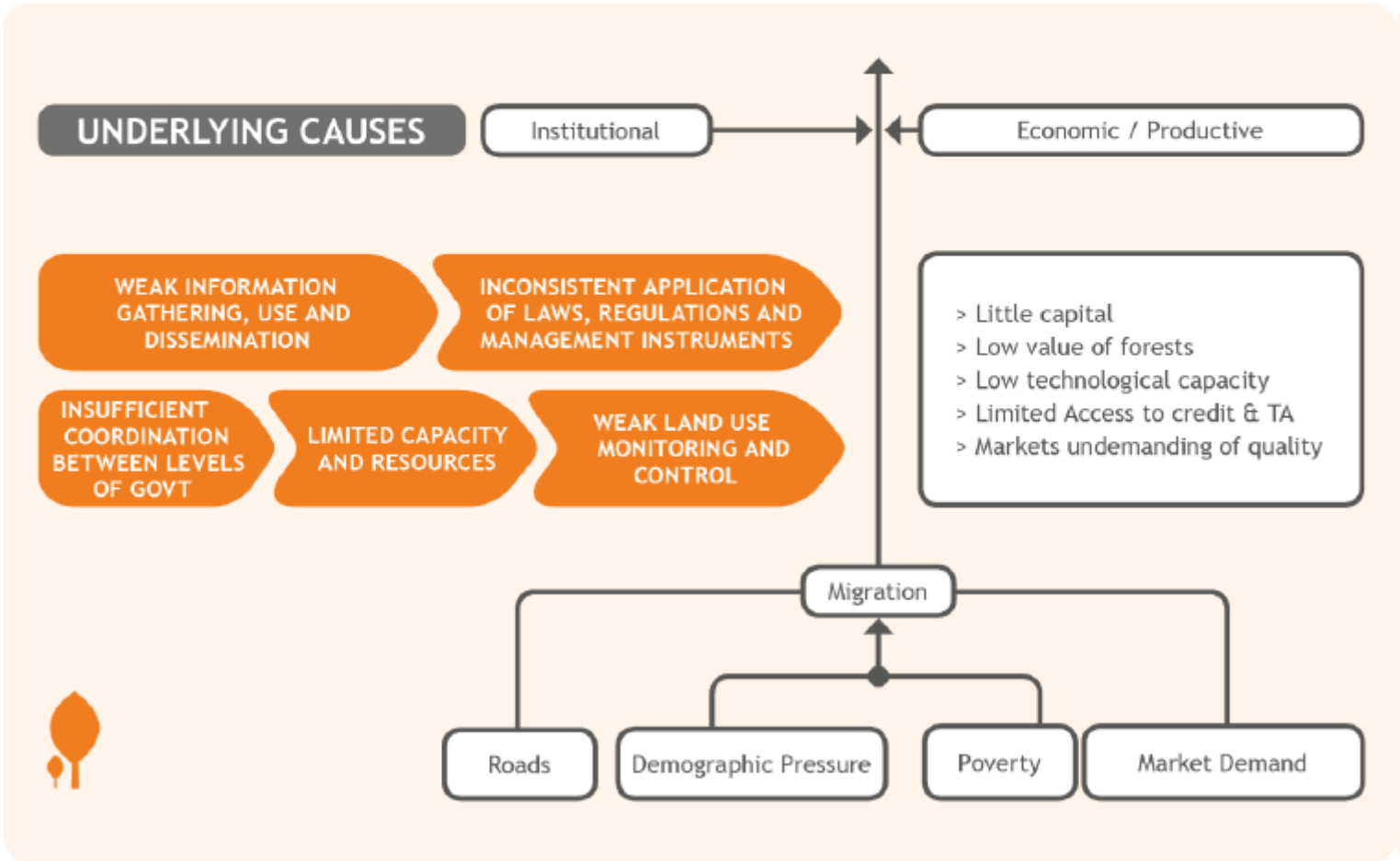
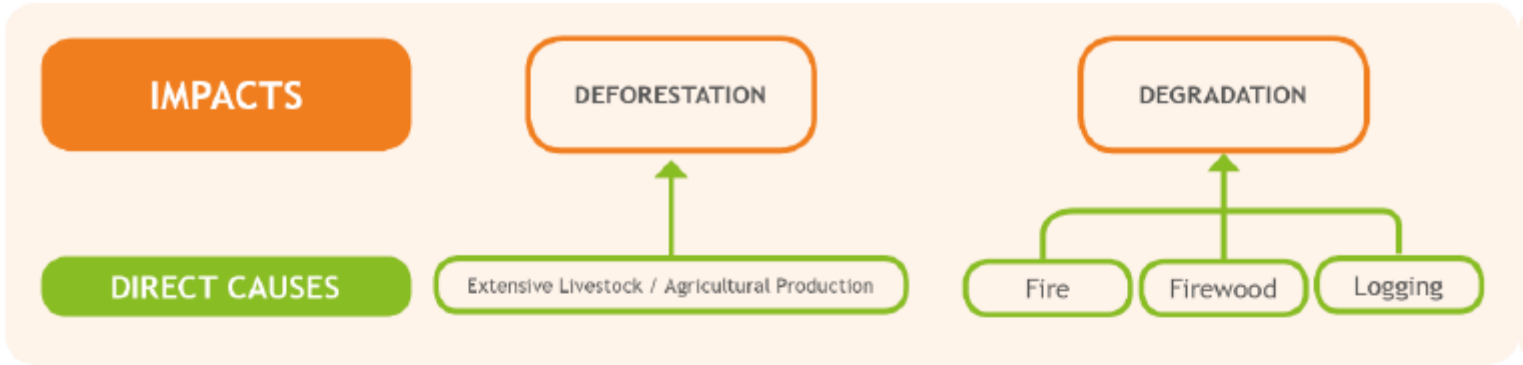
22. **Management of protected areas and biodiversity: the challenge.** In addition to the information presented in the GEF FIP section for this project, this section presents updated information that was collected during the PPG phase.

23. **Change of land use.** According to the baseline study of land use (2018), a comparison of land use in 2000 and in 2015 shows a high rate of decrease, at 25.5%, in pine forest in the Pine Corridor located in the northern region of the country. The annual rate of change (TAC) for the Pine Corridor is -1.1, rated as average, with an average annual loss of 759.7 ha.

24. The third National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (INGEI), with reference year 2010, shows for the whole country that the main sources of CO₂ emissions were from agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU), with 10,364 Gg CO₂e. Emissions were generated because most natural forests were converted to pasture for livestock production between 2000 and 2010 (MARENA 2012, MARENA 2017). In January 2019 Nicaragua presented the Reference Levels of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (NREF) for the period 2005–2015 and this document shows that, when evaluating changes in land use due to deforestation during 2005–2015, the highest percentage change rates were found in the municipalities of RACCN and RACCS – the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region – that lie on the Caribbean coast. In the Pacific region, the highest deforestation rates were found in the departments of Carazo and Rivas; and in the northern central region, the highest rates were found in the municipalities of the department of Nueva Segovia: Dipilto, Ocotal, Macuelizo, Santa María, Ciudad Antigua and the department of Madriz and San Juan del Río Coco.[15]¹⁵.

25. **Causes of deforestation and forest degradation:** These are demonstrated to be processes caused by multiple factors, which can be triggering forces.[16]¹⁶ For this reason, various studies classify the causes of deforestation and forest degradation into direct and indirect or underlying causes. The main direct cause of deforestation is extensive livestock and agricultural production, associated with the expansion of the total area under agriculture.

Figure 1: Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Nicaragua.[17]¹⁷



26. **Institutional and legal causes:** In recent years, considerable progress has been made in strengthening Nicaraguan institutions. A legal framework and sound policies relating to the right to land and natural resources, environmental protection and sustainable development have been created, and title deeds have been issued in the indigenous and Afro-descendant territories of the Caribbean coast, which represent 31.4 per cent of the total surface area of the country. The autonomy of the Caribbean regions was also established, while efforts have been made to ensure that these regions are better integrated into national economic and political life.

27. At the same time, consultations with stakeholders from the Caribbean public and private sectors and national levels in the designing of the Emissions Reduction Programme (ERP)[18]¹⁸ have identified the management, monitoring, and control of land use and natural resources as critical institutional needs. This includes the enforcement of laws and regulations, given that most deforestation not related to approved logging is illegal. There is therefore a need for better coordination and institutional capacities.

28. **Assessment of key barriers to REDD+[19]¹⁹.** Recent trends suggest that government policies and programmes related to land titling in the indigenous territories, the promotion of investments, regional autonomy, the monitoring of large-scale land use, the intensification of livestock-raising and land use, and the reforestation and regeneration of degraded lands are beginning to slow the processes of deforestation. These measures can, however, be rendered even more effective by reducing the following interrelated obstacles: (i) **Low environmental profile:** Environmental and forestry protection has a low profile in sectoral strategies and plans and in government operating budgets; (ii) **Non-integrated sectoral approaches:** Policies often show a preference for agricultural development, even in forested areas; (iii) **Limited presence of institutions:** Institutional presence is limited in large areas of Caribbean forest regions, and travel costs are high owing to the lack of means of transport and long distances to travel; (iv) **Cultural barriers:** Although Nicaragua has been successful in promoting public campaigns to prevent and control fires, and in reforesting for environmental protection, cultural values among some segments of the population underestimate the value of the country's forests and promote deforestation; (v) **Economic constraints and lack of awareness** by lenders and borrowers, together with high transaction costs, limit access to credit and technical assistance and hinder the widespread adoption of more sustainable production practices, especially by small and medium producers; (vi) **High costs and limited economic returns from conservation** discourage public investment and hence the adequate protection of protected areas. On the other hand, ecotourism, as a potentially important source of private investment in support of conservation, is inchoate and relatively limited in scale.

29. **Financial sustainability for the protected areas:** This is another of the challenges faced by the project, within the framework of the management of protected areas. Financing systems for the nine protected areas must be substantially strengthened in order to move towards financial sustainability. To this end, an integrated approach is required that takes advantage of the existence of an enabling legal, institutional and political framework in Nicaragua, economic data need to be generated on the economic contribution of protected

areas to local, sectoral and national development, and strategies must be prepared and implemented to boost income from tourism, through support for the strengthening or development of family and community enterprises and through payments linked to the ENDE-REDD+ initiative.[20]²⁰

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project's Theory of Change.

30. **Project Strategy:** The project's strategy to respond to the challenge of biodiversity conservation and protection in Nicaragua's protected areas and the biological corridors of the pine forest focuses on 9 protected areas and their biologically connected areas.

31. **Strengthening the management of protected areas and the conservation of biodiversity:** The first key activity is the upgrading of the management of the nine protected areas to bring them to an ecologically, financially and institutionally sustainable position and to ensure that families and communities play a strengthened role in collaborative, inclusive and equitable management. At the same time, the project is expected to contribute to improving the quality of life of families through subsidiary projects that will promote the development of economic alternatives that generate income and conserve biodiversity, and also increase the resilience of ecosystems to climate change and the flow of funding for the sustainability of protected area management.

32. **Landscape restoration for biodiversity, resilience and local livelihood:** This activity will include implementation of an ENDE-REDD+ pilot aligned with the recently approved ERPD for Nicaragua. It will also include an area of work aimed at the implementation of forest restoration activities in buffer zones and interlocking corridors between protected areas affected by the PGPR.

33. **Incorporation of biodiversity and the restoration of resilient landscapes in the institutional and development sectors:** To influence a broader approach to the landscape management of protected areas and corridors of pine, biodiversity and landscape restoration need to be integrated into key government and private sector strategies, practices and planning. The project will support the development of coordination mechanisms among government institutions, with a view to incorporating biodiversity management and landscape restoration into national sectoral development agendas, strategies and plans.

34. **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of biodiversity:** Several of the actions contemplated in the project will improve biodiversity conservation, including the restoration of forests and large habitats, natural regeneration, reforestation, and also forest management and governance in indigenous territories. Biodiversity monitoring is needed to identify species that are recovering or maintaining their habitats. Four species have been selected as indicators of health in the ecosystems to be worked on: Dry forest, birds: two species, woodpecker (*Careto careto*) and the quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*). Humid tropic forest, birds: two species, white heron (*Ardea alba*) and wild duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Objectives, results, products and activities of the project

35. **Objective:** Strengthen the National System of Protected Areas and support sustainable land use and restoration practices in selected areas of Nicaragua's dry corridor and the Northern Caribbean Coast to promote the conservation of biodiversity, resilient landscapes and local livelihoods.

36. The project will work on four main components: Component 1 will: (i) strengthen institutional capacity for the management of protected areas and (ii) promote the restoration of large habitats through the restoration and protection of the forests of *Pinus oocarpa*, *P. maximinoi* and *Quercus sp* in the departments of Estelí, Madriz and Nueva Segovia; those of *Pinus patula*, *ssp. tecunumanii* in the Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve in the municipality of San Ramón, department of Matagalpa, and *Pinus caribea*e in the Alamikamba and Limbaika Natural Reserve, in the municipality of Prinzapolka, RACCN. Component 2 will focus on two approaches: (i) resilient landscapes, through the restoration of degraded forests and areas through the implementation of farm plans under sustainable land management (SLM) practices, agroforestry or silvopastoral systems and (ii) the pilot project for verified results for the framework of ENDE-REDD+/ERPD. Component 3 will promote the incorporation of the issue of biodiversity and resilient landscapes into the agendas and development plans of central and local government institutions to contribute to the fulfilment of at least five strategic thrusts of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2015–2020. Component 4 will focus its work on two subcomponents: (i) biodiversity M&E and (ii) project management.

37. The Project consists of the following components and results:

38. **Component 1:** Strengthening the systems for protected area management and biodiversity conservation.

39. Component 1 will strengthen MARENA's capacity for participatory management of protected areas; the component is linked to component 4, the M&E of biodiversity, and will promote the conservation of biodiversity by restoring habitats in nine protected areas that represent three management categories: seven natural reserves, one genetic resources reserve, and one national monument, which in their interconnected areas form the corridor of pine (*Pinus oocarpa*, *P. maximinoi* and *P. patula ssp tecunumanii*) and encino oak (*Quercus sp*) in the central north of the country and of *Pinus caribea*e between the protected areas of Alamikamba and Limbaika of the RACCN. The management status of the nine protected areas in which the MARENA System for Evaluating Management Effectiveness in Protected Areas[21]²¹ is being applied, shows that, in 2019, five have regular levels of management effectiveness (51–75%, meeting the management levels) and four have poor management effectiveness (25–50% compliance). The first key activity is to strengthen the management of the nine protected areas, to bring them to point of being ecologically, financially and institutionally sustainable, and to ensure that communities are involved in management for their own concern and direct benefit. Baseline studies to measure the current status of critical habitats and forest conservation are needed, with the direct collaboration of communities (women and men) in studies and monitoring, as is the restoration of forests and habitats important for the conservation of biodiversity. The baseline studies will be linked to component 4, the M&E of biodiversity and component 3, knowledge management.

40. Component 1, on the one hand, will strengthen MARENA in the participatory management and M&E of existing protected areas in the intervention areas; but it will also develop the capacities of local authorities and the indigenous and non-indigenous local population, men and women, who will participate in periodic monitoring activities and/or who will form part of the Collaborative Management or Joint Management Committees in the case of the Northern Caribbean Coast Region. To this end, and linked to the Knowledge Management Plan, in component 3, training events will be developed to strengthen the knowledge of technicians, authorities and the rural population relating to the protection of pine and oak areas and habitat and biodiversity, with a focus on gender and ethnicity. The institution will reinforce the Collaborative Management Committees and Joint Management in the case of the North Caribbean Coast Region as mechanisms that enable the participation of the population in the management and monitoring of protected areas, and also

community forest governance and management. At the same time, it will make possible the restoration of important habitats, over an area of 141,355 ha in the nine protected areas, with pine (*P. oocarpa* and *P. patula*, *Sp. Tecunumanii*, *P. caribaeae*) and encino oak (*Quercus sp*) forests that will promote the conservation of biodiversity.

41. **Result 1.1:** Improved habitats for biodiversity through the conservation or restoration of 82,279 hectares (using the management and conservation of pine forest, carrying out established agro-pastoral remedies and natural regeneration) to increase the resilience, protection and interconnections between the nine protected areas and remnants of forests of the genus *Pinus* and *Quercus*; *Pinus patula sub. sp. tecunumanii* and *Pinus caribaeae*, and the reforestation of an additional area of approximately 59,076 hectares (buffer areas), bringing the total area earmarked for restoration to 141,355 hectares.[22]²²

42. **Outcome 1.1.1:** Improved planning, management and monitoring in the nine protected areas

The project will strengthen the capacity of MARENA in the use of the territory's monitoring systems to evaluate the effectiveness of the application of standards and policies in the intervention areas. This will be achieved by boosting the proficiency of its local-level staff in the specific aspects of forest management plans and their effectiveness for protected areas; the raising of awareness on laws, policies, regulations and standards, to enhance their application and to reduce threats; the development of capacities in aspects of information systems related to the monitoring of land use and forests in protected areas, via satellite, to support protected areas and the monitoring of forest and land use. The topics of protection of pine and oak forests, the protection of habitats and biodiversity, gender and ethnicity are also included. To strengthen its presence and response capacity for the planning, management and management of the protected area, it will support the teams involved by providing them with the necessary basic means and tools.

43. At the same time, it will develop the capacities of the population and regional and local authorities, indigenous and non-indigenous, men and women, who will take part in periodic monitoring activities and will form part of the collaborative management committees in the protected areas in the northern central part of the country. In the case of the Caribbean coast, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the protected areas regulations, MARENA will coordinate with the authorities of the Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean Coast and the Prinzu Awala indigenous people, for the preparation and approval of management plans, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 26, 27 and 28 of Law 445, on the communal property regime of the indigenous peoples and communities of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua and of the Bocay, Coco, Indio and Maíz Rivers; and also with the regulations under Law No. 28 on the Autonomy Statute of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, and other regulations applicable to this matter that are in force or to be approved in the future. Whenever cooperative efforts are made to devise a management plan, a joint management plan for the protected areas of Alamikamba and Limbaika will be drawn up with the Prinzu Awala indigenous people.

44. The project will support improved planning, management and monitoring of the protected areas based on their management plans. The seven protected areas in the northern central region (the natural reserves of Serranías Dipilto-Jalapa, Tepesomoto-Pataste, Cerro Tisey-La Estanzuela, Cerro Quiabuc-Las Brisas, Cerro Tomabú, the Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve and the Somoto Canyon National Monument), already have management plans which will be revised during the first two years in order to adjust and harmonize them. The two protected areas of the northern Caribbean coast (Alamikamba and Limbaika), on the other hand, do not yet have management plans; these will be elaborated and submitted for approval during the first two years of the project's life. These activities will be coordinated with the project "Strengthening the Resilience of Multiple-use Protected

Areas to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits” GEF 5277, in line with the updating by MARENA of the Methodological Guide to Designing and Updating of Management Plans; the activities will be coordinated by the National Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity in coordination with the local-area offices of MARENA and support from the Project Implementation Unit. The management plans will be monitored annually, during and after the project, based on the participation of local authorities and the population managing the protected area, through Committees for Collaborative Management and Joint Management.

45. The review and development of management plans will be participatory and include consultation with local stakeholders. These include stakeholder organizations, community-based and women’s organizations, indigenous peoples’ authorities, municipal authorities and productive sectors; and the Methodological Effectiveness Guide will be used as a starting point for reviewing management plans. Once the plans have been drafted, meetings will be held with the stakeholders involved to gather information and final inputs. Meetings with local authorities and stakeholders will serve to encourage participation and agree on mechanisms to implement and monitor the management plans (through the creation and strengthening of committees and alliances); all activities will be carried out through annual joint work plans. The final approval of the management plans is provided through a Ministerial Decree; all management plans will be published in La Gaceta, the official bulletin, and will be valid for five years, as established in the Nicaraguan Protected Areas Regulation (Decree No. 01-2007). Currently, four of the protected areas are at a “less than optimal level” (among them, those of the northern Caribbean coast, where there are no management plans), and the remaining five are at the “regular level”. At the end of the five years, five protected areas from the central north should reach an “acceptable level” of effectiveness and two from the central north and two from the northern Caribbean coast should reach the “regular level” of effectiveness.[23]²³

46. The activities of this outcome are as follows:

Activity 1.1.1 Develop the capacity of the MARENA staff;

Activity 1.1.2 Strengthen the enforcement of laws, policies, regulations and standards;

Activity 1.1.3 Implement management plans for the protected areas;

Activity 1.1.4 Strengthen the information system related to the monitoring of land use and forests in protected areas.

47. **Outcome 1.1.2.** Participatory management carried out with equity and equality between women and men involved in forest conservation, sustainable production practices and support for local livelihoods

48. Actions will be carried out during the project that guarantee the conservation of biodiversity over 73,572 ha of core areas and the restoration of 59,076 ha in buffer zones, in the seven protected intervention areas in the northern central region of the country in the dry corridor.

49. Restoration practices for principal forests and habitats will be promoted in the core areas of the seven protected areas in the northern central part of the country (73,572 ha), where it is expected that at least 240 forest owners (50% of whom are indigenous members of the Chorotega and Matagalpa ethnic groups and 20% women), plus members of two

cooperatives and six forestry companies, and other owners of the zone will carry out these activities in the form of subprojects, at the community or local level, that allow the actions of different individuals to be combined in the pursuit of common objectives, in specific territories. In the core areas of the seven protected areas, restoration actions will be carried out, given that there are areas with closed forests of both pine and broadleaf, and areas of open forest, either of pine or broadleaf, shrub or secondary forest areas, plus cultivation areas, such actions being permitted on the basis of Presidential Decree No. 01-2019.[24]²⁴ Among the types of subprojects that will be supported in the core area are: restoration of degraded forests and enrichment with the reintroduction of native species; pine conservation management plans; care and management of natural regeneration; in situ germ-plasm banks, seedbeds and marketing; the rescue of native species and forest enrichment practices; forests and waters; and nature tourism.

50. The men and women involved in implementing the subprojects will identify an implementing agency of their choice, which will be assessed together with their subproject profile proposal. If approved, they will go on to formulate the subproject proposal. Indigenous peoples are considered implementing agencies for activities conducted by their own people, and can also support other groups if they do not already have a chosen implementing agency (more details of the subprojects can be found in the Subprojects Manual in Annex P of this document).

51. Sustainable forest management practices will be implemented in the buffer zones of the seven protected areas in the northern central part of the country (59,076 ha), with at least 100 forest owners (20% women) plus producers in the zone, based on Law No. 462, on the Conservation, Promotion and Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector, and its implementing regulations (Executive Decree No. 73-2003); and Law 807, on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, including the elaboration of forest management plans for the sustainable use of their products and by-products. Among the practices that will be supported are: the sustainable use of forests, the management of native forests, small-scale commercial reforestation, and the management of wildlife (species of flora and fauna of forests), community forestry, in the case of indigenous peoples; the use of non-timber by-products of forests. They may also present themselves as informal groups coordinated by an implementing agency of their own choice, to present their profile as a community or territorial subproject in order to optimize resources and pool their efforts in the territory. The objective of the subprojects for sustainable forest management and the use of forest products and by-products is to contribute to the generation of income by the local population in a way that reduces the pressure on the forest resource and enables its natural regeneration and repopulation.

52. By the end of the five years, participatory forest conservation management will have been carried out, with sustainable production practices and support for local livelihoods, in the seven protected areas of the northern central part of the country, in the dry corridor ecosystem, which will also be monitored by Collaborative Management Committees, incorporating members of the local population, local authorities and other civil society stakeholders.

53. Preparatory activities for the implementation of the subprojects (the convening, assessment, selection and training of those responsible for their implementation) will be carried out from year 1 so that the implementation of the subprojects can begin in year 2.

54. To assist the monitoring of the goals, support will be given to improve the capabilities of the MARENA staff, with an information system related to the monitoring of land use and forests (via satellite), and staff will be trained in its management. The training is covered in the Knowledge Management Plan, in Component 3, which also includes the costs of

the sessions of the different committees and the environmental education and dissemination actions, which will begin in the second half of year 1 and will continue periodically for the duration of the project.

55. Each subproject will include formal, non-formal and informal environmental education activities. At the formal level, they will coordinate with the Ministry of Education (MINED) so that girls and boys attending primary and secondary schools located in the protected areas are made aware of the importance of biodiversity and forests as habitats of biological diversity, and of the responsibility that they have as inhabitants to participate in their care or the protection of their own resources. Once the subprojects have been approved, sessions will be held with the teachers of the schools involved and they will be supported from MARENA with educational materials already available to the Ministry, such as environmental textbooks for the 2nd, 6th and 9th grades, the Environmental Education Guide for “Healthy Families, Schools and Communities” (FECSA), the Environmental Education Guide for the “Management of Natural Regeneration and Enrichment Plantations in Protected Areas”, the Environmental Education Guide for the Protection of Water Sources and the Environmental Education Guide for the Conservation and Use of Biodiversity, in order to teach the subjects in schools. At the informal level, MARENA will work with local radio stations and social networks (Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter) to implement campaigns to prevent forest fires, encourage visits to protected areas, and for the conservation and protection of the forest and biodiversity in the core zones and buffer zones.

56. On the other hand, as part of the knowledge management plan, from the very outset individuals will be identified as “sentinel project implementers” and these will be visited periodically to build their life history, in addition to holding systematized feedback sessions with the sentinel implementers in the different subprojects and protected areas, in order to identify good practices and generate lessons that feed back into the implementation of the project and the new subprojects. The results of this feedback and of the subprojects will be disseminated and shared among the other implementing stakeholders, authorities, institutions and other projects in order to contribute and provide a feedback process.

57. The activities of this product are as follows:

Activity 1.1.2.1. Implementing subprojects to promote sustainable community entrepreneurship activities.

Activity 1.1.2.2. Developing environmental education and outreach activities.

58. **Outcome 1.1.3.** Application of financing mechanisms for the nine protected areas

59. The project will support the formulation and implementation of a funding strategy for the nine protected areas in the intervention area. The financing strategy will be based on the management plans and, from these, the following will be carried out: (i) analysis of needs, financial gaps, and administrative systems (quantification of needs and their comparison with the existing baseline to identify gaps); (ii) the formulation of financial and business plans for each protected area, identifying the potentials of the different financing mechanisms to be used.

60. The preparation of the financing strategy and financial plans will be broadly participatory processes in which, in addition to the financing needs and gaps, the roles and responsibilities of the parties in the management and collection of the required contributions will be identified. Stakeholders will be trained to ensure the improved evaluation,

determination and definition of financing strategies, including the development of business plans to improve the participation of development workers, the private sector and the government, making maximum use of the financing opportunities that arise.

61. The project will take advantage of the country's tourism potential to attract visitors to protected areas that have appropriate conditions to receive and accommodate the attention of visitors. It will also support the development of administrative procedures to guarantee an effective reinvestment of the income generated by visitors and from other sources, in order to cover the project's operating costs for the protected area. Actions will be coordinated between MARENA and the Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR), to identify tourist routes and create and strengthen conditions as a visitor centre, evaluating the situation of each protected area in the first year to determine the potential and experiences of the Somoto Canyon National Monument and the Tisey Estanzuela Natural Reserve, since they are the only two protected areas of the intervention area that register a range of between 10,000 and 14,000 visits per year.^{[25]²⁵}

These activities will be combined with those developed in the subprojects of sustainable forest management, the use of non-timber by-products for the elaboration of handicrafts, the production and sale of medicinal plants and other similar, which will be available to visitors.

62. The project will support promotional campaigns to raise public awareness about the protected areas in Nicaragua and the growing generation of ecotourism services in these and other SINAP protected areas, and also in their surrounding landscapes. It will work together with indigenous peoples and landowners in whose territories protected areas are located, to ensure that they are aware of the importance of the land that they own, to develop their capacities to formulate their own financial and business plans and to manage the mechanisms for the reinvestment of funds for the protection of the protected areas under their ownership, by concluding co-management or joint management agreements with them.

63. Among the financing mechanisms to be taken into account are: (i) the management and collection of contributions from the central government; (ii) the management and collection of contributions from local governments; (iii) the management and collection of contributions from the private sector, as well as the provision of their own products and services; attention shall also be given to the management and receipt of eventual donations from private donors, or national and international donations. The results of the pilot test of ENDE-REDD+ incentives that will be developed with this project in the affected protected areas in the RACCN, and also the experience gathered from the project on "Strengthening the Resilience of Multiple-use Protected Areas to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits" GEF 5277, will provide lessons for the definition of financing plans and mechanisms in the nine protected areas covered by the project activities.

64. Once the strategy and financial plans have been drawn up, based on the activities determined to be carried out in these plans, the next step will be the management of agreements or covenants with the sources of financing to be identified in the mapping of each protected area or of the system as a whole. Among these agreements are alliances between owners or members of the private sector, which, under a win-win scenario based on an income-generating activity in the protected area, both parties can derive income. These may include, for example, agreements with tour operators or hotels for attracting tourists, agreements with hotels for the sale of handicrafts from non-timber by-products of the protected areas, and agreements with local authorities or with national and international organizations to encourage their contributions for the management of the protected areas.

65. The project, in coordination with the MARENA National Directorate of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, will evaluate the administrative system and institutional structure and formulate proposals to improve them in order: (a) to strengthen financial management in accordance with the requirements of the law and auditing processes; and (b) to strengthen budgetary and financial monitoring systems so that flexible and timely procedures are determined to support the protected areas.

66. The use of the financing mechanisms for the nine protected areas is forecast for the the end of the five years, with funds coming from (i) the central Government, including also the collection of possible donations from the population, the private sector, or in the form of national and international donations; (ii) local governments – mayoralties; and (iii) the private sector, which also includes its own activities that generate income from the supply of products and services. There is also a plan to request a specific amount for the protected areas at central government level, via the national budget; this will be managed with the mayors whose support comes from the municipal transfers that they receive and from which they annually allocate 5% for the protection of the environment, in compliance with Article 12 of Law No. 466.[26]²⁶

67. The activities of this outcome are as follows:

Activity 1.1.3.1. Preparing the financing management strategy for the management of the nine protected areas.

Activity 1.1.3.2. Preparing the financial and business plans for each protected area.

Activity 1.1.3.3. Preparing agreements or arrangements with funding sources.

Activity 1.1.3.4. Strengthening the financial management of MARENA in accordance with the requirements of the law and the auditing process.

68. Component 2. Landscape restoration for biodiversity, resilience and local livelihoods

69. **Result 2.1.** Global socio-environmental benefits generated in equal opportunity for women and men through the pilot project on results-based payments ENDE-REDD+ and sustainable land management (SLM) in the Pine Corridor.

70. This result is achieved through two major products: (2.1.1.): Implementing the ENDE-REDD+ incentive pilot project, and (2.1.2.): Implementing the mechanism for forest restoration.

71. **Outcome 2.1.1.** Implementing the ENDE-REDD+ incentive pilot project

72. The project will carry out an ENDE-REDD+ incentive pilot project for the conservation of the 10,000 ha rainforest in the Alamikamba and Limbaika protected areas and their interconnecting corridor, in the municipality of Prinzapolka, in the Northern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region of the of the country. This pilot will be coordinated with the pilot project to be developed with the GEF 5277 project in the biological corridor between the Peñas Blancas Massif and Cerro Kilambé in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve and aligned with the ERPD.

73. The prioritized area for the ENDE-REDD+ pilot will comply with all regulations and requirements of the Nicaraguan National Strategy for the Avoidance of Deforestation (ENDE) and be aligned with the protocol applied in the design of the ERPD. Work will be carried out with the inter-institutional group made up of representatives of various national entities (MARENA, INAFOR, INETER and Ministry of Agriculture), regional, territorial and local authorities (Prinzu Awala indigenous people and the mayor's office of Prinzapolka) and civil society organizations (universities) with knowledge of and interest in developing ENDE-REDD+ activities in Prinzapolka. Workshops and work sessions will be held to organize the activities (the plan for the pilot – four-yearly and annual, inter-institutional cooperation agreements, the elaboration of the base document on the pilot, developing the baseline); all these preparatory activities will take place in the first years of the project.

74. Based on the four-year and annual work plan for the pilot, the necessary data and information (changes in forest cover, current land use, carbon stocks and spatial variables required for deforestation modelling, etc.) will be collected and gaps in information identified. Based on the gaps it will generate or find missing information (e.g., GPS mapping of access roads not recorded on available digital maps, the measurement of carbon stocks, the analysis of remotely observed images, etc.) that the participating institutions can provide with the support of the technical group. In addition, technical analysis (literature review) and participatory analysis (workshops) of the agents and causes of deforestation will be carried out; all the information will be incorporated in a database so that, with the support of the Geographic Information System, possible scenarios (deforestation or regeneration scenarios, specifically mapped to Alamikamba and Limbaika, Prinzapolka) are modelled with application of the methodology approved by ENDE-REDD+ and by the national protocols validated with the ERPD and the emissions that would be reduced with each of these scenarios. This is followed by their validation and registration as the baseline of the pilot zone according to ENDE-REDD+ procedures. All these activities will be carried out in year 2 of the project.

75. Community forest management will be carried out to avoid deforestation and instead encourage natural regeneration and forest management by the community. From the outset, and continuing with their participation, information will be communicated to the authorities of the Prinzu Awala indigenous people, in whose territory the two protected areas are located, so that, once they are aware of the actions and in agreement with them, they can summon local landowners and producers to explain to them how to pilot their participation and promote it by drawing up management plans for community forestry. These activities will be carried out in year 2, to motivate participation and carry out initial measurements in the areas of those affected. At the end of the calls, at least 200 landowners and producers (100% of whom are members of the Prinzu Awala indigenous village; 10% female heads of household according to INIDE estimates) in the vicinity of the Alamikamba and Limbaika protected areas and the interconnecting corridor will be taking part in the piloting of the results-based project.

76. Payments for results directed towards local individuals responsible for piloting ENDE-REDD+ will be made in accordance with ENDE guidelines and include an incentive for forest conservation, which could consist of production inputs, plant material, technical assistance and training, and monitoring and follow-up costs. The pilot project is expected to begin in year 2, with the first measurement in year 3, continuing thereafter until year 5, when payments will take place. Incentives based on results will be coordinated by the Climate Change Unit overseen by MARENA senior officials, and funds will be channelled through the mechanism agreed upon by MARENA and FAO for the duration of the project; and will continue after the project, before which time the mechanism that is to be developed to ensure the sustainability of the ENDE-REDD+ pilot financed by GEF is to be decided.

77. The levels of progress and the results obtained will be documented and circulated in order to promote greater awareness among the population and, to this end, the project will support improvements in the collection, use and broadcasting of information.

78. The activities of this outcome are as follows:

Activity 2.1.1.1. Project design (aligned with the ERPD design);

Activity 2.1.1.2. Application, verification and payments.

79. **Outcome 2.1.2.** Implementation of forest restoration arrangements

80. In order to strengthen the environmental connectivity between the natural forest remnants and landscapes in the interconnection corridors throughout the seven protected areas in the north central region of the country, the project will promote the rehabilitation of degraded areas and the restoration of the forests in those areas through sustainable production practices. Sustainable land management (SLM) practices include the use of agroforestry or silvopastoral systems and various activities that incorporate an arboreal component in productive activities, so that they help to integrate the secondary forest into resilient landscapes and contribute to progress towards the conservation of biodiversity, while boosting livelihoods for local inhabitants. At the end of the five years, it is estimated that at least 200 producers will be involved (20% of them women and 50% of them from the Chorotega and Matagalpa indigenous peoples), benefiting from the environmental, productive and economic gains, with more sustainable livelihoods and a better connected ecosystem. For this to be achieved, the measures set out below will be carried out.

81. **Design of the restoration plan:** In the areas selected for restoration, based on the map of land use and corridors, the degraded zones to be rehabilitated will be identified, following a logical pathway of biological connections and using forest patches and riparian stretches as the basis for their repopulation. Once the areas and route have been selected, the corresponding local-area offices will gather together the land owners, the producers of these zones, so that, in formal or informal groups, depending on the locality and its conditions, they can present the profiles of subprojects and indicate the selected implementing organization. Once the approved profiles have been validated, the individuals responsible for carrying out the project, working together with their implementing agency, will draw up the subproject proposals. These activities will be carried out in year 1 of the project, in order that the subprojects themselves can be launched in year 2. Approved subprojects must specify: (a) the potential roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders; (b) capacity development needs; and (c) the necessary financial resources and technical support.

82. **Implementation of the restoration plan.** Once the subprojects are approved, those responsible for implementation will commence their activities, which include: establishing agroforestry and/or silvopastoral systems and implementing SLM practices, in accordance with the previous situation at the time the subprojects were formulated. Before beginning on the subprojects, the individuals responsible for implementation will receive training in the topic so that they can establish and properly manage the systems, measure their results and understand their relationship with the protected areas, the transit movements of species and the need to conserve biodiversity; these training courses are included in the knowledge management plan, in component 3 of the project. This activity will be carried out in the third quarter of year 2 for the purpose of launching the subprojects. Sentinel project implementers will also be selected to share their personal experience as a contribution to the knowledge management plan. Once the implementation has begun, the local-area offices, supported by the UIP, will carry out monitoring exercises in years 3 and 4 to ascertain their levels of progress and results, which shall be documented, recorded and incorporated into the analysis forming part of the knowledge management plan, so that lessons can be drawn and shared to provide feedback to the project.

83. The activities under this outcome will be the following:

Activity 2.1.2.1. Design of the restoration plan

Activity 2.1.2.2. Implementation of the restoration plan

84. Component 3. Mainstreaming biodiversity and the restoration of resilient landscapes in the institutional and development sectors

85. **Result 3.1.** Contribution to at least five thrusts of the 2015–2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and their tracking by the biodiversity monitoring system that will be developed within the framework of the project.

86. The main objective of component 3 is to incorporate the various stakeholders at national and local levels in the work relating to biodiversity and the restoration of resilient landscapes, so that the activities carried out in their development plans contribute to the fulfilment of at least five activities of the 2015–2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and their tracking by the biodiversity monitoring system which is to be developed within the framework of the project (result 4.1). The actions to be considered are listed below:

- Continued upgrading of education through the inculcation of new values of love, care, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, in this new era, with new realities, heightened awareness, more strength and greater conviction.
- Implementing measures for the conservation and restoration of flora, fauna, water and forests, inside and outside protected areas, from each locality and each community, guaranteeing popular participation.
- Identifying, promoting and implementing community-based economic alternatives for the well-being of Nicaraguan families based on the sustainable use of biological diversity and sustainable production systems, such as agroecology, tourism and sustainable fishing, to ensure food security and sovereignty.
- Upgrading national research capacities to build and strengthen knowledge, the scientific base, ancestral practices and technologies related to biological diversity, its sustainable use and resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Developing and implementing a framework of action for the adaptation and protection of biodiversity resources from the impacts of climate change and climate variability, in order to conserve and manage genetic diversity and endemic and endangered species.

87. By the end of year 5 at least, members of 6 central government institutions, 4 universities, 14 municipal mayors' offices, members of 7 Collaborative Management Committees and 2 Joint Management Committees, indigenous peoples' authorities, owners of forests and private forest reserves, directors of cooperatives and forestry companies, and the police and army will have increased their knowledge regarding biodiversity, resilient landscapes and the activities of the 2015–2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and incorporated the issues into their agendas and development plans

88. Outcome 3.1.1. Actions developed and implemented to incorporate biodiversity and landscape restoration into national sectoral development agendas, strategies and plans

89. To strengthen knowledge of biodiversity and the sustainable management of forests and lands and production systems in the corridor, inter-agency coordination sessions will be held in year 1 between MARENA, INAFOR, INETER, MEFCCA, INTUR, INIFOM, IPSA and INTA, the universities – UNA, UNAN, URACCAN and BICU, the regional government of the northern Caribbean coast region, local governments and indigenous peoples to develop joint annual operational plans on studies and actions to facilitate the creation of a system of monitoring and systematization of the activities that the different sectors promote to integrate the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

90. Linked to component 2, non-formal and informal environmental educational activities will be carried out to address the value of biodiversity, ecosystem services, key species and resilient landscapes for communities in the pine forest corridor. These activities will be conducted by way of talks on the subject and materials will be distributed to improve knowledge about biodiversity and motivate members of the families involved to adopt SLM practices and incorporate arboreal components in their productive units (yard, plot) and in villages, roads, riparian zones, and other areas. The activities will begin in year 2 and will be carried out annually to contribute to the dissemination and management of knowledge. In the field of informal environmental education, local radios and social networks will work on environmental communication and awareness-raising, prioritizing the publication of information on the relationship between agricultural sectors and biodiversity, highlighting, for example, studies and research showing that insects, certain birds, bats and wind that pollinate plants and trees in natural and agricultural ecosystems are responsible as pollinators for approximately 35% of world agricultural production and increase the production of major food crops worldwide by some 75%.^[27]²⁷

91. This component includes the knowledge management plan, with the aim of building the capacity of the people involved, identifying good practices at the local and institutional level, and drawing lessons to be used as feedback to the project, participating institutions or organizations and other projects. These results will be disseminated in pamphlets or brochures for outreach purposes.

92. The activities under this outcome are the following:

Activity 3.1.1.1. Inter-institutional coordination and collaboration.

Activity 3.1.1.2. Establishment of a plan for environmental awareness and biodiversity outreach.

93. Component 4: Biodiversity M&E system

94. This component, linked to component 1, contributes to the more effective management of the protected areas. By the end of the five years, a participatory biodiversity M&E system will have been implemented that makes it possible to determine the status of species and to draw up protection plans by species or group of species so as to focus protection measures on those that are threatened or in danger of extinction.

95. **Result 4.1.** Monitoring of species of interest or ecosystem indicators. The main outcome in attaining this result is the following.

96. **Outcome 4.1.1.** Participatory system for biodiversity M&E is designed and in operation

97. Periodic participatory monitoring of biodiversity will be coordinated and carried out. From the first year, indicator species of the ecosystem and/or biological interest will be monitored, in accordance with the initial studies; monitoring will begin with an emphasis on birds and plants because they are easier to see and measure. With technical assistance, other viable monitoring techniques will be identified for other species. There are indicators of ecosystems among the species identified for dry forest ecosystems, 2 species of birds: woodpecker (*Careto carto*) and quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), and of the plants the main observation will be of the populations of *Pinus patula ssp tecunumanii* in Yúcul and *Pinus maximinoi* in Tisey, Dipilto and San Fernando. For the humid tropic ecosystem in the northern Caribbean coast, specifically in Alamikamba and Limbaika, two bird species will be monitored: white heron (*Ardea alba*) and wild duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and among the plant species, the populations of *Pinus caribae* and paptá palm (*Acoelorrhapha wrightii*) will be monitored. Monitoring will take place at least three times over the course of the project (at the beginning, midterm and at the end).

98. In order to design the biodiversity monitoring system, a specialist in the subject is to be hired in the second half of year 1, in order to support the national staff in the design and validation of the system. The specialist will instruct technicians from the technical departments and groups of people from the local population, to train them as monitors or parataxonomists, who will be the support groups in carrying out field monitoring and will ensure the sustainability of this activity. Nine groups of monitors (1 per protected area) will be formed, and these will be trained prior to carrying out the monitoring; the training and the first monitoring will be carried out in the second six months of year 1, taking advantage of the visit by the specialist who will design the participatory system for biodiversity M&E.

99. The project will coordinate and sign agreements and understandings with universities, preferably with those whose main campuses are located in the project activity area, to carry out studies on species of interest so that specific conservation plans can be drawn up. These activities will be carried out from year 2 and their results and plans will be communicated to the monitoring groups for follow-up.

100. The activities under this outcome are the following:

Activity 4.1.1.1. Implementing a biodiversity M&E system

Activity 4.1.1.2. Promoting the implementation of biodiversity M&E

Activity 4.1.1.3. Developing specific studies on biodiversity.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Programme strategies;

101. **Alignment with national priorities.** This project contributes directly to Nicaragua's compliance with its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The project objective and outcomes also directly support a number of national priorities and initiatives, including:

- National Human Development Plan 2018–2021

- Caribbean Coast Development Plan
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015–2020.
- Strategy and Targets for Land Degradation Neutrality
- National Policy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Nationally Determined Contribution of Nicaragua
- Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENDE-REDD+)
- Emissions Reduction Programme (ERPD)
- National Forestry Plan (in the process of being updated)
- Support for the functions of the National System for Response to Climate Change and Variability (SNRCC) defined in article 9 of Decree 07-2019, linked to the enhanced transparency framework of article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

102. **Alignment with GEF priorities.** The project is aligned with the GEF-6 Biodiversity focal area, in particular with its objectives 1 and 4 and programmes 1 and 9.

103. **Programme 1: Improving the financial sustainability and effective management of the national green infrastructure.** Activities to be supported include: improving the financial sustainability and effective management of protected areas; and developing and implementing comprehensive, system-wide financing solutions. National policy reforms and incentives to engage the private sector and other stakeholders with a view to improving the financial sustainability and management of protected areas will also be encouraged. This is expected to increase revenues for the protected area systems and globally relevant protected areas, in order to cover the total outlay required for management; and improve the effectiveness of protected area management. Outcome 1.1.3. is directly aligned with this GEF objective and programme, aided by outcomes 1.1.2., 2.1.1. and 2.1.2., on the assumption that the contribution to revenue generation will promote private sector and local government contributions to protected area management and the results of the pilot will help in the sourcing of funding for the protected areas.

104. **Programme 9: Management of the human-biodiversity relationship.** The activities to be supported include the following: incorporating biodiversity into productive landscapes in order to simultaneously ensure the ecological integrity and sustainability of protected area systems, through activities such as policymaking and setting up regulatory frameworks, improving production techniques and testing financial mechanisms. It is expected this will increase production area in landscapes where the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is jointly managed, and incorporate biodiversity concerns into sector policies and regulatory frameworks. Outcomes 1.1.2., 2.1.1. and 2.1.2. will enable landowners and people to take part directly in activities for forest and biodiversity restoration and protection. Outcomes 1.1.1., 3.1.1. and 3.1.2., 4.1.1. will contribute to the participation of the population in the management of protected areas, monitoring of these areas and of biodiversity, strengthening a harmonious relationship between humans and biodiversity.

105. It is also aligned with the 2015–2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The proposed project will contribute to seven of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that are of direct relevance to biodiversity conservation, the protection of terrestrial and continental habitats, climate change mitigation, landscape restoration and food security (Targets 1, 2, 7, 12, 14, 15 and 18). The following are some of the activities under the project that will contribute: environmental education and awareness, including the issue in agendas and development plans (outcomes 3.1.1 and 3.1.2); implementing sustainable production practices and incorporating the arboreal component in production units (product 2.1.2); preventing the extinction of species through the restoration of important habitats (product 1.1.2); remediating ecosystems and contributing to biological diversity through outcomes 1.1.2., 2.1.1. and 2.1.2; recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, their knowledge, innovations and traditional practices, and also the customary use of their biological resources, through joint work and their free, prior and informed consent.
106. **Alignment with FAO priorities.** The project is aligned with strategic objective 2, which focuses on increasing and improving the provision of goods and services in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector in a sustainable manner (SO2). Under strategic objective 2, the project is especially linked to Achievement 2.1.3: Organizational and institutional capacity is strengthened to promote innovation and transition to more sustainable agricultural production systems, and it contributes to accomplishment of the main area of work on ecosystem services and biodiversity.
107. One of the FAO objectives is the sustainable planning and management of natural resources; and it assists its member countries in improving forest management and in promoting strategies and practices for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. FAO provides technical knowledge and experience across numerous areas of work directly related to the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to support countries in carrying out their political commitments, as set out in their nationally determined contributions and their national strategies and action plans on biodiversity, and in actions on the ground. To support these processes, FAO has developed the following specific resources and tools, which it makes available to countries: FAOSTAT, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), web portals for the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), Open Foris, SEPAL, E-learning, **Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)**, NREF/NRF for REDD+, GlobAllomeTree, Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), LCCS, assessing the accuracy of maps and area estimates, CAM, voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring, and national forest monitoring systems for the measuring, reporting and verification of REDD+ under the UNFCCC. The FAO also has a biodiversity mainstreaming platform, which was launched to provide liaisons between sectors, identify synergies, align objectives and develop integrated cross-sectoral approaches to incorporate biodiversity into the sectors of agriculture, forestry and fishing; the FAO collaborates with partners to assess ecosystem services related to food production and agriculture; assists public and private stakeholders to define the best incentive schemes for ecosystem services and biodiversity, and then helps execute them in the specific country or context.
108. In addition, the FAO, in coordination with various partners, works on various fronts related to forest and landscape restoration. Through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, the FAO supports the implementation and monitoring of forest land restoration, in particular at the country level, along with the preparation of reports on this subject. The Forest and Land Restoration Mechanism works closely and in a complementary manner with other FAO agreements and programmes, in particular the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), the Forest and Farm Facility, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the globally important agricultural heritage systems (GIAHS), the land degradation assessment in drylands project, and the world overview of conservation approaches and technologies, developed to support related objectives.

109. The FAO in Latin America has been working on the development of funding projects strongly focused on the theme of restoration, this being an opportunity to share experiences with the Resilient Landscapes Management project in Nicaragua. The FAO will facilitate coordination with internationally supported projects currently approved by the Green Climate Fund, as detailed below.
110. In Paraguay, the PROEZA project – “Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change” – will be implemented jointly by the FAO and the Government of Paraguay. The aim of the project is to reduce the adverse effects of climate change in the country while reducing rural poverty, combating deforestation and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. It will also support the transition to sustainable forest management to reduce the loss of the country’s forest cover and improve the quality of life of some 17,000 vulnerable families in 64 municipal districts located in eight departments of eastern Paraguay. Funding will come from a GCF grant of US\$ 25 million and a further US\$ 65.2 million in co-financing from the Government of Paraguay.
111. In El Salvador, the RECLIMA project – "Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador" – aims to improve the resilience of family farmers vulnerable to climate change through the creation of an integrated landscape in 114 municipalities in El Salvador’s dry corridor, at a total cost of US\$ 127.7 million, of which US\$ 35.8 million will be earmarked for the project by the GCF and US\$ 91.8 million contributed by the government of El Salvador. RECLIMA will promote a profound change in the food systems of El Salvador’s dry corridor, to help eradicate hunger, poverty and address the challenges of climate change. This includes the aim of reducing or capturing more than 4 million tons of carbon over a five-year period.
112. The project is aligned with FAO Regional Initiative No. 3 for Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management.
113. The project is aligned with priority area 3 of the 2018–2021 Country Programming Framework (CPF),^[28]²⁸ on sustainable resource management under a changing climate, and to Result 3.3: the National System for Production, Consumption and Commerce (SNPCC) will consolidate proposals to increase technical and financial resources to implement the National Policy for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, along with the Paris Agreement at the national level, incorporating a gender perspective.

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

114. **Component 1:** Strengthening the management system for protected areas and biodiversity conservation

115. Baseline and co-financing: The baseline is the budget available to MARENA and INAFOR to a total amount of up to US\$ 3,465,696, which includes the provision of personnel and MARENA’s operating expenses for activities related to the management of the nine protected areas and the contribution by INAFOR for the management of the pine

forest in the northern region of the country. This co-financing represents donations and in-kind contributions that MARENA and MEFCCA have for the Río Dipilto / COSUDE Project for up to US \$ 5,500,000. SDC will support the donation of the GEF through investments and technical assistance for the promotion and adoption by producers of climate-adapted agroecological practices that contribute to the recovery of soils and the increase of forest cover in the protected area Dipilto-Jalapa in the municipalities of Dipilto and Ocotal. The NICADAPTA with investment mobilized in the amount of US \$ 4,237,807 for a total of US \$ 9,737,807.

116. GEF support and financing: The GEF project will support more effective management in the nine protected areas in the northern central area and the north Caribbean coast of the country, define and implement a strategy to improve the financing of the nine areas, and implement subprojects for the restoration and sustainable use of forests. The GEF grant for this component amounts to US\$ 2,078,432.

117. **Component 2:** Landscape restoration for biodiversity, resilience and local livelihoods

118. Baseline and co-financing: The baseline is MARENA's total in-kind contribution through the ENDE-REDD+ project with a total amount of up to US\$ 1,774,500, which consists of measures to generate information on reference levels of emissions from deforestation and degradation of pine forests in the northern region and in the RACCN, assessing land use, factors causing changes in land use, forest legislation, policies and institutional management and designing and implementing the National Forest Monitoring System and operating the MRV table. The co-financing will be carried out through MARENA with the ENDE-REDD+ project with a total amount of up to US \$ 704,000 and the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA), through the NICAVIDA and PAIPSAN projects for investment mobilized in agroforestry and silvopastoral systems that contribute to developing interconnection corridors between the PAs of the project's territories of influence in Estelí, Madriz, Nueva Segovia and Prinzapolka-RACCN with an amount of US \$ 2,936,935 . For a total of US \$ 3,640,935.

119. The GEF project will provide support for the implementation of a ENDE-REDD+ pilot project in the Northern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region and the implementation of forest restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas with a landscape approach in the northern region of the country. The GEF grant for this component amounts to US\$ 1,338,249.

120. **Component 3:** Mainstreaming biodiversity and restoring resilient landscapes in the institutional and development sectors

121. Baseline and co-financing: The baseline is the project to produce the sixth national report under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in an amount of US\$ 300,000, for the funding of training courses on the use of the CBD online reporting tool, and the development of data reporting on progress in achieving the objectives and activities following the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2020. Co-financing will be obtained through support from US \$ 1,125,805 which is the contribution of INAFOR in recurring expenses in the actions of protection of forests and habitats that it carries out in the territory of incidence of the project.

122. GEF support and financing: the FAO-GEF project will provide support for inter-institutional coordination, the incorporation of the issue into the agendas and development plans of sectoral and national institutions, and support for environmental education and knowledge management activities. The GEF grant is US\$ 530,380.

123. **Component 4a:** Biodiversity M&E system.

124. Baseline and co-financing: The baseline is the support provided by universities to biodiversity research topics, based on studies carried out by UNAN-FAREM Estelí on the diversity and distribution of epiphytes, the diversity of bats, the diversity of reptiles and their conservation status and that of the degraded tropical dry forest of Nicaragua, and an analysis of local social and environmental awareness in the Miraflor and Moropotente table-land nature reserves; the biological diversity of the El Limón Experimental Station in the municipality of Estelí; and studies carried out with the Catholic University of Dry Tropic Farming and Livestock (UCATSE) on tree diversity and carbon sequestration in the Arabica coffee agroforestry systems in twelve farms in three municipalities of Las Segovias and in coffee farms of Madriz. Co-financing achieved through support from Río Dipilto (SDC) projects amounts to up to US\$ 335,000, for activities related to biodiversity training and monitoring.

125. GEF support and funding: the FAO-GEF project will provide support for the design and validation of a biodiversity monitoring system, training of monitoring groups and periodic biodiversity monitoring. The GEF grant is US\$ 162,000.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF);

126. The following are the key expected results of the project in global environmental benefits.

127. Biodiversity habitats will have been improved through the conservation of 82,279 hectares (natural regeneration, reforestation and agroforestry and silvopastoral systems), with a view to increasing resilience, protection and connectivity between the nine protected areas and remaining forests of the genus *Pinus* and *Quercus*; *Pinus patula sub. sp. tecunumanii*

and *Pinus caribaea*, with an additional approximate area of 59,076 hectares (buffer areas), bringing the total conservation area to 141,355 hectares (Components 1, 2, 3). Habitats were improved for endemic species and endangered or threatened species (CITES I and II).

128. At least 10,000 hectares of landscapes will be restored under improved practices in biological corridors restored by local women and men to improve connectivity between existing protected areas in the northern area and deforestation and forest degradation will be avoided in at least 10,000 hectares under the pilot test of payment for results in the north Caribbean coast of the country. In addition to the above, that will bring a total of 161,355 hectares under management. In summary, the GEBs (of hectares) will be:

Description	Hectares	Core indicator
Improved conservation of BD areas (natural regeneration, reforestation and agroforestry and silvopastoral systems) and connectivity between protected areas and remaining forests (buffer areas)	141,355	C.I. 1.2
Restored landscape under improved practices	10,000	C.I. 3.2
Avoided deforestation and forest degradation	10,000	C.I. 4.1

129. A total of 860,000 metric tons of (GHG) emissions of CO₂-e greenhouse gases will have been reduced (150,000 metric tons of CO₂-e emissions reduction and 710,000 metric tons of CO₂-e removals).

130. Of the direct beneficiaries at least 1,009 will be men and 333 women of a total of 1,342 people.

131. There is evidence that the project will contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular to the goals: SDG-15 (life on land: sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss), SDG-13 (Climate action: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), and SDG-5 (gender equality: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

7) Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development .

132. **Innovation.** The project presents several innovative approaches that, in turn, contribute to its sustainability and enlargement. These innovative approaches include the following.

133. In component 1, the following innovations are envisaged:

- (i) The project recognizes the importance of intercultural aspects, the links between culture and environment that indigenous peoples manage, and promotes dialogue and exchange between technical knowledge and traditional and ancestral knowledge. The socio-cultural outlooks, values and traditions of indigenous peoples are duly valued and respected. The results of the experience of this project will provide feedback and enable the sharing of experience with future programmes, projects and initiatives at national and local levels on socio-ecosystem connectivity and biodiversity conservation (including central, departmental and municipal governments, civil society, private organizations and indigenous peoples).
- (ii) A second innovation is that, for the first time, a financing strategy for the protected areas will be defined with the various stakeholders, and financial plans will be drawn up for the management and raising of funds for protected areas, identifying fund-raising opportunities and the management and signing of agreements or agreements to achieve such objectives, together with the roles and responsibilities of those responsible for such management and fund-raising. The lessons learned will provide the impetus for the scaling up of this process across the entire national protected areas system (SINAP), thus ensuring its sustainable management.

134. In component 2, the following innovations are envisaged:

- (iii) The implementation of the ENDE-REDD+ incentive pilot project, aligned with the ERPD design, through activities for the avoidance of deforestation and, by extension, GHG emissions; this is one of the innovations to be carried out with the project that, if it passes this pilot phase, will lead to the identification of good practices and will generate lessons learned that can be used in scaling up the project, as one of the potential sources of financing for protected areas, and also of sources of revenue for forest owners who wish to conserve their forests.
- (iv) The implementation of forest and landscape restoration measures^[29]. The restoration of forests and landscapes is a new concept that, where stakeholders are concerned, applies to all sectors affected by harmful treatment of the land; it has the consequence that, for the first time, in areas where project activities are carried out, landscape planning will be carried out at the local level, with the participation of local authorities, regional offices of government entities present in the area and the local population, men and women; joint efforts will be made to define the activities to be carried out and the roles and responsibilities. This type of activity will require effective intersectoral cooperation and coordination between government agencies at the national and local levels, an action that will also be supported by the project through component 3.

135. In component 3, the following innovation is envisaged:

- (v) The innovative nature of the project consists in the promotion of local environmental governance with a landscape approach. The project is innovative in that it promotes inter-institutional integration and the coordination of different stakeholders through local development plans with a landscape approach, the restoration of areas with a gender and intercultural approach, along with developing the abilities of stakeholders including three indigenous peoples: Chorotegas, Matagalpa and Miskitu in the indigenous Prinzu Awala area.
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136. **Sustainability:** The project includes considerations that promote the continued achievement of its objectives and outcomes long after direct implementation.

Environmental sustainability

137. The environmental sustainability of the project will be achieved through the performance of actions to protect protected areas and dry and humid tropical forests in the selected landscapes. This will be achieved by improving the effectiveness of the management of the nine protected areas located in the intervention zone and of the review, implementation or elaboration of new management plans with the participation of the different stakeholders, in such a way that their contributions and points of view, related to the sustainable conservation of biodiversity, are duly taken into account, a process fundamental for the long-term viability of the protected areas. Special attention will be given to protected areas on indigenous lands. Environmental sustainability will also be promoted by the cross-sectoral cooperation agreements for the collaborative management or joint management of protected areas, where actions are also identified to reduce threats to biodiversity and protected areas, and by strengthened local participation, which reinforces guarantees of the environmental sustainability of the actions carried out by the project. Actions aimed at improving the monitoring of threats and mandatory compliance with regulations will facilitate the short and long-term decision-making necessary to ensure the sustainability of the project's environmental benefits associated with the effective management of protected areas. Best forest and soil conservation practices will be incorporated into municipal landscape and farm-level planning processes, thereby reducing the deforestation and degradation of tropical dry forest and promoting the reduction and prevention of desertification in critical dry regions. Long-term agreements will be established with landowners and municipalities to apply best management practices (and also for the implementation of sustainable agroforestry and silvopastoral systems) and the restoration of degraded forest areas, the loss of soils will be reversed, the regulation of water resources will be improved, carbon stocks will be stabilized and in general the connectivity of ecosystems will be strengthened. This will result in consolidated biological corridors that facilitate the horizontal and vertical mobility needed to stabilize wildlife populations and ensure better protection against climate variability. Lastly, the ENDE-REDD+ pilot project of 10,000 hectares of tropical rainforest has a timespan of 30 years, with the aim of reducing deforestation far beyond the life of the project.

Social sustainability

138. Social sustainability will be achieved primarily through inclusion and equity processes, through the direct participation of the different local stakeholders (municipalities; local communities; indigenous peoples, men and women, members of the Family, Community and Livelihood Cabinets; landowners and private sector-cooperative groups, forestry companies) in the planning and implementation of strategies for biodiversity conservation, protected area planning and management, management practices, sustainable forest management, sustainable land management and climate change mitigation, which will be applied throughout the implementation of the project. Participation in the planning and implementation processes will generate new knowledge and skills, empowering beneficiaries to take ownership of the actions and interact with other stakeholders beyond the end of the project. Social sustainability will be achieved through the long-term economic and social benefits resulting from the project, including the establishment of sustainable agroforestry and silvopastoral systems that contribute to the food security of the families involved, and also to the generation of extra family income. Social sustainability will be achieved through a differentiated response to men and women, according to their practical and strategic needs, which promotes their active participation in project activities and their maintenance beyond the life of the project. Environmental improvement and sustainability contribute to social sustainability by providing ecosystem services that enable the population to obtain environmental services (landscape, air, water, temperature, etc.) that contribute to the improvement of their quality of life, and economic benefits from the sustainable use of forests and their by-products, both for family consumption and for the generation of income that contributes to the family economy. By contributing to the resilience

of livelihoods, these factors also contribute to the attainment of social sustainability. Women have clearly established that the deterioration of the forests, and therefore of the ecosystem services that they provide, affects them directly in the performance of the roles assigned to them by society itself. Social sustainability must be inclusive and equitable.

139. Social sustainability is also achieved to the extent that society itself (and, in this case, the stakeholders involved at the central and local levels) is involved in planning, implementing and evaluating protection and restoration actions. To guarantee social welfare, the project triggers social safeguards so that processes are inclusive and equitable. The activities of the GEF pilot project ENDE-REDD+ will be implemented in accordance with the social safeguards of REDD+, FAO and the Nicaraguan ENDE. The GEF ENDE-REDD+ pilot project will have a solid basis for social sustainability, starting with the design phase (PPG), during which consultation processes were initiated at the local level. These processes will continue during implementation of the project, while the project design document is elaborated, in order to ensure effective citizen participation (including participation at community and local level), so that the activities of the ENDE-REDD+ project generate the expected long-term social benefits, such as secure land tenure, improved livelihoods, strengthened forest governance, and others.

Institutional sustainability

140. The bedrock of institutional sustainability is formed by strengthening the capacity of MARENA staff to improve the effectiveness of protected area management in the nine protected areas of the project intervention zone, their capacity to design, execute, monitor and enforce the protective rules and standards of biodiversity, soils and forests and their sustainable use in the wider landscape. MARENA's institutional capacity will be strengthened at the central and local levels through training and specific tools provided to staff in order to improve planning, management, and compliance with monitoring procedures, and also to improve the information system that facilitates decision-making about protected areas and monitoring protocols. The current administrative systems, institutional structures and support staff of the operational framework will also be strengthened to ensure more effective coordination between the central level and the local authorities in the project intervention area. The working relationships between MARENA and the private sector and other local stakeholders that guarantee institutional sustainability will also be supported and strengthened, through the recognition of its institutional role and its regulations, improving the conditions for future collaborative biodiversity conservation efforts across the protected areas.

Financial sustainability

141. Financial sustainability will be achieved through a strategy that ensures the financial sustainability of protected areas and includes an increase in public and private funds and finance leveraged by the stakeholders involved in each protected area (including participants in multisectoral collaboration agreements). This strategy will diversify the sources of protected area funding that currently depend on the limited contributions of the central government and will substantially help in closing the financial gap in protected areas by offering more stable financial resources in the medium and long term. The financial sustainability of the project is also underpinned by the economic benefits granted to local actors through the elaboration and execution of integrated management plans for farms and of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems. The results of the pilot test and its replication to the protected areas where project activities are being carried out will eventually contribute to financial sustainability by identifying another possible source of financing.

142. The project includes considerations that promote the continued achievement of its objectives and outcomes long after direct implementation:

- The project will be conducive: to the identification of good practices and the most sustainable and beneficial activities that lead to better livelihoods, so that members of communities or villages have an incentive to maintain these activities;
- Livelihoods approach: the project will generate visible social and economic benefits for local communities. The livelihoods approach will be integrated into land restoration and biodiversity protection, increasing the likelihood that interventions will be sustainable after project closure. The project will work with community members to demonstrate the comparative advantage of protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Work with and support for community organizations, associations and community members to establish their own effective management structures during implementation. In particular, joint work with indigenous peoples to develop their own management structures that allow for the sustainability of actions to protect forests and habitats for biodiversity after the end of the project.

143. **Replication potential:** The good practices and lessons generated from strengthening the effectiveness of protected area management in the project intervention area will facilitate their replication to other protected areas in the national territory; in particular, good practices and lessons from joint management or collaborative management developed with indigenous peoples will be one of the innovations to be replicated in other protected areas located in indigenous territories. The good practices and lessons generated from the implementation of sustainable forest management, the landscape approach and integrated farm management can be replicated at the level of different municipalities with similar conditions so that deforestation and forest degradation processes can be reversed and land-use planning improved at the local level, conserving forest remnants or forest patches and incorporating tree components through the implementation of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems.

144. At the regional and national levels, actions aimed at strengthening protected area management and financial sustainability will generate tools and skills for the MARENA General Directorate of Heritage and Biodiversity (and its local-level offices) that could be replicated in other protected areas around the country. Similarly, the GEF pilot project ENDE-REDD+ will provide important lessons for replicating similar efforts in other areas of the country and will make important contributions to implementing Nicaragua's strategy for the reduction of deforestation and, consequently, GHG emissions. The project will even have the potential for replication at the international level by offering valuable lessons learned to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean conducting similar initiatives. The implementation of REDD+ sustainable forestry and sustainable land management actions will yield lessons learned in the field of reducing deforestation and preventing desertification both in the region's drylands and globally.

8) Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

145. During the consultation process and project preparation grant (PPG) phase, it was agreed to make minor changes to the wording of the logical framework.

Table 3: Relationship of changes to the results framework.

	Current project framework	Brief justification
Goal	To strengthen the National System of Protected Areas and support sustainable land use and restoration practices in selected areas of Nicaragua's Dry Corridor and northern Caribbean coastal region to promote biodiversity conservation, resilient landscapes and local livelihoods.	· Two protected areas located on the country's northern Caribbean coast were annexed to facilitate the linkage of the project with the Emissions Reduction Programme (ERPD) and ENDE-REDD+.
Result 1.1	1.1 Habitats improved for biodiversity through the conservation or restoration of 82,279 hectares (natural regeneration, reforestation and agroforestry and silvopastoral systems), to increase resilience, protection and connectivity between the nine protected areas and remaining forests of the genus <i>Pinus</i> and <i>Quercus</i> ; <i>Pinus patula</i> sub. sp. <i>tecunumanii</i> and <i>Pinus caribaea</i> , with an additional approximate area of 59,076 hectares (buffer areas), bringing the total restoration area to 141,355 hectares.	· The overall extent covered by the result was increased with the addition of the protected areas of Cerro Alamikamba and Limbaika in RACCN.
Result 2.1.	2.1. Global social and environmental benefits generated through the ENDE-REDD+ and sustainable land management (SLM) incentive pilot project in the Pine Corridor.	· The expected result of the reduction or avoidance of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (or sequestered carbon) was increased thanks to the improved calculation by MARENA based on NREF improvements and the increase in the surface area of the protected areas of Cerro Alamikamba and Limbaika in RACCN.

[1] IPCC report on Climate Change and Land: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>.

[2] IPBES report: <https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>

[3] Launched in 2011 by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and subsequently endorsed and extended by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 United Nations Climate Summit.

[4] <http://www.fao.org/news/story/es/item/1183553/icode/>.

- [5] The Nationally Determined Contributions and the third report were published on 3 September 2018: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndestaging/PublishedDocuments/Nicaragua%20First/Contribucion%20Nacionalmente%20Determinada%20Nicaragua.pdf> and: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Tercera%20Comunicaci%C3%B3n%20Nicaragua-Julio%202018.pdf>.
- [6] NREF publications may be found at the following link: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_nacional_vf_170119.pdf.
- [7] Approved by Presidential Decree No. 07-2019, of 1 February 2019. Published in the Official Gazette No. 27 on 11 February 2019.
- [8] Escazu Agreement: <https://observatoriop10.cepal.org/es/tratados/acuerdo-regional-acceso-la-informacion-la-participacion-publica-acceso-la-justicia-asuntos>.
- [9] NREF publications may be found at the following link: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_nacional_vf_170119.pdf.
- [10] Nationally Determined Contribution: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndestaging/PublishedDocuments/Nicaragua%20First/Contribucion%20Nacionalmente%20Determinada%20Nicaragua.pdf>.
- [11] <http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/componentes/programa-estrategia-ende-redd/>.
- [12] ERPD approved in July 2019: https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/ERDP_ESPA%C3%91OL_310719_VF.pdf.
- [13] Resolution CFM/20/2019/4: Selection of Emission Reductions Program Document of Nicaragua into the Portfolio of the Carbon Fund of the FCPF: https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/CF20%20Resolution%204%20Endorsement%20of%20Nicaragua%20ER%20Program_FINAL.pdf.
- [14] 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. IGES, Japan.
- [15] See NREF publications at the following link: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_nacional_vf_170119.pdf
- [16] Study of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Nicaragua: Issue of the stocks of forest carbon in the framework of the ENDE-REDD+ strategy (2018).
- [17] NREF document transmitted to UNFCCC in January 2019: https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_nacional_vf_170119.pdf
- [18] ERPD document of 31 July 2019: http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ERDP_ESPA%C3%91OL_310719_VF.pdf
- [19] ERPD document of 31 July 2019: http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ERDP_ESPA%C3%91OL_310719_VF.pdf
- [20] <http://openbiblio.flacsoandes.edu.ec/libros/digital/54635.pdf>
- [21] Ministerial Resolution No. 38-20008, known as the System for Monitoring and Evaluating Management Effectiveness in Protected Areas.

[22] It is estimated, from MARENA calculations, that there is an area of 23,845 ha for conservation, 30,652 ha for restoration with natural regeneration, and 27,782 ha for forest replanting.

[23] Ministerial Resolution No. 38-20008, known as the System for Monitoring and Evaluating Management Effectiveness in Protected Areas, establishes a methodology comprising 4 areas, 12 criteria, and 36 indicators; its application is simple and low-cost; the weightings of the results are expressed numerically and qualitatively on the scales of satisfactory, acceptable, regular, less than optimal, and unacceptable: less than 25% compliance = unacceptable; 25–50% compliance = less than optimal; 51–75% compliance = regular; 76–89% = acceptable; 90–100% = satisfactory.

[24] Presidential Decree No.01-2019: [http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/\(\\$All\)/94FBBC48E689AF4F062583850072FACB?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/Normaweb.nsf/($All)/94FBBC48E689AF4F062583850072FACB?OpenDocument)

[25] For statistics on visits to Cañon de Somoto, see: http://www.actiweb.es/canon_somoto/estadistica_de_visitantes.html

[26] Law No. 466, on Budgetary Transfers to the Municipalities of Nicaragua; Law No. 850, approved on 27 November 2013. Published in *La Gaceta*, the official bulletin, No. 237 of 13 December 2013.

[27] <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6602s.pdf>

[28] Signed between FAO and the Government of Nicaragua on 18 October 2018.

[29] <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5212s.pdf>

A.2. Child Project?

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

Not applicable

A.3. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Documents

Title

Submitted

Annex I2 Stakeholder Engagement Matrix and Grievance Redress Mechanism

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.

During the formulation of this project, a number of stakeholders were widely consulted, including the following institutions and organizations: Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA), National Forestry Institute (INAFOR), Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR); Mayoralties of Dipilto, Somoto, Macuelizo, San Lucas, Estelí, San Nicolás and San Ramón. A consultation process has also been conducted with the Matagalpa and Chorotegas indigenous peoples, in whose territories intervention activities will take place and, based on ESS-9, the Policy Framework for Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous Peoples Plan (PPI), which is presented in Annex J, were elaborated.

2. The consultation process for the municipality of Prinzapolka and the Prinzu Awala indigenous area in the Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean Coast (RACCN) is based on the participatory consultations carried out in the framework of the national REDD+ strategy consultation (ENDE-REDD+) and on consultations related to ERPD. During the ENDE-REDD+ consultations and the emissions reduction programme, the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples who form part of the multi-ethnic population of the Caribbean coast was applied. Both processes on the Caribbean Coast involved stakeholders from ethnic groups such as the Miskito, Mayangna, Ulwa, Rama, Kriole and Garífuna, and also Mestizo people, whose presence in the area is substantial.

3. Annex I2 presents the consultation mechanisms, recommendations and dates of the process implemented in the formulation of the project and also the proposals for the implementation stage of the project, including the initial workshop held from 3 to 7 February 2018 and the final validation workshop held on 8 October 2019.

4. The following table lists the relevant stakeholders that will contribute to the implementation of the project.

Table 4. Stakeholders and their roles in the preparation, design and implementation of the project

Name of the party concerned / category / profile	Role or mandate	Involvement in the project	Consultation arrangements during implementation of the project
MARENA National Government institution/ direct beneficiary	· Institution overseeing and regulating the environment and natural resources	Coordinator of the project and of the authorities set up for its participatory management Coordinates the Project Implementation Unit (UIP) Coordinates the Project Steering Committee (CDP)	· Coordinator of the advisory and project implementation processes

Name of the party concerned / category / profile	Role or mandate	Involvement in the project	Consultation arrangements during implementation of the project
MEFCCA National Government institution	· Institution in charge of rural development, focused on the family, the community, collaborative actions (cooperatives and associations)	Co-executor and co-financer (NICAVIDA project), member of the Project Steering Committee (CDP)	· In the start-up workshop · Local-area collaborative management committees
MHCP National Government institution	· Institution responsible for overseeing the distribution and commitment of national funds and cooperation	Advisory services	· In the start-up workshop · In the advisory workshops · Specific sessions
INAFOR National Government	· Institution overseeing and regulating forest-related aspects	Co-executor and co-financer, member of the Project Steering Committee (CDP). Coordination of sustainable forest management plans	· In the start-up workshop · Local-area collaborative management committees
IPSA National Government institution	· Responsible for agricultural and livestock health and protection	Advisory services on health matters, relating primarily to control of the pine bark beetle	· In the start-up workshop · In the advisory workshops · Specific sessions
INTUR National Government institution	· Responsible for tourism promotional and follow-up activities	Member of the Project Steering Committee (CDP), co-executor and co-financer Co-executor in specific areas	· In the start-up workshop · In the advisory workshops · Specific sessions
Mayoral offices Government institutions in the regions	· Local authorities responsible for local development processes	Co-executor and co-financer in its local areas. Members of the collaborative management committees for the protected areas and their own areas	· In the start-up workshop · In local-area advisory workshops · Local-area collaborative management committees · Specific sessions

Name of the party concerned / category / profile	Role or mandate	Involvement in the project	Consultation arrangements during implementation of the project
Universities	· Specific studies, capacity-building	Advisory services Co-executor in specific areas related to the conduct of specific biodiversity studies or studies of the state of forests, protected areas and other issues	· In the start-up workshop · In specific activities · Specific sessions
Owners of forests, private forest reserves, cooperatives and forest enterprises, producers, indigenous peoples	· Participants in forest restoration and protection and biodiversity activities	Co-executors, co-financers	· Advisory workshops at local levels · Participation in collaborative management committees · Specific sessions

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

1. Based on the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan, the FAO Gender Equality Strategy and Policy, the Gender Action Plan 2015–2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,^[1] the National Policy for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change and Law No. 648 on Equal Rights and Opportunities of Nicaragua, the project will take the necessary measures to ensure the participation of women in all its activities. The project will ensure that the specific needs of women are met and that they enjoy equal access to project activities.

2. During the project preparation process, consultations held with indigenous and non-indigenous peoples identified the roles played by women and their expectations in relation to the project activities. To explore these aspects more deeply and the actions that could be implemented, a workshop on roles and needs was held with women from the seven protected areas, with the participation of indigenous and non-indigenous women from the different protected areas covered by project activities, and also with women staff members from the MARENA head office and its local area offices.

3. The project incorporates the implementation of specific activities designed to include gender equality in its four components, as set out below:

- In Component 1, by incorporating forest owners into the restoration activities of forests and habitats important for biodiversity, in the core and buffer areas of the protected area. In specific projects for women involving the use of non-timber by-products (branches, fruits, flowers, feathers, etc.) for the development of marketable handicrafts and the production of medicinal plants. In specific groups for the different protected areas, for the participatory monitoring of biodiversity. To this end, their capacities will be developed through their participation in training and advisory workshops;

- In Component 2, by incorporating forest owners and producers, including the wives of producers, in the interconnection corridors, for the restoration and protection of forested areas, or by incorporating the component of arboreal and other species in farms where farm plans are being implemented with a sustainable land management focus, including the piloting of a system of results-based payments for the reduction of GHG emissions.

- In Component 3, incorporating women in the Collaborative Management Committees and other inter-institutional coordination bodies, by building their capacity to contribute to the incorporation of biodiversity and resilient landscapes issues in the agendas of the institutions involved and in their development plans.

- In Component 4 and linked to Component 1, in the biodiversity M&E system, by participating in biodiversity monitoring groups in the core areas, buffer areas and interconnection corridors. The project management M&E system should collect, capture, record and analyse information disaggregated by sex, age group and ethnic background.

4. The project results framework includes the generation of information within output indicators 1.1.1: Information disaggregated by sex; 1.1.2: information disaggregated by sex; 1.2.1: Information disaggregated by sex. It is stipulated that a percentage of forest owners should be women and that nine groups of women should receive financial support for the use of non-timber by-products in the manufacture of handicrafts or for the production and marketing of medicinal plants, as part of the specific selection of women as beneficiaries. Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2: Information disaggregated by sex is requested; 3.1.1: Information disaggregated by sex is requested, with the intention that the collaborative management committees and decision-making bodies incorporate women. A more detailed gender analysis and action plan may be found in the Gender Action Plan (see Annex Q).

[1] CBD Gender Plan of Action: <https://www.cbd.int/gender/doc/CBD-GenderPlanofAction-EN-WEB.pdf>

Documents

Title

Submitted

Annex Q Gender Action Plan

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

Yes

If yes, please upload document or equivalent here

Please see document attached.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

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

Yes

A.5. Risks

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.

Risk management is a structured, methodical approach to identifying and managing risks for the achievement of project objectives. The risk management plan will allow stakeholders to manage risks by specifying and monitoring mitigation actions throughout implementation. Part A of this section focuses on external risks to the project and Part B on the identified environmental and social risks from the project.

Section A: Risks to the project

1. The analysis carried out during the FIP was updated and, for each of the risks, alternatives were identified to resolve or reduce them. Details of these may be seen in table 5.

Table 5. Risks to GEF Project 9579.

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
1. Politics and governance. Decision-making is controlled through different levels of government in Nicaragua's public administration, which could limit and delay project implementation.	L	100%	<p><i>The project will reduce these risks by implementing the following measures:</i></p> <p><i>(i) Supporting inter-institutional coordination and collaboration to strengthen awareness of biodiversity, sustainable forest management and landscape restoration in buffer zones and the interconnection corridors through competent and involved institutions and organizations (MARENA, INAFOR, MEFCCA, INTUR, IPSA and INTA;</i></p> <p><i>indigenous peoples, the regional government and also with universities, for the purpose of carrying out studies).</i></p>	Nicaraguan Government – MARENA

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
<p>2. Institutional capacity for implementation: MARENA currently has limited staff and other resources throughout the country to provide sufficient effectiveness for the management of protected areas, safeguard their sustainability, and establish and support the management of biological corridors.</p>	M	100%	<p><i>In order to reduce these risks, the following measures are to be taken:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Supporting MARENA in hiring technical assistants for each protected area;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) Forming a group of monitors (with local population involvement) to promote participatory M&E;</i></p> <p><i>(iv) Promoting collaboration among local landowners, organizations and companies with specific contributions, along with local authorities, and identifying profitable and conservation-oriented activities that promote the sustainability of local management.</i></p>	MARENA with support from FAO
<p>3. The restoration of forest lands and biological connectivity requires multisectoral institutional coordination, policies sensitive to the country's protected areas and biodiversity, and changes in the behaviour of forest producers and owners that must be maintained over time.</p>	M	100%	<p><i>In order to reduce risk, participative construction will be progressively carried out as capacities are built and participative groups, bodies and management mechanisms are set in place, in order to contribute significantly to the restoration of forests and important habitats and to achieve management sustainability.</i></p>	MARENA and technical departments with support from FAO, universities and the other institutions involved

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
<p>4. Trust: In relation to MARENA's limited institutional capacity and the geographical extent of the project area, the project design should provide sound fiduciary management arrangements.</p>	M	100%	<p><i>To reduce this risk it is necessary:</i></p> <p><i>(i) To strengthen MARENA at the headquarters level, with administrative staff trained in the management of administrative rules and procedures so that they can supervise the activities of landowners, organizations and others in their interventions in the project area, bearing in mind that different projects will be being implemented at the national level, although a combined MARENA/FAO administration is proposed;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) A manual of administrative policies and procedures should be developed in the first few months of implementation.</i></p>	MARENA with support from FAO
<p>5 Stakeholders: The success of the project will depend to a large extent on the commitment and appropriation of the stakeholders, bearing in mind that most of the lands declared as protected areas are private and the challenge for the selection of people among the beneficiaries in the short and long term that relate to the use and conservation of natural resources.</p>	M	100%	<p><i>To strengthen ownership and reduce risk, based on the capacities, bodies and arrangements set in place with the members of the different institutions, organizations and indigenous peoples:</i></p> <p><i>(a) A sectoral planning and coordination process will be supported in the corridor areas;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Mechanisms that increase the sustainability of project investments will be defined and implemented; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) Local stakeholder participation agreements will be integrated into the design and implementation of subprojects.</i></p>	MARENA, coordinating activities with indigenous peoples, organizations, business operators and forest owners

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
6. Climate change: The restoration and conservation activities of forests, habitats and biodiversity can be seriously affected by adverse effects of climate change, for example, the presence of drought, high temperatures that can cause fires as well as the death of different endangered species.	M	90%	<p><i>The project is being implemented precisely to strengthen resilience by restoring forests, habitats and livelihoods and to promote the reduction of GHG emissions, and also to strengthening capacity to respond to extreme events.</i></p> <p><i>The activities will include coordination with the National Climate Change Response System (SNRCC).</i></p>	MARENA in coordination with the institutions and organizations involved.

Section B: Environmental and Social risks from the project – ESM Plan

2. The environmental and social risks of the project are moderate, given that the project has been designed to restore forests, habitats and degraded areas in a way that ensures connectivity between the protected areas and protects endangered species, in addition to promoting resilient landscapes that contribute to the resilience of livelihoods; its activities are carried out in protected areas, in forests with indigenous people, and with people living in degraded areas with subsistence agriculture. The project will have a strong focus on protecting the natural resources on which local communities in the project area depend for their livelihoods. The project will reduce deforestation and biodiversity loss and strengthen the provision of ecosystem services by promoting access to more resilient livelihood options, reducing human-caused pressures and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources for a more resilient landscape management pathway in the project area. To mitigate the risks, an environmental and social management framework (MAGAS) document has been prepared and is presented in Annex I1.

3. **ESS-1. Natural resources management:** The project on “Management of Resilient Landscapes” is of low risk for this safeguard because one of its thrusts seeks to restore degraded soils and is targeted at the 13 points raised in the World Soil Charter signed in April 2015, with the implementation of sustainable land management (SLM) practices. There are no plans to establish any irrigation systems that could pollute water bodies; on the contrary, the restoration of degraded soils and sustainable land management, together with the regeneration and restoration of forests and biodiversity and the promotion of sound agroecological practices,^[2] would contribute to the reduction of pollution, the increase of the water flow in water bodies and, therefore, the improvement of quality. Nor does the project have any provision for the use of wastewater or the construction of dams of any kind. The project does not affect land tenure for any of the landowners. On the other hand, the project will lead to increased resilience in the area and for the families living in the intervention area, and also to the reduction of GHG emissions.

4. **ESS-2. Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats:** In accordance with the FAO safeguard policy, the safeguard is activated by the fact that the project is implemented within a protected area or buffer zone (9) and places it at moderate risk, in order to prevent agricultural, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry practices that could have adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem services or critical habitats. The project area includes protected areas and critical habitats that are the habitat of endangered, migratory and threatened species. The landscape approach to be used in the project will result in positive impacts on habitat restoration within protected areas and corridors, which in turn will increase connectivity and habitat restoration for biodiversity. The thrust of the project is the sustainable management of ecosystems in order to maintain the services and benefits that they provide. No external genetic resources will be introduced, but local genetic resources would be protected, such as the in situ conservation of the species of *Pinus patula* subspecies *tecunumanii*, in Yúcul; the *Pinus maximinoi* in Dipilto and San Fernando; and the *Pinus caribaea* in Alamikamba. Through this in situ conservation approach, it is aimed to recover seeds for propagation in other sections of the protected areas in question. MAGAS and the Indigenous Peoples Policy Framework will prevent the misuse of these resources. The project will also finance a biodiversity monitoring system to improve the integration of biodiversity information into other sectoral institutions and local regions. MAGAS will include procedures and checklists to ensure that funded activities support the conservation of natural and critical habitats and the application of domestic law and international agreements (CITES).

5. There are no plans to establish new forest plantations, but support will be given for the restoration of forests, wild or planted, through the management of natural regeneration. Where indigenous forests are concerned, work has been carried out under the community forestry modality, through which different members (men and women) of the community form groups that work in different aspects of the management of their forests. They would be supported in those areas where they need to manage their forests. The project includes support for the sustainable use of forests, through compliance with Law No. 462, on the Conservation, Development and Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector, and Law No. 807, on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity. Although the bark beetle does not currently pose any danger, it is still a threat; work will be carried out with the Agricultural Protection and Health Institute (IPSA) to manage this pest and prevent its populations from increasing to levels with negative effects. In the PIF, the safeguarding of the forests was activated because any forest management plan will involve effects on the forests. Actions will be coordinated with INAFOR to achieve adequate forest management; at the same time, the project will finance the building of capacities for the management and protection of forests that will have positive effects on the forest by reducing carbon emissions and increasing forest reserves, biodiversity and the connectivity of protected areas.

6. The project seeks to restore important habitats to prevent the loss of threatened or endangered species. Support will be provided for the restoration of degraded areas and protection activities in the Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve protected area, in order to protect the best mother plants of the species *Pinus patula ssp tecunumanii* in the last redoubt in the southern limit of the species, and also the protection of *Pinus maximinoi* in Tisey, Dipilto and San Fernando, and of *Pinus caribaea* in Alamikamba. In its function as an ecosystem restoration activity, it will contribute positively to the increase of the uptake, infiltration and improvement of flows in water bodies.

7. **ESS-3. Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture:** Classified as of moderate risk. The project will support subsidiary projects for sustainable land management and restoration of degraded areas in interconnection corridors. This support is targeted primarily at the incorporation of an arboreal component in agricultural and livestock production areas to ensure connectivity between forested areas and the development of a corridor. Although the support does not include the purchase of seeds or external materials, where annual crops are concerned, in order to minimize the contamination of local genetic materials, the arboreal components can be external materials, obtained from national nurseries, for the purpose of ensuring that improvement of the connection is achieved with fruit trees that also contribute to improvement of the family diet, the generation of income and the feeding of

animal species that transit through the corridors. The fruit species to be introduced will be reviewed by IPSA to guarantee their health. Furthermore, genetic materials or seeds would not be imported from outside the country, nor would biotechnology be used.

8. **ESS-4. Genetic resources for animals (livestock and aquatic) for food and agriculture:** The risk is low, and this component is not applicable to this project. The project is not expected to support activities involving the introduction of livestock to the intervention area; on the contrary, it will promote the incorporation of an arboreal component in grazing areas in order to assist the change of use and to transform it into a silvopastoral system that contributes to the resilience of resources and livelihoods.

9. **ESS-5. Pest and pesticide management:** The risk is moderate. The project will support activities in agroforestry (SAF) and silvopastoral (SSP) systems through subsidiary projects that benefit local producers while promoting resilience and sustainable land management (SLM) practices. International best practices in integrated pest management (IPM) will be applied, ensuring that preventive and mitigation measures are used in project components. The application of Law 765, on the promotion of agro-ecological and organic production, will be strengthened. Owing to the risk of infestation by the pine bark beetle, at times when beetle populations increase to pest levels, the UIP will develop relevant IPM practices, working in coordination with members of INAFOR and IPSA.

10. **ESS-6. Involuntary displacement and replacement:** This safeguard is not applicable to the project.

11. **ESS-7. Decent work:** This safeguard is of moderate risk. In the interconnection corridors, work will be carried out with subsistence producers, on generally degraded lands, where productive work is performed with unpaid family labour. The project will work in coordination with other projects implemented by MEFCCA that support family farming. It should be noted, however, that the project seeks to integrate family members in the protection of natural resources and biodiversity, through sustainable land management, without undertaking to hire producers or, even less acceptable, young people under the age of 15. No migrants have been identified among workers in search of employment. The project will hire technical assistants to support the activities to be developed in the protected areas, and will also contract the provision of advisory and consultancy services. With the exception of the proper handling of pesticides (when these are used), no additional occupational health and safety risks are identified.

12. **SSE-8. Gender equality:** In this regard, the project is of low risk. During the preparation of the project, consultations were held with women, indigenous and non-indigenous, and a gender analysis was carried out with a view to formulating a gender plan of action, focusing on three main action areas: (i) promotion of women's participation in decision-making bodies; (ii) selection of women as specific beneficiaries; (iii) investment in women for capacity development (equal access to benefits and services).

13. **ESS-9. Indigenous peoples and cultural heritage:** The risk is moderate. In its intervention area, this project affects the following indigenous territories: Mosonte in Nueva Segovia within the Serranía Dipilto and Jalapa Natural Reserve; the indigenous peoples of Cusmapa and San Lucas, under the responsibility of the Coordinator of the Chorotega Indigenous Pueblos (CPICH), in the municipalities of San Lucas and San José de Cusmapa, Madriz, in the Tepesomoto-La Pataste Natural Reserve and the Somoto Canyon National Monument; the indigenous pueblo of Matagalpa, in the Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve, in San Ramón, Matagalpa; the Prinzu Awala indigenous pueblo, in Prinzipolka, RACCN, within the Alamikamba and Limbaika Natural Reserves. Indigenous peoples are direct participants and beneficiaries of the project's activities, as they will restore and protect their forests and habitats important for biodiversity. During the PPG, the Policy Framework for Indigenous Peoples was elaborated and a consultation process was carried out with them, concluding in the obtaining of their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). See the Policy Framework in Annex J.

14. A summary of the risks and alternatives may be found in table 6.

Table 6. Environmental and social risks of the project

Risk identified	Risk classification	Mitigation action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS-1 Management of natural resources	L	Restoration of forests and important habitats Protection of biodiversity The 13 points of the World Soil Charter are taken up again Implementation of sustainable land management	* changes in land use from forests to agricultural or grazing land, reduced by at least 10% * forest fires, in pine and oak groves in the central north region and Puerto Cabezas reduced by 20%	None
ESS-2. Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats	M	The landscape approach to be used in the project will lead to positive impacts on habitat restoration within protected areas and corridors, which in turn will boost connectivity and habitat restoration for biodiversity. Environmental and Social Management Framework (MAGAS)	91,170 ha of restored pine and white oak and holm oak forests in nine protected areas and 32,493 ha of degraded or scrubland areas will be rehabilitated	MAGAS document drawn up
ESS-3 Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	M	The arboreal components may be of external materials, obtained from national nurseries, for the purpose of ensuring that improvement of the connection is achieved with fruit trees that contribute to a better family diet, income generation and the feeding of animal species that transit through the corridors. The fruit species to be introduced will be reviewed by IPSA to guarantee their health.	At least 10,000 hectares under sustainable land management	None
ESS-4 Genetic resources for animals (livestock and aquatic) for food and agriculture	N/A			
	M	Sustainable land management practices that involve IPM Coordination with INAFOR and IPSA for IPM practices	175,937 ha of 9 protected areas	Inter-institution coordination arrangements
ESS-6. Involuntary replacement and displacement	NA			

Risk identified	Risk classification	Mitigation action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS-7. Decent work	M	Consultation with young people to encourage them to join environmental brigades	Advisory workshops	None
ESS-8. Gender equality	L	Consultation process with women to learn about their situation, needs and expectations	Advisory workshops Gender action plan	Proceedings Gender action plan – Annex
ESS-9. Indigenous people and cultural heritage	M	Consultation process during the PPG phase Obtaining letter of consent Formation of a Communications Committee	Proceedings of advisory workshops Letter of consent Committee set up with men and women members	Workshops held and proceedings available Letters of consent available Pending ratification

15. During the PPG phase, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (MAGAS) document was elaborated, setting out the safeguards and the measures to be followed in the event that they need to be activated (see Annex II: MAGAS and Detection Checklist).

[1] H: High; M: Moderate; L: Low.

[2] Law No. 765 on the Promotion of Agro-Environmental and Organic Farming.

A.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.

1. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) will have overall responsibility for the implementation and technical oversight of the project, which will be supervised by FAO as the GEF Agency, as described below. MARENA will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO. As OP of the project MARENA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

2. The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, with FAO providing oversight as GEF Agency as described below. MARENA will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO. As OP of the project MARENA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

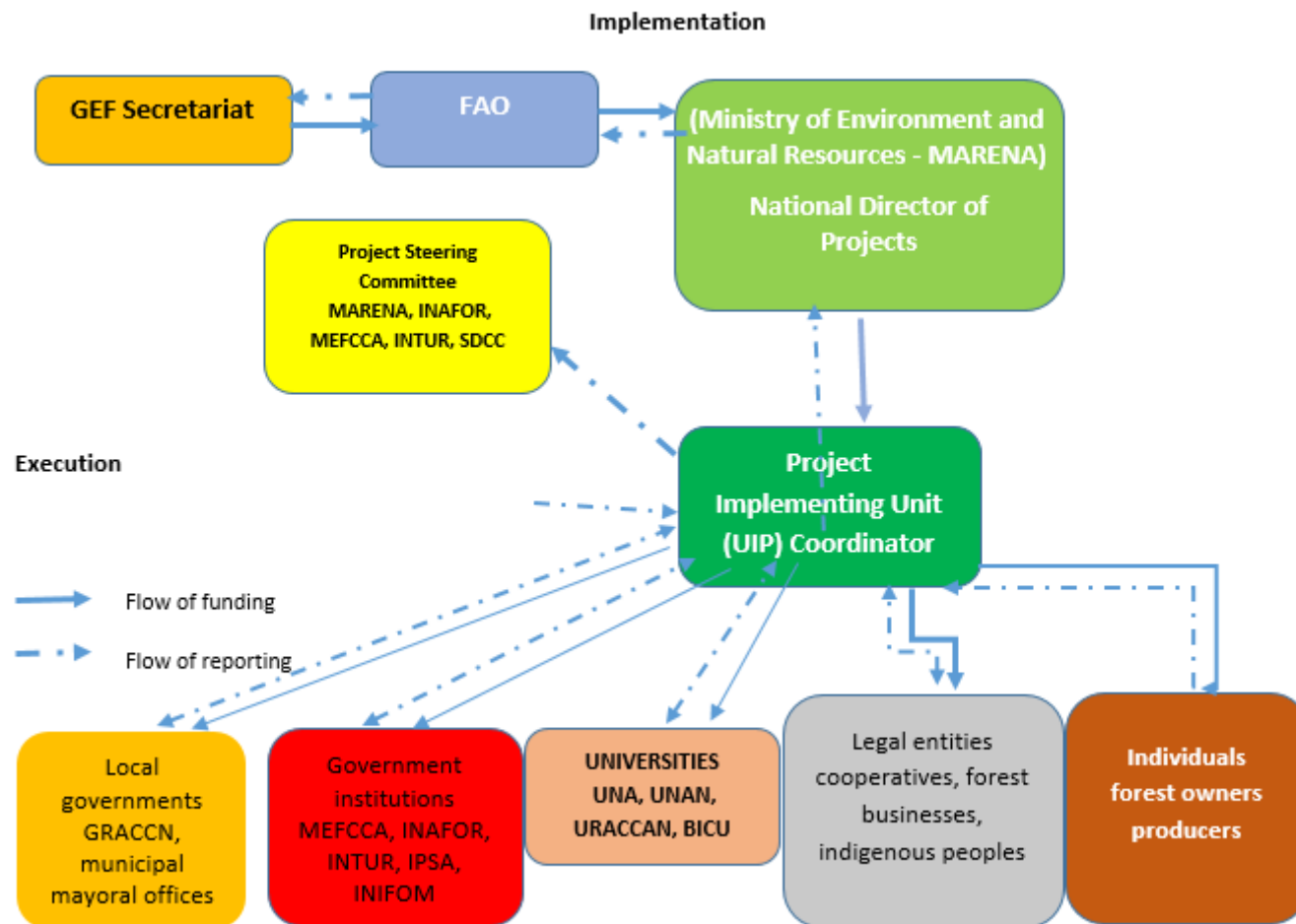
3. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project:

- the Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day to day project execution;
- the Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- the Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

4. FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, includes:

- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year;
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress; and
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

5. The organizational structure of the project is as follows:



6. MARENA will chair the Project Steering Committee, which will be the main governing body of the project. The Committee will approve annual work plans and budgets and provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Unit and all implementing partners. The Committee will be composed of representatives from MARENA, INAFOR, MEFCCA and SDCC. Committee members will act as focal point for the project in their respective institutions. Accordingly, the project will have a focal point in each institution involved. As focal points in their institution, Committee members will: (i) technically supervise the activities in their institution; (ii) ensure a smooth interchange of information and knowledge

between the institution and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and linkages between project activities and their institution's work plan; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project according to the agreed modality.

7. The Project Steering Committee is the body responsible for supporting the decision-making process; it will meet at least twice a year in order to: (i) Monitor and ensure the technical quality of outputs; (ii) Approve the annual work plan and budget, together with six-monthly progress reports and project reports; (iii) Strengthen links between the project and other existing projects and programmes relevant to the project; (iv) Learn about and report on the co-financing support of each of the parties; (v) Ensure the scope of key project results, including sustainability, scale-up and replication; (v) Develop effective coordination of the government partner's work under this project.

8. A Project Implementation Unit will be co-financed by GEF and established within MARENA, reporting directly to the Director of the National Project Directorate. The main functions of the Unit, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, will be to ensure efficient overall project management, coordination, implementation and monitoring through the effective implementation of annual work plans and budgets. The Unit will be headed by the Director of the MARENA National Projects Directorate, who will work in conjunction with a National Project Coordinator, who will be hired on a full-time basis throughout the life of the project. In addition, the Unit will be supported by: a financial specialist, a procurement specialist, a monitoring and evaluation specialist, a specialist in methodology, gender and indigenous peoples, and a biodiversity specialist, whose salaries will be paid from project funds. In local areas there will be protected area technicians, promoters, an information systems expert, and an ENDE-REDD+ specialist, who will work under the coordination of the Unit and whose salaries will also be paid from project funds.

9. The National Project Coordinator will be in charge of the daily implementation, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the operational partner and within the framework outlined by the Project Steering Committee. He or she will be responsible, among other things, for:

(i) Coordination with relevant initiatives;

(ii) Ensuring a high level of collaboration between participating institutions and organizations at the national level;

(iii) Ensuring compliance with all MARENA provisions during implementation, including timely reporting and financial management;

(iv) Coordination and close monitoring of the implementation of project activities; including coordination with the specialists and technical officers of FAO (national and international) the conceptual, methodological elements and tools that will be applied in the implementation of the project.

(v) Monitoring the progress and implementation of all the project activities ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs;

(vi) In coordination with the FAO Lead Technical Officer, provide technical guidance and oversight to consultants and institutions hired to deliver the annual work plans. This includes (i) preparing terms of reference (including technical requirements) for consultants and other national institutions, (ii) leading selection processes for technical staff and institutions, (iii) provide oversight and assuring the technical quality of reports and project outputs, with support from FAO, (iv) ensure products are technically sound in order to support the Knowledge Management and Communications strategies.

(vii) Approving and managing requests for the provision of financial resources using the format provided by MARENA;

- (viii) Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- (ix) Ensuring the timely preparation and submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO according to MARENA reporting requirements;
- (x) Maintaining documentation and evidence describing the appropriate and prudent use of project resources under MARENA arrangements, including making it available to FAO and designated auditors upon request;
- (xi) Implementing and managing project monitoring and communication plans;
- (xii) Organizing project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and prepare the annual budget and work plan;
- (xiii) Submitting six-monthly project progress reports (PPR) with the annual work plan and budget (AWP/B) to the Project Steering Committee (CDP) and FAO;
- (xiv) Preparing the first draft of the Project Implementation Review (PIR);
- (xv) Supporting the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Office of Independent Evaluation (OED);
- (xvi) Submitting the MARENA six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and, where necessary, facilitating the exchange of information between MARENA and FAO;
- (xvii) Informing the Project Steering Committee and FAO of any delays or difficulties encountered during implementation to ensure timely corrective action and support.

Detailed terms of reference for this position are provided in the Annex S.

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7. Benefits

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

1. The proposed project involves a range of social and economic benefits associated with improved, more resilient and sustainable landscapes. The improvement of transformation of current practices will result in direct and indirect benefits from better management of protected areas and natural resources, increasing knowledge and dissemination of biodiversity, strengthening livelihoods, raising awareness and improving skills of indigenous and non-indigenous people, women and men of local communities and other associated indirect effects.
2. The GEF multifocal strategy to boost the effectiveness of protected area management and the sustainable use of dry and humid forests in selected landscapes in the north-central and northern Caribbean coast regions of Nicaragua in a manner that ensures the flow of ecosystem services will be more cost-effective in the short and long term than other approaches in which the institutional capacities for protected area planning and management are predominantly weak. Returning to the analysis carried out by the project on

Strengthening the Resilience of Protected Areas of Multiple Uses for the Generation of Multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEF 5277), a qualitative approach was used to identify the alternative offering the best value and most likely to achieve the project objectives.

3. Component 1 seeks to improve management effectiveness and restore habitats important to biodiversity. While these activities may not be profitable, the improvement of forest conditions and reduction of current threats to biodiversity offer more positive benefits. If the project were not implemented, the area under agricultural would continue to expand, and protected areas would continue to be affected by changing land use, leading to the degradation and loss of the ecosystem. The protection of the areas would depend exclusively on budgetary transfers made by the government through MARENA for that purpose. By strengthening the institutional capacity of MARENA headquarters and its local-level offices, through capacity building in the management of protected areas and the application of strategies and tools for planning, monitoring and mandatory compliance with measures and, above all, by involving the local population in the collaborative management of the areas included in their lands, and also by building their capacities in these issues, it will be possible to reduce threats (illegal logging, poaching and illegal trade of vulnerable and threatened species, uncontrolled slash-and-burn practices), and the GEF approach will surmount the barriers limiting the effective management of protected areas and the conservation of biodiversity of global importance.

4. The return on investment will then be measured in terms of the reduced extraction of natural resources, reduced threats and deforestation and the avoidance of emissions. The involvement of local populations in the protection and management of protected areas will entail savings for the regulatory body and for local authorities, to the extent that members of the local population participate in the monitoring, oversight and protection of their resources. The establishment of forest management plans in the buffer zones of protected areas, with the aim of sustainable forest use, will promote the care of forest resources and local biodiversity and the sound and sustainable use of these resources, enabling the population to use the resources for their own consumption and also for income-generating purposes from the sale of some resources in accordance to Law No. 807.

5. Component 2, on the one hand, seeks to reverse the changes in land use and to restore areas that have been degraded through unsound agricultural management; the incorporation of an arboreal component in the farming system and adoption of a sustainable land management approach, in addition to improving and enriching the environment, will create conditions enabling species to transit through the area; but will also make possible the establishment of multiple-use species and, above all, food species (fruit trees and medicinal plants) for human and animal consumption, thus contributing family diets and creating an income flow additional to that generated by the traditional farming system. The contribution of the organic matter generated by these trees, in addition to promoting carbon capture, will contribute to the enrichment of soils with organic matter, increasing their fertility. As is already evident, for this activity, the incorporation of an arboreal component can only be beneficial for farm systems and, by extension, for their owners. At the same time, by making natural resources available for sound use in their productive units, family members will be prevented from going out to plunder the forests and inflict further harm on the local environment. All the above demonstrates the return on this investment. Furthermore, by piloting results-based incentives, lessons will be learned on viable ways for forest owners to generate income from the proper management of their resources, which will encourage them to protect these resources.

6. In summary, the benefits of the project in terms of generation of environmental services fall into two categories: (i) on the one hand, creating savings, reducing deforestation and avoiding emissions, thereby boosting institutional performance and the achievement of global objectives, and (ii) creating microclimates and conditions for the transit of species thereby facilitating their repopulation in the project's intervention zones, and also contributing to the resilience and sustainability of local livelihoods.

A.8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate on the Knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

1. Knowledge management is a continuous process that will be undertaken during the life of the project and makes use of previous experience as a basis for developing activities, which are enriched from an analysis of the practice for the purposes of its improvement. It will be based on participatory processes through which the members of the institutions, organizations and men and women of the indigenous and non-indigenous population share their expertise, knowledge and lessons that have been generated with the implementation of the different activities of the project. The project will preserve, highlight and integrate data, information, knowhow and knowledge (tacit, implicit and explicit) and lessons generated during the execution of the project; to this end, it will create spaces and opportunities for participation in order to share and disseminate knowledge and develop generalizations. Knowledge management will be a process whose principal research areas include: (a) the relationship between human beings and biodiversity;[1] (b) protected area management;[2] (c) piloting results-based incentives. On this basis, it will identify good practices (such as successful experiences and promising practices) in a process of exchange and learning.
2. Knowledge management and the learning system will incorporate in a cross-cutting manner the approaches of participation, social equity, gender and youth, and environmental and biodiversity sustainability, once again taking up the indicators of the results framework; it will therefore be linked to the Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation System and to the Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation System, taking into account the results of the supported subprojects.
3. The project's communication strategy will have two specific thrusts: (i) the initial dissemination of the project, which promotes the participation of the population and stakeholders in the project activities and includes the communication to be established with indigenous peoples within the framework of policies for indigenous peoples elaborated during the PPG phase; and (ii) the communication process, which is based on the results generated with the knowledge management plan in order to share the lessons generated with other authorities, agencies and project executors and to contribute to decision making both in the implementation of this project and in the formulation of new projects.
4. The total cost of implementation of the Knowledge Management and Communication Plan will be US\$ 329,111.00. See Annex Q: Knowledge Management and Communication Plan.

[1] Good practices in such areas as restoration processes, forest protection, important habitats, degraded land and others.

[2] Good practices and lessons learned in M&E, stakeholder participation in protected area management, biodiversity monitoring, alliances, incorporation of the topic in institutional agendas and development plans; strengthening of institutions in biodiversity monitoring.

B. Description of the consistency of the project with:

B.1. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with nation strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The project is consistent with the following strategies and plans:

1. Third National Communication on Climate Change, submitted to UNFCCC in July 2018: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Tercera%20Comunicaci%C3%B3n%20Nicaragua-Julio%202018.pdf>

In order to achieve the commitments under the UNFCCC, the country has committed to carry out activities by key economic sector to mitigate climate change. In particular, the proposed project is in line with national efforts under the ENDE-REDD+ project which is implementing actions to avoid degradation and forest loss.

2. Nationally determined contribution (NDC), submitted to UNFCCC in August 2018: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/Search.aspx?k=Nicaragua>

The proposed project will contribute to the following measures proposed by the government of Nicaragua in the country's NDC (Section II.2.2.1.1): (i) Measure 5: Restore and conserve ecosystems and their services to increase the adaptive capacity to climate change, (ii) Measure 7: Strengthen the effectiveness of Protected Area management and the sustainable use for moist and dry forests by strengthening, managing and conserving protected areas with investments in infrastructure for protection, both within the protected area and in the buffer zones, (iii) Measure 11: Prioritize natural forest regeneration in areas suitable for forestry, and (iv) Measure 12: Continue implementing the Reforestation Master Plan.

3. National Biodiversity Strategy of Nicaragua and its Plan of Action for 2015–2020, submitted to CDB in 2016: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ecr/cbwecr-2014-09/other/cbwecr-2014-09-presentation-24-es.pdf>

The proposed project is aligned with the country's 2015-2020 NBSAP, in particular with the following strategic objectives and goals: (i) Strategic Objective B, Goal 5: By 2020 the country would have reduced to one half (...) the rate of loss of forest habitats, and would have reduced in a significant manner degradation and fragmentation; by 2020 three biological corridors will have been promoted and restored through the reforestation of degraded areas; (ii) Goal 7, by 2020 many agricultural practices in areas important for hydrological recharge will be converted, and mechanisms will be in place to regulate these activities (...); Strategic Objective C, Goal 11: By 2020 at least 17% of terrestrial zones (...) will be preserved through efficiently and equitably managed protected areas

4. National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Strategy for the period to 2030, submitted to UNCCD in 2018: https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/2018-11/Nicaragua%20LDN%20TSP%20Country%20Report.pdf

The project is aligned with the LDN strategy and its targets to attain LDN. In particular, the project will support the following initiatives under LDN: (i) Support to the ENDE-REDD program in the Caribbean Coast and the Central-North Pacific, (ii) the commitment to restore 2.8 million degraded hectares within the framework of the Bonn Initiative.

5. Nicaragua's targets for attainment of land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030, submitted to UNCCD in 2018: https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/2018-11/Nicaragua%20LDN%20Country%20Commitments.pdf

6.

C. Describe The Budgeted M & E Plan:

1. Project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Implementation Unit (UIP) and the person responsible for the FAO budget. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At the outset, the results matrix will be revised to finalize the identification of: (i) outputs; (ii) indicators; and (iii) lack of information and baseline goals. This will be based on the results matrix and will define the specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, timing and frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.), which will be put forward during presentation of the initial report.

Project launch phase

2. At the latest, in the first quarter of Year 1, the initial workshop or start-up workshop will be held with staff from all stakeholders: MARENA, the UIP, local-level offices, co-participating government institutions, indigenous peoples authorities, FAO and FAO-GEF officials. The main objective of this initial workshop is to promote a sense of ownership of the targets and goals of the project for the purposes of elaborating the first annual operational plan. To this end, the results framework (indicators, means of verification, assumptions) shall be revised in order to make the necessary and relevant adjustments, adding precise and measurable performance indicators to the annual operation plans, in line with the expected results of the project. It is also planned to hold meetings of the implementing organization together with its counterparts or partners, and with those of the Project Steering Committee and certain other bodies considered important for the good performance of the project.

3. The start-up workshop will enable all members of the different teams to gain a thorough understanding of the roles, functions and responsibilities of each of the parties within the decision-making and relationship structure. The members of the different teams will get to know one another, and will familiarize themselves with the skills and contributions that each team can bring to the development and satisfactory performance of the project and to meeting the requirements for requesting support, the time lines, the operational requirements and the reports that need to be prepared.

Monitoring

4. Once the annual operational plan for Year 1 has been formulated, the UIP will be responsible for following up on it and producing periodic reports to provide feedback on the implementation process. For satisfactory operation, the annual operational plan will be subdivided into monthly and then weekly plans. The UIP will produce monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and annual reports to monitor project implementation and facilitate feedback. The assessments carried out during these periods, in addition to feeding the project's M&E system, will contribute to knowledge management through the identification of constraints and good practices in implementation. The periodic reports will be the responsibility of the Project Coordinator, who, through MARENA headquarters, will coordinate with local-level offices to ascertain what progress is being made in the region concerned. Analysis of the

contributions to knowledge management will be the responsibility of the methodology specialist, who will also be responsible for gender and indigenous peoples, thus ensuring that the reports, lessons learned and any new plans take on board the necessary approaches. The methodology specialist will also support the six-monthly meetings of the local-level offices and/or the UIP with the indigenous peoples, with a view to following up on the plans agreed with them.

5. The Tripartite Committee (GEF/FAO/MARENA) will be able to meet annually to learn about the progress and activities to be developed in the new year, in order to predict needs and take measures to support implementation (technical advice, other support). The Project Steering Committee will meet every six months in order to learn about progress, identify constraints and guide adjustments or measures (inter-institutional coordination, mutual support) that contribute to the satisfactory accomplishment of planned activities. In both cases, the project coordinator will prepare the report based on the results achieved in the execution of the annual operational plan, which in turn is based on the adjusted results framework.

6. **Periodic monitoring:** For the monitoring and follow-up of the project by the UIP, in addition to the reports received from the local-level offices, members of the UIP will make quarterly visits to these offices, on a rotating basis, so that they can check in situ the performance of the activities and the implementation of the subprojects and observe the progress made in the field, of which they will take due note and record evidence. These monitoring visits will also serve to identify constraints and to seek alternative options in support of implementation in the region concerned. Some of these visits will be held simultaneously with the meetings of the Commission on Communication with Indigenous Peoples and visiting members will participate in these meetings to learn about progress and contribute to the relevant issues. A report will be prepared of each monitoring exercise, to record and document what has been found, which will be fed into the M&E system and, above all, used to identify qualitative aspects of implementation that are not recorded in the system.

7. **Annual monitoring:** The FAO office in the country will conduct joint monitoring visits with MARENA at least once a year in order to ascertain and to verify in situ progress made in implementation, so that they can ensure that the measures to be adopted will help to facilitate the satisfactory performance of the project and the learning processes for the parties. In order to optimize resources, these joint monitoring visits will be held jointly with one of the monitoring exercises carried out by the UIP and will include visits, on a rotating basis, to the local-level offices and a sample of the subprojects being implemented, and, as far as possible, meetings with authorities and members of the indigenous peoples, meetings with indigenous and non-indigenous women, and with other local stakeholders, to learn how the parties involved perceive the situation relating to implementation of the project and to gather feedback on the decision-making processes. The most appropriate time slot for such monitoring visits would be the third quarter of each year, before the start of the following year's planning process, to facilitate feedback on implementation.

Reports

8. **Periodic reports:** The UIP will prepare different types of reports in accordance with their scheduling. All these reports shall be the responsibility of the Project Coordinator. The reports to be elaborated include the following:

(a) *Monthly reports:* The UIP will prepare monthly reports based on compliance with the activities programmed in the annual operational plan, their levels of compliance, constraints, progress and alternatives to improve the efficiency of implementation; for this purpose it shall take into account the activities planned for the month, the information that it receives from the local-level offices, through the competent Directorate in MARENA, and the UIP's own implementation efforts.

(b) *Quarterly reports*: These reports will be elaborated on the basis of the monthly reports and the monitoring visits that are carried out during the reporting period, which must be registered and documented, so that experience and qualitative aspects that are not taken into account in a quantitative system for recording the accomplishment of activities are duly compiled so that they can enrich the further implementation of the project.

(c) *Half-yearly report*: This report will be prepared at the end of each six months, taking into account implementation of the project during the two quarters, and will serve to inform the Project Steering Committee on the progress in implementation of the project, so that it can provide the necessary guidance.

(d) *Annual Report*. This report will be drawn up with a view to compiling and systematizing information on the activities carried out over the entire year; in this process, due account will be taken of the previous periodic reports, records will be prepared of the periodic monitoring and minutes of the joint monitoring exercise. An initial report will be prepared for the previous year, after the joint monitoring exercise, so that work can begin on the planning process for the following year and, subsequently, for the period up to the last month of the year, and the annual report will be adjusted, with the final implementation activities for each quarter. The annual report should include an analysis of progress in each component, a gender analysis of the actions carried out, information on coordination with indigenous peoples and other stakeholders and on the incorporation of the themes in their work agendas and development plans. This annual report will be shared with the parties for their feedback and will serve as a basis for the meetings of both the Tripartite Committee and the Project Steering Committee early the following year.

(e) *Final report*. At the end of the five years, the Project Coordinator will prepare a final report, based on the results obtained from implementation of the project. This report will be prepared at least three months before operations are concluded, for submission to the parties so that they can make their contributions. The report will be based on the Results Framework; it will identify the extent to which the project goals have been reached and its contribution to the attainment of global goals; it will provide explanations regarding the successes and failures in accomplishing the goals, the limitations and strengths, the sustainability and replicability attained; the steps still needed to achieve still higher levels and the main lessons learned.

(f) *Specific thematic reports*: The annual or periodic reports may be accompanied by specific thematic reports when these contribute to widening the scope of project implementation, facilitate learning processes or are requested by the Project Steering Committee and the Tripartite Committee. A portion of these reports must be included in the six-monthly and annual reports. These thematic reports include the following:

- a. Biodiversity monitoring, which must have at least two reports, relating to the technical advisory services and the conduct of monitoring;
- b. Piloting of results-based incentives;
- c. Restoration of forests, habitats and degraded areas;
- d. Participation of stakeholders and the incorporation of the themes in their agendas and development plans.

Independent evaluations

9. The project shall be subject to at least two independent external evaluations as set out below.

10. **Mid-term evaluation**, by an independent team, to be carried out in year 3, the date to be coordinated so that the biodiversity monitoring has already been carried out and can serve as an input to the evaluation exercise. The evaluation will determine the extent of the project's progress in relation to total attainment of the expected results and will indicate the measures that need to be taken for the relevant adjustments to improve implementation performance. The mid-term evaluation will review aspects of effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation and the possibility of achieving sustainability and replicability. It will highlight the issues or problems that require decisions and actions to be taken and will set forth initial lessons learned in relation to the design, implementation and administration of the project. The findings will be incorporated in the form of recommendations with the aim of improving the progress of the project in the second half of its life cycle. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation need to be decided on after the parties have consulted the project document and will be based on the report on implementation in year 2. The FAO Country Office will prepare the terms of reference for this evaluation and proceed with the hiring of the team according to its administrative rules.

11. **Final evaluation**: to be conducted by an independent team and will take place at least five months prior to the final meeting of the Project Steering Committee. It will focus on the same issues as the mid-term evaluation and will analyse the impact and sustainability of the results, based on the development of national capacities and the results achieved; it will also identify the project's contributions to global environmental goals. Its main recommendations will revolve around the follow-up actions to be undertaken by the implementing institution to ensure sustainability and will identify the main lessons to feed back to other similar projects.

Publications

12. Throughout the life of the project, information will continuously be published for the various stakeholders involved and its results and experiences will also be disseminated; in some cases, it will be able to prepare and publish technical summaries which can be shared with the other institutions involved. Periodically, in accordance with proposals put forward in the Communication and Dissemination Committee in coordination with the indigenous peoples, information will be published on joint progress. To foreground the work carried out with women in the implementation of the project and the and to carry out gender analysis of project implementation, short publications will be prepared identifying the experiences of women in the project and their role in biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration. To cover the costs of these publications, annual amounts have been budgeted and included in the knowledge management plan described above.

Audits

13. The project and subprojects that are implemented will be audited in accordance with the FAO administrative and financial rules and procedures.

Table 7. Work plan and budget of M&E activities

<i>Type of M&E activity</i>	<i>Officials responsible</i>	<i>Budget US\$*</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
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<i>Type of M&E activity</i>	<i>Officials responsible</i>	<i>Budget US\$*</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
Initial or start-up workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project Coordinator · FAO Country Office · FAO-GEF 	GEF: \$2,500	First three months from project start-up
Initial report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project team · FAO Country Office 	Period of UIP	Immediately following project start-up
Results-based annual operational report and budget (AWP/B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP in consultation with the LTO 	Period of UIP	Within one month of project start-up and thereafter annually, covering reporting period from January to December of each year
Updated baseline information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP in consultation with the LTO 	Period of UIP	Start and end of each year of project
Joint monitoring visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP, LTO, FLO 	FAO visits using GEF Agency fares (others using project travel budget as needed) \$ 12,000	Annual
Project progress reports (PPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP, LTO, BH 	Period of UIP	No later than one month after each six-monthly reporting period (January–June and July–December)
Quarterly supervisory exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP, local-level offices, MARENA 	Period of UIP and MARENA project operating costs	Every three months
Six-monthly meetings with the indigenous peoples (Communication with Indigenous Peoples Committee).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP, local-level offices, MARENA, indigenous peoples 	Period of UIP, MARENA and indigenous peoples project operating costs	Every six months
Periodic project progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP, local-level offices, MARENA 	Period of UIP, local-area offices and MARENA	Monthly, three-monthly and yearly
Project implementation review (PIR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Drafted by NPD, with supervision by LTO and BH. Approved and submitted to GEF by FAO-GEF Coordination Unit 	GEF agency fees	1 August of every reporting year
Co-financing reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UIP 	Period of UIP	Annually together with PIR
GEF follow-up tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · LTO 	GEF agency fees	Midpoint and end of project
Independent mid-term evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · General Coordinator and Project team · FAO Nicaragua · FAO-GEF · External consultants (evaluation team) 	GEF: \$30,000	Midpoint of year 3 of project

<i>Type of M&E activity</i>	<i>Officials responsible</i>	<i>Budget US\$*</i>		<i>Time frame</i>
Independent final evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · General Coordinator and Project team · FAO NI · FAO-GEF · External consultants (evaluation team) 	GEF: \$45,000		At least five months before end of project
Final workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project General Coordinator · FAO Country Office · FAO-GEF 	GEF: \$3,000		Two months before finalizing project
Total project M&E budget		GEF	\$92,500	

PART III: Certification by GEF partner agency(ies)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Jeffrey Griffin	12/5/2019	Hernan Gonzalez		hernan.gonzalez@fao.org

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).

Annex A1: Project Results Framework

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Objective: To strengthen the national system of protected areas and to support sustainable land use and restoration practices in selected areas of the Dry Corridor and the northern Caribbean coastal regions of Nicaragua, with a view to promoting the conservation of biodiversity, resilient landscapes and local livelihoods							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<p>Indicator 1: Improved effectiveness of the management of the nine existing protected areas, quantified through the national methodology approved in Ministerial Resolution No. 38-2008.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tisey Estanzuela Natural Reserve: 63 - Cerro Tomabú Natural Reserve: 58 - Cerro Quiabuc Las Brisas Natural Reserve: 61 - Tepesomoto Pataste Natural Reserve: 50 - Somoto Canyon National Monument: 57 - Serranía Dipilto Jalapa Natural Reserve: 56 - Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve: 41 - Alamikamba Natural Reserve: 41 - Limbaika Natural Reserve: 41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tisey Estanzuela Natural Reserve: 70 - Cerro Tomabú Natural Reserve: 66 - Cerro Quiabuc Las Brisas Natural Reserve: 66 - Tepesomoto Pataste Natural Reserve: 55 - Somoto Canyon National Monument: 65 - Serranía Dipilto Jalapa Natural Reserve: 65 - Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve: 50 - Alamikamba Natural Reserve: 43 - Limbaika Natural Reserve: 43 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tisey Estanzuela Natural Reserve: 76 - Cerro Tomabú Natural Reserve: 76 - Cerro Quiabuc Las Brisas Natural Reserve: 76 - Tepesomoto Pataste Natural Reserve: 60 - Somoto Canyon National Monument: 76 - Serranía Dipilto Jalapa Natural Reserve: 76 - Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve: 60 - Alamikamba Natural Reserve: 46 - Limbaika Natural Reserve: 46 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Updated Scorecards (National Monitoring Tool) b) Project evaluation reports: mid-term and final evaluations 	Continued interest of the Nicaraguan government (national and local), civil society and private sector in improving protected area management	MARENA through the Directorate General of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity/UIP

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Indicator 2: Number of beneficiaries disaggregated by sex as beneficiaries of the GEF investment	0	536 (403 men and 133 women)	1,342 (1,009 men and 333 women) monitored	Subproject and knowledge management reports	Local stakeholders (producers, indigenous peoples) support and participate in activities to improve the management and conservation status of protected areas	MARENA/UIP
	Indicator 3: Emissions avoided (tCO ₂ -e) from deforestation of dry and humid landscapes of the pine forest over a period of five years	Annual reference level 113,604 tons of CO ₂ -e *	Emissions reduced in 0.22 Mt CO ₂ -e	Emissions reduced in 0.86 Mt CO ₂ -e	Reports of the Carbon Module of the National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (SNMRV)	This measure coordinated in the framework of the Nicaragua ERPD	MARENA through the Climate Change Unit/UIP
Component 1: Strengthening the systems for protected area management and biodiversity conservation							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity habitats improved through the conservation or restoration of over 82,279 hectares (implementation of pine forest management and conservation, conduct of planned silvicultural treatments and natural regeneration) to increase resilience, protection and connectivity between nine protected areas and	Indicator 4: Area (ha) under habitat conservation or restoration for biodiversity, adaptation and livelihoods in protected areas, with the participation of indigenous and non-indigenous men and women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total: 141,355 ha – Ecosystem of the Dry Corridor: 132,648 ha – Ecosystem of the humic tropical region: 8,707 Ha 	56,542 ha in total (53,059 ha in the dry corridor and 3,483 ha in the tropical humid region)	141,355 ha conserved or restored (82,279 ha of the core zone and 59,076 ha of the buffer zone or the nine protected areas)	<p>Technical reports and publications</p> <p>Midterm and final evaluation reports</p>	<p>Local stakeholders (producers, indigenous peoples) support and participate in activities to improve the management and conservation status of protected areas.</p> <p>Agreements between government, private sector and civil society on collaborative protected area management</p>	MARENA through the Directorate General of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity /UIP

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
forest remnants of the genus <i>Pinus</i> and <i>Quercus</i> ; <i>Pinus patula sub. sp. tecunumanii</i> and <i>Pinus caribaeae</i> , and reforestation in an additional area of some 59,076 hectares (buffer areas), bringing the total area earmarked for restoration to 141,355 hectares.	Indicator 5: Improved planning, management and monitoring capacity in nine protected areas in accordance with MARENA's management effectiveness tool Ministerial Resolution No. 38-2008	Seven protected areas with management plans and two without such plans (Alamikamba and Limbaika)	Seven protected areas with operational plans committed to writing and under implementation Two protected areas with approved management plans	Nine protected areas have improved their management and conservation status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Scorecards on application of the management and management effectiveness tool in protected areas – Project evaluation reports: midterm and final evaluations 	Collaborative Management Committees actively participate in the monitoring and management of the protected area	MARENA / through the Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity /UIP

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<p>Indicator 6:</p> <p>Total annual budget (US\$) available for management of the nine protected areas, by funding source at the end of five years</p>	<p>National government: \$2,339,891</p> <p>Local government: \$0</p> <p>Private sources (NGOs, private sector, etc.): \$0</p>	<p>National government: 10% increase</p> <p>Local government: at least \$90,000</p> <p>Private sources (NGOs, private sector, etc.): at least \$18,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Income generated (gate tickets bought by visitors) · Contributions 	<p>– National government: \$ (increase of 20% after five years)</p> <p>– Local governments: \$0 (at least \$300,000 after five years)</p> <p>– Private sources (NGOs, private sector, etc.): \$0 (at least \$300,000 after five years)</p>	<p>– Database with financial/accounting information of the protected area according to the MHCP/SIGAF system</p> <p>– Reports/records of income received and registered by MARENA for the protected area in the MHCP/SIGAF system</p> <p>– Municipal transfer system report/registration: www.transmuni.gob.ni **</p> <p>– Project evaluation reports: midterm and final evaluations</p>	<p>Stable national and international economic conditions conducive to the flow of additional financial resources</p>	<p>MARENA / through the Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity /UIP</p>

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcomes:							
1.1.1. Planning, management and monitoring upgraded in the nine protected areas							
a) Supporting capacity-building of MARENA staff							
b) Stepping up application of laws, policies, regulations and standards							
c) Revising and implementing protected area management plans							
d) Strengthening the information system relating to the monitoring of forest and land use in protected areas							
1.1.2 Participatory management implemented on the basis of equality and equity between women and men involved in forest conservation, sustainable production practices and support for local livelihoods.							
a) Implementing subprojects to encourage sustainable community business activities ***							
b) Developing environmental awareness and outreach activities							
1.1.3 Funding mechanisms set in place for the nine protected areas							
a) Developing a funding management strategy for management of the nine protected areas							
b) Developing funding and business plans in the nine protected areas							
c) Managing agreements or understandings with the funding sources							
d) Upgrading financial management in line with the requirements of the law and auditing processes							
Component 2: Restoration of the landscape for biodiversity, resilience and local livelihoods							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 2.1: Global social and environmental benefits generated in terms of equal opportunities for women and men through the ENDE-REDD+ results-based payment pilot project and sustainable land management (SLM) in the Pine Corridor. ****	Indicator 7: Total number of hectares brought under protection through the GEF ENDE-REDD+ pilot incentive project over a period of five years	a) 0	First exercise in monitoring of deforestation, forest degradation and increased stockpiles emissions in respect of the NREF (applying methodology of the ERPD Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system) *****	10,000 ha (in protected areas of <i>Pino caribaeae</i> in the municipality of Prinzapolka, RACCN, in the ERPD carbon accountability area)	Carbon module reports of the National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (SNMRV)	Measure to be coordinated in framework of Nicaragua's ERPD	MARENA through the Climate Change Unit/UIP
	Indicator 8: Area (ha) of biological corridors restored by local women and men to improve connectivity between the existing protected areas *****			10,000 ha (in the Corridor of <i>Pinus oocarpa</i> and <i>Pinus patula sub. sp. tecunumanii</i> in the northern zone) (Natural regeneration of degraded areas, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, sustainable land management and forest plantations)	30,000 ha (in the en Corridor of <i>Pinus oocarpa</i> and <i>Pinus patula sub. sp. tecunumanii</i> in the northern zone) (Natural regeneration of degraded areas, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, sustainable land management and forest plantations)	Reports and records of the subprojects GIS: maps showing connectivity and forest cover Field verification notes and minutes	Effective coordination and consensus among national, local and civil society officials for the development of conservation strategies to be applied to landscapes surrounding the protected areas

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcomes:							
2.1.1. Implementation of the ENDE-REDD+ pilot incentives project							
(a) Project design (aligned with the ERPD design)							
(b) Implementation, verification and payment							
2.1.2. Implementation of the forest and landscape restoration system							
(a) Design of the restoration, including: (a) areas selected for restoration; (b) potential functions and responsibilities of all concerned; (c) capacity-building needs; (d) financial resources and technical support needed							
(b) Implementation of the restoration plan							
Componente 3. Incorporation of biodiversity and resilient landscapes into the institutional and development sectors							
<u>Outcome 3.1:</u>	Indicator 9:						
- Contribution to at least five strategic thrusts of the 2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and tracked by the biodiversity monitoring system	Progress towards the goals of the five strategic thrusts of the 2015-2020 National Biodiversity Strategy (in percentage)	0	At least 10% has been contributed to each of the thrusts	At least 25% has been contributed to each of the thrusts	Reports of institutions and organizations Project evaluation report: midterm and final evaluations	Continued interest shown by the government and its institutions in accomplishment of the strategic thrusts	MARENA / through the Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity and UIP

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
that will be developed within the framework of the project	Indicator 10: Institutional agendas and development plans looking at biodiversity and resilient landscapes with a gender and intercultural focus	0	At least 50% of each type of stakeholder have incorporated biodiversity and landscape restoration in their agendas and plans. Stakeholders: central government institutions, regional and local government institutions	At least 90% of the institutions and organizations involved have incorporated biodiversity and restoration with a gender and intercultural focus in their agendas, development plans and have managed funds for their implementation	Minutes of inter-institutional coordination meetings Project evaluation reports: mid-term and final evaluations	There is interest among institutions and organizations, and also among the local population, in improving habitats and local biodiversity.	MARENA / through the Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity and UIP

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Outcomes:</p> <p>3.1.1. Activities developed and implemented for the incorporation of biodiversity and landscape restoration in national sectoral development agendas, strategies and plans</p> <p>Supporting inter-institutional coordination and collaboration to strengthen awareness of biodiversity, sustainable forest management and landscape restoration in buffer zones and interconnection corridors through the competent and involved institutions and organizations (MARENA, INAFOR, MEFCCA, INTUR, IPSA and INTA; indigenous peoples, regional governments, municipal mayors, and also with universities for the conduct of studies)</p> <p>Drawing up a plan for environmental awareness-raising and outreach in biodiversity, ecosystem services and key species for the communities</p> <p>The five strategic thrusts of the 2020 National Biodiversity Strategy are the following:</p> <p>(i) Continued upgrading of education through the inculcation of new values of love, care, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, in this new era, with new realities, heightened awareness, more strength and greater conviction.</p> <p>(ii) Implementing measures for the conservation and restoration of flora, fauna, water and forests, inside and outside protected areas, from each locality and each community, guaranteeing popular participation</p> <p>(iii) Identifying, promoting and implementing community-based economic alternatives for the well-being of Nicaraguan families based on the sustainable use of biological diversity and sustainable production systems, such as agroecology, tourism and sustainable fishing, to ensure food security and sovereignty.</p> <p>(iv) Upgrading national research capacities to build and strengthen knowledge, the scientific base, ancestral practices and technologies related to biological diversity, its sustainable use and resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>(v) Developing and implementing a framework of action for the adaptation and protection of biodiversity resources from the impacts of climate change and climate variability, in order to conserve and manage genetic diversity and endemic and endangered species.</p>							
Component 4: Biodiversity M&E system							
Outcome 4.1:	Indicator 11:						
Species of interest or ecosystem indicators monitored	Participatory system for biodiversity M&E	None	System designed and validated	Biodiversity M&E system implemented, making possible the formulation of species-specific protection plans	Database of the system's activities and implementation	Interest shown by the institution and local population in learning about the biodiversity situation	MARENA / through the Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity and UIP

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<p>Indicator 12:</p> <p>Presence of ecosystem indicator species and/or species of biological interests (birds and plants)</p>	<p>Dry forest Birds: 2 species woodpecker (<i>Careto careto</i>), quetzal (<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>)</p> <p>Plants: 2 species <i>Pinus maximinoi</i> <i>Pinus patula ssp tecunumanii</i></p> <p>Tropical humid forest Birds: 2 species white heron (<i>Ardea alba</i>), wild duck (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Plants: 2 species pine (<i>Pinus caribaeae</i>) papta palm (<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>)</p>	<p>Dry forest Birds: 2 species woodpecker (<i>Careto careto</i>), quetzal (<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>)</p> <p>Plants: 2 species <i>Pinus maximinoi</i> <i>Pinus patula ssp tecunumanii</i></p> <p>Tropical humid forest Birds: 2 species white heron (<i>Ardea alba</i>), wild duck (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Plants: 2 species pine (<i>Pinus caribaeae</i>) papta palm (<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>)</p>	<p>Dry forest Birds: 2 species woodpecker (<i>Careto careto</i>), quetzal (<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>)</p> <p>Plants: 2 species <i>Pinus maximinoi</i> <i>Pinus patula ssp tecunumanii</i></p> <p>Tropical humid forest Birds: 2 species white heron (<i>Ardea alba</i>), wild duck (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Plants: 2 species pine (<i>Pinus caribaeae</i>) papta palm (<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>)</p>	<p>Database / monitoring reports</p> <p>Baseline studies on critical habitats and species</p>	<p>No significant change in land use or cover</p> <p>Environmental variability within normal parameters</p>	<p>MARENA / through the Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity and UIP</p>

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcomes:							
4.1.1. Participatory system for the M&E of biodiversity designed and up and running							
(a) Designing the system							
(b) Promoting and supporting implementation of biodiversity M&E							
(c) Supporting specific biodiversity studies							

* Over the entire period under analysis, a gross deforestation rate of 13,542 ha and an increase in forest cover of 5,440 ha are estimated, giving a net deforestation rate of 8,102 ha. In the 10 years between 2005 and 2015, the intervention area of the Resilient Landscape Management Project emitted 1.7 million tons of CO₂, generated by deforestation and forest degradation; at the same time, however, 572,000 tons of CO₂ were absorbed from increased forest cover. The annual reference level for the intervention area is 113,604 tons of CO₂. Through activities for the restoration, conservation and recovery of forested areas it is planned to reduce forest emissions by an estimated 0.86 Mt of CO₂-e within five years (reduction of 0.15 million tons of CO₂-e emissions and removal of 0.71 Mt of CO₂-e). Considering the rate of forest recovery within the project area and planned interventions, it is expected that by the end of the project, emissions from deforestation and forest degradation will decrease by approximately 52% compared to the baseline emissions.

** Transmuni is the municipal transfer system made available to municipalities through the country's general budget and the application or use of such transfers is based on Law No.466, on Budget Transfers to Nicaraguan Municipalities.

*** Restoration and regeneration (in core areas): Restoration of degraded forests and enrichment with native species; pine conservation management plans; care and management of natural regeneration; in situ germ plasma banks, seedbeds and marketing; rescue of native species and forest enrichment practices; forests and water bodies; nature tourism. sustainable use of the forest (in buffer zones): sustainable use of biomass for energy production/energy forest and its sustainable management; sustainable use of fauna and flora; small-scale commercial reforestation with native species; community forestry management; adoption of carbon sequestration practices; honey production, organic beekeeping and meliponid breeding (native stingless bees); wildlife management (reproduction, breeding, harvesting, etc.); enrichment of forests with commercial timber trees; sustainable use of non-timber products; protection of riverbanks and streams (care and restoration of riparian areas).

**** Strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. ENDE-REDD+ 2018–2040. MARENA. Nicaragua. www.marena.gob.ni Caribbean Coast Emission Reduction Programme Document (ERPD) submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility FCPC. Carbon Fund. Nicaragua, 31 July 2019. www.marena.gob.ni

***** http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ERDP_ESPA%C3%91OL_310719_VF.pdf. Page 216

***** The restoration of forests and lands is perceived as a process of the recovery of production, the environment and functionality and of the improvement of livelihoods in deforested or degraded areas. The restoration of forests and lands is not an end in itself, but a means to the recovery, upgrading and maintenance of the productive, environmental and social functions that are vital in the long term and that help make the areas more resistant and sustainable. Ecosystem restoration is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), in particular those related to climate change, poverty eradication, food security, water and biodiversity conservation. It is also a pillar of international environmental conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Rio Conventions on biological diversity, desertification and climate change. Currently, some 20 per cent of the planet's plant-covered area is manifesting a declining trend in productivity, with fertility losses associated with erosion, depletion and pollution worldwide. By 2050, degradation and climate change could reduce agricultural yields by between 9 and 21 per cent globally.

http://pdf.wri.org/world_of_opportunity_brochure_2011-09.pdf

There is growing awareness of the importance of forest and land restoration through various international processes. Thus, the Bonn Challenge has set the goal of restoring at least 150 million hectares of degraded land by 2020 worldwide. In addition, in 2020, the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, of which Target 15 calls on countries to restore at least 15 per cent of their degraded ecosystems by 2020. At the twenty-first session of the Committee on Forestry in September 2012, member countries recommended that FAO "identify its role in achieving the Bonn Challenge and strengthen its capacity in rural land use planning in an interdisciplinary way through both normative work and project support to countries". Member countries also recommended that FAO seek support for its field programme to enable the Organization to increase its assistance to member countries in capacity-building in cross-sectoral planning, institutional development and implementation of integrated approaches, and to remain committed to the Global Partnership on Forest Land Restoration.

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).

**GEF-6 GEF SECRETARIAT REVIEW FOR FULL-SIZED/MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECTS
THE GEF/LDCF/SCCF TRUST FUND**

GEF ID:	9579		
Country/Region:	Nicaragua		
Project Title:	Resilient Landscapes Management Project		
GEF Agency:	World Bank	GEF Agency Project ID:	160688 (World Bank)
Type of Trust Fund:	GEF Trust Fund	GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity

GEF-6 Focal Area/ LDCF/SCCF Objective (s):		BD-1 Program 1; BD-4 Program 9;	
Anticipated Financing PPG:	\$136,986	Project Grant:	\$ 4,956,241
Co-financing:	\$ 21,946,305	Total Project Cost:	\$26,902,546
PIF Approval:		Council Approval/Expected:	2017
CEO Endorsement/Approval		Expected Project Start Date:	June 2018
Program Manager:	Mark Zimsky	Agency Contact Person:	Karin Shepardson

PIF Review

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
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Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
Project Consistency	1. Is the project aligned with the relevant GEF strategic objectives and results framework?	<p>July 25, 2016:</p> <p>Climate change:</p> <p>Not quite. The project is generally aligned with CCM Objective 2, Program 4: Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest, and other land-use, and support climate smart agriculture. Please refer to the Climate Change Focal Area Strategy and Results Framework to specifically align the project's planned intervention to the options under Program 4.</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <p>Not quite. Please note that the project text notes that the project will improve financial sustainability of the protected areas in question. Please review the GEF-6 BD strategy, program one, which has a very specific focus on GEF support to improve financial sustainability. If the project wishes to maintain this focus, then the appropriate design elements must be included and this has to be reflected in the GEF data sheet and in Table B. Please clarify this element of the project design.</p> <p>Please note for BD projects we expect a discussion of the contribution of the project to the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p>	<p>Focal area excluded</p> <p>Component 1 will focus on improving protected area and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Different mechanism already applied in other countries will be tested to improve financial sustainability (park tariffs, national and international campaigns, videos, PP-partnerships, ecotourism micro enterprises, tax, endowment funds).</p> <p>Design of this component will be finalized in the PAD</p>	<p>It is defined in PRODOC that a financing strategy, financing and business plan, financing management of public and private sources and strengthening of the administrative-financial area of MARENA will be developed to guarantee the financial sustainability of the management of the 9 protected areas .</p> <p>FAO will accompany this process with technical assistance aimed at</p>

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
	<p>2. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?</p>	<p>July 25, 2016:</p> <p>Climate change:</p> <p>Not quite. The project appears to be aligned with the Nicaragua's climate change national strategies and plans. However, how the project fits within the overall picture of Nicaragua's efforts on REDD+, the Emissions Reduction Program for the Caribbean Coast, and the 20x20 Initiative, remains unclear. Please clarify.</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>24 Aug 2016</p> <p>Adequate information has been provided.</p>	<p>Done, see Box on page 16</p>	

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
Project Design	3. Does the PIF sufficiently indicate the drivers of global environmental degradation, issues of sustainability, market transformation, scaling, and innovation?	<p>July 25, 2016:</p> <p>Please elaborate on the issue of land tenure and the description of the inhabitants living inside and outside of the protected areas targeted.</p> <p>24 Aug 2016</p> <p>Description on the drivers are very general (p.7). Please further elaborate on the identified drivers and justify relevance of the project approach.</p> <p>Some information has been provided on the issue of land tenure and inhabitants.</p> <p>Innovation on landscape management</p>	<p>The protected area system of Nicaragua allows for people to live inside protected areas like in other countries (USA).</p> <p>The number inhabitants is not really known, since population data is only available at the municipality scale.</p> <p>The baseline study will provide more detail information on this regard.</p> <p>The question on the drivers of deforestation has been addressed on page 11/12.</p> <p>Scaling up is possible by the</p>	<p>The baseline study and calculations according to intervention area, estimated 139,360 people as indirect beneficiaries of the project. (64,506 men and 63,976 women)</p>

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
	<p>4. Is the project designed with sound incremental reasoning?</p>	<p>July 25, 2016:</p> <p>Please strengthen the incremental reasoning provided, which is currently quite generic and does not provide the specific context (the geographic, temporal and thematic baseline) which this investment will complement.</p> <p>Please clarify the relationship of the project to the US\$40 million government program called National Program for Strengthening the Resilience of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors and how the GEF investment will complement this project.</p> <p>Please clarify the relation of the project to the GAFSP particularly regarding the contributions that the GAFSP makes to the baseline which the project will build upon and complement.</p> <p>The project fails to provide any economic justification or rationale for pursuing a sustainable livelihood strategy nor any analysis of why the approaches proposed such as bee-keeping or eco-tourism would succeed under these conditions when it has had very limited success in conservation historically. The project does not describe what the project strategy is for ensuring that what the project will</p>	<p>Additional information has been provided to clarify location of project area, corridors and ecoregions involved, as well description of the Corridor macro-region.</p> <p>The Project will support the country to implement its National Program for Strengthening the Resilience of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors. It was approved in December 2014 by the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP) to address 40 protected areas between 2015–2020. The program has not funding and it will require to access US\$40M. The proposed Project would contribute directly with funding to this program, in addition to the GEF-5 and US\$18.5 M of bilateral funding.</p> <p>The GAFSP project is already address in the project. This project is being implemented in the Caribbean versant (humid and rain forest). The proposed GEF 6 project is located only in the central region of the pine-oak</p>	

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
	<p>6. Are socio-economic aspects, including relevant gender elements, indigenous people, and CSOs considered?</p>	<p>July 25, 2016: Please elaborate how the project incorporates relevant gender elements, will consult with CSOs, and will ensure the proper inclusion and involvement of indigenous peoples.</p> <p>.Please note that the GEF STAP will shortly produce a guidance document with tools and methods for analyzing and measuring economic impacts of protected areas on communities and for identifying potential economic opportunities during project design. Please refer to this guidance during the project design phase</p> <p>Please note that the project focus on providing support for the development of sustainable livelihood activities lends itself to implementing this project using experimental designs and randomized control groups. If the project team wishes to add this to the</p>	<p>As in any Bank project, CSO and IP will be consulted as part of the safeguards evaluation. The project already has incorporated activities to ensure their participation.</p> <p>Guidance is not ready, we will review it and happy to consider it in project preparation.</p> <p>Interested to discuss in the next stage of preparation.</p>	<p>ProDoc develops aspects of gender inclusion, indigenous peoples and CSOs / stakeholders. Included in Annexes. Gender Action Plan, Plan for Indigenous Peoples, Summary of consultations carried out and to be carried out with interested parties / CSOs and Environmental and Social Management Framework based on safeguards.</p>

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
Availability of Resources	7. Is the proposed Grant (including the Agency fee) within the resources available from (mark all that apply):			
	· The STAR allocation?	July 25, 2016: Yes. Nicaragua has a total STAR allocation of \$7,319,900. With this project, Nicaragua would leave a total of \$310 of its STAR allocation leftover.	Information changed. We were informed two weeks ago that this funding was reduced.	
	· The focal area allocation?	July 25, 2016: Yes. Nicaragua's STAR allocation by focal area is \$4,472,142 for BD, \$2,000,000 for CC, and \$847,758 for LD. The project plans to use \$4,472,089 from BD, \$2,001,880 from CC, and \$845,621 from LD. The slight differences are within the flexibility norm.	Information changed. We informed two weeks ago that this funding was reduced, but that flexible allocation was possible between the focal areas so as a result it is now only triggering the BD focal area.	
	· The LDCF under the principle of equitable access	July 25, 2016 NA		
	· The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?	July 25, 2016 NA		

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
	Focal area set-aside?	July 25, 2016 NA		

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
Recommendations	8. Is the PIF being recommended for clearance and PPG (if additional amount beyond the norm) justified?	<p>July 25, 2016: Not at this time. Please address all comments raised above in a revised document.</p> <p>Please re-submit Letter of Endorsement with the correct amounts.</p> <p>Please address the following comments on the datasheet:</p> <p>1) The project agency fee on the first box should match the total on Table D. (\$622,707).</p> <p>2) Please ensure that the co-financing listed in Table C has been discussed with the co-financiers listed, specifically regarding the EU's and Switzerland's contributions.</p> <p>3) The total PPG amount requested in Table E should match the total grant amount only, not including agency fee (\$129,750).</p> <p>4) Please fill out GHG emissions estimated to be reduced in Table F.</p> <p>24 Aug 2016</p> <p>The GEFSEC could technically clear</p>	<p>The reduced amount had been communicated by GEF Sec to the government. Based on this the project documents have been revised and adjusted in close collaboration with the government.</p>	

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency response March 21, 2017	Comentarios Octubre 2019
Review Date	Review	July 25, 2016		
	Additional Review (as necessary)			
	Additional Review (as necessary)			

CEO endorsement Review			
Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
Project Design and Financing	1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?		

CEO endorsement Review

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
	2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?		
	3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?		
	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)		
	5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?		
	6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?		
	7. <i>Only for Non-Grant Instrument:</i> Has a reflow calendar been presented?		
	8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?		
	9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?		

CEO endorsement Review			
Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
	10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?		
Agency Responses	11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:		
	•GEFSEC		
	•STAP		
	•GEF Council		
	•Convention Secretariat		
Recommendation	12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?		
Review Date	Review		
	Additional Review (as necessary)		
	Additional Review (as necessary)		

Responses to comments from GEF Council:

Germany:

The following text has been included in the portal and the Project Document:

Comment 1: Germany suggests that the final project document elaborates clearly how the proposed project activities contribute to strengthening the institutional structures and coordination as well as policy and economic instruments for the implementation of this national strategy.

Project activities contribute to strengthening institutional structures and coordination, as well as political and economic instruments for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy:

The project will support the work sessions for the start-up of the Technical Committee of Biological Diversity - CT-BIO that approves the Regulation of LAW N °. 807, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, PRESIDENTIAL DECREE N °. 24-2019, approved on October 16, 2019 and Published in La Gaceta, Official Gazette No. 203 of October 24, 2019. The creation of the CT-BIO will strengthen the collaboration of all public and private institutions to provide any existing information generated by them, in relation to biodiversity and its components and promote with governments local and regional, private actors, cooperative associations, collaboration agreements, alliances, which strengthen the monitoring and control activities of biodiversity and its components.

Comment 2. The project aims to work in a rather large area with a high number of very different and distant protected areas, which is likely to pose logistical and budgetary challenges. The full proposal should clearly identify how these challenges will be tackled and the outputs achieved with the available resources.

The logistical and budgetary challenges to work in a fairly large area with a large number of very different and distant protected areas will be addressed through the model for the management of protected areas that is oriented to the organization, participation and strategic local alliances under agreements of collaborative management and joint management agreements in the case of the Caribbean Coast, generating local capacities that integrate local governments, Indigenous Territorial Governments, NGOs and community organizations that share responsibilities in the management of protected areas.

Comment 3. Germany suggests that the final project document gives a more detailed and balanced assessment of the capacity gaps among the implementing actors and lay out how the project will contribute to bridge those.

In the design of the project were identified with representatives of Indigenous Peoples, Women, technical staff of MARENA or other actors, the capacity development needs that the project should support by being in the following topics: protection of pine and oak, biodiversity monitoring , gender and ethnicity, Prevention and management of forest fires, Restoration and protection of important habitats in pine and oak forests, Resilient landscapes and Sustainable Land Management and Biodiversity, sustainable use of non-timber (natural dyes, vines, logs and branches , feathers and others for crafts), production and marketing of medicinal plants and forest management of native forests, and wildlife management.

The beneficiaries of capacity development will be staff of 6 MARENA Territorial Delegations (composed of 45 technicians: 9 women and 36 men), 200 owners and 40 forest owners, members of 2 cooperatives and 6 forest companies in the core area, 100 owners and owners (20% women) of forests and producers in the buffer zone, members of 6 government institutions, 6 universities, RACCN Regional Government, 8 collaborative management committees, indigenous peoples authorities, forest owners, managers of cooperatives and forestry companies.

Comment 4: Germany agrees with the assessment that economic alternatives and incentives or mechanisms that can promote sustainable land-use practice are needed. Concerning testing and piloting initiatives in for example agroforestry or tourism, Germany suggests that the final proposal indicates how already existing experiences and their potential for upscaling will be considered.

How existing experiences on economic alternatives and incentives or mechanisms that can promote the sustainable practice of land use and its potential for expansion (for example, in agro forestry or tourism) will be considered:

Also as part of the knowledge management plan, the first year will document the experiences in Nicaragua and other countries about economic alternatives and incentives or mechanisms that can promote the sustainable practice of land use.

At the national level, tourism experiences will be documented through the Colonial Route and Volcanoes project (European Union, Luxembourg and the Nicaraguan Tourism Institute -INTUR) and the “Coffee Route” project as part of the national strategy "Tourist Routes of Nicaragua" implemented by the Tourism Institute and financed by the Cooperation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

At the international level, it is planned in the first year of the project to develop an International Mexico-Nicaragua Workshop on experiences in Productive Systems (coffee, cocoa, honey, forestry, ecotourism) friendly to Biodiversity with a landscape approach, which will be coordinated between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), through the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico (CONABIO) and the Specific Directorate of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) of Nicaragua.

Actions will be coordinated between MARENA and the Nicaraguan Tourism Institute (INTUR), to identify tourist routes and create and strengthen conditions as a visitor center, based on the experiences of the Somoto Canyon and Tisey La Estanzuela, since they are the only two areas protected from the intervention area that register a range of 10,000 to 14,000 visits per year. These activities will be combined with those developed in the subprojects of sustainable forest management, the use of non-timber by-products for the production of handicrafts, the production and sale of medicinal and other similar plants, which will be available to visitors.

Comment 5: The full proposal could benefit from laying out more clearly how the proposed project activities will be interlinked with the mentioned parallel projects within the project area such as or a new programme on Protection and Conservation in the upper basin of the Coco river focusing on adaptation to the climate change in community strategic alliances. In both projects, MARENA is the leading agency and the target groups are partly identical. The final project proposal should therefore outline clearly how the GEF project will interact synergistically with ongoing activities.

MARENA and MEFCCA will formalize a collaboration agreement to support the GEF donation through: i) The Sustainable Rural Family Life Development Project in the Dry Corridor of Nicaragua - NICAVIDA / Project No. 2000001242 financed by FIDA, supporting landscape restoration through the execution of family and territorial plans for the management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change. ii) The project to support small producers in adapting to climate change in the production of coffee and cocoa in suitable agroclimatic areas (NICADAPTA) / Project No. 1100001683 financed by IFAD, supporting the restoration of the landscape through the execution of plans for investment for the management of the shadow of semi-perennial species (coffee and cocoa) and soil and water conservation works, following agroforestry systems that allow the implementation of resilient landscapes, contributing to the habitat and transit of local species of flora and fauna.

Canada:

- This Project is highly relevant for Nicaragua considering its vulnerability to natural hazards and increasing land degradation.
-
- By improving the management of protected areas, and reducing land degradation and biodiversity loss, the project will contribute to and strengthen the climate change mitigation and adaptation actions being undertaken by the Government of Nicaragua, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Environment.
-
- We Thank Canada for the comments. Indeed, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) will execute this project and it will
- strengthen government efforts to tackle climate change and address drivers of environmental degradation

US:

To address these comments important text has been included in the portal and the Project Document. Below, the description of how these modifications answer each comment:

1) While the proposal takes into account potential risks, it would benefit from more elaborate risk-mitigation efforts, which reflect the realities on the ground.

To mitigate the risks, an environmental and social management framework (MAGAS) document has been prepared and is presented in Annex I1. In the Project Document and Portal there is detailed information of risks and actions for mitigation. In particular, a summary is provided under Table 6:
Table 6. Environmental and social risks of the project

Risk identified	Risk classification	Mitigation action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS-1 Management of natural resources	L	Restoration of forests and important habitats Protection of biodiversity The 13 points of the World Soil Charter are taken up again Implementation of sustainable land management	* changes in land use from forests to agricultural or grazing land, reduced by at least 10% * forest fires, in pine and oak groves in the central north region and Puerto Cabezas reduced by 20%	None

Risk identified	Risk classification	Mitigation action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS-2. Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats	M	The landscape approach to be used in the project will lead to positive impacts on habitat restoration within protected areas and corridors, which in turn will boost connectivity and habitat restoration for biodiversity. Environmental and Social Management Framework (MAGAS)	91,170 ha of restored pine and white oak and holm oak forests in nine protected areas and 32,493 ha of degraded or scrubland areas will be rehabilitated	MAGAS document drawn up
ESS-3 Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	M	The arboreal components may be of external materials, obtained from national nurseries, for the purpose of ensuring that improvement of the connection is achieved with fruit trees that contribute to a better family diet, income generation and the feeding of animal species that transit through the corridors. The fruit species to be introduced will be reviewed by IPSA to guarantee their health.	At least 10,000 hectares under sustainable land management	None
ESS-4 Genetic resources for animals (livestock and aquatic) for food and agriculture	N/A			
	M	Sustainable land management practices that involve IPM Coordination with INAFOR and IPSA for IPM practices	175,937 ha of 9 protected areas	Inter-institution coordination arrangements
ESS-6. Involuntary replacement and displacement	NA			
ESS-7. Decent work	M	Consultation with young people to encourage them to join environmental brigades	Advisory workshops	None
ESS-8. Gender equality	L	Consultation process with women to learn about their situation, needs and expectations	Advisory workshops Gender action plan	Proceedings Gender action plan – Annex

Risk identified	Risk classification	Mitigation action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS-9. Indigenous people and cultural heritage	M	<p>Consultation process during the PPG phase</p> <p>Obtaining letter of consent</p> <p>Formation of a Communications Committee</p>	<p>Proceedings of advisory workshops</p> <p>Letter of consent</p> <p>Committee set up with men and women members</p>	<p>Workshops held and proceedings available</p> <p>Letters of consent available</p> <p>Pending ratification</p>

2) The proposal clearly expresses several objectives (e.g. to strengthen the National Protected Areas System); however, the linkages between the stated objectives and project components are not always clear. We hope the project team will address this in the PIF.

Detailed description of the project components and how these are linked to the project objectives is provided in the Project Document and Portal in the description of the project under the *Objectives, results, products and activities of the project subsection*.

3) The proposal should provide details on how the activities will engage with and affect the Mayagna and Mozonte people.

The following text has been included in the Project document and portal:

ESS-9. Indigenous peoples and cultural heritage: The risk is moderate. In its intervention area, this project affects the following indigenous territories: Mosonte in Nueva Segovia within the Serranía Dipilto and Jalapa Natural Reserve; the indigenous peoples of Cusmapa and San Lucas, under the responsibility of the Coordinator of the Chorotega Indigenous Pueblos (CPICH), in the municipalities of San Lucas and San José de Cusmapa, Madriz, in the Tepesomoto-La Pataste Natural Reserve and the Somoto Canyon National Monument; the indigenous pueblo of Matagalpa, in the Yúcul Genetic Resources Reserve, in San Ramón, Matagalpa; the Prinzu Awala indigenous pueblo, in Prinzapolka, RACCN, within the Alamikamba and Limbaika Natural Reserves. Indigenous peoples are direct participants and beneficiaries of the project's activities, as they will restore and protect their forests and habitats important for biodiversity. During the PPG, the Policy Framework for Indigenous Peoples was elaborated and a consultation process was carried out with them, concluding in the obtaining of their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). See the Policy Framework in Annex J.

4) We recommend that project implementers give greater consideration to how the lessons learned and project impact will be scaled up. For example, it will be difficult to foster larger mainstreaming or scaling-up of environmental practices, partially due to the limited resources of MARENA. How will these barriers be overcome?

We tackle these concerns in the Project Description in the Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up and capacity development subsection. In particular, the following text is included in the Project document and portal:

Strengthening the management of protected areas and the conservation of biodiversity: The first key activity is the upgrading of the management of the nine protected areas to bring them to an ecologically, financially and institutionally sustainable position and to ensure that families and communities play a strengthened role in collaborative, inclusive and equitable management. At the same time, the project is expected to contribute to improving the quality of life of families through subsidiary projects that will promote the development of economic alternatives that generate income and conserve biodiversity, and also increase the resilience of ecosystems to climate change and the flow of funding for the sustainability of protected area management.

Component 1, on the one hand, will strengthen MARENA in the participatory management and M&E of existing protected areas in the intervention areas; but it will also develop the capacities of local authorities and the indigenous and non-indigenous local population, men and women, who will participate in periodic monitoring activities and/or who will form part of the Collaborative Management or Joint Management Committees in the case of the Northern Caribbean Coast Region. To this end, and linked to the Knowledge Management Plan, in component 3, training events will be developed to strengthen the knowledge of technicians, authorities and the rural population relating to the protection of pine and oak areas and habitat and biodiversity, with a focus on gender and ethnicity. The institution will reinforce the Collaborative Management Committees and Joint Management in the case of the North Caribbean Coast Region as mechanisms that enable the participation of the population in the management and monitoring of protected areas, and also community forest governance and management. At the same time, it will make possible the **conservation** of important habitats, over an area of 141,355 ha in the nine protected areas, with pine (*P. oocarpa* and *P. patula*, *Sp. Tecunumanii*, *P. caribaeae*) and encino oak (*Quercus sp*) forests that will promote the conservation of biodiversity.

The model for the management of protected areas is oriented to the organization, participation and strategic local alliances under collaborative management agreements and joint management agreements in the case of the Caribbean Coast, generating local capacities that integrate local governments, Indigenous Territorial Governments, NGOs and community organizations that share responsibilities in the management of protected areas.

Replication potential: The good practices and lessons generated from strengthening the effectiveness of protected area management in the project intervention area will facilitate their replication to other protected areas in the national territory; in particular, good practices and lessons from joint management or collaborative management developed with indigenous peoples will be one of the innovations to be replicated in other protected areas located in indigenous territories. The good practices and lessons generated from the implementation of sustainable forest management, the landscape approach and integrated farm management can be replicated at the level of different municipalities with similar conditions so that deforestation and forest degradation processes can be reversed and land-use planning improved at the local level, conserving forest remnants or forest patches and incorporating tree components through the implementation of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems.

At the regional and national levels, actions aimed at strengthening protected area management and financial sustainability will generate tools and skills for the MARENA General Directorate of Heritage and Biodiversity (and its local-level offices) that could be replicated in other protected areas around the country. Similarly, the GEF pilot project ENDE-REDD+ will provide important lessons for replicating similar efforts in other areas of the country and will make important contributions to implementing Nicaragua's strategy for the reduction of deforestation and, consequently, GHG emissions. The project will even have the potential for replication at the international level by offering valuable lessons learned to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean conducting similar initiatives. The implementation of REDD+ sustainable forestry and sustainable land management actions will yield lessons learned in the field of reducing deforestation and preventing desertification both in the region's drylands and globally.

5) The proposal should give greater consideration to both political risks, as well as potential conflicts of (economic) interest. For example, how will the proposal take into account any potential conflicts of interest with quasi-government owned businesses in the agriculture and forestry industries, which in some instances may drive deforestation?

We recognize these risks under the Risks section in the project document. The Following table included in the project document and portal describes these risks and mitigation actions:

Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
1. Politics and governance. Decision-making is controlled through different levels of government in Nicaragua's public administration, which could limit and delay project implementation.	L	100%	<i>The project will reduce these risks by implementing the following measures: (i) Supporting inter-institutional coordination and collaboration to strengthen awareness of biodiversity, sustainable forest management and landscape restoration in buffer zones and the interconnection corridors through competent and involved institutions and organizations (MARENA, INAFOR, MEFCCA, INTUR, IPSA and INTA; indigenous peoples, the regional government and also with universities, for the purpose of carrying out studies).</i>	Nicaraguan Government – MARENA
2. Institutional capacity for implementation: MARENA currently has limited staff and other resources throughout the country to provide sufficient effectiveness for the management of protected areas, safeguard their sustainability, and establish and support the management of biological corridors.	M	100%	<i>In order to reduce these risks, the following measures are to be taken: (ii) Supporting MARENA in hiring technical assistants for each protected area; (iii) Forming a group of monitors (with local population involvement) to promote participatory M&E; (iv) Promoting collaboration among local landowners, organizations and companies with specific contributions, along with local authorities, and identifying profitable and conservation-oriented activities that promote the sustainability of local management.</i>	MARENA with support from FAO

Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
<p>3. The restoration of forest lands and biological connectivity requires multisectoral institutional coordination, policies sensitive to the country's protected areas and biodiversity, and changes in the behaviour of forest producers and owners that must be maintained over time.</p>	M	100%	<p><i>In order to reduce risk, participative construction will be progressively carried out as capacities are built and participative groups, bodies and management mechanisms are set in place, in order to contribute significantly to the restoration of forests and important habitats and to achieve management sustainability.</i></p>	<p>MARENA and technical departments with support from FAO, universities and the other institutions involved</p>
<p>4. Trust: In relation to MARENA's limited institutional capacity and the geographical extent of the project area, the project design should provide sound fiduciary management arrangements.</p>	M	100%	<p><i>To reduce this risk it is necessary:</i></p> <p><i>(i) To strengthen MARENA at the headquarters level, with administrative staff trained in the management of administrative rules and procedures so that they can supervise the activities of landowners, organizations and others in their interventions in the project area, bearing in mind that different projects will be being implemented at the national level, although a combined MARENA/FAO administration is proposed;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) A manual of administrative policies and procedures should be developed in the first few months of implementation.</i></p>	<p>MARENA with support from FAO</p>

Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
5 Stakeholders: The success of the project will depend to a large extent on the commitment and appropriation of the stakeholders, bearing in mind that most of the lands declared as protected areas are private and the challenge for the selection of people among the beneficiaries in the short and long term that relate to the use and conservation of natural resources.	M	100%	<i>To strengthen ownership and reduce risk, based on the capacities, bodies and arrangements set in place with the members of the different institutions, organizations and indigenous peoples:</i> <i>(a) A sectoral planning and coordination process will be supported in the corridor areas;</i> <i>(b) Mechanisms that increase the sustainability of project investments will be defined and implemented; and</i> <i>(c) Local stakeholder participation agreements will be integrated into the design and implementation of subprojects.</i>	MARENA, coordinating activities with indigenous peoples, organizations, business operators and forest owners
6. Climate change: The restoration and conservation activities of forests, habitats and biodiversity can be seriously affected by adverse effects of climate change, for example, the presence of drought, high temperatures that can cause fires as well as the death of different endangered species.	M	90%	<i>The project is being implemented precisely to strengthen resilience by restoring forests, habitats and livelihoods and to promote the reduction of GHG emissions, and also to strengthening capacity to respond to extreme events.</i> <i>The activities will include coordination with the National Climate Change Response System (SNRCC).</i>	MARENA in coordination with the institutions and organizations involved.

6) Nicaragua received similar funding to support the National Protected Areas System under the GEF in 2007. We recommend that the results of that seven-year project be examined and taken into account here.

Lessons learned from the project Strengthening and Catalyzing the Sustainability of Nicaragua's Protected Areas System (GEF ID 2702) will be taken into account, focusing in two of its results: (a) the responsibilities of PA management are shared by key agents; (b) Capacities for sustainable financing of SINAP and Protected Areas (PA) have been developed.

We highlight the following lessons:

The Collaborative Management Committees have improved the governance and management effectiveness of protected areas. It is necessary to replicate them across the entire system.

The management of the subsystems in the pilot protected areas provide participants with specific capacities for the effective management of the protected areas.

Execution of community projects to convert current practices into production compatible with biodiversity. Experience in alternative artisanal fishing, reducing its impacts on natural ecosystems. Four pilot projects for the sustainable use of natural resources by the community were developed. Research was carried out for the establishment of hatcheries for: iguanas, deer, shell reproduction, caged fish and crocodiles.

SINAP's sustainable financing capacities were developed through its financing system to generate, retain and account for funds, and invest them more effectively in the territorial area in 5 PAs: (Masaya Volcano, Somoto Canyon, Dipilto-Jalapa, La Cumplida and Yalí).

The resilient landscape management project will take these experiences and lessons into account in the implementation of the following products:

1.1.2 Implementation of participatory management on an equity and equality basis between men and women involved in forest conservation, sustainable production practice and support for local livelihoods.

1.1.3 Funding mechanisms set in place for 9 protected areas.

2.1.1 ENDE-REDD+ results-based payment pilot project implemented.

2.1.2. Forest restoration mechanism implemented.

7) To ensure that this project fully coordinates with all other related initiatives, we recommend the project implementers consult with local NGOs for additional guidance on who may be working on similar issues, such as Centro Humbolt, FUNDENIC-SOS, Paso Pacifico, and the technical support group for Macizo de Peñas Blancas.

During the formulation of this project, consultation was made with the indigenous organizations of the Chorotegas Peoples in Madriz and Nueva Segovia, with the organization of the Matagalpa People in San Ramón and with the organization of the Prinzu Awala Indigenous People in the municipality of Prinzapolka about local NGOs who were working on issues similar to the resilient landscape management project and the Humboldt Center, FUNDENIC-SOS, Paso Pacífico and the technical support group for Macizo de Peñas Blancas were not identified since the area of action of these NGOs is in other areas of the country.

Nevertheless please note that a careful Stakeholder engagement plan is described in the Project Document and in the Portal.

8) We would also like to understand whether the project implementers have fully coordinated with any other financial institutions (e.g. from international financial institutions or bilateral development assistance).

The following text is included in the project document and portal under the co-financing section to highlight the identification of mobilized investment:

MEFCCA offered to mobilize resources to support the GEF donation through its public financing (IFAD loans). MEFCCA will work with municipalities in the areas targeted by the proposed GEF project to access resources in these loans. These resources will complement components 1 and 2. The projects are:

i) The Sustainable Media Development project of Rural Family Life in the Dry Corridor of Nicaragua (NICAVIDA, Project No. 2000001242), which will finance the execution of family and territorial plans for natural resource management and climate change adaptation. This co-financing is now marked as "loan" in Table C of the CEO Endorsement request.

ii) The project that will support small coffee and cocoa producers adapt to climate change in suitable agroclimatic areas (NICADAPTA, Project No. 1100001683). This project will finance the execution of investment plans for the management of shade for semi-perennial species (coffee and cocoa), as well as soil and water conservation works following agroforestry systems that allow the implementation of resilient landscapes while contributing to the habitat and transit of local species of flora and fauna.

In addition, MARENA offered to mobilize resources to support the GEF grant through its public financing via a project that it executes using the second phase of a grant from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC or COSUDE in Spanish). This grant is implemented in project intervention area in the Dipilto Jalapa Nature Reserve and complements component 1: Management Program Community in the Dipilto River Basin / phase 2- 2020-2024. The grant will finance the execution of investment plans for agroforestry systems that allow the implementation of resilient landscapes, contributing to the habitat of local species of flora and fauna.

9) Coordination with local communities living in the protected areas and corridors, and support for nearby farmers and land owners are identified as key factors in the project. However, the specific efforts aimed at improving local livelihoods are not detailed, but should be moving forward. The proposal, for example, identifies sustainable land-use alternatives (such as agro-ecotourism, shade-grown coffee production, honey production, etc.) but does not provide further elaboration about their economic viability in Nicaragua.

The following text that address these concerns is included in the Project Document and Portal:

Also, as part of the knowledge management plan, the first year will document the experiences in Nicaragua and other countries about economic alternatives and incentives or mechanisms that can promote the sustainable practice of land use. At the national level, tourism experiences will be documented through the Colonial Route and Volcanoes project (European Union, Luxembourg and the Nicaraguan Tourism Institute -INTUR) and the "Coffee Route" project as part of the national strategy "Tourist Routes of Nicaragua" implemented by the Tourism Institute and financed by the Cooperation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. At the international level, it is planned in the first year of the project to develop an International Mexico-Nicaragua Workshop on experiences in Productive Systems (coffee, cocoa, honey, forestry, ecotourism) friendly to Biodiversity with a landscape approach, which will be coordinated between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), through the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico (CONABIO) and the Specific Directorate of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) of Nicaragua.

Actions will be coordinated between MARENA and the Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR), to identify tourist routes and create and strengthen conditions as a visitor centre, evaluating the situation of each protected area in the first year to determine the potential and experiences of the Somoto Canyon National Monument and the Tisey Estanzuela Natural Reserve, since they are the only two protected areas of the intervention area that register a range of between 10,000 and 14,000 visits per year. These activities

will be combined with those developed in the subprojects of sustainable forest management, the use of non-timber by-products for the elaboration of handicrafts, the production and sale of medicinal plants and other similar, which will be available to visitors.

10) In some instances, and particularly in Component 3, the proposal does not articulate how certain activities will be sustained and if additional investment is required beyond the GEF. We would request that the project implementers provide details on how the activities will be sustained after the GEF grant resources are used up.

The following text that address these concerns is included in the Project Document and Portal:

The project will support the work sessions for the start-up of the Technical Committee of Biological Diversity - CT-BIO that approves the Regulation of LAW N °. 807, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, PRESIDENTIAL DECREE N °. 24-2019, approved on October 16, 2019 and Published in La Gaceta, Official Gazette No. 203 of October 24, 2019. The creation of the CT-BIO will strengthen the collaboration of all public and private institutions to provide any existing information generated by them, in relation to biodiversity and its components and promote with governments local and regional, private actors, cooperative associations, collaboration agreements, alliances, which strengthen the monitoring and control activities of biodiversity and its components.

11) For the sustainable forest management component, community training and management, as well as certification and access to markets, are important actions that would mitigate risks of illegal logging. We would like to note that USAID Guatemala has supported such an activity in the Peten that has proven successful in increasing community income while conserving tropical forests. Sustainable, certified, fair trade wood and products from this project have found their way to niche markets, especially with high end guitar companies. We thus recommend that the project implementers draw from that project's lessons learned.

From the first year of the project, coordination will be established to learn about these experiences in Petén through three mechanisms:

- a. The Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) where the Ministers of the Environment of Guatemala and Nicaragua participate.
- b. DR-CAFTA COOPERATION PROGRAM: Environmental cooperation agenda of the DR-CAFTA countries. Conservation based on market instruments.
- c. Article: Las concesiones forestales en Petén, Guatemala Un análisis sistemático del desempeño socioeconómico de las empresas comunitarias en la Reserva de la Biósfera Maya. http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/brief/7160-brief.pdf

12) USAID has a Central America Regional Coffee and alternative crops activity in the highlands. USAID's past regional biodiversity activity had focused on the Golfo de Fonseca and may continue to support this area in the follow on activity. We recommend that the project implementers contact Peace Corps Nicaragua to see if Peace Corps volunteers could add support within the buffer zone management actions through their community development and agriculture programs.

The Nicaraguan Peace Corps volunteers and trainees were evacuated outside the country (2018). The Peace Corps will continue to monitor conditions in Nicaragua in partnership with the United States Embassy in Managua. The Peace Corps expressed its hope that the volunteers will return to the country while stressing that the safety of the volunteers is

the agency's top priority. Before the evacuation, more than 160 volunteers worked in Nicaragua on education, environment, community economic development, and health projects. More than 2,600 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Nicaragua since 1968, creating lasting partnerships in communities across the country. If there were Peace Corps volunteers in the buffer zones or in the pine forest biological corridor in the departments of Esteli, Madriz and Nueva Segovia, of course they would be welcome to learn about their community development and agriculture programs.

[1] For BD projects: has the project explicitly articulated which Aichi Target(s) the project will help achieve and are SMART indicators identified, that will be used to track the project's contribution toward achieving the Aichi Target(s)?

[2] Need not apply to LDCF/SCCF projects.

[3] If it is a child project under a program, assess if the components of the child project align with the program criteria set for selection of child projects.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS.

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 136,986			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent to Date	Amount Committed
Consultant Specialist on Resilient Landscape.	15,000	15,000	
Lead writer for PRODOC	14,500	14,500	
Corporate capacities evaluation for implementing partner	4,044		4,044
Specialist form OPIM preparation	13,500		13,500

Translation of PRODOC	8,500	8,500	
Total	55,544	38,000	17,544

Note: The original PPG budget was \$136,986, according to the CEO Approval of the project transfer to FAO dated August 28th, the undisbursed PPG to be transferred to FAO was \$55,557.74. The table above accounts only for this amount.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLAWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflaws to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

NA

ANNEX E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table G to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Core Indicator 1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use				(Hectares)
	<i>Hectares (1.1+1.2)</i>				
	<i>Expected</i>			<i>Achieved</i>	
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
	129,317	175,937.			
Indicator 1.1	Terrestrial protected areas newly created				

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Serranía Dipilto Jalapa		Reserva Natural	52,625.84	52,625.84			
Tepsomoto La Pataste		Reserva Natural	21,542.65	21,542.65			
Cerro Quiabuc-Las Brisas		Reserva Natural	25,463.36	25,463.36			
Cerro Tisey-La Estanzuela		Reserva Natural	22,094.87	22,094.87			
Yúcul		Reserva de Recursos Genéticos	8,150.56	8,150.56			
Cañón de Somoto		Monumento Nacional	636.80	636.801			
Corredor interconexión		Paisaje en corredor	32,493.70	32,493.7			
Alamikamba		Reserva Natural		3,809.60			
Limbaika		Reserva Natural		4,897.5			
Corredor de interconexión				2,088.1			
		Sum	132,648.78	175,937.68			
Indicator 1.2	Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline		Achieved	
					Endorsement	MTR	TE
				0			

				0		
		Sum		0		
Core Indicator 2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use					<i>(Hectares)</i>
		Hectares (2.1+2.2)				
		Expected		Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
		N/A				
Indicator 2.1	Marine protected areas newly created					
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Sum				
Indicator 2.2	Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness					
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score		
				Baseline		Achieved
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR
		Sum				
Core Indicator 3	Area of land restored					<i>(Hectares)</i>

		Hectares (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		165,141.78	175,937		
Indicator 3.1	Area of degraded agricultural land restored				
		Hectares			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		32,493	32,493		
Indicator 3.2	Area of forest and forest land restored				
		Hectares			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		132,648.78	143,443.98		
Indicator 3.3	Area of natural grass and shrublands restored				
		Hectares			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		0			

Indicator 3.4	Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)				(Hectares)	
			Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4)			
			Expected		Expected	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems				
			Hectares		
			Expected		Achieved
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR TE
Indicator 4.4	Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided				
Include documentation that justifies HCVF			Hectares		
			Expected		Achieved
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR TE
Core Indicator 5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity				<i>(Hectares)</i>
Indicator 5.1	Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations				
Third party certification(s):			Number		
			Expected		Achieved
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR TE
Indicator 5.2	Number of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollution and hypoxial				

			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 5.3	Amount of Marine Litter Avoided					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 6	Greenhouse gas emission mitigated					<i>(Metric tons of CO₂e)</i>
		Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (6.1+6.2) 860,000				
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
		Expected CO ₂ e (direct)	544,300	150,000		
		Expected CO ₂ e (indirect)	600,000	710,000		
Indicator 6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector					
			Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Expected CO ₂ e (direct)				
		Expected CO ₂ e (indirect)				
		Anticipated start year of accounting				

	Duration of accounting				
Indicator 6.2	Emissions avoided Outside AFOLU				
			Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e		
			Expected		Achieved
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR TE
	Expected CO ₂ e (direct)				
	Expected CO ₂ e (indirect)				
	Anticipated start year of accounting		2021	2021	
	Duration of accounting		4	4	
Indicator 6.3	Energy saved				
			MJ		
			Expected		Achieved
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR TE
Indicator 6.4	Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology				
			Capacity (MW)		
		Technology	Expected		Achieved
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR TE
Core Indicator 7	Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management				(Number)

Indicator 7.1	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.2	Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.3	Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.4	Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			Rating		Rating	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 8	Globally over-exploited fisheries Moved to more sustainable levels					<i>(Metric Tons)</i>

Fishery Details		Metric Tons			
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 9	Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products			<i>(Metric Tons)</i>	
		Metric Tons (9.1+9.2+9.3)			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	PIF stage	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.1	Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)				
			Metric Tons		
	POPs type	Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.2	Quantity of mercury reduced				
			Metric Tons		
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.3	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out				

		Metric Tons				
		Expected		Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Indicator 9.4	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste					
		Number of Countries				
		Expected		Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Indicator 9.5	Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities					
		Technology	Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.6	Quantity of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	PIF stage	Endorsement

Core Indicator 10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources				<i>(grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)</i>	
Indicator 10.1	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 10.2	Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment				<i>(Number)</i>	
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Female		333		
		Male		1,009		
		Total		1,324		

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part1 by ticking the most relevant keywords/topics//themes that best describes the project

XGEF 7 TAXONOMY

Annex C

Please identify the taxonomic information required in Part I, Item G by ticking the most relevant keywords/ topics/themes that best describe the project. FMAM 9579

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
X Influencing models			
	Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	X Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	X Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	Deploy innovative financial instruments		
X Stakeholders			
	X Indigenous Peoples		
	X Private Sector		
		Capital providers	
		Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		Large corporations	
		SMEs	
		Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		Non-Grant Pilot	
		Project Reflow	
	X Beneficiaries		
	X Local Communities		
	X Civil Society		
		Community Based Organization	
		Non-Governmental Organization	
		X Academia	
		Trade Unions and Workers Unions	

	X Type of Engagement		
		Information Dissemination	
		Partnership	
		X Consultation	
		X Participation	
	X Communications		
		X Awareness Raising	
		X Education	
		X Public Campaigns	
		Behavior Change	
X Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	X Enabling Activities		
	X Capacity Development		
	X Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	X Targeted Research		
	X Learning		
		X Theory of Change	
		X Adaptive Management	
		X Indicators to Measure Change	
	Innovation		
	X Knowledge and Learning		
		Knowledge Management	
		Innovation	
		X Capacity Development	
		X Learning	
	X Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
X Gender Equality			
	X Gender Mainstreaming		
		X Beneficiaries	
		X Women groups	
		X Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	

	X Gender results areas		
		Access and control over natural resources	
		X Participation and leadership	
		X Access to benefits and services	
		X Capacity development	
		X Awareness raising	
		Knowledge generation	
X Focal Areas/Theme			
	Integrated Programs		
		Commodity Supply Chains (Good Growth Partnership)	
			Sustainable Commodities Production
			Deforestation-free Sourcing
			Financial Screening Tools
			High Conservation Value Forests
			High Carbon Stocks Forests
			Soybean Supply Chain
			Oil Palm Supply Chain
			Beef Supply Chain
			Smallholder Farmers
			Adaptive Management
		Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa	
			Resilience (climate and shocks)
			Sustainable Production Systems
			Agroecosystems
			Land and Soil Health
			Diversified Farming
			Integrated Land and Water Management
			Smallholder Farming
			Small and Medium Enterprises
			Crop Genetic Diversity
			Food Value Chains
			Gender Dimensions
			Multi-stakeholder Platforms

		X Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			Sustainable Food Systems
			X Landscape Restoration
			Sustainable Commodity Production
			Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			Integrated Landscapes
			Food Value Chains
			Deforestation-free Sourcing
			Smallholder Farmers
		Sustainable Cities	
			Integrated urban planning
			Urban sustainability framework
			Transport and Mobility
			Buildings
			Municipal waste management
			Green space
			Urban Biodiversity
			Urban Food Systems
			Energy efficiency
			Municipal Financing
			Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			Urban Resilience
	X Biodiversity		
		X Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			X Terrestrial Protected Areas
			Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			Productive Landscapes
			Productive Seascapes
			Community Based Natural Resource Management
		X Mainstreaming	
			Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			X Tourism

			Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			Fisheries
			Infrastructure
			Certification (National Standards)
			Certification (International Standards)
		X Species	
			Illegal Wildlife Trade
			Threatened Species
			Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			Crop Wild Relatives
			X Plant Genetic Resources
			Animal Genetic Resources
			Livestock Wild Relatives
			Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		X Biomes	
			Mangroves
			Coral Reefs
			Sea Grasses
			Wetlands
			Rivers
			Lakes
			Tropical Rain Forests
			X Tropical Dry Forests
			Temperate Forests
			Grasslands
			Paramo
			Desert
		X Financial and Accounting	
			X Payment for Ecosystem Services
			Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			Conservation Trust Funds
			Conservation Finance
		Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	

			Biosafety
			Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	X Forests		
		X Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			X REDD/REDD+
		Forest	
			Amazon
			Congo
			Drylands
	X Land Degradation		
		X Sustainable Land Management	
			X Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			Ecosystem Approach
			Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			Community-Based NRM
			X Sustainable Livelihoods
			Income Generating Activities
			X Sustainable Agriculture
			Sustainable Pasture Management
			Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			Sustainable Fire Management
			Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		Land Degradation Neutrality	
			Land Productivity
			Land Cover and Land cover change
			Carbon stocks above or below ground
		Food Security	
	International Waters		
		Ship	
		Coastal	
		Freshwater	

			Aquifer
			River Basin
			Lake Basin
		Learning	
		Fisheries	
		Persistent toxic substances	
		SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		Targeted Research	
		Pollution	
			Persistent toxic substances
			Plastics
			Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		Large Marine Ecosystems	
		Private Sector	
		Aquaculture	
		Marine Protected Area	
		Biomes	
			Mangrove
			Coral Reefs
			Seagrasses
			Polar Ecosystems
			Constructed Wetlands
	X Chemicals and Waste		
		Mercury	
		Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		Coal Fired Power Plants	
		Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		Cement	

		Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		Ozone	
		Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		Waste Management	
			Hazardous Waste Management
			Industrial Waste
			e-Waste
		Emissions	
		Disposal	
		New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		Plastics	
		Eco-Efficiency	
		X Pesticides	
		DDT - Vector Management	
		DDT - Other	
		Industrial Emissions	
		Open Burning	
		Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		Green Chemistry	
	X Climate Change		
		X Climate Change Adaptation	
			Climate Finance
			Least Developed Countries
			Small Island Developing States
			Disaster Risk Management
			Sea-level rise
			Climate Resilience
			Climate information
			Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			Adaptation Tech Transfer

		National Adaptation Programme of Action
		X National Adaptation Plan
		Mainstreaming Adaptation
		Private Sector
		Innovation
		Complementarity
		Community-based Adaptation
		Livelihoods
		Climate Change Mitigation
		Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
		Energy Efficiency
		Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
		Technology Transfer
		Renewable Energy
		Financing
		Enabling Activities
		Technology Transfer
		Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
		Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
		Endogenous technology
		Technology Needs Assessment
		Adaptation Tech Transfer
		United Nations Framework on Climate Change
		Nationally Determined Contribution

[1]



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