PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	11267
Project Name:	Beyond 30x30: Securing resilience in the Eastern Tropical Pacific through enhanced transboundary cooperation
Countr(ies):	Regional, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama
Implementing Agency:	CI

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name
Beyond 30x30: Securing resilience in the Eastern Tropical Pacific through enhanced transboundary cooperation

Country
Regional, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama

GEF ID	Implementing Agency
11267	CI

Executing Entity
Fundacion Pacifico (Pacific Foundation)

Trust Fund	Project Type
GET	FSP

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year , PIR Number
9/7/2026	FY 2026 , 1st PIR

Objective
Ensure the long-term resilience and conservation of at least 31,246,463 ha of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor area (Central ETP), by strengthening regional governance, securing regional connectivity, improving climate resilient management, and coordinating sustainable blue economy investments and conservation efforts.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress	Development Objective
Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory

Overall risk
Substantial

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
15,673,000.00	1,218,863.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval	Agency Approval
4/21/2025	7/23/2025

Implementation Start 7/23/2025	First Disbursement 11/14/2025
Expected MTR 1/31/2028	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 6/30/2031	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

During the reporting period, the CMAR Resiliente project advanced the consolidation of the institutional, technical and operational foundations required for its regional implementation. As this was the project's start-up year, activities focused mainly on establishing the enabling conditions for the execution of the technical components, strengthening regional coordination and consolidating the project's management and governance mechanisms. The main advances of the period include:

The progressive consolidation of the Project Management Unit (UGP). As of the closing of this report, the UGP is 58% staffed (of a total 14 positions, 8 have already been filled).

The strengthening of coordination among Fundación Pacífico, its founding environmental funds, Conservation International, the CMAR Executive Secretariat, and the participating countries.

The project's First Steering Committee, a key milestone for the approval of the main planning instruments and strategic guidance for project implementation.

The development and approval of the Project's Operations Manual and the FY26 andFY27 Work Plan, which establish the guidelines for implementing, coordinating, and monitoring activities.

The design and implementation of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System, including the results framework, the methodological sheets for the 25 indicators, technical and programmatic tracking tools, and guidelines for progress reporting and adaptive management.

The activation of the regional SharePoint repository to strengthen document management and information-sharing among project partners.

Eight interactions with other key regional initiatives to enhance project outcomes.

The formation of GTTP for project implementation, with delegates from all 4 countries.

The start of the compilation and review of technical information and the methodological preparation of studies and tools planned under the different components, which will serve as the basis for developing baselines and technical interventions scheduled for the project's next phases.

The cross-cutting inclusion of gender considerations and safeguards into operational planning, terms of reference, and the project's main management instruments.

The Grievance Redress Mechanism operational guidelines drafting.

The design and publication of the project's first quarterly bulletin, as a communication tool to periodically share implementation progress among partners, participating institutions, and other stakeholders.

These advances made the consolidation of institutional architecture possible, the planning documents, the regional coordination mechanisms, and the capacities needed to begin the project's technical implementation. Although most of the technical interventions and outputs will be developed as of FY27, the actions carried out during FY26 established a solid basis to strengthen

transboundary cooperation and advance towards the expected results in governance, climate resilience, ecological connectivity and sustainable blue economy in CMAR.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Implementation during this period faced challenges primarily related to the time required for the review, negotiation, and feedback processes of documents with the four member countries. These processes are inherent to a regional governance mechanism that requires consensus-building for decision-making. On average, each review cycle took approximately two months, impacting the approval of some deliverables, the hiring of part of the technical team, the formalization of appointments at various project levels, and consequently, the commencement of some activities planned in the FY26 Work Plan. From the third quarter of FY26 (Q3) onward, this context was further influenced by the absence of an Executive Secretary at the CMAR Executive Secretariat. In this scenario, and by decision of the member countries, several operational, technical, and day-to-day project management decisions required additional consultation and validation processes before their approval. However, these situations were managed through ongoing collaboration between the Project Management Unit, the technical coordination of the CMAR Executive Secretariat, and national technical liaisons, which allowed for continued progress on priority activities, strengthened coordination between parties, and laid the groundwork for accelerating implementation during the next period.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

During FY26, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), developed during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, was reviewed and confirmed to remain appropriate for the project inception stage, requiring no revisions. The Project also engaged with other GEF-7 initiatives through technical exchanges to identify synergies, share good practices, and strengthen the implementation of environmental and social safeguard instruments, including the SEP.
Stakeholder engagement focused on strengthening the project's governance framework through the active participation of the CMAR Executive Secretariat, national focal points, partner organizations, and representatives from the four member countries in planning, technical review, and decision-making processes. The establishment of GTTP and the successful convening of the first Steering Committee reinforced coordination mechanisms and laid the foundation for meaningful stakeholder participation in line with the SEP. As part of the project's Communication Strategy, the first quarterly newsletter (covering January–March 2026) was published to regularly communicate implementation progress and will continue to be issued on a quarterly basis.
As a regional and multi-country initiative, the main challenge during FY26 was the time required for the formal designation of country representatives and for the joint review and validation of technical documents by the four participating countries and the CMAR Executive Secretariat. While these processes delayed the establishment of some thematic working groups and the initiation of certain technical activities, they strengthened country ownership and ensured that key decisions were reached through participatory and consensus-based processes. To address this challenge, the Project maintained continuous coordination with the CMAR Executive Secretariat, national focal points, and partner organizations, facilitating technical dialogue and regional consensus-building.
No field implementation activities were carried out during FY26; therefore, engagement with local communities and other territorial stakeholders has not yet commenced. During FY27, stakeholder engagement will expand alongside field implementation and will be closely integrated with the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan and it will be articulated with the projects Communication and Dissemination Strategy to ensure inclusive, informed, culturally appropriate, and effective participation of local communities and other stakeholders throughout project implementation, consistent with the SEP

D. Gender Equality

During FY26, progress was made in implementing the measures foreseen in the Gender Action Plan (GAP) corresponding to the project's start-up phase. The recruitment of the Gender and Safeguards Specialist made it possible to review and operationalize the GAP, adapting its activities and indicators to this implementation stage without modifying the targets defined at project approval. In addition, the incorporation of gender mainstreaming into the planning of the four technical components was promoted, defining the work roadmaps and gender criteria that will guide the Regional Blue Economy Strategy, the climate vulnerability assessment and the formulation of the Regional Climate Resilience Plan.

During the period, no significant challenges to the implementation of the GAP were identified. As an adaptive management measure, the project prioritized the operationalization of the Gender Action Plan before the start of technical activities, strengthening the capacities of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and incorporating gender considerations into the preparation of terms of reference, planning tools and monitoring instruments. One of the most relevant advances was the formation of the CMAR Regional Gender Technical Group, through the appointment of national focal points and the start of the participation of representatives from Colombia and Costa Rica. This group constitutes a first step towards institutionalizing the gender approach in CMAR regional governance, by establishing a permanent technical coordination space that will support the formulation of the CMAR Gender Policy and its implementation plan, promote the integration of the gender approach into the regional technical groups and contribute to the monitoring of the project's environmental and social safeguards. Although it is still early to show quantifiable results in terms of gender equality, a growing institutional ownership of the gender approach and a greater commitment of the participating institutions to incorporate it in a cross-cutting manner into project implementation can be observed.
For the next fiscal year, the project will prioritize the implementation of the activities foreseen in the GAP, advancing in the formulation of the CMAR Gender Policy and its implementation plan, the capacity strengthening of the PMU and the regional working groups, the incorporation of the gender approach into the project's technical and operational instruments, and the systematic monitoring of the gender indicators defined in the results framework. These actions will contribute to consolidating gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting principle of project implementation and to strengthening the institutional sustainability of the progress achieved in gender equality.

E. Knowledge Management

During FY26, implementation of the Knowledge Management (KM) component focused on establishing its institutional, methodological, and technological foundations. Full implementation was temporarily constrained by the recruitment process for the Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist, whose Terms of Reference required review and endorsement by the CMAR member countries and Executive Secretariat. Only by the end of the reporting period, the Terms of Reference were formally approved, enabling recruitment to proceed. To mitigate this delay, the Project Management Unit prioritized preparatory activities, including the establishment of the project document repository, consolidation of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system, development of methodological guidelines for knowledge management, and publication of the project's first quarterly newsletter, ensuring that the component is well positioned for full implementation. Additionally, the project advanced by supporting activities such as the drafting of the project visual manual (to be endorsed by CMAR Secretariat) outreach material and event notes, among others.
As part of its engagement with the IW:LEARN community of practice, the Project prepared and submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) for the 11th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC11), proposing a special session on sustainable financial mechanisms for the long-term governance of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR), jointly led by representatives of the Project Management Unit and the CMAR Executive Secretariat.
During FY27, the Project will fully implement its Knowledge Management Strategy through the development of technical and communication products, documentation of lessons learned and good practices, strengthened regional knowledge exchange, and integration with the Communication Strategy. A diagnostic assessment of the CMAR Hub will also be undertaken to identify opportunities to strengthen it as a regional knowledge-sharing platform. In parallel, collaboration with IW:LEARN will be expanded to enhance knowledge exchange, increase the visibility of project results across the GEF International Waters portfolio, and ensure that knowledge products are accessible, inclusive, and tailored to the needs of different stakeholder groups

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	

Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	As part of the initial review of the Results Framework, it was identified that the target for the Objective Indicator 'Direct project beneficiaries' (150,000) will most likely require adjustments, as it seems like the original estimate included indirect beneficiaries, whereas current GEF guidelines specify that only direct beneficiaries should be reported. No changes have been made to date. However, once the baseline and measurement methodology are finalized, it may be necessary to formally process this adjustment. If the revised target represents a reduction of more than 10%, it will constitute a Results Framework modification and will be processed in accordance with the procedures established by the GEF.
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Galapagos National Park	-0.66511	-90.53917	12,515,194

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Isla del Coco National Park	5.53295	-87.05893	11,239,064

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gorgona National Natural Park	3.098	-78.295	10,754

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Malpelo Fauna and Flora Marine Sanctuary	4.00327	-81.60717	902,899

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Coiba National Park	7.887	-81.859	902,479

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
La Hermandad Marine Reserve	2.33098347102175	-90.5825351400647	555,745,151

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Galapagos Marine Reserve	-0.053611	-90.769167	11,753

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bicentenario Marine Management Area	4.12507718406154	-87.5428514090693	555,744,944

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yurupari — Malpelo Integrated Management District	3.08998964595665	-82.9557843019715	555,636,046

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Colinas y Lomas Submarinas de la cuenca del Pacífico Norte Integrated Management District	5.27951712810201	-78.7878139508033	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cordillera de Coiba MPA	5.72780300176543	-82.123377013842	555,705,293

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	Sept 06 2026FY26 PIR CMAR Resiliente
Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEF Core Indicator Report CMAR Resiliente (GEF ID11267)