

# GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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## General Project Information

Project Title

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

Region

Regional

GEF Project ID

11267

Country(ies)

Regional

Colombia

Costa Rica

Ecuador

Panama

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

CI

GEF Agency Project ID

Project Executing Entity(s)

Fundacion Pacifico (Pacific Foundation)

Conservation International (CI)

Project Executing Type

CSO

GEF Agency

GEF Focal Area (s)

International Waters

Submission Date

6/27/2024

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

14,378,899.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

1,294,101.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

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

15,673,000.00

Total Co-financing

63,229,918.00

PPG Amount: (e)

300,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

27,000.00

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

16,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

## Taxonomy

Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Climate Change, Focal Areas, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Tourism, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Species, Threatened Species, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contribution, International Waters, Marine Protected Area, Learning, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Stakeholders, Communications, Behavior change, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Capacity Development, Awareness Raising, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Innovation

## Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

## Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Within the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP)<sup>3</sup>, a critical 200,000,000 ha subsection known as the Central ETP is located in the Pacific waters of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama constituting the ETP Marine Corridor. In 2004, the governments of the four countries signed the San Jose Declaration establishing a regional initiative called CMAR<sup>4</sup> to promote the conservation, and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) of the region.

Currently the region faces significant environmental challenges including uncontrolled development, habitat destruction, and illegal and unsustainable fishing are threatening this vast area, compromising livelihoods, ecosystem resilience and fisheries production.

The proposed project seeks to take the progress to a new level of effectiveness and sustainability by strengthening the CMAR governance and transboundary collaboration, sustaining the ETP Marine Corridor conservation by promoting regional MPA connectivity and management, and enhancing a sustainable blue economy as means to provide economic alternatives to the tourism and fisheries sectors and associated users that depend on the ETP area.

Consolidating over 20 years of work in the region the project aims to achieve 31,246,463 ha under improved management effectiveness, a shared water ecosystem with improved cooperative management, 105,000 local beneficiaries across the Central ETP and the long-term sustainability of the area.

## Project Description Overview

### Project 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.

### Project Components

#### Component 1: Strengthening CMAR governance and long-term sustainability

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,984,861.00	27,731,757.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 1.1:** Strengthened long-term and gender responsive sustainability of CMAR regional governance.

**Indicator 1.1:** Percentage (%) of governance effectiveness increased.

**Target 1.1:** 20% governance effectiveness increased (based on governance assessment baseline in Y1).

**Outcome 1.2** Long term financial sustainability of CMAR ensured and aligned with its Regional Action Plan, promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities for all genders.

**Indicator 1.2:** Aligned regional investments increases for CMAR and its Regional Action Plan by project end.

**Target 1.2:** At least \$25M of additional regional funding and technical cooperation is secured for CMAR and its Regional Action Plan.

Output:

**Output 1.1.1:** CMAR governance frameworks, by-laws and procedures operationalized.

**Indicator 1.1.1:** Number of governance frameworks/ bylaws/ procedures operationalized.

**Target 1.1.1:** At least three (3) regional framework/bylaws/and/or procedures operationalized.

**Output 1.1.2.** National CMAR commissions and/or regional working groups established, strengthened, and regulated.

**Indicator 1.1.2a:** # of National Commissions established, strengthened, and regulated for CMAR.

**Target 1.1.2a:** At least four (4) national commissions (one per country).

**Indicator 1.1.2b:** Number of regional thematic working groups strengthened and regulated.

**Target 1.1.2b:** Five (5) regional working groups.

**Output 1.1.3.** Capacity of CMAR national commissions, regional technical working groups, MPA managers and key staff strengthened.

**Indicator 1.1.3.** Number of people trained (disaggregated by gender).

**Target 1.1.3.** At least 200 people (30% women and diversified age groups).

**Output 1.2.1.** Operational tool to align existing and new investments in the ETP with the Financial Sustainability Strategy.

**Indicator 1.2.1.** Number of tools that enable CMAR Secretariat to track financial resources.

**Target 1.2.1.** One (1) tool.

## Component 2: Improving regional corridor management and climate resilience

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
5,634,313.00	14,905,000.00

Outcome:

### Outcome 2.1:

Gender-responsive measures in place to increase climate resilience of the Central ETP MPAs.

**Indicator 2.1:** Area (has) of MPA's with climate adaptation measures implemented.

**Target 2.1:** 31,246,463 has. of the Central ETP.

**Outcome 2.2:** Improved regional MPA connectivity and management, considering a gender-responsive approach.

**Indicator 2.2:**  
Percentage (%) of improvement of regional MPA connectivity and management from Y1 baseline.

**Target 2.2:** At least 20 % of regional MPA connectivity and management improved.

Output:

**Output 2.1.1:** A Climate **Resilience** Plan developed, and key regional MPA level actions implemented.

**Indicator 2.1.1:** Number of Central ETP MPAs implementing key adaptation actions.

**Target 2.1.1:** At least four (4) MPAs.

**Output 2.2.1:** A regional management effectiveness assessment tool that includes management for regional connectivity is developed and applied in the Central ETP.

**Indicator 2.2.1:** Number of regional management effectiveness assessments implemented in Central ETP.

**Target 2.2.1:** At least **three (3)** regional assessment implemented.

**Output 2.2.2:** Key interventions from the MPAs management plans aligned with the CMAR Regional Action Plan implemented.

**Indicator 2.2.2:** Number of key interventions implemented in prioritized MPAs.

**Target 2.2.2:** At least four (4) key interventions implemented.

### Component 3: Promoting a regional sustainable blue economy

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,983,646.00	11,650,260.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 3.1:** Mainstreaming and integration of **Sustainable and Inclusive** Blue Economy interventions into the Central ETP MPAs that are part of CMAR.

**Indicator 3.1:** Number of MPAs with **sustainable** blue economy enterprises in operation.

**Target 3.1:** Six (6) MPAs in Central ETP.

**Outcome 3.2:** Secured financial sustainability of **gender responsive sustainable** blue economy actions of the Central ETP.

**Indicator 3.2:** Amount (USD) of new funding for **sustainable** blue economy initiatives committed.

**Target 3.2:** \$10M new funding committed.

Output:

**Output 3.1.1:** Regional **Sustainable** Blue Economy Strategy designed and integrated into CMAR Regional Action Plan.

**Indicator 3.1.1:** Number of Regional Strategies.

**Target 3.1.1:** One (1) Regional **Sustainable** Blue Economy Strategy.

**Output 3.1.2:** Timebound blue business plans developed and implemented by users of CMAR (business owners and direct beneficiaries) in fisheries and/or tourism sectors operating in MPAs.

**Indicator 3.1.2a:** Number of blue business plans for the fisheries and/or tourism sectors developed and implemented at the MPA-level.

**Target 3.1.2a:** At least four (4) plans developed and implemented for Central ETP MPAs.

**Indicator 3.1.2b:**

Number of users (disaggregated by gender) implementing sustainable tourism and/or market-driven improved fishing practices.

**Target 3.1.2b:** 50 people (at least 30% women).

**Output 3.2.1:** Financial mechanism to increase investments in regional **sustainable** blue economy initiatives designed and operational.

**Indicator 3.2.1:** Number of new financial mechanisms in regional **sustainable** blue economy initiatives supported.

**Target 3.2.1:** At least one (1) new financial mechanism.

## Component 4: Strengthening Capacities for Regional Communications, Knowledge Management, and Learning.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET



GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
826,784.00	2,878,150.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 4.1:** Increased knowledge, understanding and commitment of key stakeholders of the Central ETP, with a focus on a gender-inclusive approach

**Indicator 4.1:** Percentage of key stakeholders with increased knowledge, understanding and commitment (disaggregated by gender).

**Target 4.1:** At least 50% increase from Y1 baseline (30% women).

Output:

**Output 4.1.1:** Regional knowledge products developed and shared with IW:Learn.

**Indicator 4.1.1:** Number of knowledge products published and shared.

**Target 4.1.1:** At least 10 knowledge products.

**Output 4.1.2** Regional exchanges between key stakeholders of Central ETP implemented.

**Indicator 4.1.2:** Number of regional exchanges.

**Target 4.1.2:** One (1) exchanges, ensuring between 30% and 50% of women's participation.

## M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
272,454.00	3,215,718.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 5.1.** Project Monitoring and reporting system is efficient and utilized and incorporates gender-responsive indicators

**Indicator 5.1.**Number of M&E plans developed and implemented

## Target 5.1. One (1) M&E plan

### Output:

**Output 5.1.1:** Progress on annual regional workplans is measured according to M&E protocols.

**Indicator 5.1.1:** Number of annual progress reports (PIR) published.

**Target 5.1.1:** At least five (5) PIRs.

**Output 5.1.2:** Project technical and financial reports monitored and submitted on time as required by the GEF.

**Indicator 5.1.2:** Number of quarterly, semi-annual reports submitted.

**Target 5.1.2:** At least 20 quarterly reports.

**Output 5.1.3:** Project evaluations conducted.

**Indicator 5.1.3:** Midterm and terminal evaluation reports submitted.

**Target 5.1.3:** Two (2) project evaluation reports

## Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Strengthening CMAR governance and long-term sustainability	2,984,861.00	27,731,757.00
Component 2: Improving regional corridor management and climate resilience	5,634,313.00	14,905,000.00
Component 3: Promoting a regional sustainable blue economy	3,983,646.00	11,650,260.00
Component 4: Strengthening Capacities for Regional Communications, Knowledge Management, and Learning.	826,784.00	2,878,150.00

M&E	272,454.00	3,215,718.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13,702,058.00</b>	<b>60,380,885.00</b>
Project Management Cost	676,841.00	2,849,033.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>14,378,899.00</b>	<b>63,229,918.00</b>

Please provide Justification

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

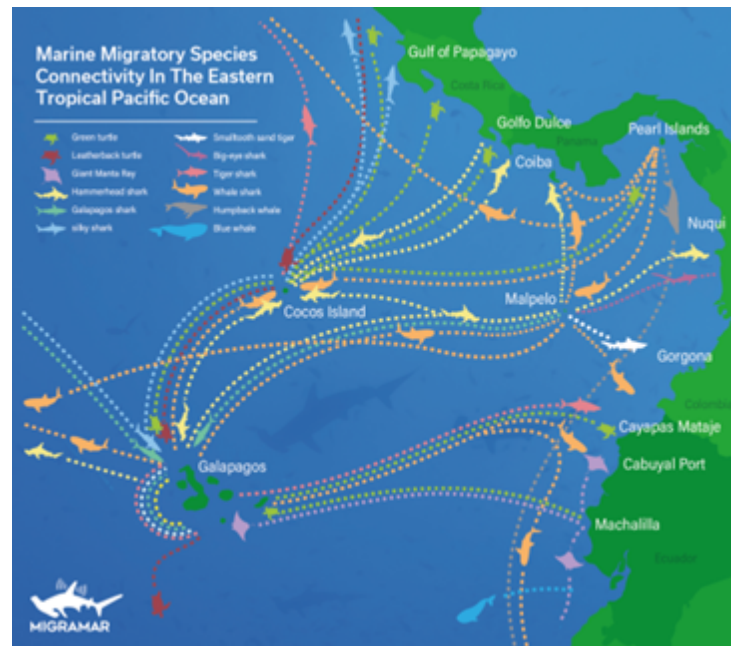
Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

#### A.1 Regional Context and Baseline

The Central ETP includes coastal parts of the 200,000,000 ha Pacific Central-American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) that extends along the Pacific Coast from Mexico to Ecuador. Approximately 1.42% of this LME is protected<sup>5</sup>, and includes 0.22% of the world's coral reefs and 0.78% of the world's seamounts. Much of the Pacific Central- American Coastal LME is influenced by the seasonal movements of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone.<sup>6</sup> Extreme Ocean depths are reached very close to the coast due to a narrow and steep continental shelf.

The ETP's ecological significance is evident based on several official recognitions; as an Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; four UNESCO marine World Heritage Sites including Galapagos Archipelago in Ecuador, Cocos Island in Costa Rica, Coiba Island in Panama, and Malpelo Island in Colombia; two Ramsar Sites including Galapagos and Cocos; two Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (Galapagos and Malpelo) designated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and seven marine 'Hope Spots' assigned by Mission Blue ([Enright et al., 2021](#); [Mission Blue](#)). In addition, most of the areas of intervention have been recognized as outstanding global examples of effectively managed marine protected areas, either by the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved areas conservation standard (Gorgona and Malpelo, with Galapagos its application phase) or the Blue Parks Award – formerly known as Global Ocean Refugee award (Cocos-Galapagos swim way, La Hermandad, Coiba ridge and Malpelo MPAs)-.

Within this region and between these World Heritage marine sites, research reveals the presence of underwater corridors, also known as swim ways. Swim ways connect marine areas and are used by migratory marine species for travel. Endangered and threatened marine species use these swim ways including green sea turtles, leatherback sea turtles, whale sharks, scalloped hammerhead sharks, and silky sharks ([Turtle Island Restoration Network](#)). How will these swim ways be affected by Climate Change remains to be fully assessed, though the integrity and resilience of the MPAs in the region is key to continuing to support species migration and movements.



**Figure 1: Marine migratory species connectivity in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean (Source: Migramar).**

The Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) was established in 2004 as a collaborative initiative to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity of the Central ETP by the governments of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia and Panama, considering as core areas the marine protected areas of Cocos Island in Costa Rica, Coiba in Panama, Malpelo and Gorgona in Colombia and Galapagos in Ecuador. This initiative involves joint regional governmental strategies supported by civil society, international cooperation agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

The governance structure of CMAR proposes a framework of management articulated with multiple technical and political actors. As can be seen in Figure 2 below, the current organizational chart of CMAR, based on the structures, relationships, and functions that have been consolidated and have been operating within the framework of CMAR, as follows:

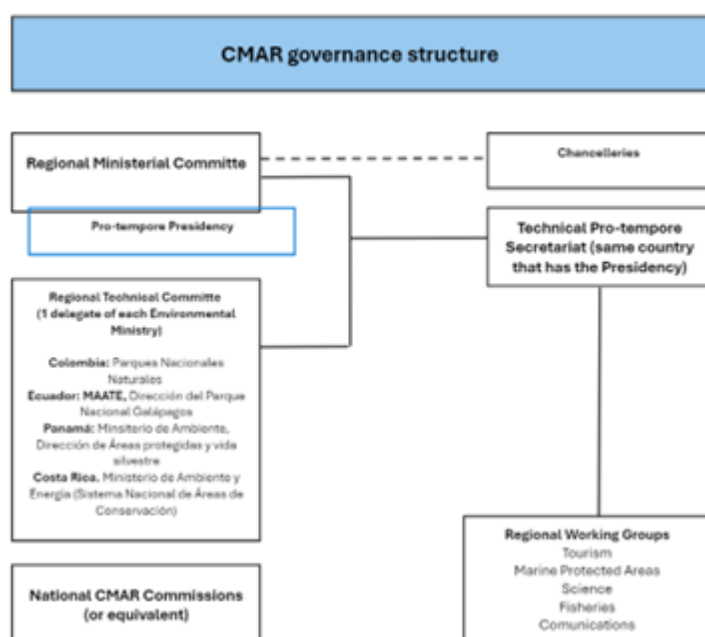


Fig. 2. Diagram of CMAR's governance structure

The CMAR cooperation initiative comprises one of the richest regions in biodiversity in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. The terrestrial extension of CMAR is only 6.2% and the vast majority (93.4%) is maritime territory, with oceanographic and climatic characteristics that make it one of the main marine ecosystems in the world, including: (1) Coral Reefs, (2) Mangroves, (3) Seagrasses, (4) Sandy beaches, (5) Rocky beaches and (6) Pelagic waters. The region is home to a wide variety of marine fauna groups, including corals, crustaceans, echinoderms, mollusks, fish, marine mammals, elasmobranchs, sea turtles, and seabirds. There are at least 160 marine species in CMAR of great importance for conservation due to their status as endemic, threatened, or endangered and with high conservation needs under an ecosystem approach.<sup>7</sup>

The Central ETP area includes CMAR MPAs. This project focuses on the CMAR 11 MPAs—five no take areas and six multiple-use areas.

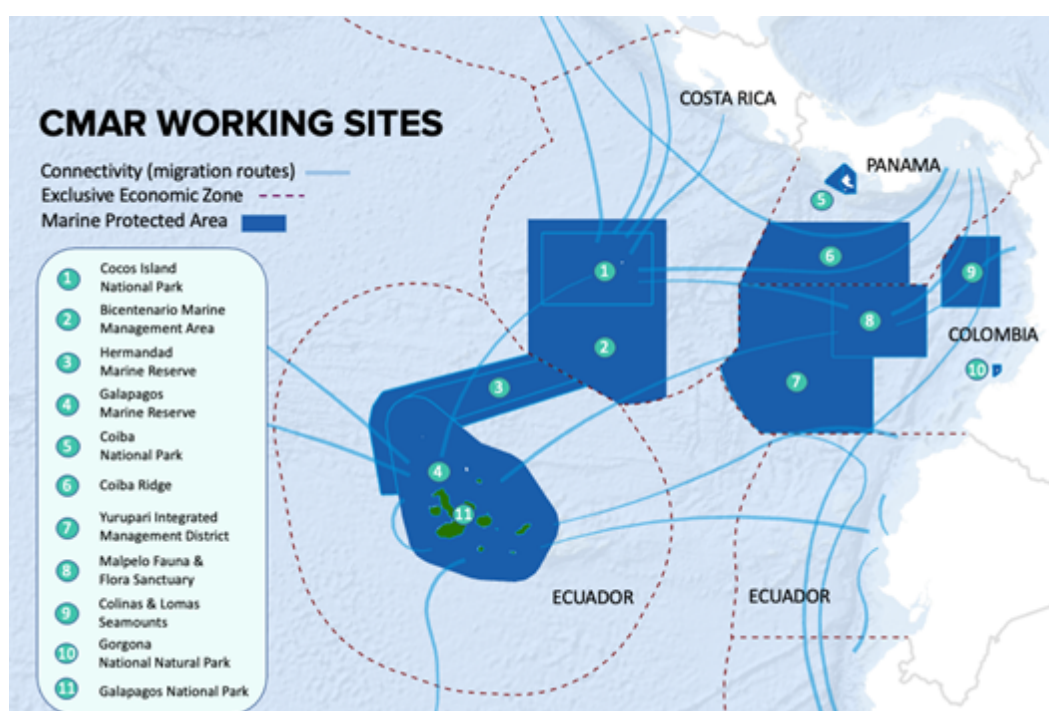
Table 1: Project MPAs, conservation status & area.

Name	Country	Area (ha)	WPDA ID	IUCN Category
<b>Fully Protected MPAs</b>				
Galapagos National Park	Ecuador	788,000	187	II
Isla del Coco National Park	Costa Rica	5,484,400	170	II
Gorgona National Natural Park	Colombia	60,504	10754	II
Malpelo Fauna and Flora Marine Sanctuary	Colombia	4,815,114	902899	IV
Coiba National Park	Panamá	270,125	902479	II
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>11,428,143</b>		
<b>Multiple Use Areas</b>				
La Hermandad Marine Reserve	Ecuador	6,000,000	555745151	V

Galapagos Marine Reserve	Ecuador	12,697,209	11753	V
Bicentenario Marine Management Area	Costa Rica	10,444,600	555744944	VI
Yurupari — Malpelo Integrated Management District	Colombia	12,370,958	555636046	VI
Colinas y Lomas Submarinas de la cuenca del Pacifico Norte Integrated Management District	Colombia	2,761,116	TBC	VI
Cordillera de Coiba MPA	Panama	6,790,898	555705293	VI
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>51,064,781</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>62,492,924</b>		

Source: CI

As the vast area of the MPAs that make up the Central ETP is too large for a single project to address, this project proposes to directly impact the long-term resilience and conservation of at least 31,246,463 ha (50%) of the CMAR MPAs generating lessons learned and knowledge that can be replicated within the broader ETP and in other geographies, including in the high seas.



**Figure 3: Map of the Eastern Tropical Pacific area where CMAR is working.**

Source: CI

**A.1.1: Environmental Problems and Root Causes.** With the expected growth of the ocean economy in the coming decades, the potential changes to the natural capital asset base of the Central ETP may be significant. In 2015 the G7 Science Academies issued a statement warning that human activities (such as overfishing, unsustainable tourism, underwater mining, etc.) were causing changes to the ocean’s ecosystems that would profoundly affect human well-being. In 2016 the UN Secretary General wrote that the findings of the first

world ocean assessment “indicate that the oceans’ carrying capacity is near or at its limit”, and “urgent action on a global scale is needed to protect the world’s oceans from the many pressures they face (United Nations, 2016).”

In this context, **three main drivers** must be distinguished that are essential to understand impacts on marine ecosystems:

- (1) climate variability and climate change (natural system),
- (2) socioeconomic and
- (3) governance conditions (including institutional and financial governance) as part of the human system.

Each of these drivers consists of several root causes (environmental and socioeconomic) and resulting in environmental and socioeconomic impacts. This logical chain allows us to understand the origin of the resulting environmental and socioeconomic problems and the main problem which will be addressed by the project.

**A.1.1.1: Driver- Climate variability and climate change:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified large coastal cities of the Central ETP area as being particularly vulnerable to climate change. Changes in ocean temperature will impact the ocean ecosystem and the ability of some species to reproduce and thrive and negatively impact the fishing and possibly the tourism industry.

The [State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2022 report](#) underlines the unusual conditions of the ENSO, as it marked the **third consecutive year of La Niña and the third time such an event, informally referred to as a “triple dip” La Niña**, has occurred in the last 50 years (following 1973–76 and 1998–2001). ENSO strongly influences rainfall and temperature patterns over large parts of the region. The 2022 La Niña event was associated with higher air temperatures and precipitation deficits over northern Mexico, a prolonged period of drought conditions over much of south-eastern South America, and increased rainfall in parts of Central America and northern South America and in the Amazon region.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

[According to the Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#), the **2022 mean temperature in LAC was between the 12th and 21st highest on record**. Warming was less pronounced in the region in 2022 compared to 2021, and especially when compared to 2020 (which was one of the three warmest years on record).

In 2022, the global mean sea level (GMSL) continued to rise.<sup>[1]</sup> However, the **sea level in the Latin America and Caribbean region has increased at a lower rate than the global mean** in the eastern Pacific over the last three decades. Sea-level rise threatens a large portion of the Latin American and Caribbean population who live in coastal areas by contaminating freshwater aquifers, eroding shorelines, inundating low-lying areas, and increasing the risks of storm surges. The sea level on the Pacific side of South America is highly influenced by ENSO, and smaller increases are observed during La Niña.

The Report [Climate change impacts on living marine resources in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, 2020](#) simulated shifts in the habitat suitability of fish and invertebrate species in the Eastern Tropical Pacific that are likely to occur by the mid-21st century.<sup>[2]</sup> As a result the simulation indicated that **species' habitat suitability** increased or remained the same in the northern and southern margins of the Eastern



Tropical Pacific but **decreased by up to 14% in some fisheries along Central America**. The largest declines in the average species habitat suitability index were projected for small pelagic fisheries (up to -46%), while the highest local species turnover was projected for coastal small-scale fisheries (up to 80%). As a consequence, the [Ocean Health Index \(OHI\)](#) scores for Latin America and more specifically the **CMAR were mostly below the global world average** (which stood at 70 points) with exception of Panama (in the CMAR region), reaching **Ocean Health Index (OHI)** averages of 65 points in Costa Rica, 75 points in Panama, 66 points in Colombia and 69 points in Ecuador<sup>[3]</sup>.

In addition, the lowest surface pH values in the world are nowadays found in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (Fiedler and Lavin, 2017). The potential detrimental consequences of ocean acidification in the LAC region for marine life (i.e., fisheries, coral reefs) and dependent human communities are more acute in the Caribbean SIDS due to the impacts on coral reefs (Melendez and Salisbury, 2017).

Increasingly, climate change is challenging the efficacy of MPAs. Climate change is driving ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation, increasing the frequency and magnitude of coastal storms, and changing ocean circulation. These changes are in turn altering the distribution, phenology, abundance, size, and physiology of marine species, which will have significant impacts on ecosystems and human coastal communities. Additionally, sea level rise will cause saltwater intrusion, erosion and inundation, and loss of natural, cultural, and historical sites.<sup>[4]</sup>

**A.1.1.2: Driver- Socio-Economic conditions.** Economic activities and employment in the ETP Region are highly dependent on the use of natural resources and ecological services of the Marine Protected Areas. They are largely limited to the provision of services (tourism), the extraction of direct products (fishing), marine transportation or harvesting, and the job offers of some processing industries. Fishing resources are only limited by their availability and certain restrictions in protected areas and EEZs. In the CMAR region, national authorities regulate fishing through temporary closures, catch size limitations, species limitations, licenses, or fishing gear restrictions and fishing permits.

There are needs and opportunities for the development of projects that favor the sustainable use of resources, improving the poverty conditions of coastal communities, giving more room for participation to the most vulnerable populations and empowering women in local economies.

**Social-economic conditions have led to overfishing in the region.** In general, as some 29 percent of the world's ocean fisheries that have been assessed are considered overfished, up from 10 percent in 1970 (FAO 2014b), while an estimated 11 to 25 million tons of fish are captured via Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing each year (Agnew et al., 2008). In this context, overfishing is a significant threat to migratory species in the ETP. It is generally accepted that overfishing is the principal cause of marine defaunation globally (Pacoureau et al., 2021)<sup>[5]</sup> and a main reason for the decline of many migratory marine species in the ETPS (Peñaherrera-Palma et al., 2018, p. 71, 112)<sup>[6]</sup>. As well as intense fishing pressure from national vessels (WildAid, 2010, p. 2; The Economist, 2020; Hearn et al., 2021, p. 8)<sup>[7]</sup>, the high seas areas in this region have been subject to increased fishing effort in recent years by foreign flagged fleets, often loitering adjacent to or entering a marine protected area, a trend which is predicted to worsen in the future. The IPCC has identified the ETP as an area facing complex fishing governance challenges given that fisheries productivity may be less affected by climate change in certain areas due to the presence of colder oceanic currents (Hearn et al., 2021, p. 10)<sup>[8]</sup>.



IUU fishing, along with climate change, represents one of the greatest threats to ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity in the ETP Marine Corridor. IUU fishing is a problem that extends within and beyond the national jurisdictions of Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador, which is why regional and international efforts are required to ensure that management strategies and measures implemented by each of these countries, such as the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), are effective not only in promoting the sustainability of shared fishery resources but also in ensuring the conservation of threatened, protected, and endangered species.<sup>[9]</sup>

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Union issued yellow cards to Ecuador and Panama in October and December 2019 (Press 2019; El Universo 2019), respectively, as this institution considers that both countries have not made the necessary efforts to ensure that the fish entering the European market does not come from illegal fishing practices. This warning precedes the red card, which, if applied, would prohibit the entry of Ecuadorian and Panamanian fishery products into Europe, the second most important market for both countries for the export of fish and seafood, after the United States. This fact has encouraged the governments of Ecuador and Panama to take urgent measures to combat IUU fishing in their respective countries, including in some cases updating and implementing national action plans to implement the 'Agreement on Port State Measures (AMERP)'<sup>[10]</sup>.

On the other hand, Latin America shows a deterioration in artisanal fishing opportunities over the last decade, as well as in the sustainability of the resources on which industrial fishing is based, according to data from the [Ocean Health Index \(OHI\)](#). A focus on CMAR shows that the indicator of the economic and management conditions of artisanal fisheries assessed by the IdSO Artisanal Fishing Opportunities target has decreased by 10 points between 2012 and 2021, registering an average of 80 points (out of 100) and variable score among the countries of the region reflecting the deterioration of the socioeconomic conditions of artisanal fishers. The situation of the sustainability of industrial fishing resources is even more critical as the global average barely reaches 49 points and most Latin American countries are below this score, particularly the CMAR countries that show a notorious decreasing trend scenario in which investments in the blue economy should not be postponed.<sup>[11]</sup> Present socio-economic conditions and population uncontrolled growth in coastal areas also increase problems related to coastal and marine pollution due to plastic waste. The LAC region has been steadily polluted by plastics in the Atlantic and Pacific oceanic basins. A fraction of that pollution, micro-plastics, has been reported in places as remote as Patagonia in South America (Perez-Venegas et al., 2018), and have reached every marine environment including the deep ocean, deep sea trenches, Arctic sea-ice, and the Antarctic Circumpolar Current<sup>[12]</sup>. Food chains have also been invaded at different levels (Wright, et al. 2013).

**A.1.1.3: Driver- Governance.** Despite multiple regional efforts, a **comprehensive, overarching regional ocean governance (ROG) framework is lacking in the ETP**. In a global study of ROG arrangements ten different provisions for the ETP region were identified, but no integration mechanism was defined ([Mahon and Fanning, 2019a, p. 6; Supplementary Material, p. 4](#)).

**Table 2: Regional Ocean Governance comparison.**

Organization	Jurisdiction	Mandate	Parties	Legal basis
Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR)	[Proposed] EEZs of Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica and high seas pocket between the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador	Conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the Eastern Tropical Pacific	Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica	San Jose Declaration (SJD), 2004 Not yet officially delimited
UN Regional Seas Program for North East Pacific (RSP NEP)	[Proposed] The area between the extreme south of the Pacific seaboard of Colombia, where it	Sustainable development of the marine and coastal resources of the North East Pacific	Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras	Antigua Convention for the North East Pacific 2002

	borders Ecuador, to the extreme north of Mexico on the Pacific, at its border with the United States			Not yet in force
UN Regional Seas Program for South East Pacific (RSP SEP)	EEZs of Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and the high seas up to a distance within which pollution of the high seas may affect that area	Prevention of pollution and environmental management of natural resources within area of competence	Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Chile, Peru	Lima Convention for the South East Pacific 1981
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS). Regional Fisheries Body (RFB)	EEZs of Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia	Conservation and sustainable use of all living resources within area of competence	Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Peru	Santiago Declaration 1952
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)	The area of the Pacific Ocean bounded by the coastline of North, Central, and South America and by the lines described in Article III of the Antigua Convention Includes EEZs of Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica	Conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna like species	Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, Mexico, Canada, United States, China, Japan, Taiwan, Kiribati, South Korea, Vanuatu, France, EU	Antigua Convention 2003
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)	Waters of the Pacific Ocean beyond areas of national jurisdiction as delimited in Article 5 of the Convention Includes high seas pocket between Galapagos and Ecuador	Conservation and sustainable use of all fish (except sedentary species, highly migratory species, anadromous and catadromous species, marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds) in the high seas of the South Pacific and the safeguarding of the ecosystems in which they occur	Ecuador, Peru, Chile, China, Cook Islands, Cuba, European Union, Denmark (re. Faroe Islands), South Korea, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu. Panama is a non-contracting Party	Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, 2012
Large Marine Ecosystem Pacific Central American Coastal (LME PaCA)	Bordering Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador	Integrated, ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem	Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico	N/A

In this context, CMAR was formally established by the San Jose Declaration (SJD) in 2004, as a non-binding agreement which sets out the objectives of CMAR and establishes a regional cooperation mechanism for its management. Although CMAR is a voluntary, political initiative between four States and therefore not legally binding, this type of less formal approach has proven to be viewed as positive at the regional level as it can secure political engagement more readily and may result in less opposition from industry. As a political initiative, it offers the possibility to harmonize national positions in the region with respect to marine environmental protection.

Nevertheless, the **lack of a legally binding element** has significant implications for implementation and enforcement. It also implies no dedicated funding mechanism exists, which impacts on critical issues such as institutional infrastructure and capacity for monitoring and enforcement.

**As an overall conclusion for the underlying system drivers, root causes, impacts and resulting problems, the three (3) analyzed drivers affect ocean health, biodiversity and marine connectivity and livelihoods in the CMAR's region.** Marine connectivity is a determining factor for ocean governance, providing oceanographic, demographic, and genetic data to the international community that allows for greater coordination and joint work for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, with a solid scientific basis. Therefore, it is important to understand connectivity in all its dimensions and scales and to inform decision makers to effectively manage transboundary populations, which is essential in open, multidimensional and in some cases transboundary populations such as marine populations. Connectivity is the main biodiversity feedback mechanism of the CMAR, since diversity and connectivity values allow predictions of centers of origin and centers of accumulation of marine diversity in an area or region. At the same time, marine-based livelihoods in the region, including fishing and tourism, may be negatively affected by a reduced marine biodiversity or connectivity, causing losses in economic activities.

**A.2.1:** The ETP region has several **key barriers** to tackle the before outlined project problem, need to be addressed, including (i) governance barriers (institutional), (ii) barriers in technical capacities, (iii) knowledge and information barriers and (iv) financial barriers.

**(i) Governance barriers (institutional).**

- **Lack of a formal regional governance mechanism and procedures.** CMAR currently maintains a Pro-tempore Secretariat and a non-binding management model which makes it challenging to consolidate the CMAR governance further. With the support of funds from ProBlue and Pew, CMAR is assessing its current governance and management model as a step towards updating them. However, to effectively increase the management capacity of the Secretariat, the implementation of the newly established models is required, as well as the development and implementation of new legal frameworks (e.g., regulations and decision-making procedures) that will support either of the mentioned governance structures.
- **Limited coordination and planning of regional working groups.** CMAR has within their governance structure five thematical groups that gather technical experts and serve as forums to discuss relevant aspects and provide guidance to CMAR's Secretariat. The regional working groups lack continuity in their work, and several of them have experienced periods of inactivity. In addition, there are no roadmaps for each group that would allow for planning more in line with CMAR's needs, based on the implementation of its various projects. The development of a roadmap is based on an analysis of available regional and national information that would form part of the baseline for each working group, to identify possible information gaps and management areas that might need strengthening.

**(ii) Technical Capacities barriers.**

- **Limited technical capacity of CMAR stakeholders on cross-cutting issues like climate change and blue economy.** Despite the high climate vulnerability indices of the countries and maritime and coastal systems of the CMAR, there is currently little regional information and/or research in this context. Despite national information on climate trends, impacts and risks, the information is not comparable at regional level, due to the use of different methodologies, timing and approaches (including indicators, sectors, etc.). In order to define regional actions to address climate change impacts within the CMAR Corridor, it is necessary to develop a regional climate risk assessment (defining regional minimum indicators). In addition, CMAR and other local stakeholders must be trained in the correct interpretation of results, as well as methodological approaches, to guarantee periodical evaluations of vulnerability and risk levels and their variation due to implemented adaptation options. Likewise, fishing production systems, maritime tourism and/or other related sectors lack innovation and turn out to be highly unsustainable (e.g., overfishing). Most stakeholders in the region still perceive the sustainable blue economy concept as abstract and intangible. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the knowledge on this topic through workshops and regional exchanges.
- **Limited capacity in the assessment of regional baselines and implementation of CMAR Action Plan activities.** CMAR's management instrument is its Action Plan 2019- 2024, which is based on 4 main thematic axes: (i) Strengthening CMAR, (ii) Biodiversity, (iii) Promotion of Sustainable Development and (iv) Control and Monitoring. The goals and indicators included in the plan turned out to be very ambitious for its execution period, resulting in an incomplete implementation in all its work axes. Particularly noteworthy is the pending actions related to climate change and sustainable production models (sustainable Blue economy). A new Action Plan (to be updated in the framework of ProBlue support) containing an improved monitoring and reporting framework for its indicators is planned for the start of the project. It is expected that the project will complement the developed action plan with specific annexes such as (i) Climate Resilience action Plan (containing a regional vulnerability and risk assessment as well as adaptation options and indicators to measure the effectiveness of the adaptation measures), and (ii) Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Plan.

**(iii) Knowledge and information barriers.**

- **Insufficient knowledge and sharing of regional ocean conservation tools and information within and beyond the region.** There is no agile exchange of relevant information (both regional and national) for the implementation of actions. The work of the Secretariat, as well as that of the technical groups and committees, requires the availability of updated information and baselines, which allow improving but also monitoring the actions implemented in the CMAR. It is evident that within the framework of the various regional and national interventions, as well as other programs and donors, there is a variety of new research and useful information to feed the regional databases.

**(iv) Financial barriers.**

- **Lack of financing strategies for the sustainability of CMAR and its actions.** The current governance structure of CMAR does not allow for sustainable financing of its work. With the support of funds provided by the GEF implemented by The World Bank and executed by Enduring Earth/Pew (GEF ID 11014), CMAR will be designing a new funding strategy to be included in its updated Action Plan. However, once the design has been finalized, an implementation phase is required for its effective operation. For this purpose, it is necessary to carry out several activities related to training CMAR stakeholders and socialization with donors and beneficiaries. In addition, it is necessary to design financial instruments that can support conservation action in local communities and from grass root organizations.

**A.1.2: Baselines Scenario and any associated baseline projects.**

Baseline scenario in the four countries (Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia and Panama)

In 2021 at the twenty sixth United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), the four CMAR country presidents announced enhanced protection and management efforts and the intent to establish regional measures to secure the protection and sustainable use of marine resources, including the potential creation of a transboundary biosphere reserve across the Central ETP MPAs which are part of CMAR. While these efforts are to be enthusiastically commended, the **region currently lacks a binding, legally constituted regional coordination entity**, capable of attracting regional investment and providing a formal multi-national and coordinated approach and guidance for sustainable blue economy investments.

At the Our Oceans conference in Panama in March 2023, the Ministries of Environment of the four governments noted their willingness to develop an ambitious transboundary agreement for CMAR. This project will facilitate discussions to ensure CMAR reaches consensus on a legally binding mechanism or advances formal decision making and consultation mechanisms that strengthen its governance. Currently, CMAR's operation is guided by various initiatives, including the updating of its 2019-2024 Action Plan.

In addition to CMAR regional efforts, each country is addressing and improving the ocean environment through the implementation of actions on MPA connectivity and management and sustainable blue economy initiatives. However, few of these initiatives are focusing on marine protected areas exclusively or the integration of sustainable blue economy into marine connectivity.

- **Ecuador** announced the creation of the Hermandad Marine Reserve through Executive Decree No.319 of January 14, 2022, which covers 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> in open waters of the island's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), northwest of the Galapagos Marine Reserve. It represents the first achievement in the creation of an ocean reserve at the regional level, increasing the surface area by 5.5% nationally protected

marine. The protected area houses mountains underwater and pelagic environments fundamental for the life and migration of species threatened and of commercial interest. Its preservation is essential to guarantee the integrity of ecosystem services, food security and well-being social and economic in the long term. However, the reserve faces significant challenges such as: climate change, pollution, and illegal, unreported fishing and unregulated (IUU), which put the sustainability of their resources at risk<sup>[1]</sup>. Hermandad, together with the GMR, now cover a total of 18,697,000 ha of fragile and important marine ecosystems in the ETP.

- **Costa Rica** has long been a world leader in terrestrial and ocean conservation and in 2021, expanded its Cocos Island National Park to 5,484,400 ha and created the 10,444,600 ha Bicentenary Marine Management Area. Costa Rica's efforts to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) commitments are positioning mangroves and blue carbon in national and international policies, and a new national Blue Carbon Strategy was launched in February 2023 with support from CI and the National Wetlands Program. Both institutions are currently developing the Action Plan for this strategy. Other national ocean sustainability efforts include the development of management tools for the Bicentenario Marine Management Area and updating the National Maritime Control and Surveillance Strategy (also led by CI), which will provide an interinstitutional execution framework for control and surveillance in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In terms of climate initiatives, there are several mangrove restoration projects, the most significant of which are led by the National Wetlands Program and CI, in the Gulf of Nicoya and associated areas. Ecogourmet (<https://www.ecogourmet.org/>), a local sustainable market initiative, is providing equitable business model for the small-scale fishing value chain, building grassroots capacity and increasing revenue and the visibility and availability of sustainable products. Ongoing initiatives include the "Fondo Azul" (The Blue Fund), managed by Forever Costa Rica, a private non-governmental organization created in 2010 as a public-private partnership to help the country meet its Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) goals.
- In 2022, **Colombia** expanded the Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, placing 4,815,114 has of ocean under full protection, expanded the Yurupari-Malpelo Integrated management District to 12,370,958 ha (an IUCN category VI protected area) and created the 2,761,116 ha National Integrated Management District of "*Colinas y Lomas del Pacífico Submarinos del la Cuenca Pacífico Norte*", an IUCN category VI protected area. EcoGourmet also works in Colombia and is attracting commercial buyers for sustainably caught fish while helping to formalize small-scale fisheries and ensure that they meet their financial and administrative responsibilities. Meanwhile, sustainable eco-tourism is progressing in both La Plata and La Sierpe protected areas. Colombia has also undertaken great efforts to protect its marine resources through the establishment of endowments for MPA networks in the Pacific and has worked with a wide range of stakeholders to develop and implement management plans. The Colombian government is also working to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries and promote more sustainable fishing through the consolidation of the national vessel registry and providing courses for judges and prosecutors on environmental law<sup>[2]</sup>.
- **Panama** is one of three carbon negative countries in the world and with recent announcements at the Our Ocean Conference in 2023, Panama has expanded the Banco Volcán MPA in the Caribbean. As a result Panama is now protecting 54% of its national ocean. Panama is one of the few countries in the region to have a National Policy for Oceans<sup>[3]</sup>, a framework that articulates and guides regulations related to the protection of oceans and marine ecosystems with a comprehensive and sustainable approach. This approach is centered in five strategic axes, including: biodiversity and marine resources; maritime governance and security; sustainable blue economy and logistics;



science, technology and innovation; gender and inclusion. The government's "Mission Panama" includes a "Boldly Sustainable" initiative that outlines the country's ambitious sustainability goals. Through its MPA network, Panama has reinforced legal and environmental protections to sea grasses and coral reefs, thereby safeguarding coastal carbon sinks. While there are ongoing sustainable blue economy initiatives including the regional "Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus: Promoting National Sustainable Blue Economy Priorities through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus'," working across the Caribbean, there are no recent large-scale sustainable blue economy projects underway in Panama's Pacific waters.

Despite the high vulnerability to climate change effects of marine and coastal zones in the ETPS region, most countries do not present targets for marine ecosystems in their NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Those plans that do contain adaptation targets for marine areas or MPAs (e.g., Costa Rica's National Adaptation Plan, Panama NDC) remain at the level of planning instruments (e.g., development of climate change action plans for marine ecosystems), rather than the implementation of specific actions. This demonstrates the need to strengthen planning instruments and actions in the region, adapting actions related, for example, to coastal and marine Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)<sup>[4]</sup>.

### Associated Baseline Projects

As learning is one of this project's cornerstones, it will build on lessons learned from other regional marine collaborations including: (a) the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and (b) The Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS). CPPS implemented the GEF 5 "Improving Mangrove Conservation across the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS) through Coordinated Regional and National Strategy Development and Implementation" project, which concluded in 2019 and provides valuable results and lessons learned on mangrove conservation through the development of legislation, management plans, and capacity building for decisionmakers.

CMAR is currently co-implementing different projects aimed at increasing management and action capabilities, strengthening mechanisms and procedures. In this context, it is important to highlight, that projects funded by ProBlue, the GEF, and other donors will be a fundamental basis for the implementation of this project, providing the necessary inputs for the implementation of the expected outcomes such as management, control, and monitoring frameworks for example:

- The GEF Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) project, will be developing a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Programme (TDA/SAP) that will include all ETP countries (exception Colombia and Nicaragua (though per UNDP, the Implementing Agency for PACA, there are informal conversations with Colombia regarding the TDA/SAP development). As the central ETP corridor comprises a subset of the PACA countries and to avoid a duplication of resources and effort, this CMAR project will not undertake a TDA/SAP. It will, however, benefit from the learning process and information gathered through the PACA TDA/SAP.
- Bezos Earth Fund and ReWild are supporting the implementation of several projects in CMAR, including control and surveillance, marine research and operational support for the Secretariat and a Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Plan.
- The ProBlue-funded initiatives, implemented by the World Bank (Regional Management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) and Development of a Regional Project Proposal), focus on strengthening the management and sustainability of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR). These projects aim to bolster CMAR's governance, financial sustainability, and strategic planning to protect biodiversity and promote a sustainable blue economy in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

Annex M includes a detailed list of projects implemented (at the moment and in the past) by CMAR, including possible synergies between this project and other ongoing CMAR initiatives.

**Stakeholders and their role in the system.** There are a wide range of stakeholders who are engaged in the Central ETP. While the role of each of these groups and their project role is outlined in detail in the Project Description section, and they include

Beside regional projects implemented by CMAR, there are **country specific projects** being implemented, focusing on strengthening the MPAs and regional governance and management.

- For example, in **Ecuador** a Climate Smart Shrimp initiative led by Conservation International (CI) that is securing commitments from shrimp aquaculture retailers to improve production and restore mangroves is being implemented. The project is in its pilot phase and seeks to incentivize shrimp farmers to implement restoration actions. The country's Mainland Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network strategic plan is conserving at least 679,295 ha of coastal and marine protected areas in mainland Ecuador, most of which are of global significance, and/or are recognized as Ramsar sites and important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. The project is working with enforcement authorities to collaborate and coordinate MPA surveillance and prosecute offenders. Meanwhile, the Dove Forest Conservation and Restoration Initiative is working with CI to develop a global portfolio of high-impact climate and nature investments for the company. This project will serve as a model for other companies as they seek to develop more sustainable supply chains. Also, climate change mitigation initiatives include a Global Mangrove Alliance project which is working directly with communities and other stakeholders to restore degraded mangroves while ensuring that communities benefit from restoration and are committed to maintaining mangrove health. Activities include compiling best practices from the global mangrove community to lower restoration costs and apply these efforts at scale.
- Additionally in **Costa Rica**, IKI TRANSFORMA-INNOVA is a 5-year (2021-2026) German-government-funded project which is being implemented with the Costa Rican government authorities, CI, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and CATIE university to transform marine and terrestrial production systems in the country, including marine spatial planning and mangrove restoration. The IKI TRANSFORMA-INNOVA blue economy component is led by CI. CI is also supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture projects under the EcoGourmet model.

Finally, learning is a project cornerstone, and the project will build on lessons learned from **other regional marine collaborations** which benefit the marine and coastal zones in the ETPS region and/or CMAR.

- For example, the Blue Nature Alliance aims to enhance and broaden the conservation efforts for 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems. This initiative is a global partnership founded and led by: Conservation International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, GEF, Mindereroo Foundation, and Rob Walton Foundation. This Alliance will facilitate the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned and promote coordination among various projects. The Blue Nature Alliance has ongoing investments in Costa Rica's Cocos Island National Park, Panama's Cordillera de Coiba MPA, and Colombia's Malpelo Fauna and Flora Marine Sanctuary, where the project geographies overlap, opportunities will be sought to ensure the work is synergistic and complimentary.

Annex M provides a detailed list of related CMAR projects, including possible synergies of this project with other ongoing initiatives.

**Stakeholders and their role in the system.** There are a wide range of stakeholders who are engaged in the Central ETP. While the role of each of these groups and their project role is outlined in detail in the Project Description section, and they include

CI has been working closely with the CMAR Secretariat during the detailed design phase of the project, and the governments of the four countries have been actively engaged in shaping this project to ensure alignment with their national priorities and regional objectives for the CMAR and Central ETP management. The CMAR regional technical committee has been actively involved throughout the design process, providing comprehensive and regular feedback, securing alignment of national priorities with the project proposal, and owning the design process while CI has been a facilitator, working in close collaboration with the CMAR Secretariat as the convener of the process and the countries' discussions. As a result, the four countries fully support this project. A table detailing the dates and themes of workshops and consultations held with CMAR representatives during the development of the project proposal can be found as Annex N.

**A.2: The proposed alternative scenario.** The present GEF project can be a catalyst by assisting the countries to strengthen regional management, enhance regional exchange and data sharing and increase the implementation of cross cutting activities related to climate resilience ecological connectivity, and sustainable blue economy. This technical support will strengthen the Central ETP corridor and overall consolidate the CMAR transboundary collaboration further supporting the four countries in governance, financial sustainability, MPA regional management and connectivity and sustainable blue economy actions to promote sustainable business models to those stakeholders that are CMAR users.

In this context, this project seeks to strengthen CMAR regional governance to support and secure long-term resilience and conservation of the Central ETP and responds to the baseline futures as it strengthens the CMAR regional body and them expanding collaboration for transboundary management of the Central ETP. Achieving connectivity between CMAR MPAs and promoting sustainable blue economy investments as viable economic alternatives for the Central ETP users that benefit from the area while helping to conserve and sustainably manage the Central ETP are core aspects of the project's objective.

Regarding the **changes needed to achieve the desired project result**, the following figure shows the relationship between the project components and the actions required for change.

Climate change is significantly altering marine ecosystems, leading to ocean acidification, rising sea levels, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. By incorporating blue economy principles, such as sustainable fisheries and ecotourism, into marine connectivity plans, this can create incentives for communities to conserve marine biodiversity while supporting their livelihoods. Additionally, integrating blue economy principles can help build resilience against climate change impacts by fostering sustainable practices that reduce vulnerability. MPAs play a vital role in protecting marine biodiversity, but their effectiveness can be enhanced by aligning them with blue economy strategies. By integrating these approaches, the project can promote sustainable development while safeguarding marine biodiversity and connectivity.

In addition, good governance relies on evidence-based and transparent decision-making. To accommodate multiple economic demands in a shared ocean space, adequate multi-sectoral data need to be gathered and curated, and conflicts addressed in a participatory setting. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a crucial tool that supports ocean governance in such complex settings. MSP provides a framework to balance protection and sustainable utilization of marine resources by integrating ecological, economic, and social



data. Promoting MSP within this project will enhance the ability to manage marine resources effectively, ensuring long-term resilience and conservation of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (ETP). By adopting MSP, the project will foster a more systematic and comprehensive approach to marine management, addressing competing interests and reducing conflicts among stakeholders. By integrating these approaches, the project can promote sustainable development while safeguarding marine biodiversity and connectivity.

Therefore, the project will adopt 5 interconnected approaches (i) Governance, (ii) Climate Action, (iii) Ecological Connectivity, (iv) Blue Economy and (v) Knowledge Management.

Importantly, this project will also create an example model for regional ocean sustainability for CMAR, one that embraces an integrated approach that seeks to sustain ocean systems while securing livelihoods. Primary stakeholders will include representatives from the four governments, MPA managers, and representatives from the fisheries and tourism sectors and ensure that women are well-represented in each stakeholder group.

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

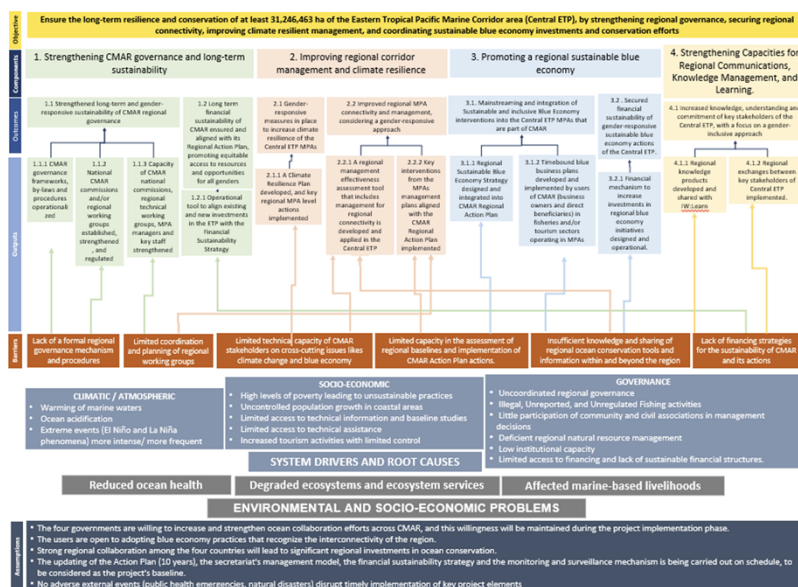
### Theory of Change

***IF** CMAR strengthens its governance framework, improves regional management of protected areas, and promotes a climate-resilient and sustainable blue economy approaches, **THEN** the long-term resilience and conservation of at least 31,246,463 ha of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor area will be ensured with a robust, and consolidated transboundary collaboration, **BECAUSE** integrated governance, enhanced management practices, and sustainable economic initiatives will provide the necessary structure, resources, and incentives to protect marine biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services, and support sustainable development in the region.*

1. This project responds to the alternative pathway where the four countries further formalize CMAR as a primarily coordination body with its two main committees (Ministerial and Technical), five current working groups (tourism, MPAs, science, fishing, and communications), and four national commissions. With GEF support, the project will strengthen regional governance schemes to increase the scope and decision-making authority of the CMAR Secretariat while guaranteeing its functional and operational capacities to achieve its mission consolidating the transboundary collaboration between the four CMAR countries and secure its financial sustainability (Component 1). GEF financing will also improve climate resilience of CMAR's MPAs through the development of a climate action plan centered on improving resilience and the implementation of prioritized climate adaptation actions at both national and regional scale (Component 2.1). The project will also improve the regional connectivity through the design and implementation of regional monitoring effectiveness tools and execute prioritized actions under the Regional Action Plan (Component 2.2). With GEF support, the region and especially the six multiuse CMAR MPAs, will improve conservation efforts related to sustainable blue economy sectors, including fishing, tourism, and/or transport, allowing for increased investments in these areas (Component 3). The knowledge generated and lessons learned will be shared in multiple platforms, including IW:LEARN (Component 4).

2. The following diagram shows the TOC for the project, which illustrates the change pathway and interactions of different elements of the intervention logic proposed by the project. As shown in the theory of change diagram, the project has established an integrated self-supporting approach, addressing the identified barriers and risks. The Gender Analysis is included in the Annex Gender Mainstreaming Plan.

Figure 7. Theory of Change



## Project Components

### Objective.

The objective of the project is to 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, and coordinating sustainable blue economy investments and conservation efforts.

3. The project will be implemented through the four interlinked technical Components, each of which addresses one or more of the key barriers acting against the achievement of more sustainable management and conservation of marine biodiversity in the CMAR achieving the project objective. With their shared ocean geographies and highly migratory biodiversity, there is growing need for broader and regular government collaboration to address today's ocean sustainability challenges. Improved transboundary coordination among Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama governments will result in a more resilient and sustainable regional ocean environment and attract more investment in the region and at scale. The four components are:

- Strengthening CMAR governance and sustainability
- Improving regional corridor management and climate resilience
- Promoting a regional sustainable blue economy
- Strengthening regional M&E, communications, knowledge management, and learning

The four project components, outcomes and outputs are described below:

#### 4. Component 1. Strengthening CMAR governance and long-term sustainability.

At the moment, CMAR is undertaking numerous processes to assess and strengthen its institutional framework. While the CMAR governments have all endorsed a stronger CMAR organization, specifics on the new organization are currently under determination with the support of other donors. These ongoing efforts include the formalization of CMAR's Permanent Secretariat as part of the regional governance advancing a potential binding Agreement between the four countries to strengthen and formalize the transboundary collaboration, and the Declaration of a regional Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO. An operational Permanent Secretariat for CMAR with strong participation of the four countries, will help ensure donors and governments that their investments will be well-spent and will not duplicate other investments in the region.

5. In this context, this component will build on ongoing efforts to strengthen regional capacity and governance mechanisms. The actions and proposed outcomes of this component are directly relevant to the discussions and consultations among the CMAR countries evaluating the adoption of a legally binding transboundary agreement and creating a permanent Secretariat. This component will actively promote and improve decision-making processes of CMAR's regional mechanism, laying the groundwork for a robust governance structure. By assessing CMAR's governance, this component aims to consolidate the transboundary cooperation needed to protect and manage the Central ETP corridor in alignment with other donors collaborating with CMAR for similar purposes. This will further help secure the financial sustainability of CMAR and align with its Regional Action Plan, ensuring that long-term governance structures are in place.
6. The component focuses on two main outcomes: i) the regional governance of CMAR is strengthened and sustained in the long term (Outcome 1.1); and ii) the long-term financial sustainability of CMAR is ensured and aligned with its Regional Action Plan (Outcome 1.2).

The outcome and related outputs are described below:

**Outcome 1.1. Strengthened long-term and gender-responsive sustainability of CMAR regional governance.**

**Indicator 1.1:** Percentage (%) of governance effectiveness increased.

**Target 1.1:** 20% of governance effectiveness increased (based on governance assessment baseline in Y1).

7. This outcome seeks to strengthen CMARs regional governance through a more robust transboundary collaboration between the four countries. Therefore, it aims to support CMAR Secretariat and countries as needed to strengthen the coordination, operationalization of diverse collaboration platforms under CMAR governance framework to improve the regional governance and associated institutional frameworks to sustain it in time. These includes the ongoing process CMAR is undertaking as well as facilitating new processes that countries agree to move forward together for example in setting up a permanent Secretariat. This component will support MSP as a process that supports ocean governance, and it will be promoted by the project as a method to achieve the balance between protection and sustainable utilization of marine resources in the ETP region. This approach will provide a structured method to managing ocean space, ensuring that diverse economic activities are harmonized with conservation objectives. The project aims to build the governance capacity necessary for CMAR to pursue comprehensive regional planning initiatives, including MSP, should they choose to do so. This will facilitate better coordination and decision-making across different sectors, improving the overall governance effectiveness of CMAR. To measure progress on regional governance of CMAR, the project will conduct a governance assessment in Y1, which will be the baseline for improvement at the second half of the project. The strengthening of CMAR Secretariat will include hiring staff that will work directly with the Secretariat and countries supporting the initiative across all areas of work.

Under this Outcome, there are three main Outputs:

Output 1.1.1. CMAR governance frameworks, by-laws and procedures operationalized.

8. While CMAR already has a set of guiding documents, these will be revised and broadened to reflect the organization's evolution into a more formal regional entity (as part of the operationalization process of CMAR's new institutional structure), while new by-laws and procedures will need to be developed and approved by the four countries. Once the new CMAR framework is established and in line with the updated Regional Action Plan (supported by the World Bank and estimated to be completed by the end of 2024), the project will support the operationalization of the chosen framework and ensure the alignment and implementation with new management tools (e.g., climate action plans and MPA management effectiveness tools outlined in Component 2) and sustainable blue economy initiatives (Component 3). Under this output, the main institutional mechanisms that will facilitate the successful implementation of CMAR Secretariat will be operationalized.
9. This Output will also address the need for standardized decision-making and monitoring protocols and procedures at multiple levels to better measure progress in and difficulties of regional marine conservation initiatives. The following indicative activities will be considered under the project:
  - Governance baseline assessment at Y1 and updated analysis at Y4.
  - Develop an Operations Manual (OM) and internal policies for CMAR Secretariat.
  - Develop and implement a Gender Policy, Gender Action Plan and other relevant internal policies for CMAR.
  - Develop and implement a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism for CMAR's Secretariat.

**Indicator 1.1.1:** Number of governance frameworks/bylaws/procedures operationalized.  
**Target 1.1.1:** At least three (3) regional framework/bylaws/and/or procedures operationalized.

Output 1.1.2. National CMAR commissions and/or regional working groups established, strengthened and regulated. <sup>[1]</sup>

10. To further strengthen the capacities of CMAR, support will be provided to the CMAR National Commissions and the regional working groups that are part of the governance structure of CMAR. Currently, there is only one National Commission that is operational (Colombia) and there are thematic regional working groups that are inactive or that have minimum activity (fishery, tourism, science, Marine Protected Areas and Communications). Gender and inclusion issues will be cross-cutting and quotas will be in place to promote both women's and men's meaningful participation in the National Commissions and regional working groups. The goal under this output is that the four national commissions and the five regional working groups will be established<sup>[2]</sup> and functioning in compliance to regulatory frameworks, statutes, organizational structures and decision-making processes established by CMAR. To strengthen the capacity of these groups, the project will implement the following indicative activities:
  - Support the creation and/or strengthening of the four National Commissions.
  - Develop working plans and support the operationalization of the national commissions through national focal points working with government counterparts. The working plans for the regional working groups will incorporate a gender perspective (see details in the Gender Mainstreaming Plan Annex).
  - Develop working plans for the regional working groups and help operationalize them.
  - Assess if a sustainable blue economy regional working group is needed and if so, help create it.

**Indicator 1.1.2a:** Number of National Commissions established, strengthened and regulated for CMAR.  
**Target 1.1.2a:** At least four (4) national commissions (one per country).  
**Indicator 1.1.2b:** Number of regional thematic working groups strengthened and regulated.  
**Target 1.1.2b:** Five (5) regional working groups.

Output 1.1.3. Capacity of CMAR national commissions, regional technical working groups, MPA managers and key staff strengthened.

11. The project will first conduct a capacity needs assessment to evaluate the needs of various stakeholders within CMAR. Based on this assessment, a Capacity Development Action Plan will be created, incorporating gender-sensitive activities, with specific indicators to measure effectiveness. A total of 200 people from the CMAR secretariat, ministerial committee, regional technical committee, national commissions, and the regional technical working groups, MPA managers and key staff on regional marine management and other relevant stakeholders, 30% of which are women, will be trained. The project will provide training and technical assistance to members of national commissions and regional working groups in areas such as environmental governance, marine resource management, gender and inclusion, conflict resolution and strategic planning and other priority areas that are outlined in their Work Plans. Additionally, gender sensitization training will be conducted annually, and exchange events will be organized with other regional cooperation initiatives in areas of strategic interest such as governance, financing, climate, connectivity, and sustainable blue economy.
12. The training activities will ensure that the members of different working groups have an increased understanding of the diverse topics (e.g. governance, connectivity, sustainable blue economy, climate change) that are discussed by all working groups. In this way, equal participation in all activities, including training of both stakeholders and staff (recognizing that participation should never be mandatory). This may mean budgeting for childcare and scheduling meetings to accommodate women (for example, not in traditional male meeting places); use methods, such as same-sex focus groups and separate meetings with men and women; and hire gender-sensitive facilitators. This Output envisions the following indicative activities:
  - Conduct a capacity needs assessment.
  - Develop a Capacity Development Action Plan for CMAR
  - Design and delivery of training workshops for CMAR secretariat, ministerial committee, regional technical committee, and national commissions and other governance platforms of CMAR as needed.
  - Preparation and delivery of training workshops for regional technical working groups and MPA managers and key staff.
  - Preparation and delivery of training workshops for implementation of the gender specific capacity development.

**Indicator 1.1.3:** Number of people trained (disaggregated by gender).

**Target 1.1.3:** At least 200 people (30% women and diversified age groups).

**Outcome 1.2. Long term financial sustainability of CMAR ensured and aligned with its Regional Action Plan, promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities for all genders.**

**Indicator 1.2:** Aligned regional investments increases for CMAR and its Regional Action Plan by project end.

**Target 1.2:** At least \$25M of additional regional funding and technical cooperation is secured for CMAR and its Regional Action Plan.

13. Outcome 1.2 ensures CMAR's long-term financial sustainability for the operation of the CMAR Secretariat and its core functioning. To achieve this, CMAR will work with a coalition of partners and donors to implement a financial sustainability strategy (currently being developed by Pew-Enduring Earth with GEF 7 funds) that will identify and mobilize the investment of new regional donors and \$25 million of additional regional funding and technical cooperation for CMAR and its regional action plan (currently being developed by the Work Bank). Work will also include the cultivation of relationships with new and existing donors to align new investments of at least \$25 million to the CMAR regional action plan and evolved CMAR, including the promotion of the financial mechanism under Output 3.1.2. This outcome will ensure that other funding complements this project's efforts and will use GEF funding to strengthen CMAR Secretariat as a convener and facilitator of the process, guiding where and how to use the funds to avoid



duplication of efforts and ensure complementarity and long-term impact. The work in this outcome entails having a staff person that will support CMAR Secretariat in overall coordination with donors and fundraising. Under this Outcome, there is one main Output with related activities that will support the financial sustainability of CMAR:

Output 1.2.1. Operational tool to align existing and new investments in the ETP with the Financial Sustainability Strategy.

14. Under this output the project will provide additional value by ensuring CMAR has strengthened capacities in tracking existing and new resources in the ETP region and providing effective technical inputs.

During the PPG process, it was noted that the CMAR Secretariat needed to strengthen their capacities to align and track the diverse donors that contribute to the region. The development of an operational tool that supports this tracking process is expected to help CMAR with providing technical inputs, prioritize interventions, avoid duplication of efforts and amplify the impact of investments. This is a strategic intervention to ensure the committed resources to the ETP will be materialized timely in support of CMAR objectives.

The result of this output aims to strengthen CMAR Secretariat capacities, monitoring capabilities and visibility of the committed and deployed resources as well as new funding opportunities for the region. It will be aligned with the PFP process that Pew is leading. Specifics on this alignment will be defined in Y1 of implementation as the PFP process advances. This Output includes the following indicative activity:

- Develop a tool that allows CMAR to track existing resources in the region including their donors, technical priorities, timeframe, and other relevant aspects.
- Identify new donors and resources and align them with the Financial Sustainability Strategy.
- Strengthen the financial sustainability of CMAR by supporting donor coordination and fundraising work. As part of the cultivation of relationships with cooperating partners, the project will organize engagement events with new and existing partners to align new investments for the regional action plan and evolved CMAR. This fundraising work will also serve as a platform to promote the financial mechanism under Output 3.1.2.

**Indicator 1.2.1:** Number of tools that enable CMAR Secretariat to track financial resources.

**Target 1.2.1:** One (1) tool.

**Component 2. Improving regional corridor management and climate resilience.**

15. The four countries have all committed to the 30x30 ocean conservation quantitative target signaling the region's commitment to invest in area-based conservation to protect the shared value of its ocean waters. Currently, partners such as Migramar (with the support of Bezos Earth Fund and ReWild), regional projects such as PACA-LME, the IKI funded Save the Blue Five (led by GIZ) and national universities and research institutions, are implementing scientific efforts across the four countries to address current and projected threats to biodiversity. However, climate change is threatening the region as a whole and protecting the connectivity between the CMAR MPAs and their linkages to the Central ETP, the broader ETP, and other coastal and oceanic ecosystems is essential to the survival and health of highly migratory species and ocean health in general.
16. Considering this, the project will build a Climate Resilience Plan and implement key actions and measures to **increase the climate resilience** of 31,246,463 has of the region and will create a regional management effectiveness assessment tool that will allow CMAR to evaluate the level of effectiveness of key interventions at the regional level instead of country wise like it's been so far. This tool will help CMAR improve their decision-making processes by creating a common standard for all countries and MPAs.
17. This component has two interconnected outcomes: i) Outcome 2.1. Increased climate resilience of the Central ETP MPAs; ii) Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management.

## **Outcome 2.1. Gender-responsive measures in place to increase climate resilience of the Central ETP MPAs.**

**Indicator 2.1:** Area (has) of MPAs with climate adaptation measures implemented.

**Target 2.1:** 31,246,463 has of the Central ETP.

18. This Outcome focuses on increasing the climate resilience of the Central ETP MPAs by identifying and implementing climate change adaptation actions. An updated CMAR Regional Action Plan will be developed by 2025 (currently supported by the World Bank), and this plan will be used as a guide for the development of a **Regional Climate Resilience Plan** that will establish actions, metrics, and goals that will be implemented and measured across the CMAR MPAs. Under this Outcome, the following Output will be implemented:

Output 2.1.1. A Climate Resilience Plan developed, and key regional MPA level actions implemented.

19. The development of a regional Climate Resilience Plan will provide a structured and coordinated framework to respond to these challenges, increasing the resilience of MPAs and contributing to the conservation of marine resources and the well-being of local communities. Therefore, the implementation of this output will begin by conducting a detailed, gender-sensitive climate vulnerability analysis for the CMAR Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), considering both climate and non-climate scenarios. Using the results from this assessment, the project will employ a participatory, gender-responsive approach to develop a comprehensive climate resilience damage, loss, and needs assessment. This process will identify, evaluate, and prioritize nature-based climate resilience and/or adaptation actions tailored to each MPA and the ETP region. Subsequently, a Climate Change Action Plan will be formulated, validated through stakeholder engagement, and aligned with both the CMAR Regional Action Plan and the Gender Action Plan. Finally, the project will implement the prioritized adaptation actions through 4 specific interventions benefiting the MPAs of the ETP Marine Corridor, guided by a predefined list of positive adaptation measures for coastal and marine areas and adhering to the CMAR Gender Policy and responding to a prioritization process led by the CMAR Secretariat. This Output includes the following indicative activities:
- Development of a gender-responsive Climate Vulnerability analysis for CMAR, based on a climate vulnerability assessment and on determined climate and non-climate scenarios.
  - Development of a Damage, Loss and Needs assessment and identification and prioritization of climate resilience actions. Using the results of the climate vulnerability assessment, the project will develop through a participatory gender sensitive approach a climate resilience damage, loss and needs assessment, and it will identify, evaluate and prioritize climate adaptation actions that consider nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation for each of the MPAs and the CMAR region in general.
  - Development of a gender-responsive Climate Change Action Plan, in line with the CMAR Regional Action Plan and the Gender Action Plan.
  - Implementation of prioritized adaptation actions across the 11 MPAs in the four countries.

**Indicator 2.1.1:** Number of Central ETP MPAs implementing key adaptation actions.

**Target 2.1.1:** At least four (4) MPAs.

## **Outcome 2.2. Improved regional MPA connectivity and management, considering a gender-responsive approach.**

**Indicator 2.2:** Percentage (%) of improvement of regional MPA connectivity and management from Y1 baseline.

**Target 2.2:** At least 20% of regional MPA connectivity and management improved.

20. This Outcome focuses on improved regional MPA connectivity and management. Currently, each country uses a different methodology to assess MPA management effectiveness. The project will support the integration of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) principles as part of a regional approach to strengthen ocean governance in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP). While the project itself will not develop an MSP, it will

promote MSP as a comprehensive, multi-sectoral process to achieve a balance between marine protection and sustainable resource utilization. As part of this effort, a region-scale MPA management effectiveness tool, incorporating MSP principles, will be developed and implemented. This tool will enhance the ability to assess ocean health at scale and facilitate evidence-based, transparent decision-making to accommodate multiple economic demands within shared ocean spaces. In addition, IW:LEARN will serve as a significant resource for the development of this tool, which will be based on experiences from other regional efforts. Once developed, the tool, lessons learned during its development, and implementation results will be shared with IW:Learn. The development of this tool may include exchanges and consultations with other regional ocean management entities (such as CTI-CFF or possibly CPPS). Under this Outcome, the following Outputs will be implemented:

Output 2.2.1. A regional management effectiveness assessment tool that includes management for regional connectivity is developed and applied in the Central ETP.

21. The project will develop and implement a tool to evaluate the management effectiveness of the CMAR Corridor at a regional level, drawing on existing tools and lessons learned from other regional marine areas but creating a tool for a regional approach in connectivity and management. This tool will integrate MSP principles, measure progress at a regional scale and include metrics for increased connectivity, assessing collaboration between CMAR countries, and protecting local MPA ecosystems, migratory/endangered species as well as a financial plan and timeline. This process involves three key actions: (a) conduct a baseline survey and current situation analysis to assess governance and regional connectivity, (b) establish a protocol or tool to measure the regional effectiveness of the Corridor and (c) implement the developed tool or protocol. Finally, the results of the management effectiveness tool will inform the interventions under Output 2.2.2, as it will reveal areas of improvement under each MPA Management Plan.
22. The development of this tool will integrate several considerations, including the use of global standards such as the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and the IUCN Green List of protected and conserved areas, as well as current management effectiveness tools used by each participating country. The objective is not to apply a specific tool for measuring the effectiveness of individual MPAs or replace existing measurements, but to create a regionally agreed set of indicators that comprehensively measure the effectiveness of the Corridor as a whole, this will imply evaluating each MPA and then escalating the analysis at a regional scope. This tool will ensure a consistent, integrated approach to evaluating the governance and management effectiveness of the entire CMAR Corridor. This Output includes the following indicative activity:
  - Development and application of a management effectiveness and evaluation tool or protocol at the regional level.

**Indicator 2.2.1:** Number of regional management effectiveness assessments implemented in Central ETP.

**Target 2.2.1:** At least three (3) regional assessment implemented.

Output 2.2.2. Key interventions from the MPAs management plans aligned with the CMAR Regional Action Plan implemented.

23. The project will review and update MPA Management Plans within CMAR, considering the results obtained from the regional management effectiveness assessment (Output 2.2.1). Integration of multi-sectoral data, stakeholder engagement, and spatial planning principles will be incorporated at this point to enhance MPA connectivity and management. The project will implement restoration and conservation measures in priority MPAs, using an adaptive management approach to integrate gender and climate considerations. Additionally, the project will promote regional cooperation through meetings and



workshops with women participation target, facilitating the sharing of best practices and coordinated implementation of interventions. The results of the management effectiveness tool (Output 2.2.1) will inform the interventions under Output 2.2.2, as it will reveal areas of improvement under each MPA Management Plan.

24. The results from each MPA assessment will be combined to ascertain regional management effectiveness. By the project end, at least 4 key interventions aligned with the CMAR regional action plan will have been implemented in Central ETP MPAs (at least one (1) intervention in each country). This Output includes the following indicative activities:

- Review and update of MPA Management Plans to account for CMAR regional aspects, to address regional aspects, identifying gaps and selecting interventions that promote connectivity and sustainable management, aligned with the CMAR Regional Action Plan and Gender Action Plan
- Implementation of Restoration and Conservation Measures. To identify these actions, the project will make use of the updated Regional Action Plan, the Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan, and the MPA Management Plans to identify and prioritize restoration and conservation actions, prioritizing those actions that improve regional connectivity (e.g., the restoration of degraded habitats, the expansion of protected areas and the implementation of fishing exclusion zones in key migration areas).
- Promotion of Regional cooperation. This activity will organize gender sensitive regional meetings and workshops with 50% women participations target to share good practices, lessons learned and experiences between CMAR countries from the effectiveness evaluation. This is intended to facilitate cooperation and knowledge exchange between CMAR countries to promote the coordinated implementation of key interventions.

**Indicator 2.2.2:** Number of key interventions implemented in prioritized MPAs.

**Target 2.2.2:** At least four (4) key interventions implemented (at least one (1) intervention in each country).

### **Component 3. Promoting a regional sustainable blue economy.**

25. To further sustain ocean habitat in the region while supporting sustainable economic growth, this component will support regional Sustainable Blue Economy<sup>[3]</sup> investments by promoting the adoption and implementation of sustainable blue economy actions and securing sustainable blue economy investments that will enhance sustainability in both fisheries and tourism sectors. The project will focus on fishing businesses that are operating in the six multiuse MPAs and tourism businesses that operate in both the six multiuse MPAs and the five no-take MPAs. Importantly, this component along with Component 4, has a strong gender focus and will work with male and female business owners providing sustainable blue economy focused technical expertise. While CMAR currently has both a tourism and a fisheries technical committee, there is limited in-depth knowledge of sustainable blue economy concepts and programming. The work in this component intends to strengthen this approach and provide financial sustainability to the interventions in these two sectors.

### **Outcome 3.1. Mainstreaming and integration of Sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy interventions into the Central ETP MPAs that are part of CMAR.**

**Indicator 3.1:** Number of MPAs with sustainable blue economy enterprises in operation.

**Target 3.1:** Six (6) MPAs in Central ETP.

26. This outcome will build on experience from the four countries and IW: Learn to develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy that will identify opportunities to boost sustainable blue economy actions of regional business. Once completed, this Strategy will be integrated into the CMAR Regional Action Plan. Based on the Strategy, the project team will work with CMAR countries to develop sustainable blue economy business plans for selected business within the fisheries and/or tourism sectors and implement priority actions. CMAR will oversee the development of

these plans while representatives from regional business sectors in the two prioritized sectors will play an active role in determining feasible blue business strategies and actions to be implemented.

Output 3.1.1: Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy designed and integrated into CMAR Regional Action Plan.

27. The project will develop a gender-sensitive Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy fully aligned with the CMAR Regional Action Plan. This sustainable blue economy strategy will incorporate Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) principles to ensure that economic activities such as fishing and tourism are managed sustainably and harmoniously with conservation goals. MSP will provide a framework for identifying and mitigating conflicts between different uses of marine resources, fostering a balanced and sustainable approach to economic development in the region.
28. The development of the strategy includes mapping stakeholders in the fisheries and tourism sectors, conducting a baseline census disaggregated by gender, and performing a gender analysis to recommend ways to ensure women's participation in Blue Business Plans. Additionally, a value chain analysis for these sectors will be conducted to inform the development of Blue Business Plans. The strategy will be created through a participatory process that incorporates the perspectives of various stakeholders in the prioritized sectors.
29. The regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy will be complementary and in alignment with the CMAR Regional Action Plan, with a similar timeline duration as the Plan. It is expected that the regional working groups (especially tourism and fishery) will be closely tracking and assisting the development of the strategy, its implementation, and monitoring its milestones. This Output includes the following indicative activity:
  - Development of a gender-sensitive Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy.

**Indicator 3.1.1:** Number of Regional Strategies.

**Target 3.1.1:** One Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy.

Output 3.1.2.: Timebound blue business plans developed and implemented by users of CMAR (business owners and direct beneficiaries) in fisheries and tourism sectors operating in MPAs.

30. Based on CMAR's Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy developed under Output 3.1.1, under this output the project will develop at least four time-bound blue business plans for the fisheries, and tourism sectors in CMAR MPAs, using criteria that aligns with regulations, conservation efforts, and prioritize emerging business opportunities and women-led enterprises<sup>[4]</sup>. The allocation of GEF Funds will be decided using the following criteria and further developed in the first year of implementation: Environmental sustainability (30%); economic viability (25%); social impact (20%); alignment with CMAR regional goals (15%); innovation and replicability (10%).
31. These plans will support women's entrepreneurship in the sustainable blue economy. Under this Output the project will support women who are leading sustainable blue economy initiatives (SMEs/associations/cooperatives) by providing them with opportunities to exchange experiences with other women in the "Women in Marine and Coastal Areas Initiative". Also to build their leadership and advocacy capacities. Following this, the project will finance and implement the selected business plans based on prioritization criteria, promoting gender-inclusive decision-making and providing technical assistance throughout the implementation process. Scoping for selecting Blue Economy businesses will be performed in each country and coastal communities in the influence areas of Coiba and Gorgona as well as in communities in the Galapagos and Costa Rica that interact with highly migratory endangered species. Businesses will be assessed and selected to either be improved, in the case they are existing ones or will be designed in the case for the new ones. Potential businesses will be identified in a participatory manner with CMAR countries in the first year of implementation.

32. The project will focus on evaluating the feasibility and potential to increase revenue in small scale or local blue businesses. Small scale or local blue businesses have traditionally been the hardest to support in the region but also are the ones which have a high accumulated impact from the fishing practices while they retain little revenue from, they often used sustainable practices. The project will focus on these businesses and stakeholders to create success investable examples of use of the benefits of CMAR. The feasibility of potential will not have equity, as for some it will only finance for technical assistance to develop and implement business plans. For a selected number of businesses, it will provide grants to implement those business plans. The project budget allocated will cover the implementation of selected business plans under 3.1.2.
33. The financial mechanism under 3.2.1 may finance those business plans not selected for implementation or finance new business plans beyond what is budgeted under the project. This will be determined during project implementation.

This Output includes the following indicative activities:

- Development of business plans for prioritized sectors.
- Implementation of selected sustainable blue economy business plans for prioritized sectors, for example, assessment of commercial species (fishing) and supporting community-based tourism business.

**Indicator 3.1.2a:** Number of blue business plans for the fisheries and/or tourism sectors developed and implemented at the MPA-level.

**Target 3.1.2a:** At least four (4) plans developed and implemented for Central ETP multi-use MPAs.

**Indicator 3.1.2b:** Number of users (disaggregated by gender) implementing sustainable tourism and/or market-driven improved fishing practices.

**Target 3.1.2b:** 50 people (at least 30% women).

### **Outcome 3.2. Secured financial sustainability of gender-responsive sustainable blue economy actions of the Central ETP.**

**Indicator 3.2:** Amount (USD) of new funding for sustainable blue economy initiatives committed.

**Target 3.2:** \$10M new funding committed.

34. This Outcome addresses the need to ensure the financial sustainability of sustainable blue economy investments over time. While there are ongoing country-level sustainable blue economy initiatives, this project will seek to engage with new regional sustainable blue economy initiatives from diverse sources and including potential investors (from the private sector, investment funds, multilateral banks, financial institutions, foundations, etc.) interested in working in the sustainable blue economy space in the two prioritized sectors (fisheries and tourism) while also working with the four governments to scale national sustainable blue economy initiatives into regional interventions that support CMAR objectives and seek to align potential investments for those actions prioritized in outcome 3.1. Working with partners to define the best approach to work in an aligned manner with the users of the Central ETP MPAs and contributing to CMAR regional action plan. This outcome will be further define in Y1 of implementation once the financial sustainability strategy for CMAR and regional sustainable blue economy strategy are designed but will include the possibility to develop a investment readiness support to the businesses and facilitating the fundraising for financial sustainability of those businesses.

Output 3.2.1: Financial mechanism to increase investments in regional sustainable blue economy initiatives designed and operational.

35. Under this Output, the project will design and develop at least one financial mechanism with other partners, such as multilateral banks working in the region (e.g., World Bank, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Central American Economic Investment Bank (BCIE)), foundations, private sector, and/or investment funds to finance prioritized activities in the sustainable blue economy and the two prioritized sectors (fisheries, tourism). The type of financial mechanism includes for example blue bonds (e.g. Indonesia's Coral Bond GEF project), trust funds, etc. This output will be linked with the donor coordination and fundraising work under Output 1.2.1 and will serve as a platform to promote the grant mechanism under Output 3.1.2. PACIFICO as the lead EA has experience in working with donors in designing and establishing sustainable financial mechanisms for coastal and marine conservation in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. With funds from FFEM PACIFICO will design and launch its Regenerative Blue Economy Facility to support sustainable blue economy actions in the ETP: This facility may include impact investment tools as well traditional grants.

This Output includes the following indicative activity:

- Design and implementation of financial mechanisms
- Investment roundtables to connect sustainable blue economy businesses with financial institutions

**Indicator 3.2.1:** Number of new financial mechanisms in regional sustainable blue economy initiatives supported.

**Target 3.2.1:** At least one (1) new financial mechanism.

#### **Component 4: Strengthening Capacities for Regional communications, knowledge management, and learning.**

36. Coordinated communications are key to establishing regional identity and will help attract donors and investment in the region. CMAR already has a communication working group, that will be key for the implementation of this component. A regional communication strategy that outlines principles and protocols for working with MPA management authorities, local government, national governments, private sector and the media will be developed. As a GEF International Waters (IW) project, all work will comply with IW focal area and IW:LEARN requirements. This Component also represents the project's primary contribution to IW Sub Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IW: LEARN through participation and delivery of key products contribution.

**Outcome 4.1: Increased knowledge, understanding and commitment of key stakeholders of the Central ETP, with a focus on a gender-inclusive approach.**

**Indicator 4.1:** Percentage of key stakeholders with increased knowledge, understanding and commitment (disaggregated by gender).

**Target 4.1:** At least 50% increase from Y1 baseline (30% women).

37. Under this outcome this project will seek to strengthen its knowledge management processes through the development and implementation of a strategy, as well as the improvement of equipment (hardware and software). The strategy will include guidance and strategies for community engagement and women and marginalized group inclusion to ensure better buy-in and adoption of sustainability practices (output 4.1.1). In addition, this project will expand the capacity of the regional communication working group to organize and publicize regional events and exchanges while outlining ways to promote the project's innovation and transformational aspects and highlighting country support for regional collaboration (output 4.2.1), considering the women participation.

Output 4.1.1: Regional knowledge products developed and shared with IW:Learn.

38. This output will implement the regional communication strategy developed with the support of the World Bank, supporting the development of communication guidelines and a manual to standardize CMAR's

publications, aligned with national policies and considering the gender perspective. A knowledge management and communication specialist will be hired to implement and monitor the strategy (e.g. social media reach/interactions, website traffic), as well as coordinating annual activities like webinars and training sessions, and ensuring efficient resource use across projects.

39. Training will be provided to CMAR staff, including park rangers, on effective communication practices. Various knowledge products will be developed, such as campaigns, research promotions, webinars, courses, best practice summaries, and policy briefs. Social networks and mailing lists for dissemination will be established.

Additionally, the project will publish relevant knowledge products on the GEF IW:LEARN platform, providing training to CMAR staff on the platform's use. These products will be selected for their potential to enhance CMAR's international and regional visibility and will be translated into English to reach a broader audience.

40. Finally, under this output, the project will also purchase necessary communication equipment, including audiovisual tools, cameras for fieldwork, video cameras for live-streaming, webinar platforms, and computers with design software. This will improve CMAR's communication infrastructure and support effective knowledge management. This Output includes the following indicative activities:

- Review and compilation of existing technical documents and communication products at CMAR.
- Development of knowledge management strategy.
- Support the implementation and monitoring of CMAR's knowledge management strategy.
- Training in knowledge management and communication for the positioning of CMAR.
- Development of Knowledge Products (policy briefs, events, etc.).
- Purchase of equipment (hardware and software) and communication tools for the improvement of CMAR communication.

**Indicator 4.1.1:** Number of knowledge products published and shared.

**Target 4.1.1:** At least 10 knowledge products.

#### Output 4.1.2. Regional exchanges between key stakeholders of Central ETP implemented.

41. Under this output, the project will strengthen regional exchange, through the participation of CMAR officials in regional and international events, including the gender perspective. To improve CMAR participation in regional exchanges, this outcome foresees the development knowledge products in English and summaries to be uploaded to the platform. The project will design and develop knowledge management and communication products to support CMAR officials' participation in regional and international events, including translating these products into English. At least 3 of the knowledge products will include contents related to gender and inclusion issues. Up to 10 CMAR representatives will participate annually in at least one regional or international event, coordinated with CMAR's annual planning and other projects to enhance CMAR's overall positioning. Within this Output, opportunities to highlight women leaders' contribution to CMAR objectives and conservation actions, will be highlighted. This Output includes the following indicative activities:

- Development of knowledge material for regional events.
- Participation in a regional exchange.
- Publication of relevant knowledge management products on the IW:Learn platform.

**Indicator 4.1.2:** Number of regional exchanges.

**Target 4.1.2:** At least one (1) exchange ensuring between 30% and 50% of women's participation.

#### Associated Baseline Projects

42. The main projects the CMAR project is coordinating with are:



Project characteristics	Potential synergies and areas of coordination
<b>Title:</b> Development of a regional project proposal <b>Budget:</b> US \$1,000,000 <b>Implementation period:</b> 01/24-01/26 <b>Donor:</b> ProBlue <b>Agency:</b> World Bank	Possible synergies for the updated 10-year Action Plan, financing strategy, and communications strategy. <b>(Coordination with Component 1 and 4)</b>
<b>Title:</b> Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Lasting Conservation <b>Budget:</b> US \$1,200,000 (CMAR specific) <b>Implementation period:</b> 2024-2030 <b>Donor:</b> GEF <b>Agency:</b> PEW/ Enduring Earth	<u>The PEW/Enduring Earth project will develop the financial sustainability strategy for the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) under its Component 2.1, which will serve as a critical input for the CMAR project's financial sustainability efforts. This strategy will help establish the enabling conditions for durable financing mechanisms, ensuring long-term support for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the region. The CMAR project will utilize this strategy to implement its own Component 1 focused on aligning financial instruments with the broader CMAR Financial Sustainability Strategy. Additionally, this will complement Component 3, where the CMAR project aims to design and operationalize financial mechanisms to increase investments in the sustainable blue economy across fisheries and tourism sectors. By leveraging the insights and frameworks developed by PEW/Enduring Earth, the CMAR project can effectively secure and manage sustainable funding sources for long-term conservation and socio-economic goals.</u> <b>(Coordination with Component 1 and 3)</b>
<b>Title:</b> Towards Joint Integrated, Ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) <b>Budget:</b> US \$61,831,549 <b>Implementation period:</b> 08/21 – 07/25 <b>Donor:</b> GEF <b>Agency:</b> UNDP	<u>This proposed project will work closely with PACA and provide information requested for the development of the TDA and once the SAP is endorsed by the countries, by supporting its implementation of the SAP in the Central ETP given that CMAR most likely is one of the governance options proposed to be strengthen in the Central ETP. Also, this project will liaise with the PACA project team in the regional dialogues and collaboration enhanced between the countries that are part of the two projects.</u> <b>(Coordination with Component 1 and 2)</b>
<b>Title:</b> Achieving 30x30 and recognizing fair and effective Protected and Conserved Areas through the IUCN Green List Standard <b>Budget:</b> CHF 7,282,898 <b>Implementation period:</b> 08/2022 till 12/2030	<u>The IUCN project and the CMAR project present significant opportunities for collaboration and synergy, particularly in the realm of effective area-based conservation and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The IUCN's focus on scaling its Green List standard aligns with the CMAR project's efforts to enhance the management and connectivity of MPAs, such as Gorgona, Malpelo, and La Hermandad, which are recognized or in the process of receiving global conservation awards. By working together, both projects can benefit from IUCN's technical guidance on international conservation standards, while also leveraging IUCN's strong advocacy and networking capabilities to amplify the visibility of CMAR's initiatives. Furthermore, both projects emphasize financial sustainability, creating opportunities for joint resource mobilization and shared initiatives to ensure long-term funding. In addition, IUCN's expertise in promoting social equity and gender-responsive conservation practices will complement CMAR's goals in fostering a gender-inclusive approach to biodiversity action, ensuring alignment with global best practices and further advancing the objectives of both projects.</u> <b>(Coordination with Component 1 and 2)</b>
<b>Title:</b> Save the Blue Five – Regional approach to protect migratory marine megafauna in the Southeast Pacific Region (SEPR) <b>Budget:</b> €20,000,000 <b>Implementation period:</b> 02/2023 till 01/2028 <b>Donor:</b> IKI funding <b>Agency:</b> GIZ	<u>This 5-year project is to be implemented by a coalition led by GIZ, with core partners like CI and MarViva and seeks to improve the conservation and long-term survival of marine megafauna species along their main migratory routes in the South-East Pacific Region (SEPR). Learnings from this project will be used for the implementation of marine species conservation efforts outlined in this proposed GEF project, in relation to the enhancement of regional connectivity among the CMAR MPAs.</u> <b>(Coordination with Component 2 and 3)</b>
<b>Title:</b> Reversing Endangered Species Decline and Strengthening Conservation in the Eastern Tropical Pacific <b>Budget:</b> US \$2,850,000 <b>Implementation period:</b> 11/22-11/26	The project will build on results for enhancing regional monitoring platform (Component 1) as well as information collected, and studies conducted to measure ecological connectivity (Component 2). <b>(Coordination with Component 1 and 2)</b>

<p><b>Donor:</b> Bezos Earth Fund</p> <p><b>Agency:</b> Migramar</p>	
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### **Incremental Cost Reasoning**

43. As outlined in the previous table, the current GEF project will build on previous and current projects. In this case, the GEF incremental cost is justified, as the GEF covers activities that would not have occurred in the absence of the project. Specifically, under Component 1, the GEF funds will finance the operationalization of the mechanisms established under CMAR governance and its different bodies. In this case, the GEF project will provide support to the CMAR Secretariat and its different bodies, and operationalize the updated 10-year Action Plan, financing strategy, and communications strategy financed by the World Bank and Pew/Enduring Earth. For the financial long-term sustainability of CMAR, the GEF project will build on the results of the financial sustainability developed by Pew/Enduring Earth and utilize this strategy to implement specific financial instruments with a focus on the broader long-term financial sustainability of CMAR. Additionally, this will complement Component 3, where the CMAR project aims to design and operationalize financial mechanisms to increase investments in the sustainable blue economy across fisheries and tourism sectors. By leveraging the insights and frameworks developed by PEW/Enduring Earth, the CMAR project can effectively secure and manage sustainable funding sources for long-term conservation and socio-economic goals.
44. Under Components 2 and 3, GEF funds will build on the CMAR's updated 10-year Regional Action Plan developed with the support of the World Bank and develop and implement regional strategies for Climate Resilience & Adaptation and Sustainable Blue Economy and tools and actions for improved regional connectivity. These two components will build on the results of the PACA project and its TDA and SAP. It is expected that once the SAP is endorsed by the countries, this project will coordinate to align the 10-year Regional Action Plan and the SAP with the expected activities and investments under Components 2 and 3. Under Components 2 and 3, the GEF project will also coordinate with other projects: under Component 2, the project will coordinate with the IUCN's focus on scaling its Green List standard aligns with the CMAR project's efforts to enhance the management and connectivity of MPAs. Also, the project will build and coordinate with the results of the GIZ's implemented project Save the Blue Five, on the implementation of marine species conservation efforts in relation to the enhancement of regional connectivity among the CMAR MPAs. The project will also build on results of the Bezos Earth Funded project implemented by Migramar for enhancing regional monitoring platform (Component 1) as well as information collected, and studies conducted to measure ecological connectivity (Component 2).
45. Finally, under Component 4, GEF funds will implement the actions under the Regional Communication Strategy currently developed by CMAR with the support of the World Bank. The proposed GEF project will also liaise with the PACA project team in the regional dialogues and collaboration between the countries that are part of the two projects.

### **Global Environmental Benefits**

46. The Project will be central to the delivery of enhanced regional governance and management arrangements for shared living marine resources in CMAR, jointly covering an area of approximately 62 million ha of ocean space, and containing globally relevant fish stocks, globally unique ecological features, and a substantive share of the world's marine biodiversity, with high levels of endemism. At the same time, the initiative will also help safeguard the important extensions of coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass meadows in the region, together with other key marine and coastal habitats.
47. Measured against three of the GEF International Waters Core Indicators, the global environmental benefits to be delivered/enabled through the project include: (for more detail please see section **Core-Indicators**):

- a. **GEF Core Indicator 2** contribution: 31,246,463 ha of MPAs through improved regional management, improved connectivity, and M&E and learning - contributing to sub-indicator 2.2. (Components 1, 2, and 4).
  - b. **GEF Core Indicator 7** contribution: 1 shared water marine ecosystems under improved cooperative management - contributing to sub-indicator 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4. (Component 1)
  - c. **GEF Core Indicator 11** contribution: at least 150,000 beneficiaries (at least 30% of whom are women) through engagement with MPA managers, sustainable blue economy initiatives, and workshops and exchanges organized (Components 2, 3 and 4).
48. In addition, the project aims to produce global environmental benefits that fall into the category of adaptation to climate variability and change. These benefits will be accrued through the implementation of climate adaptation actions in the MPAs related to: (i) Ecosystems based adaptation, (ii) development of research/studies to strengthen regional and national information on climate impacts and climate action, (iii) improved monitoring related to climate impacts on prioritized species, sectors and livelihoods, as well as strengthening of monitoring and control (iv) improved knowledge management to strengthen regional exchange and data sharing and (v) improved CMAR Management/Operation to include climate action in management tools (Component 2).
49. Furthermore, the project will help to safeguard socio-economic benefits provided by nature to local stakeholders as well as to national economies. Therefore, the project will seek to invest in ecological connectivity and Blue- Economy activities surrounding the MPAs and catalyze private sector investments that can help create needed green and blue jobs (Components 2 and 3).
50. The project actively supports the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity targets through a range of initiatives. It directly contributes to **Target 1** (Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss) by enhancing the governance and sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across the Eastern Tropical Pacific. This includes developing governance frameworks, strengthening regional working groups, and implementing financial sustainability strategies to effectively manage and plan protected areas, thereby reducing biodiversity loss. The project is committed to conserving marine areas, in alignment with **Target 3** (Conserve 30% of Land, Waters, and Seas), through the improved management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), ensuring the preservation of critical ecosystems and fostering regional connectivity to support biodiversity conservation on a large scale. By developing climate adaptation plans and implementing resilience measures, the project addresses **Target 8** (Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience). Additionally, it seeks to restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people (**Target 11** - Restore, Maintain, and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People), while promoting gender inclusion and capacity-building through workshops and cooperation (**Target 20** - Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity, and **Target 23** - Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action). Finally, the project integrates biodiversity into decision-making processes by establishing regional management effectiveness assessments for MPA interventions, aligning with **Target 14** (Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level).
51. In this context, it is important to mention that during the PPG phase the project evaluated the inclusion of Core Indicator 8 "Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels". The indicator was not included, as the marine fisheries targeted by the project are not currently classified as over-exploited, which was determined through consultations of the last reports of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATCC). And it did not fit the detailed activities developed under component 3<sup>[5]</sup>. Other important fisheries targeted by small, artisanal, and coastal fisherfolk in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) region are highly diverse, particularly around coastal estuaries, bays and gulfs. Using a variety of gears, fisheries catch often include over a hundred different species, few of which are commercialized, while others are consumed locally, reused as bait or discarded. As a consequence of the relatively low selectivity of small-scale multi-gear fisheries in the region, several highly migratory and



endangered species, which CMAR aims to protect, are caught as bycatch when they move to these estuaries and coastal areas to reproduce, nurse and feed. Blue economy businesses that will be targeted by this project will focus on the use of low impact fishing gear, fair trade and the reduction of bycatch of highly migratory species protected by CMAR.

52. Some of the main migratory species which are of high important conservation status in CMAR, and are also common bycatch in regional fisheries are:
  - 1) Giant manta rays (*Mobula birostris*) are classified as Endangered by the IUCN Red list. They are threatened by targeted fisheries, as their gills are used as medicine and food in the Asian market (Burgess, 2017). Additionally, bycatch rates have increased in the last decades, being susceptible to fishing gear such as long lines. Habitat degradation, climate change, pollution and incorrect tourism practices are also a threat for giant mantas (Marshall 2020). The estimated rate of population decrease over the last 87 years might be 50 to 70% (Marshall 2020).
  - 2) The tiger shark population displays a reduction of close to 30% in the last 70 years (Ferreira & Simpfendorfer, 2008). At Cocos Island, tiger sharks were absent for decades until around 2008, after which the odds of encountering a tiger shark increased by 79% annually, and they are now one of the main attractions almost guaranteed to be observed on a dive trip (White et al., 2015). The species is mainly threatened by target shark fisheries and bycatch in commercial and artisanal fisheries (Ferreira & Simpfendorfer, 2008). It is classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN (Ferreira & Simpfendorfer, 2008).
  - 3) The scalloped hammerhead shark is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List. Population reduction globally has reduced by around 76.9 % to 97.3% (Rigby et al., 2019). In the South Pacific, trends analysis show that from 1964 to 2004 there was a rate reduction of 8.4% per year, and in Cocos Island have declined by almost 50% since 2000 (White et al., 2015). They are principally affected by longline fishing and sharks are sometimes fished on purpose for their fin value. Hammerhead sharks exhibit one of the highest levels of vulnerability to bycatch among shark and ray species (Nalesso et al., 2019).
  - 4) Leatherback turtles are currently categorized as globally Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List but the east Pacific population is Critically Endangered. Its threats are fisheries bycatch, utilization of turtles or eggs for consumption or commercialization products, coastal development which affect their habitat because of beach modification, marine pollution and debris, and climate change as temperature in nesting beaches affect hatchling sex ratios (Wallace et al., 2011). These threats are classified in order from the highest to lowest one. Populations in the Pacific Ocean are rapidly decreasing whereas the North Atlantic Population is considered stable and sometimes increasing (Bailey et al., 2012). In the ETP Its population has exhibited declines of up to 90% for the last 20 years (Shillinger et al., 2008).
  - 5) The olive ridley sea turtle is the most abundant sea turtle worldwide and the most abundant species in the ETP as well as the smallest one (70 cm TL). In open waters pathways vary each year as this species does not have any specific marine corridor and swim hundreds to thousands of kilometers in the open ocean. According to Plotkin, through satellite tagging, olive ridley turtles perform board movements within Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador and Peru (2010). In 1982 the species was assessed as Endangered but in 2008 the IUCN status changed to Vulnerable. The current population trend is decreasing (Abreu-Grobois & Plotkin, 2008).
  - 6) Green sea turtles inhabit tropical and subtropical areas worldwide. Across the ETP their main foraging areas expand from Baja California to western coast of South America. Galapagos, Cocos and Gorgona Islands serve as steppingstones in this process (Monzon-Argüello et al., 2015). Most long-distance movements (1250 to 2000 km) occur between Galapagos, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia, using the Ccos Ridge and the ridge extending south of Panama as a marine corridor for Central America ground [Figure 54] (Seminoff et al., 2008). *C. mydas* is classified as Endangered by the IUCN, but its

current status is uncertain as it varies across the globe. They are the second most common sea turtle to be caught in Peru and Colombia (Seminoff et al., 2008)

- 7) Humpback whale is a cosmopolitan species with two distinct populations: the northern and the southern population. They have a generalist diet, feeding principally on small species (Medrano & Ramirez, 2002). Humpback whales make seasonal migrations along the coasts of the Americas, from high altitude warm feeding grounds to low altitude cold breeding grounds. This species uses most of the ETP area for breeding their calves. Gorgona National Park is known for being a key aggregation area during the warm season, as well as northern Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Baja California, Revillagigedo Island and the rest of Colombian coastal waters (Avila et al., 2020). According to the IUCN Red list of Endangered species *M. novaeangliae* is currently classified as Endangered (IUCN). Performing long migration journeys presents multiple challenges. They are affected by entanglement, direct hunting, anthropogenic noise, collisions with boats and incidental fishing (Cooke, 2018).
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53. Some commercial species which prove particularly valuable to the CMAR marine protected areas (MPAs) that might be targeted by Component 3 include: 1) Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus* spp.); Targeted Fisheries: Small-scale, artisanal lobster fisheries operate in coastal zones, particularly around Galápagos MPAs, although the species is also present in no take MPAs of CMAR. Literature reviewed include most recent analysis of conservation status for MPA's from Costa Rica, Panamá and Galpagos. Conservation Status: *Panulirus penicillatus*: Near Threatened (IUCN Red List), *Panulirus gracilis*: Least Concern (IUCN Red List) .<sup>[6] [7] [8] [9]</sup>
  54. 2) Mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*); Targeted Fisheries: Artisanal fishers target this species seasonally during its northern migration, for local consumption and export. Fishers who target this species are mainly from mainland Ecuador, Panamá and Costa Rica; Conservation Status: Least Concern (IUCN Red List) .<sup>[10]</sup>
  55. 3) Snappers (*Lutjanus* spp.); Targeted Fisheries: Artisanal fishers along the coasts of Costa Rica and Panama target snapper species, particularly in coral reef habitats; Conservation Status: Various species are classified as Near Threatened or Least Concern depending on their range<sup>[11]</sup>. However, snapper fisheries in the region are data poor and often, not assessed or managed. Information does exist on minimum catch sizes, although these are poorly enforced.
  56. 4) Groupers (*Epinephelus* spp.); Targeted Fisheries: Coastal artisanal fisheries target groupers, particularly around rocky reefs in protected areas of Ecuador and Colombia; Conservation Status: Varies by species, but some are considered Vulnerable (IUCN)<sup>[12]</sup>. As in the case of snappers, grouper populations and fisheries in the region are poorly assessed and data poor, with fishers often reporting overfished local stocks.
  57. Taking this into consideration, the business models prioritized in the project will focus on sustainable artisanal fisheries, which impact a high number of stakeholders and livelihoods across the region. Blue economy models will include several links in the value chain, including fisheries, processors, restaurants and/or retailers. The main indicators will include the use of selective, non-destructive fishing methods, such as hooks rather than nets. In particular, the blue economy projects will focus on reducing incidental catch of vulnerable species like marine turtles, mantas and sharks. These artisanal fisheries operate in coastal areas targeting species like groupers, snappers, and spiny lobsters, which are critical to local economies but do not include migratory or overexploited stocks. While stock assessments for coastal species in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) are limited, the FAO's 2022 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) <sup>[13]</sup>report emphasizes the importance of promoting sustainable small-scale fisheries, which align with FAO's recommendations for maintaining fishery health through responsible fishing practices and community-led management. Furthermore, the project will strengthen sustainable

practices through technical expertise and regulatory support to ensure long-term viability, minimizing the risk to vulnerable migratory species.

## Stakeholders

**Table 4: Stakeholders by type and role in the project**

Component 1: Strengthening CMAR governance and long-term sustainability		
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and long-term and gender-responsive sustainability of CMAR regional governance		
Output 1.1.1: CMAR governance frameworks, by-laws and procedures operationalized, including an M&E system.	Governments (Ministries) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups)	In the project, Governments play a pivotal role in ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of CMAR governance. They contribute to Outcome 1.1 by actively participating in and approving the operationalization of CMAR governance frameworks, by-laws, and procedures. Their engagement at both the national and regional levels is critical for the success of Component 1, as they provide the necessary legislative and administrative support to uphold CMAR's long-term sustainability. Additionally, CMAR's Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions, and Regional Working Groups serve as key actors in facilitating coordination, decision-making, and implementation processes, thereby ensuring the delivery of GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall outcomes.
Output 1.1.2: National CMAR commissions and/or regional working groups established/strengthened and regulated.	Governments (Ministries) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups)	In the project, Governments and CMAR actors, including the National Commissions and Regional Working Groups, play crucial roles in achieving Outcome 1.1 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Specifically, they will collaborate to establish and strengthen National CMAR commissions (currently existing only in Colombia) and Regional Working Groups, as outlined in Output 1.1.2. These entities will serve as vital platforms for policy development, coordination, and implementation, ensuring effective governance and long-term sustainability of CMAR initiatives. By actively engaging in the establishment and regulation of these bodies, the governments facilitate efficient decision-making, resource allocation, and monitoring, thus enhancing the project's capacity to deliver tangible environmental and adaptation benefits.
Output 1.1.3: Capacities of CMAR national commissions and regional technical working	Governments (MPA managers) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional	In the project, Governments, including the managers of the 11 MPAs, and CMAR actors, play vital roles in achieving Outcome

groups, and MPA managers on regional marine management, strengthened.	Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups)	1.1 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. The output will focus on strengthening the capacities (200 people will be trained) of CMAR national commissions, regional technical working groups, and MPA managers in regional marine management, as outlined in Output 1.1.3. By enhancing their skills and knowledge, these actors will be better equipped to effectively manage MPAs, implement conservation strategies, and address emerging challenges such as climate change impacts. This strengthened capacity is critical for ensuring the long-term sustainability of CMAR initiatives, promoting ecosystem resilience, and ultimately delivering tangible environmental benefits and adaptation outcomes.
Outcome 1.2: Long term financial sustainability of CMAR ensured and aligned with its Regional Action Plan, promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities for all genders.		
Output 1.2.1: Operational tool to align existing and new investments in the ETP with the Financial Sustainability Strategy.	Governments (Ministries) and CMAR Secretariat + Donors and Financial institutions.	In the project, Governments and CMAR, along with Donors and Financial institutions, play crucial roles in achieving Outcome 1.2 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Their collaboration focuses on implementing Output 1.2.1 to align existing and new donors for CMAR and its instruments with its Regional Action Plan. By ensuring long-term financial sustainability and alignment with the regional plan, these actors contribute to the stability and effectiveness of CMAR initiatives. Their coordinated efforts in mobilizing resources and leveraging support from donors and financial institutions are critical for implementing conservation measures, promoting adaptation strategies, and ultimately delivering tangible environmental benefits and adaptation outcomes.
Component 2: Improving regional corridor management and climate resilience		
Outcome 2.1: Gender-responsive measures in place to increase climate resilience of the Central ETP MPAs.		
Output 2.1.1: A Climate Action Plan developed and implemented based on the CMAR Regional Action Plan with key regional MPA-level actions implemented.	Governments (MPA managers) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups)	In the project, Governments including the managers of the 11 MPAs, and CMAR actors play essential roles in achieving Outcome 2.1 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Their collaboration focuses on implementing Output 2.1.1, which involves developing and implementing actions from the Climate Action Plan based on CMAR's Regional Action Plan, with key regional MPA-level actions executed. By actively participating in the planning and implementation process, these actors contribute to enhancing the climate resilience of Central ETP MPAs. Their coordinated efforts ensure that adaptation strategies are effectively integrated into

		MPA management practices, thereby safeguarding marine ecosystems and delivering tangible adaptation benefits within the region.
Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management, considering a gender-responsive approach.		
Output 2.2.1: A regional management effectiveness assessment tool that includes management for regional connectivity is developed and applied in the Central ETP.	Governments (MPA managers) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups) + Academia, NGO/CSOs and vulnerable groups.	In the project, Governments including the managers of the 11 MPAs, CMAR actors, as well as Academia (IW:Learn) and NGO/CSOs, play integral roles in achieving Outcome 2.2 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Together, they collaborate to develop and apply a regional management effectiveness assessment tool, as outlined in Output 2.2.1. By leveraging their expertise and resources, these actors contribute to improving regional MPA connectivity and management in the Central ETP. Their involvement ensures that management strategies are informed by scientific research, best practices, and community engagement, thus enhancing the resilience of marine ecosystems and delivering tangible benefits for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation in the region.
Output 2.2.2: Key interventions from the MPAs management plans aligned with the CMAR regional action plan implemented.	Governments (MPA managers) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups) + Private sector (fisheries, tourism, transport), Academia, NGO/CSOs and vulnerable groups.	In the project, Governments including the managers of the 11 MPAs, CMAR actors as well as the Private sector (fisheries, tourism, transport), Academia, and NGO/CSOs, all play vital roles in achieving Outcome 2.2 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Together, they collaborate to implement Output 2.2.2, which involves aligning key interventions from MPA management plans with the CMAR regional action plan. The involvement of these diverse stakeholders ensures that management strategies are comprehensive, inclusive, and effective in improving regional MPA connectivity and management. By integrating the perspectives and expertise of various sectors, the project can address complex challenges, foster sustainable practices, and enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems, ultimately delivering tangible benefits for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation in the region.
Component 3: Promoting a regional sustainable blue economy.		
Outcome 3.1: Improved mainstreaming and integration of Sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy aspects into the CMAR Regional Action Plan.		
Output 3.1.1: Timebound blue business plans are developed based on CMAR's regional plan and implemented in the fisheries, tourism, transport, and bioprospecting sectors operating in MPAs and aligned with country regulations.	Governments (Ministries) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups) + Private sector (fisheries, tourism, transport), Academia, NGO/CSOs and vulnerable groups.	In the project, Governments, CMAR actors, specially the tourism and fisheries Regional Working Groups, Private sector (fisheries, tourism), and NGO/CSOs all have essential roles in achieving Outcome 3.1 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Together, they will collaborate to develop and



	transport), NGO/CSOs and vulnerable groups.	implement time-bound blue business plans, as outlined in Output 3.1.1. By aligning these plans with CMAR's regional action plan and country regulations, the actors will facilitate the integration of Sustainable Blue Economy aspects into regional strategies. Their participation ensures that economic activities in fisheries, tourism and transport sectors operating in MPAs are sustainable, socially responsible, and environmentally friendly. Through this coordinated effort, the project promotes a regional sustainable blue economy that fosters economic growth while conserving marine ecosystems, thus delivering tangible benefits for both livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.
Output 3.1.2: Users (business owners and direct beneficiaries) from key sectors implement sustainable blue economy actions.	Governments (Ministries) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups) + Private sector (fisheries, tourism, transport) and vulnerable groups.	In the project, Governments, CMAR actors and the Private sector (fisheries, tourism) all play crucial roles in achieving Outcome 3.1 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Together, they will collaborate to implement Output 3.1.2, where users from key sectors, including business owners and direct beneficiaries, implement sustainable blue economy actions. Their participation is vital as they will drive the actual implementation of sustainable blue economy initiatives outlined in the CMAR Regional Action Plan. By engaging stakeholders from various sectors, the project ensures that sustainable blue economy principles are effectively mainstreamed into regional strategies, fostering sustainable economic development while safeguarding marine ecosystems. This collaborative effort is essential for realizing tangible benefits in terms of economic growth, ecosystem resilience, and adaptation to climate change within the region.
Outcome 3.2: Improved financial sustainability of gender-responsive sustainable blue economy actions of the Central ETP.		
Output 3.2.1: Financial mechanisms to increase Investments in regional sustainable blue economy initiatives implemented.	Governments (Ministries) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups) + Private sector (fisheries, tourism, transport) and vulnerable groups.	In the project, Governments, CMAR actors, and Private sector (fisheries, tourism), all have significant roles in achieving Outcome 3.2 and delivering on GEBs, adaptation benefits, and overall project outcomes. Together, they will collaborate to implement Output 3.2.1, which involves establishing financial mechanisms to increase investments in regional sustainable blue economy initiatives. Their involvement is critical as they contribute to mobilizing resources, facilitating investment opportunities, and ensuring the financial sustainability of sustainable blue economy actions in the Central ETP region. By leveraging their expertise and networks, these actors play a pivotal role in attracting funding, fostering economic growth, and promoting sustainable development



		practices that benefit both communities and marine ecosystems. This collaborative effort is essential for realizing tangible benefits in terms of enhanced financial sustainability and long-term resilience within the region.
Component 4: Strengthening Capacities for Regional Communications, Knowledge Management, and Learning.		
Outcome 4.1: Increased knowledge, understanding and commitment of key stakeholders of the Central ETP, with a focus on a gender-inclusive approach.		
Output 4.1.1: Regional knowledge products developed and shared with IW:Learn	Governments (Ministries) and CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups)	In the project, Governments and CMAR actors play pivotal roles in achieving Outcome 4.1, for example by ensuring that the communication guidelines that will be developed are aligned with the national policies of the different countries involved and considering the gender perspective. Their involvement is critical as effective communication and information exchange are essential for sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and facilitating coordinated action among stakeholders. By ensuring the dissemination of relevant information, engaging with diverse audiences, and aligning communication efforts with the strategic plan, these actors will contribute to enhancing regional communication capacities. This collaborative effort is essential for promoting transparency, building consensus, and ultimately achieving the desired outcomes of improved regional communication and information exchange within the project.
Output 4.1.2: Regional exchanges between key stakeholders of Central ETP and with IW:Learn implemented.	CMAR (Secretariat, Ministerial Committee, Regional Technical Committee, National Commissions and Regional Working Groups) + Academia.	In the project, CMAR actors specially from the Communications Regional Working Groups, and Academia all play essential roles in delivering Output 4.1.2. The participation of CMAR officials in regional and international events, including the gender perspective, will strengthen regional exchange, as well as enhance CMAR's international and regional visibility. This may also lead to expanded expert networks and insights that get feedback into the sustainable management of marine resources in the CMAR intervention area, potentially enhancing the effectiveness of conservation efforts, strengthening adaptive capacity, and contributing to the achievement of project outcomes in terms of improved regional communications and knowledge management.

## Policy Coherence<sup>[14]</sup>

58. The 2004 San José Declaration is the framework document that details the objectives and institutional structure of the CMAR initiative. At the same time, the countries integrating CMAR are, to varying

degrees, signatories to numerous multi-lateral agreements relating to the protection and management of the marine environment. For example, under Outcome 2.2, the project will support the creation of a regional tool for monitoring connectivity and governance, which will allow harmonizing regional M&E methodologies. The section has been modified to include this type of examples.

59. Table 5-1 below lists some of those most relevant Multi-lateral Agreements and Arrangements (MEAs) to the sustainable development of the CMAR region.
60. The BBNJ Agreement, formally known as the 'Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction', was adopted on 19 June 2023 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction convened under the auspices of the United Nations. The BBNJ Agreement becomes the third implementing agreement to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ecuador signed on September 21, 2023, Costa Rica on September 20, 2023, Colombia signed on September 20, 2023 and Panama on September 20, 2023. This project will support knowledge spaces, expert consultations and other relevant activities for CMAR countries to further understand and engage with the BBNJ Agreement, the Global Plastics Treaty and other relevant agreements or initiatives to the countries and the ETP region.
61. In addition, all four CMAR member states are parties to regional agreements such as the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (except Colombia), 1996 and the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, 1942.

Table 5-1: List of multi-lateral agreements and arrangements of relevance to the project

Multi-lateral agreement	Ecuador	Costa Rica	Colombia	Panama
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982;	✓	✓		✓
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992;	✓	✓	✓	✓
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992 and the Paris Agreement;	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1972;	✓	✓	✓	✓
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	✓	✓		✓
The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), 1971	✓	✓	✓	✓
International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1948 and 1959	✓	✓	✓	✓
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78) including Annexes I-VI;	✓		✓	✓
International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001;				✓
International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediment, 2004				✓
FAO Agreement on Port States Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;	✓	✓		✓
UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;	✓	✓	✓	✓
CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030;	✓	✓	✓	✓

High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People	✓	✓	✓	✓
Global Ocean Alliance	✓	✓	✓	✓

62. Several of these MEAs have been translated into national policies and/or related action plans. Most, if not all countries have developed the following:

Table 5-2: General National Framework on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Policy	Country			
	Ecuador	Costa Rica	Colombia	Panama
National Biodiversity Strategy	X	X	X	X
National Climate Change Strategy	X	X	X <sup>[15]</sup>	X
National Determines Contribution	X	X	X	X
National Adaptation Plan	X	X	X	

63. It is important to notice, that this project has been designed in line with Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama's national policies and legislation supporting wildlife protection, sustainable fisheries and tourism, national environmental codes, biodiversity protection, ocean and MPA policies of each of the four countries.
64. Several meetings and workshops were held with government officials during the development of this project, and there has been no indication that any country-level policy conflicts with any of the proposed project outcomes. As the success of this project is based on country collaboration, should a potential conflict with national policies occur during project implementation, the project will work with government officials to determine a mutually agreeable way forward.
65. A description of the most relevant laws by country are described below along with a description of their relevance to the project.

Table 5-3: National laws relevant to this project

Law & Description	Relevance to this Project
<b>Ecuador</b>	
<b>National Environmental Code-(COA)</b> Issued in 2017, this Code aims to guarantee the right of people to live in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, as well as to protect the rights of nature.	While this project will focus largely on uninhabited areas of the Central ETP (except for the Galapagos Islands), the initiatives to be undertaken are designed to ensure and sustain a healthy environment for both people and ocean species.
<b>Galapagos Governance- LOREG</b> Issued in 2015, this law regulates the Special Regime of the province of Galapagos and establishes the administrative legal regime as well as all natural and legal persons who are within or who conduct activities in the province of Galapagos.	The project will abide by these principles when working in the Galapagos area. While the Galapagos constitutes the only permanently inhabited MPA in the project area. These guidelines will also provide guidance for the development of management plans and regulations for human activity for other project MPAs.
<b>Tourism and Fishing Regulations</b> in the protected areas of Galapagos.	This project will work in the Galapagos and the tourism and fishing regulations under this law will be used to guide the development of Blue Business Plans for the tourism and fisheries sector. The development of these plans may inform updates or revisions to this national law.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	

<b>Wildlife Conservation Law N°7317</b> establishes regulations for wildlife—including terrestrial and marine species	The MPAs of this project include numerous migratory and endangered species. This law will be used as reference for the development of a regional management effectiveness tool that will include ensuring conditions to protect endangered and migratory species across the region.
<b>Fisheries and Aquaculture Law N°8436</b> promotes and regulates fishing and aquaculture capture, extraction, processing, transport, marketing, and sustainable use and establishes a mandate that guarantees the conservation, protection, and sustainable development of aquatic species.	This legislation's focus on the full fisheries supply chain will help guide the development of the project's sustainable blue economy initiatives as well as the development of management plans to help ensure MPA connectivity—including migratory ocean species protection.
<b>Biodiversity Law N°7788</b> conserves biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources and is designed to fairly distribute the benefits and costs derived.	This law will guide the development of MPA management plans. The law's focus on the fair distribution of benefits and costs will help the project ensure that the needs and concerns of all project stakeholders—including marginalized group and women—are considered in the development of these plans.
<b>Colombia</b>	
<b>National Policy for the Integrated Management of Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services</b> of Colombia promotes the Integrated Management of Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services so that the resilience of socio-ecological systems is maintained and improved, at national, regional, local, and transboundary scales. This policy constitutes the CBD NBSAP.	This law is one of the first national-level laws in the region to include a transboundary scope. The project's sustainable blue economy focus on tourism and fisheries will support the resilience and sustainability of the vast Central ETP area.
<b>Policy for the Consolidation of the National System of Protected Areas - SINAP of Colombia (CONPES 4050)</b> is in line with Target 3 contemplated in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and (1) engages the productive sector in the conservation of protected areas where they work and (2) supports vulnerable populations that are engaged in their activities	This policy is in line with the project's work on transboundary planning, effective management, and governance Component 1 and with sustainable blue economy initiatives for fisheries and tourism outlined in Component 3. The project will work with both sectors to instill sustainable business practices that will ensure the integrity of the multiuse MPAs.
<b>2020 Sustainable Ocean Policy (CONPES 3990) - Colombia Potencia Bioceánica</b> places ocean sustainability in the national agenda and underlines the government's rights to exercise its sovereignty and geopolitical position to support marine ecosystems and biodiversity and conduct sustainable and competitive maritime activities.	This policy supports the project's goal of seeking ocean sustainability through economic activities. It also highlights the role that each of the individual governments in governing the MPAs in its territory, and the importance of including the Ministries of Environment of each the countries in the dialogue through CMAR.
<b>National Environmental Policy for the Sustainable Development of Colombia's Oceanic Spaces and Coastal and Island Areas (PNAOCI)</b> was formulated in 2000 with the aim of promoting the sustainable development of oceanic spaces and coastal zones. Subsequently, the <b>National Ocean and Coastal Spaces Policy (PNOEC)</b> was issued in 2007 and updated in 2017. The PNOEC has a more comprehensive approach than the PNAOCI and is aimed at building a maritime country.	This policy supports the project's goal of seeking ocean sustainability through environmental conservation and ocean management.
<b>Panama</b>	
<b>The Coiba National Park and other provisions are issued (July 2004)</b>	Coiba is one of the 11 project MPAs. The project's focus on management effectiveness through the development and implementation of both climate action and management plans will help further fortify and sustain this protected area.
<b>General Environmental Law of the Republic of Panama (July 1998)</b> establishes the principles and basic rules for the protection, conservation, and recovery of the environment, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.	This project will work in two Panamanian MPAs. The MPA management plans (under Component 2) will be developed in accordance with this law. This law will also provide conservation and sustainability guidelines that may be replicated in other project MPA management plans.
<b>Executive Decree for National Ocean Policy (March 2022)</b> provides the national framework to promote laws and regulations that guarantee the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, consistent with the sustainable development goals.	This law supports the project's focus on sustainable blue economy initiatives and investment. Specifics of this legislation may be incorporated into the development of project Blue Business plans.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (January 1989)	The central ETP corridor includes several migratory marine species including sharks, giant manta, tuna, and sea turtles. The project's focus on improving connectivity among the 11 MPAs will help sustain these populations.
<b>Fisheries and Aquaculture Law (March 2021)</b> regulates and intensifies activities such as aquaculture, sport fishing, industrial and artisanal according to international standards and the latest technologies.	The project will look to this law for guidance for the development of Blue Business plans for fisheries outline in Component 3. Aspects of these plans may be used to update or fortify the regulations included under this law.

## Innovation

66. The **project's innovation** centers on its work to strengthen ocean sustainability at a coordinated regional scale and in the long term. Strengthening a regional entity capable of attracting and managing large and multi-year investments is essential to Central ETP sustainability, and this project will work with the four governments to strengthen regional governance by broadening CMAR's mandate and increasing the institution's capacity and global profile. CMAR's expanded mandate will include the ability to receive and manage different types of funding and reflects the four country governments' conviction that while national ocean sustainability efforts are important, the long-term sustainability of their Pacific waters can only be achieved through strong and concerted regional collaboration. In addition to providing regional technical resources for MPA connectivity to improve the analysis of management effectiveness of MPAs and sustainable blue economy initiatives linked to CMAR Regional Action Plan, the resulting CMAR will also be a regional entity able to attract and disperse funding for their own operations but also to fund technical work to further regional MPA connectivity and sustainable blue economy investment. The outcomes of this project can be scaled across the ETP and serve as a model to other regions as they move beyond their 30x30 national targets.
67. Another innovative aspect of the project is the design of blue business plans focusing on women led businesses. Blue economy is still a relatively recent concept and has yet to be fully understood and integrated in regional, national, and local planning. The project aims to develop/ support a regional sustainable blue economy plan and at least 8 blue business plans with local, national and/or regional business throughout 3 sectors: (i) Sustainable fishing, (ii) Ecotourism, and (iii) Maritime Transport. It is expected that these blue business plans will be guidelines for the development of new blue business plans in similar types of interventions and with other businesses.
68. The GEF Independent Evaluation Office has defined transformation as "deep, systemic, and sustainable change with large-scale impact in an area of global environmental concern." This **project is transformative** in the way that the four governments are empowering a regional entity with the authority to resource, design and implement programming to ensure transboundary ocean sustainability, and it is the first effort of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. In embracing stronger regional governance, these four countries are acknowledging that the magnitude of the threats their oceans currently face are beyond the ability of any one government to resolve. Attaining ocean sustainability requires dialogue, data sharing, and standardized monitoring and reporting protocols across nations. CMAR represents a new approach to governing natural resource use—one that can be applied to other ocean geographies and other biomes around the world.
69. In addition, in relation to the **potential of up-scaling of project activities**, there is a high probability of replication of the lessons and good practices of the project. GEF resources have been strategically assigned to activities with high potential to catalyze learning. For this purpose, both experience and lessons will be systematically documented and disseminated through the CMAR website, the portals and channels of the project partners and the IW: LEARN platform. It is expected that the lessons learned from the local and regional interventions (e.g., implementation of climate adaptation measures, design and application of connectivity tool and connectivity actions at local and regional level, as well as the design

of blue business plans) will be immediately used in the short term in other countries of the region. The lessons learned from this project will be certainly applicable to various contexts of the planet.

[1] Please note that this work will complement the activities that the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is implementing with CMAR.

[2] CMAR governance framework already has established 5 regional working groups comprised by public and private sectors to discuss technically about topics defined by the CMAR. These provide scientific and technical inputs and proposals for the management of the Corridor. The objective of the present project is to create or review these groups' actions plan and align them with the CMAR regional action plan, as well as the work plans of the national commissions of each of the countries.

[3] GEF definition of Sustainable Blue Economy: A Sustainable Blue Economy combines governance, strategic priority and policy setting and investment needs while simultaneously identifying the socioeconomic opportunities provided by the coastal and ocean resources. The Sustainable Blue Economy concept is based on sound science to inform policy formation, which will inform and help shift the multiple sectors involved in coastal and marine ecosystem based economic activities away from practices that are leading to environmental and ecosystem degradation. The Sustainable Blue Economy thus is a vision of a vibrant ocean and coastal areas that also fosters economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.

[4] The allocation of GEF Funds will be decided using a share of small, medium and large business that will be selected by the following criteria: Environmental sustainability (30%); economic viability (25%); social impact (20%); alignment with CMAR regional goals (15%); innovation and replicability (10%).

[5] The decision not to include CI-8 on fisheries is since the marine fisheries targeted by the project are not currently classified as over-exploited, which was determined through consultations of the last reports of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Reference: [IATTC-102-01\\_The-tuna-fishery-in-the-Eastern-Pacific-Ocean-in-2023.pdf](#)

[6] Edgar, G.J., & M. Samson. (2004). 'Catastrophic decline in mollusc diversity in eastern Pacific hotspots.' *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*

[7] Zaragoza, N., Hernández-Flores, A., & Muñoz, R. (2020). 'Population structure and growth of spiny lobster *Panulirus penicillatus* in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.'

[8] Ramírez-González, J., Guzmán, H.M., & Espinoza, M. (2018). 'Population assessment and fishery management of spiny lobsters (*Panulirus gracilis* and *Panulirus inflatus*) in a Pacific marine protected area.'

[9] Friedlander, A.M., et al. (2021). 'Marine biodiversity and ecosystem health of the Galápagos Archipelago: A review and synthesis.'

[10] Aires-da-Silva, A., Lennert-Cody, C.E., Maunder, M.N. (2009). 'Stock status indicators for the mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*) fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean.' *IATTC Stock Assessment Report*

[11] Froese, R. & Pauly, D. (2019). 'FishBase: A Global Information System on Fishes.'

[12] Rhodes, K.L. & Sadovy, Y. (2002). 'Marine resources and fisheries in the tropical eastern Pacific.' *Conservation Biology*

[13] FAO. (2022). *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022: Towards Blue Transformation*. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. DOI: 10.4060/cc0461en.

[14] This section provides information about the governance framework (both international and national) for Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama contributing to the actions of this project. In this context, the project does not seek to influence national policy change, but rather to strengthen regional governance based on national and international policies and behaviors acquired by the four countries.

[15] Colombia no cuenta con una Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático sino con una Política Nacional

## Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Conservation International is the GEF Implementing Agency for the project. As the Implementing Agency, CI-GEF will provide project assurance, including supporting project implementation by maintaining oversight of all technical and financial management aspects, and providing other assistance upon request of the Executing Agency.

The CI-GEF Project Agency will provide technical and financial oversight to the executing agency. Technical oversight includes reviewing and approving annual workplans, budgets, technical and financial quarter reports



and annual implementation reports that will be submitted to GEF. CI-GEF will manage the communications with the GEF Secretariat while the EA manages the communications with the CMAR countries.

Upon request of the CMAR countries, Fundación Pacífico is the lead Executing Agency (EA) for the project. Fundación Pacífico and CMAR have signed two MoUs in the past decade to coordinate their work. The current MoU is a five-year agreement and was signed on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This agreement seeks to coordinate efforts for resource mobilization and investment in areas of common interest in the Eastern Tropical Pacific for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural resources. Fundación Pacífico and CMAR work to coordinate projects and execution of activities as well as design projects and initiatives that address the most pressing needs of CMAR, while aligning to Fundación Pacífico's mission. **It is expected that in 2028, CMAR and Pacífico will redefine priorities and lines of work for a new MoU. This** alignment is achieved through a Coordination Committee where both prepare and approve the operational plan for implementation of the MoU and meet twice a year, or more if necessary. The Committee has Operational Guidelines and is working on a General Manual of Operational Processes. Delegates from all four national governments and two representatives of Pacífico participate in the Committee. The project governance is expected to build on this existing relationship between CMAR and Fundación Pacífico.

As the Executing Agency, Fundación Pacífico will lead the day-to-day coordination and management of project execution and will deliver the on the outputs, outcomes and the project objective. In close coordination with the CMAR Secretariat and following CI-GEF policies requirements and guidance, Fundación Pacífico will also host the Project Management Unit (PMU). Funding will flow from the CI-GEF Agency to Fundación Pacífico directly. Fundación Pacífico will be responsible for reporting consolidated reports to the CI-GEF Agency following the M&E policy.

As the EA, Fundación Pacífico will ensure the governance structure proposed for this project is implemented. Further details will be defined in the operational manual for this project to be developed during the implementation start-up phase, in the first six months of project implementation.

CMAR Secretariat will work closely with Fundación Pacífico during project execution. Through the CMAR Secretariat, each of the four countries represented will be engaged in the project planning and reporting requirements. The CMAR Secretariat is responsible for coordinating with each country, to ensure representatives actively participate in the project execution. Fundación Pacífico will support the CMAR Secretariat with the engagement with countries as needed. **The project will support the CMAR Secretariat directly by hiring a technical component 1 and governance lead and an administrative support staff that will work with the Secretariat directly and engage with relevant stakeholders; supporting the Secretariat in administrative functions, monitoring initiatives developing in the region and other relevant tasks as needed helping to achieve component 1. To strengthen the governance, it is expected that thematic leads and technical focal points supporting each CMAR country are part of the project team and directly work with CMAR Secretariat.**

Fundación Pacífico and CMAR will identify and agree on the delivery partners needed to work on each project component as needed. For Component 1 and 4: Fundación Pacífico through the Project team will guide these components in coordination with the CMAR Secretariat. Fundación Pacífico will coordinate with other delivery partners and technical consultants as needed, in line with the annual workplan and budget defined for the project and approved by the PSC and the CI-GEF Agency. For Component 2, Fundación Pacífico and the CMAR Secretariat will jointly define the delivery partner that will technically support the project outcomes and outputs. For Component 3, Conservation International will work with the CMAR Secretariat, the countries, and Pacífico as the delivery partner, providing technical support for the execution of work under this component.

For Component 3, the CMAR countries requested Conservation International as one of the delivery partners of the project given the 20 years of experience that the organization has in the ETP. CI's limited role will focus on Outcome 3.1 to strengthen the **sustainable and inclusive blue economy** work in the Central ETP through establishing a Regional **Sustainable Blue Economy** Strategy and creating and implementing 4 blue business plans for prioritized sectors at the regional level. Conservation International's offices in the region will support the work on **sustainable blue economy**. CI's experts will contribute to the national and regional **sustainable blue economy activities** in the fisheries and tourism sectors by working with the MPAs, in close coordination with CMAR.

### **Project Management Unit**

The PMU will be responsible for technical and operational planning and day-to-day implementation of all project activities under the four technical project components, as well as for monitoring and reporting on project outputs and outcomes. The PMU will prepare and support meetings of the Project Steering Committee (PSC, see below), Project Technical Committee (PTC see below) and manage the project budget. Pacífico will provide oversight of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and decisions will be made by the PSC.

The PMU will consist of a Regional Project lead, responsible for overall project coordination and management, and will work closely with the CMAR Secretariat to ensure alignment with the four countries, the delivery partners for each component and the external partners working with CMAR. Additional roles include: a Financial Officer, a Grants and Contracts Officer, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist, a Safeguards and Gender Specialist, a Knowledge and Communications Specialist, and Administrative- Accountant.

In addition, there will be technical teams supporting project components. For Component 1, the project will hire staff (2) to work with the CMAR Secretariat, supporting its operations on General Donor and Project Interactions, and Governance and Logistic Support. For Component 2, Pacífico will work with experts on climate resilience in marine protected areas to orient component implementation, and for Component 3, an expert on **gender-responsive sustainable blue economy** will coordinate the work with the delivery partner and lead the work of Outcome 3.2.

The PMU will be hosted in the country where the Permanent Secretariat will be based. In the event of project implementation starting before the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, the PMU will be based in Colombia and its permanent location can then be changed based on a combination of the resources available and the interest of the Ministerial Committee.

### **Project Steering Committee**

The project is governed by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the technical Secretary of CMAR and the Project Lead hired by Fundación Pacífico for this project. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will provide strategic guidance on project implementation, oversee the PMU and will be composed of one representative from CMAR Secretariat, one representative from Fundación Pacífico, a representative per country appointed by the Minister of Environment, and a representative of the CI-GEF Project Agency as an observer. Other external partners can be invited to the PSC depending on the meeting agenda,

The PSC is the decision-making platform of the project. As such, it will provide strategic guidance on project delivery. The PSC is responsible for providing input to project planning, approving annual workplans and budgets, reviewing and approving key project decisions before submission to the CI-GEF Agency.

The PSC will meet twice a year to review project progress and may recommend specific directions for the PMU to better achieve project outcomes. The PSC will decide project-related decisions by consensus.

Minutes of PSC meetings will be prepared and agreed upon with clear next step. Minutes will be kept for records under the PMU and shared with the CI-GEF Agency and other relevant stakeholders. If PSC members are not able to attend meetings in person, other alternative platforms, including teleconferences may be considered. The agenda and materials for the PSC will be prepared by the EA and will be shared at least 10 days before the meeting.

The responsibilities of the PSC and its TORs will be finalized during the first PSC meeting, which will take place immediately after the Inception Workshop. The operational manual that will guide project execution will also be approved at the first PSC meeting.

The PSC is responsible for approving annual workplan, budget and key adaptive management decisions that can affect project targets in the future. The EA is represented in the PSC but it will recuse themselves from the decision making allowing the 4 countries and CMAR Secretariat to take a consented decision on key topics. Further details will be defined by the countries and Pacifico in the operational manual for this project.

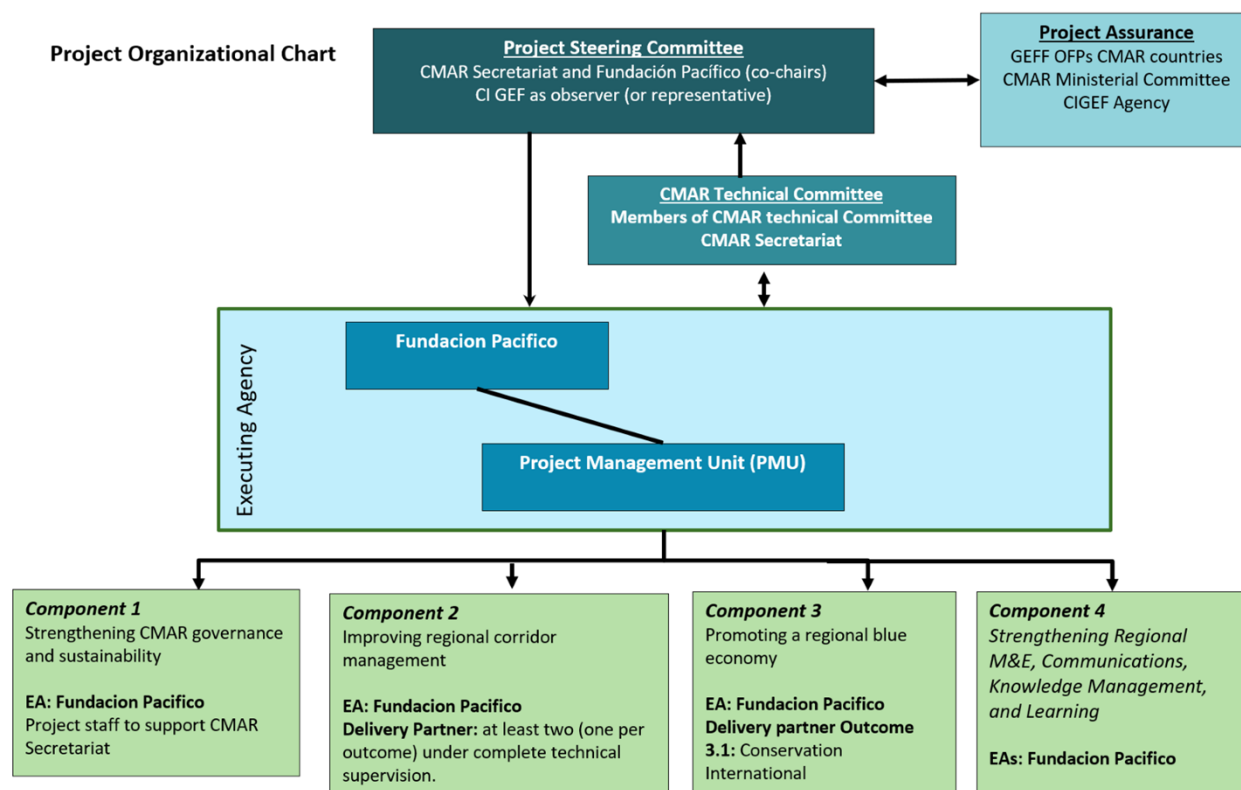
### **Project Technical Committee**

The project includes a Technical Committee that will advise the Steering Committee. The Technical Committee will be comprised of each country's representative from CMAR's Technical Committee, the Project Lead, and the technical experts hired for Components 1 and 3.

This Committee will review outputs and outcomes, be consulted on proposed annual workplans and budgets, review project progress and will ensure technical regional priorities are included in the planning and execution.

The Technical Committee will meet prior to the steering committee to discuss the materials and decisions to be made in the Steering Committee. These meetings can be virtual or in person and will happen every six months. The agenda and materials will be prepared by the EA and will be shared at least 10 days before the meeting.

### **Project Execution Organizational Chart**



Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

Conservation International (CI) is proposed as the technical delivery partner of the CMAR Secretariat, countries and in support of Fundación Pacífico as the Executing Agency (EA) for outcome 3.1 under Component 3. CI will bring its extensive experience in promoting sustainable ocean economies within the CMAR region, leveraging almost two decades of work within the ETP. With 19 years of dedicated work in this seascape, CI has been pivotal in implementing sustainable models that integrate environmental, social, and economic dimensions.

CI's country offices in Ecuador, Colombia, and Costa Rica will work collaboratively to execute outcome 3.1. This collective effort will leverage CI's extensive local knowledge and established relationships with in-country partners. By integrating science, policy, markets, and finance, CI will provide comprehensive support to local stakeholders, aligning the project's objectives with local goals, targets, and aspirations. This coordinated approach will ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of blue economy actions in the ETP region to deliver a regional sustainable blue economy strategy for CMAR and pilot initiatives in the fisheries and tourism sectors.

## CI's Contribution to Outcome 3.1: Mainstreaming and Integration of Sustainable Blue Economy Interventions

Since 2005, CI, in collaboration with FUNDES, has cultivated entrepreneurship in coastal communities around Coiba National Park in Panama.

Similar initiatives have been successfully advanced in Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama. Additionally, CI's projects in the Galapagos have focused on the sustainable management of lobster and fisheries, as well as partnerships with the tourism sector, such as diving operations and hotels investing in moorings. These initiatives have not only enhanced local economies but have also been replicated across the four CMAR countries.

Furthermore, CI's involvement in mangrove conservation efforts, particularly in promoting the sustainable harvest of mangrove clams and crabs led by local women, showcases its commitment to gender-sensitive approaches. This aligns with the project's focus on ensuring women's participation in Blue Business Plans. CI's expertise in value chain analysis, as demonstrated by the EcoGourmet initiative in Colombia and Costa Rica, will be crucial in developing a comprehensive and gender-sensitive Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy under Output 3.1.1. CI's participatory approach will ensure that the perspectives of various stakeholders are incorporated, thereby enhancing the strategy's relevance and effectiveness.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The ETP region has many donors and relevant stakeholders pursuing activities that align with this project expected outcomes.

After extensive research and coordination with CMAR Secretariat to avoid duplicated actions, Annex M presents three tables that identify relevant projects in the ETP region and possible synergies with the project.

## Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
62492924	31246463	0	0

### Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

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

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

## Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
62492924	31246463	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Bicentenario Marine Management Area	555744944	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	10,444,600.00	5,222,300.00					
Coiba National Park	902479		270,125.00	135,063.00					
Colinas y Lomas Submarinas de la cuenca del Pacífico Norte Integrated Management District		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	2,761,116.00	1,380,558.00					
Cordillera de Coiba MPA	555705293	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	6,790,898.00	3,395,449.00					
Galapagos Marine Reserve	11753	Protected Landscape/Seascape	12,697,209.00	6,348,605.00					
Galapagos National Park	187	National Park	788,000.00	394,000.00					
Gorgona National	10754	National Park	60,504.00	30,252.00					



Natural Park									
Isla del Coco National Park	170	National Park	5,484,400.00	2,742,200.00					
La Hermandad Marine Reserve	555745151	Protected Landscape/Seascape	6,000,000.00	3,000,000.00					
Malpelo Fauna and Flora Marine Sanctuary	902899		4,825,114.00	2,412,557.00					
Yurupari — Malpelo Integrated Management District	555636046		12,370,958.00	6,185,479.00					

#### Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem				
Count	1	1	0	0

#### Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
	1	1		

#### Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
	2	2		

#### Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
	2	2		

**Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
	1	1		

**Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments**

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	45,000	45,000		
<b>Male</b>	105,000	105,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	0	0

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

Marine Protected Areas under improved management effectiveness (hectare):

This project will work in 11 marine protected areas in the Pacific waters of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama encompassing a total area of 62,492,924ha and seeking to improve sustainability in at least half (31,246,463 ha) of the total area. No new MPAs are anticipated in the area during this project. Five core MPAs are fully protected with no-take zones while six are multiple use areas. While the core MPAs have management plans in place, other MPAs are either lacking plans or have plans that need to be updated due to their recent expansion. This project will assist with the updating, development, and implementation of these plans. The following table shows the total area for each MPA and the expected area to be included in project activity implementation.

2. Number of shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management.

The contribution to this indicator at PIF is “0” while by project end, this number will be “1”. While the project will not develop a TDA/SAP (Indicator 7.1), it will assist with the implementation of the instrument being developed by the PACA project. Other subindicator contributions to this indicator include:

1. Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (7.1). The baseline for this subindicator at CEO Endorsement is 1 and it is expected that there will be no change during Project implementation. Nevertheless, the PACA project is developing a TDA/SAP for the ETP, this project will coordinate with PACA as it develops these instruments. (indirect contribution to GEB)

2. Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation (7.2). The baseline for this subindicator at CEO Endorsement is “2” (Regional legal agreement under development) while by project end, this contribution will be “4” (Regional legal agreement ratified and Regional Management Institutions functional). (Component 1)

3. Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (7.3). The baseline at CEO Endorsement for this subindicator is “2” (National/local reforms and inter-ministerial committees (IMCs) in place) while by project end, this contribution will be “4” (National/local reforms/policies implemented, supported by IMCs). (Component 1)

4. Level of engagement in IW: LEARN through participation and delivery of key products (7.4). The baseline for this subindicator at CEO Endorsement is “1” (No participation) while by project end, this contribution will be “4” (Website in line with IW:LEARN guidance active; strong participation in training/twinning events and production of at least one experience note and one results note; active participation of project staff and country representatives at International Waters conferences and the provision of spatial data and other data points via project website). (Component 4)

5. People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex: It is expected that the project will benefit at least 150,000 beneficiaries (at least 30% of whom are women) through engagement with MPA managers (Component 2) and blue economy initiatives (Component 3), and workshops and exchanges organized (Component 4).

## Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	The CMAR region is susceptible to natural disasters including earthquakes, hurricanes, and intense storms, as well as other relevant climate change impacts such as coastal erosion, sea level rise, and rising sea temperatures. These events are not expected to substantially affect the project or prevent the project from achieving its objectives and/or outputs as long as climate variability and possible effects of ENSO are embedded in activity design. Attention will need to be paid to these potential hazards and ensure that project activities have protective measures in place to ensure that they succeed in the face of these climatic variabilities. For example, the project should ensure that activity design accounts for these hazards and continue to monitor climate trends across the region as they could influence activities undertaken in climate action plans and MPA management effectiveness in Component 2 and sustainable blue economy fisheries work in Component 3. A more detailed analysis of possible mitigation measures is included in the Environmental and Social (ESS) Screening Form
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Some ESS risks have been identified, such as possible access restrictions for the local and coastal communities due to some activities (i.e., activities under components 2 and 3); Therefore, measures such as designing and implementing activities to ensure minimal impact on the communities or, if not possible, ensuring adequate compensation, should be considered. Possible unfulfilled client commitments to support user communities (i.e., component

		<p>3) should also be mitigated by, for example, developing clear and specific objectives and outcomes for activities as well as for the roles and responsibilities assigned, and establishing a clear monitoring and evaluation framework for the activities. The project will also take place in an area where Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombian communities live, and therefore measures should be taken to ensure that there are no negative impacts to these communities and that they benefit from the project. The project will also ensure adequate measures to guarantee inclusion of all stakeholders, including users from the communities in the MPAs and the coastal communities nearby (tourism, fisheries, etc.). This can include considerations on gender, diversity, inclusion and user's rights and interests in CMAR staff training (i.e., component 1; outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3) and inclusive stakeholder engagement activities to find solutions to potential problems together with the communities. The project should also avoid aggravation of gender gaps due to unequal opportunities provided to local actors, by for example, further defining elements of a consistent gender and intercultural approach throughout implementation of the project and providing capacity-building opportunities for women to enhance their skills and knowledge in conservation and adaptation activities. In terms of environmental risks, it should be ensured that planned activities don't lead to pollution, waste production (including hazardous waste) and the inefficient use of resources. For this, implementing pollution prevention and waste reduction measures and ensuring that all program activities comply with relevant environmental and waste disposal regulations and standards is essential. The project will also implement habitat restoration activities under Component 2, which means that CI-GEF ESS2 is activated. Although it is expected that these activities will only have positive impacts, they ought to be designed and implemented in a way that guarantees the safety of natural habitats and biodiversity. Finally, the project will be sub-granting to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to implement business plans, which means that CI-GEF ESS9 is also activated. Further specific mitigation measures are included in the secondary Environmental and Social (ESS) Screening Form.</p>
Political and Governance	Low	<p>Planned activities might stir or exacerbate tension/conflict among communities, groups, or individuals (i.e., cases such as misunderstandings or conflicting positions between communities or communities and CI/CMAR as a result of planned activities, or communities feeling that planned activities are affecting their daily lives, resulting in the creation or exacerbation of existing conflict). Measures to avoid this risk include considering existing tensions between local stakeholders and their origins throughout the planning and implementation of activities to avoid their unintended aggravation and instead actively support their reduction, and enabling the active and fair participation of different groups in the development of activities, paying special attention when it comes to defining roles and responsibilities and benefit sharing, while making sure that the most vulnerable can appropriately voice concerns and make demands without fear of reprisal.</p>

## INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	The project aims to establish and strengthen transboundary management and cooperation in the region through the development of innovative institutional frameworks and policies such as Climate Adaptation Action Plan and the Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy. These plans attempt to increase effectiveness and long-term sustainable governance in the region. As with other national or regional policies, there is a risk of non-adoption from the stakeholders considering the differences in the governance structures, management behavior, and risk appetite on innovative policies. The project will mitigate this risk through early involvement of key stakeholders in the policy development process from the beginning to ensure their concerns and ideas are considered. The project will also establish channels for receiving and addressing feedback from those affected by the policy. The project will likewise clearly explain the reasons for the new policies, the benefits they brings, and the consequences of non-adoption and will ensure that all communication about the policy is consistent and delivered through multiple channels.
Technological	Moderate	The implementation of new and little proven oceanic technologies for regional adaptation and connectivity poses a risk, as their performance in large-scale marine environments remains uncertain, potentially leading to delays, increased costs, or incomplete project objectives. To mitigate this risk, a thorough vetting process will be established, involving comprehensive testing and validation, vendor evaluation, phased implementation, contingency planning, and continuous monitoring. These measures will ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the technologies, minimizing risks and supporting the successful achievement of project goals related to marine conservation and blue economy initiatives. Another risk is the integration and interoperability of various technological systems used across different regions and sectors within the project. To mitigate this risk, the project will establish common standards and protocols, conduct rigorous interoperability testing, adopt a modular system design, provide comprehensive training, and ensure continuous technical support. These measures, supported by outputs such as the development of regional knowledge products (Output 4.1.1) and regional exchanges between key stakeholders (Output 4.1.2), will ensure seamless integration and interoperability, minimizing risks and enhancing project success.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The inadequate identification and implementation of financial instruments tailored to the needs of CMAR (Component 1.2) and sustainable blue economy initiatives (Component 3.3), could lead to financial instability and inefficiency. To mitigate this risk, the project will collaborate with The Pew Charitable Trusts to identify and analyze suitable financial models aligned with CMAR's governance structure, which will be finalized at the project's inception. This includes implementing financial instruments for financial sustainability of CMAR (Component 1.2) and designing financial

		mechanisms to boost investments in regional blue economy initiatives (Component 3.3)
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Substantial	Limited coordination and communication among the four countries involved in CMAR could lead to misalignment of activities, duplication of efforts, and delays. To mitigate this risk, the project will establish and reinforce reliable communication channels, create a grievance mechanism, and implement comprehensive coordination mechanisms at both national and regional levels. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to manage these processes effectively. Outputs supporting these measures include the operationalization of a permanent CMAR Secretariat and the development of a detailed roadmap for national commissions and regional working groups under Component 1. A more detailed analysis of possible mitigation measures are included in ESS Screening Form.
Fiduciary	Moderate	There is a potential risk of lack of resource capacity leading to inefficiencies and misuse of funds. To mitigate this risk, a detailed budget planning and allocation exercise will be conducted at the project's inception ensuring sufficient resources for financial management and procurement processes. At the beginning of each year of project implementation, the PMU will develop project budgets, and adjust, accordingly to project execution. Continuous capacity building for financial officers and procurement staff, regular financial audits, and the establishment of a PMU with clear roles and responsibilities will further support robust financial governance.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Stakeholder interests, particularly those of vulnerable stakeholders (e.g., women, IPs, etc.), should be taken into account in all relevant activities. Efforts should be made to include stakeholder engagement during the implementation phase. Informing stakeholders in a transparent and timely manner is essential to avoid disinterest or opposition of rightsholders /stakeholders to participate in engagement as part of the project. This could be done by establishing regular communication channels and conducting regular meetings with relevant groups (e.g., fisheries and tourism associations, research groups, etc.). A more detailed analysis of possible mitigation measures is included in the secondary ESS Screening Form. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed to determine how stakeholders will be engaged during project implementation. Possible economic events that could take place during the life cycle of the project (i.e., recession, a novel pathogen causing a pandemic, etc.) and that could potentially threaten the successful implementation of the project need to be considered and planned for. Project management should develop a detailed plan for how capacity and resources will be mobilized in case of potential problems, as well as a well-thought-out exit strategy in case the project needs to be brought to a premature close.



Other	Moderate	Possible economic events that could take place during the life cycle of the project (i.e., recession, a novel pathogen causing a pandemic, etc.) and that could potentially threaten the successful implementation of the project need to be considered and planned for. Project management should develop a detailed plan for how capacity and resources will be mobilized in case of potential problems, as well as a well-thought-out exit strategy in case the project needs to be brought to a premature close.
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk of the project is considered to be moderate.

### C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

This project is strongly aligned with the GEF's International Waters Focal Area Strategy (IW) and will directly support to its Objective 1: "Accelerate joint action to support a Sustainable Blue Economy" focusing on sustainable blue economy opportunities, through the transboundary action (1) "Sustaining health coastal and marine ecosystems".

CMAR and the IW strategy both acknowledge the critical importance of key coastal and marine habitats for national economic development and for local and global ocean health. Both have identified the key threats to these habitats—climate change, acidification, habitat loss, coastal fisheries—and have identified MPAs as a critical tool to help protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems and further connectivity.

This project is also founded on regional cooperation and transboundary governance frameworks and will strengthen regional identity and information sharing to improve the management of at least 31 million hectares of existing MPAs in the Central ETP. Importantly, this project will provide input to build off and incorporate elements of the PACA project TDA/SAP into its engagement strategies.

The project will also innovate and mainstream ocean area-based management tools into communities of practice. Work at the MPA (site) and regional level will stimulate sustainable blue economy investment and engagement in sustainable ocean resources management including tourism and fisheries. The project will also work with IW staff in the development of its GEF project M&E plan to ensure that all relevant IW metrics are included in this plan.

Learning is a cornerstone of this project, and the project will learn from and contribute to learning on regional ocean governance, ocean connectivity, and sustainable blue economy investment. The project welcomes the opportunity to be an active participant in the IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN learning communities to learn, exchange knowledge, and ensure integration of this project with other GEF investments.

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).**

Yes

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

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please 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;**

Yes

**Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or**

Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.**

Yes

**2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

### Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

**Select what role civil society will play in the Project**

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

### Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

Yes

## Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low	Medium/Moderate		

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

### Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

1. The CMAR project will generate a range of socioeconomic benefits associated with the **improvement of the CMAR management**. The improvement of the MPA networks and associated marine corridors will be based not only on ecological connectivity, but also on socioeconomic conditions, thus facilitating inclusive management and governance arrangements (component 1).







The project has a strong emphasis on **building regional and national capacities** and expanding knowledge sharing in the region, through the regional climate resilience action plan as well as the regional sustainable blue economy plan (components 2 and 3). In addition, several policy briefs will be generated to share results, best practices and lessons learned at regional level (component 4).

3. At the local level, **increased income generating measures and partnership building** will be promoted that give local stakeholders reason to adopt them, contributing to reduced threats to globally significant biodiversity and important coastal and marine ecosystems. The sustainable blue economy initiatives and blue business plans are expected to increase involvement of local stakeholders in sustainable value

chains, enhance food security and provide diversified livelihoods. Local fishers will benefit from opportunities to participate in sustainable value chains and from increased understanding of ecological connectivity and safeguarding important habitats (component 3).

4. **Strengthened resilience to the risks associated with climate change and natural disaster hazards.** The CMAR action plan will incorporate climate change and adaptation measures, providing broader and more effective management of coastal and marine ecosystems and, in turn, strengthening the resilience of local and regional fisheries and other marine resources and the local communities who are reliant upon them for their well-being.
5. **Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve socio-economic benefits.** The project is relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most notably SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as outlined below in Table 6.

Table 6: Project contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals

	The CMAR management documents will include climate resilient strategies as well as sustainable blue economy goals to strengthen local incomes contributing towards investment in poverty alleviation with a gender- sensitive focus (aligned with SDG 1.b.)
	Contribute to ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities and decision-making in the management of coastal and marine resources (target 5.5); advocate policy options that promote gender equality and empowerment of women (target 5.c).
	Knowledge management and communication activities with focus on ensuring stakeholders have increased access to climate information and knowledge related to marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as climate change and sustainable blue economy (aligned with SDG 12.8)
	Increase awareness and strengthen institutional capacities on climate change adaptation and mitigation, associated with strengthened resilience of coastal areas, promotion of sustainable blue economy initiatives and incorporation of climate variability and change in the management of MPA network (target 13.3)
	Strengthening of CMAR will contribute towards achievement of coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (target indicator 14.5.1); number of countries making progress in implementing ocean-related instruments for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources (target indicator 14.c.1).
	Enhancing South- South and regional cooperation on collaborative initiatives with new or existing partners to advance knowledge on strengthening CMAR MPAs and marine corridors (target 17.6); promote public- private partnerships on conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity ecosystems (target 17.7).

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
CI	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-1	Grant	14,378,899.00	1,294,101.00	15,673,000.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>14,378,899.00</b>	<b>1,294,101.00</b>	<b>15,673,000.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

300000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

27000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
CI	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-1	300,000.00	27,000.00	327,000.00
<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>					<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>27,000.00</b>	<b>327,000.00</b>

Please provide Justification

### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

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

### Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
IW-1-1	GET	14,378,899.00	63229918

<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>14,378,899.00</b>	<b>63,229,918.00</b>
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## Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	Conservation International	Grant	Investment mobilized	7189296
GEF Agency	Conservation International	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2141018
Civil Society Organization	Fundación Pacífico	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5800000
Others	GIZ	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4000000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Colombia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3298904
Private Sector	Bezos Earth Fund ETP Program	Grant	Investment mobilized	10000000
Civil Society Organization	The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)	Grant	Investment mobilized	7300000
Civil Society Organization	The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2700000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Ecuador	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5578150
Recipient Country Government	Government of Panamá	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7490757
Civil Society Organization	Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	845000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Costa Rica	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3176422
Civil Society Organization	The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	731000
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000



Civil Society Organization	Charles Darwin Foundation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2279371
GEF Agency	World Bank	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>63,229,918.00</b>

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

CI considers Investment Mobilized funding from grants because they are usually time-bound, have a very specific scope of work, and are generally not part of a recurrent budget. The specific investment mobilized for this project is from CI, Bezos Earth Fund, PEW. Investment mobilized will focus on foundational aspects such as project initiation, regional governance, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring a strategic and well-grounded start to the project. Also, will support innovative and scalable conservation solutions, leveraging advanced technologies and methodologies to enhance the project's impact and effectiveness. Resources aimed at improving climate-resilient management and coordinating blue economy investments, ensuring the project is guided by best practices and sustainable approaches as well as habitat restoration and community-based conservation efforts, promoting sustainable practices and local involvement in conservation activities. These contributions are considered new investments because they provide additional, dedicated financial resources specifically for the GEF CMAR project, ensuring focused and impactful use of funds to achieve the project's objective of ensuring the long-term resilience and conservation of at least 31,250,000 hectares of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor.

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator		Orissa Samaroo		osamaroo@conservation.org
Project Coordinator		Daniela Carrion		dcarrion@conservation.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Maria Teresa Becerra Ramirez	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of environment and sustainable development of Colombia	3/30/2023
Jose Luis Naula	Director of International Cooperation/ GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador	4/10/2023
Raul Pinedo	GEF Operational focal point	Ministry of Environment Panama	4/10/2023
ENID CHAVERRI-TAPIA	GEF Operational Focal Point/Director of International Cooperation	Ministry of Environment and Energy Costa Rica	4/10/2023

## ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

	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, improved climate resilient management and coordinating sustainable blue economy investments and conservation efforts		
	CI2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectare): 31,246,463  CI7: Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count): 1  CI11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count): 150,000 (105,000 male and 45,000 female)		
<b>Component 1: Strengthening CMAR governance and long-term sustainability</b>			
Outcome 1.1.: Strengthened long-term and gender-responsive sustainability of CMAR regional governance.  <i>Indicator 1.1:</i> Percentage (%) of governance effectiveness increased.	By 2025, the CMAR mechanism, updated Action Plan, indicators, and an M&E plan will be designed. Based on those expected outcomes of other initiatives (ProBlue, GEF Enduring Earth), the project would be in charge to operationalize the Action Plan, and M&E	Target 1.1: 20% of governance effectiveness increased (based on governance assessment baseline and Y1).	<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> CMAR governance frameworks, by-laws, and procedures operationalized.  <i>Indicator 1.1.1:</i> Number of governance frameworks/ bylaws/ procedures operationalized.  <b>Target 1.1.1:</b> At least three (3) regional frameworks/bylaws/and/or procedures operationalized.  <b>Output 1.1.2.</b> National CMAR commissions and/or regional working groups established, strengthened, and regulated.  <i>Indicator 1.1.2a:</i> # of National Commissions established, strengthened, and regulated for CMAR.  <b>Target 1.1.2a:</b> At least four (4) national CMAR commissions (one per country). <a href="#">[1]</a>

			<p><b>Indicator 1.1.2b:</b> Number of regional thematic working groups strengthened and regulated.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Five (5) regional working groups[2].</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.3.</b> Capacity of CMAR national commissions, regional technical working groups, MPA managers and key staff strengthened.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.3.</b> Number of people trained (disaggregated by gender).</p> <p><b>Target 1.1.3.</b> At least 200 people (30% women and diversified age groups).</p>
<p>Outcome 1.2.: Long term financial sustainability of CMAR ensured and aligned with its Regional Action Plan, promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities for all genders.</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2.: Aligned regional investments increases for CMAR and its Regional Action Plan by project end.</i></p>	<p>Currently, CMAR has various projects (see Table 5) that work at the regional level for at least US \$12.5 million.</p>	<p>Target 1.2: At least \$25M of additional regional funding and technical cooperation is secured for CMAR and its Regional Action Plan.</p>	<p><b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Operational tool to align existing and new investments in the ETP with the Financial Sustainability Strategy.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.1:</b> Number of tools that enable CMAR to track financial resources.</p> <p><b>Target 1.2.1:</b> One (1) tool.</p>
<b>Component 2: Improving regional corridor management and climate resilience</b>			
<p>Outcome 2.1 Gender-responsive measures in place to increase climate resilience of the Central ETP MPAs.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.: Area (has) of MPA with climate adaptation measures implemented.</i></p>	<p>There are a few climate resilience and/or adaptation initiatives, with no direct quantification of the area covered.</p>	<p><b>Target 2.1:</b> 31,246,463 has. of the Central ETP.</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1.1:</b> A Climate Resilience Plan developed, and key regional MPA level actions implemented.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.1:</b> Number of Central ETP MPAs implementing key adaptation actions.[3]</p> <p><b>Target 2.1.1:</b> At least four (4) MPAs.</p>
<p>Outcome 2.2.: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management, considering a gender-responsive approach.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.2.: Percentage (%) of improvement of regional MPA connectivity and management from Y1 baseline.</i></p>	<p>Currently, there is not a common set of tools to measure in a coordinated manner among the four countries the regional connectivity.</p> <p>There is no quantification of areas considered under “improved management”.</p>	<p><b>Target 2.2:</b> At least 20 % of regional MPA connectivity and management improved.</p>	<p><b>Output 2.2.1:</b> A regional management effectiveness assessment tool that includes management for regional connectivity is developed and applied in the Central ETP.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.1:</b> Number of regional management effectiveness assessments implemented in Central ETP[4].</p> <p><b>Target 2.2.1:</b> At least three (3) regional assessment implemented.</p>

			<p><b>Output 2.2.2.:</b> Key interventions from the MPAs management plans aligned with the CMAR Regional Action Plan implemented.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.2.2.:</i> Number of key interventions implemented in prioritized MPAs.</p> <p><i>Target 2.2.2.:</i> At least four (4) key interventions implemented.</p>
<b>Component 3: Promoting a regional sustainable blue economy</b>			
<p>Outcome 3.1: Mainstreaming and integration of Sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy interventions into the Central ETP MPAs that are part of CMAR.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.:</i> Number of MPAs with sustainable blue economy enterprises in operation.</p>	<p>At the moment, there no explicit integration of Sustainable Blue Economy aspects into the CMAR Regional Action Plan</p>	<p><b>Target 3.1:</b> Six (6) MPAs in the Central ETP.</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1.1.</b> Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy designed and integrated into CMAR Regional Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.1:</b> Number of Regional Strategies.</p> <p><b>Target 3.1.1:</b> One Regional Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy.</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Timebound blue business plans developed and implemented by users of CMAR (business owners and direct beneficiaries) in fisheries and/or tourism sectors operating in MPAs.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.2a:</b> Number of blue business plans for the fisheries and/or tourism sectors developed and implemented at the MPA-level.</p> <p><b>Target 3.1.2a:</b> At least four (4) plans developed and implemented for Central ETP multi-use MPAs</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.2b:</b></p> <p>Number of users (disaggregated by gender) implementing sustainable tourism, and/or market-driven improved fishing practices.</p> <p><b>Target 3.1.2b:</b> 50 people (at least 30% women).</p>

<p>Outcome 3.2: Secured financial sustainability of gender-responsive sustainable blue economy actions of the Central ETP.</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: Amount (USD) of new funding for sustainable blue economy initiatives committed.</p>	<p>There are no existing financial mechanisms related to sustainable blue economy (e.g., blue bonds, thematic bonds, debt swap), except for the debt-for-nature swap with (\$656 million Galapagos bond).</p>	<p><b>Target 3.2:</b> \$10M new funding committed.</p>	<p><b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Financial mechanism to increase investments in regional sustainable blue economy initiatives designed and operational.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.1:</b> Number of new financial mechanisms in regional sustainable blue economy initiatives supported.</p> <p><b>Target 3.2.1:</b> At least one (1) new financial mechanism</p>
<b>Component 4: Strengthening Capacities for regional communications, knowledge management, and learning</b>			
<p><b>Outcome 4.1:</b> Increased knowledge, understanding and commitment of key stakeholders of the Central ETP, with a focus on a gender-inclusive approach.</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1:</b> Percentage of key stakeholders with increased knowledge, understanding and commitment (disaggregated by gender).</p>	<p>At the moment, there is no working knowledge management strategy and no measurement of changes in knowledge and understanding of key stakeholders of the Central ETP.</p>	<p><b>Target 4.1:</b> At least 50% increase from Y1 baseline (30% women).</p>	<p><b>Output 4.1.1:</b> Regional knowledge products developed and shared with IW:Learn</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1.1:</b> Number of knowledge products published and shared.</p> <p>(at least 30% of knowledge products include a gender perspective)</p> <p><b>Target 4.1.1:</b> At least 10 knowledge products</p> <p>(30% of knowledge products include a gender perspective or addresses gender and inclusion issues)</p> <p><b>Output 4.1.2:</b> Regional exchanges between key stakeholders of Central ETP implemented.</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1.2:</b> Number of regional exchanges.</p> <p><b>Target 4.1.2:</b> One (1) exchange, ensuring between 30% and 50% of women's participation.</p>

[1] At least 30% of National Commissions' participants are women, this is an indicator included in the Gender Mainstreaming Plan and M&E Plan.

[2] At least 30% of the regional working groups participants are women.

[3] At least 30% of total participants providing inputs and reviewing the Climate Resilience Plan, through consultations, are women. This indicator is part of the Gender Mainstreaming Plan.

[4] At least 30% of total participants providing inputs for the management effectiveness assessment are women.

#### ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Travel, meetings and workshops (technical committee meeting, meetings with CMAR, validation workshops)	20,658.00	14,377.00	6,281.00
Travel Grants for CMAR Secretariat members	29,320.00	6,948.00	22,372.00
Personnel-Project Design and coordination	147,387.00	80,922.00	66,465.00
Professional services (project document development, safeguards consultancy, translation)	102,635.00	74,547.00	28,088.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>176,794.00</b>	<b>123,206.00</b>

#### ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

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:

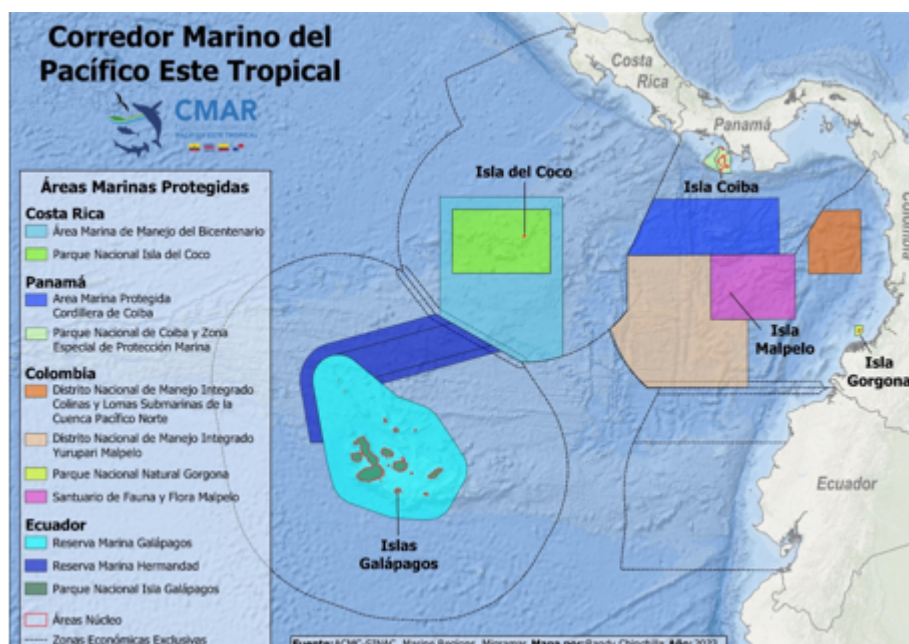
Activity Description:

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

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.



This project concentrates actions in one of the most diverse and productive portions of the central ETP: a set of large-scale, highly diverse and interconnected coastal and oceanic MPA areas of the countries that constitute the Pacific waters of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama. The full area of the Exclusive Economic Zones of the four countries covers approximately 200 million hectares of ocean that supports a high concentration of endemic species, populations of highly migratory pelagic species, highly productive waters sustaining abundant fisheries, and extensive coastal mangrove forests. The geographic scope of the project is proposed for 31,250,000 ha of ocean area in the four countries including five fully protected MPAs (with no-take zones) and six multiple use areas.

## ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

20240923 ETP SEP change adaptation for resilience

20240923 ETP GMP change adaptation for resilience

20240923 ESS Second Screening Form CMAR change adaptation for resilience

20240923 ESS Second Screening Report CMAR change adaptation for resilience

20240614 AGM\_beyond 30x30 APPROVED

## ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1		Component 2		Component 3		Comp 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2	Outcome 4.1					
Personnel and Professional Services	Personnel - Project Lead	93,861	46,930	61,009	61,009	23,465	46,930	61,009	394,215	-	75,088	469,303	Fundación Pacífico
	Personnel - Financial Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	352,904	352,904	
	Personnel - Grants and Contracts Officer	81,243	62,778	99,707	88,628	-	-	36,928	369,284	-	-	369,284	
	Personnel - MEL Specialist	77,083	38,542	57,812	46,250	-	-	38,542	258,229	127,187	-	385,416	
	Personnel - Safeguards & Gender specialist (ESS&GS)	51,310	51,310	68,413	68,413	17,103	17,103	68,413	342,066	-	-	342,066	
	Personnel - KM & Communications specialist	55,509	55,509	55,509	55,509	-	-	148,024	370,061	-	-	370,061	
	Personnel - Administrative Accountant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	146,191	146,191	
	Personnel - Technical Lead: Component 1 and Governance Lead	149,936	149,936	-	-	-	-	-	299,872	-	-	299,872	
	Personnel - Technical Coordinator	63,967	31,983	79,958	79,958	-	-	63,966	319,833	-	-	319,833	
	Personnel - Technical Lead: Component 3	-	-	-	-	89,962	209,911	-	299,872	-	-	299,872	
	Personnel - Country Technical Liaison for CMAR-Colombia	48,418	48,418	48,418	48,418	-	-	-	193,672	-	-	193,672	
	Personnel - Country Technical Liaison for CMAR-Costa Rica	56,436	56,436	56,436	56,436	-	-	-	225,746	-	-	225,746	
	Personnel - County Technical Liaison for CMAR-Ecuador	56,436	56,436	56,436	56,436	-	-	-	225,746	-	-	225,746	
	Personnel - Country Technical Liaison for CMAR - Panama	56,436	56,436	56,436	56,436	-	-	-	225,746	-	-	225,746	
	Personnel-Regional Operations Director (AFD)	-	-	-	-	48,020	-	-	48,020	-	-	48,020	
Personnel-Manager of Sustainable Blue Economy (Panama)	-	-	-	-	206,101	-	-	206,101	-	-	206,101		
Personnel - Executive Director (Costa Rica)	-	-	-	-	32,508	-	-	32,508	-	-	32,508		
Personnel - Marine Manager (Costa Rica)	-	-	-	-	47,914	-	-	47,914	-	-	47,914		
Personnel - Coordinator of Azul Economy (Colombia)	-	-	-	-	8,556	-	-	8,556	-	-	8,556		
Personnel - Oceans Program Assistant (Colombia)	-	-	-	-	5,642	-	-	5,642	-	-	5,642		
Personnel -Technical Manager (Galápagos)	-	-	-	-	41,291	-	-	41,291	-	-	41,291		

Personnel - Vice President of Oceans (Costa Rica)	-	-	-	-	92,008	-	-	92,008	-	-	92,008	
Personnel - Director of Ocean Governance (Colombia)	-	-	-	-	38,155	-	-	38,155	-	-	38,155	
Personnel - Fisheries Specialist Coordinator (Galápagos)	-	-	-	-	82,148	-	-	82,148	-	-	82,148	
Personnel - Finance and Operations Director	-	-	-	-	74,500	-	-	74,500	-	-	74,500	
Personnel - Grants and Contracts Team	-	-	-	-	54,735	-	-	54,735	-	-	54,735	
<b>Subtotal Personnel</b>	<b>790,635</b>	<b>654,716</b>	<b>640,136</b>	<b>617,495</b>	<b>862,108</b>	<b>273,944</b>	<b>416,883</b>	<b>4,255,919</b>	<b>127,187</b>	<b>574,183</b>	<b>4,957,289</b>	
Consultancy - Mid-term review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	54,000	
Consultancy - Final evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	54,000	
Auditing - Project audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,800	64,800	
Consultancy - Implement actions to improve manufacturing, handling, packaging, transportation, storage and cold chain practices.	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	
Consultancy - Technician to collect and analyze information on the species	-	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	
Consultancy - Implement work plans to strengthen the value chain of artisanal fishing under the steps of the Ecogourmet program (Fishing Organizations 1)	-	-	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	
Consultancy - Implement work plans to strengthen the value chain of artisanal fishing under the steps of the Ecogourmet program (Fishing organizations 2)	-	-	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	
Consultancy - Analysis of the organic fertilizer including registration in Agrocalidad	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	
Consultancy - Feasibility study specialist	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000	
Consultancy - Conduct chemical analysis to facilitate the development of the tests	-	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	

Conservation  
International

	Consultancy - Specialist to craft the marketing strategy outlined in the business plan	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	
	Audit-Outcome 3.1 audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	
	<b>Subtotal Professional Services</b>	-	-	-	-	77,945	-	-	77,945	108,000	69,800	255,745	
Travel, Meetings and Workshops	Meetings: CMAR Secretariat (In person and Virtual)	74,976	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,976	-	-	74,976	Fundación Pacífico
	Meetings: National Commissions (Inperson & Virtual)	45,217	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,217	-	-	45,217	
		3,848	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,848	-	-	3,848	
	Workshops: Regional Working Groups (Inperson & Virtual)	67,471	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,471	-	-	67,471	
		3,371	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,371	-	-	3,371	
	Workshops Training: National Commissions (Inperson & Virtual)	56,193	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,193	-	-	56,193	
		2,698	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,698	-	-	2,698	
	Workshops: Capacity Building for MPA Managers (In person and virtual)	125,896	-	-	-	-	-	-	125,896	-	-	125,896	
	Workshops: Training (Virtual)	1,124	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,124	-	-	1,124	
	Meeting: Exchange Events	48,355	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,355	-	-	48,355	
	Events: Fundraising	-	16,857	-	-	-	-	-	16,857	-	-	16,857	
	Workshop: Regional Exchange	-	-	-	183,619	-	-	-	183,619	-	-	183,619	
	Meetings: Blue Economy	-	-	-	-	-	119,734	-	119,734	-	-	119,734	
	Workshop: Communication Exchange	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,520	55,520	-	-	55,520	
	Training: IW Learn	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,972	26,972	-	-	26,972	
	Workshop: Inception	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,111	-	16,111	
	Workshop: Closing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,962	-	16,962	
	Meeting: Steering Committee (Inperson & Virtual)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,679	10,679	
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,124	1,124	
	Travel - Project lead	30,800	-	17,086	13,770	-	21,743	12,687	96,086	-	-	96,086	
	Travel - MEL Specialist	37,143	-	18,784	-	-	-	15,765	71,693	-	-	71,693	
	Travel - ESS&GS	18,482	-	9,241	-	-	-	-	27,723	-	-	27,723	
	Travel - Financial Officer	-	-	18,357	-	-	-	-	18,357	-	-	18,357	
	Travel - Grants & Contracts Officer	-	-	30,976	-	-	-	-	30,976	-	-	30,976	
	Travel - Knowledge Management & Comms	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,143	37,143	-	-	37,143	
	Travel - Technical Lead & Gov : Comp 1	46,199	24,881	-	-	-	-	-	71,081	-	-	71,081	
	Travel - Technical Coordinator	27,840	-	27,840	24,637	-	-	-	80,318	-	-	80,318	
	Travel - Technical Lead: Comp 3	-	-	-	-	21,743	18,540	-	40,283	-	-	40,283	
	Travel - Country Liasons (4)	132,436	-	132,436	-	-	-	-	264,872	-	-	264,872	
	Capacity Building	-	-	-	-	13,360	-	-	13,360	-	-	13,360	Conservation International
	Carbon Offset	-	-	-	-	4,521	-	-	4,521	-	-	4,521	



Fertilizer mobilization	-	-	-	-	325	-	-	325	-	-	325
Workshop - Annual meeting of coordination	-	-	-	-	40,658	-	-	40,658	-	-	40,658
Workshop - Develop and distribute the guidelines necessary for certifying organic fertilizer to enable its commercial sale.	-	-	-	-	874	-	-	874	-	-	874
Workshop - Share the test results with prospective product buyers.	-	-	-	-	1,485	-	-	1,485	-	-	1,485
Workshop - Refreshments for training sessions focused on financial, social, and environmental education.	-	-	-	-	499	-	-	499	-	-	499
International trips - for national coordination to the 4 CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	16,122	-	-	16,122	-	-	16,122
Stakeholder Workshops	-	-	-	-	45,734	-	-	45,734	-	-	45,734
Domestic trips for Project Activities	-	-	-	-	33,031	-	-	33,031	-	-	33,031
Workshop - Restaurant owners, hotels, tour operators, and partners.	-	-	-	-	374	-	-	374	-	-	374
Workshop - Socialization of the characterization and diagnosis tool for organizations and business partners	-	-	-	-	574	-	-	574	-	-	574
Meeting: Build a participatory roadmap with improvement actions with organizations and potential business partners	-	-	-	-	574	-	-	574	-	-	574
Workshop - Organizations, key partners, suppliers of fishing resources, and key commercial partners to implement strengthening strategies	-	-	-	-	499	-	-	499	-	-	499
Workshop - Fishing cooperatives and commercial partners to establish criteria for fair and equitable trade and commercial agreements and training to ensure implementation of the blue economy entrepreneurship within the	-	-	-	-	2,701	-	-	2,701	-	-	2,701

	framework of the ECOGOUR MET strategy												
	Workshop and meetings: Partners to develop the company's strategic planning in alignment with the strategies outlined in the business plan	-	-	-	-	374	-	-	374	-	-	374	
	Logistics mobilization s for the collection of representative weight and height data	-	-	-	-	1,258	-	-	1,258	-	-	1,258	
	Application of ExAnte tool	-	-	-	-	120	-	-	120	-	-	120	
	Workshops - Annual Initiative	-	-	-	-	19,873	-	-	19,873	-	-	19,873	
	Transportation: Island mobilization for the development of meetings with potential partners and development of Exxante Diagnostic	-	-	-	-	2,938	-	-	2,938	-	-	2,938	
	Transportation: Coordination of data registration, follow-up, and trial monitoring mobilization	-	-	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	
	Travel: Project coordinator to CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	12,855	-	-	12,855	-	-	12,855	
	Domestic trips - Costa Rica for field research	-	-	-	-	46,200	-	-	46,200	-	-	46,200	
	International trips- Oceans team - Annual coordination	-	-	-	-	9,509	-	-	9,509	-	-	9,509	
	Travel- Panama activities	-	-	-	-	42,993	-	-	42,993	-	-	42,993	
	Travel- Annual meeting coordination in CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	11,951	-	-	11,951	-	-	11,951	
	Workshop: Development of the Work Plan on Blue Economy issues	-	-	-	-	25,390	-	-	25,390	-	-	25,390	
	Travel: Monitoring and coordination programs in CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	58,953	-	-	58,953	-	-	58,953	
	<b>Subtotal Travel, Meetings and Workshops</b>	<b>722,050</b>	<b>41,738</b>	<b>254,720</b>	<b>222,027</b>	<b>419,088</b>	<b>160,017</b>	<b>148,087</b>	<b>1,967,727</b>	<b>33,074</b>	<b>11,803</b>	<b>2,012,603</b>	
Grants and Agreements	Equipment for MPA Managers	54,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	-	54,000	Fundación Pacífico
	Financial Instrument	-	475,200	-	-	-	-	-	475,200	-	-	475,200	

Development of a Climate Vulnerability Analysis for the CMAR region	-	-	172,800	-	-	-	-	172,800	-	-	172,800
Needs assessment and identification of climate adaptation actions	-	-	140,400	-	-	-	-	140,400	-	-	140,400
Development of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Action Plan	-	-	129,600	-	-	-	-	129,600	-	-	129,600
Implementation of Prioritized Adaptation Actions in the MPAs	-	-	1,166,400	-	-	-	-	1,166,400	-	-	1,166,400
Conduct a Baseline Survey and Current Situation Analysis	-	-	-	64,800	-	-	-	64,800	-	-	64,800
Establish a Protocol or Tool to Measure Regional Management Effectiveness	-	-	-	86,400	-	-	-	86,400	-	-	86,400
Implement the Developed Tool or Protocol	-	-	-	194,400	-	-	-	194,400	-	-	194,400
Integrate regional aspects into local MPA management plan	-	-	-	151,200	-	-	-	151,200	-	-	151,200
Execute restoration and conservation interventions in priority MPAs	-	-	-	1,728,000	-	-	-	1,728,000	-	-	1,728,000
Women's Leadership Program	-	-	-	-	324,000	-	-	324,000	-	-	324,000
IW Conference Participation - Travel Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	108,000	108,000	-	-	108,000
Governance Baseline Assessment and Evaluation	54,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	-	54,000
Develop an Operations Manual for CMAR	21,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,600	-	-	21,600
Develop & Implement a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism for CMAR's Secretariat	16,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,200	-	-	16,200
Develop annual work plans for Regional Working Groups (5)	32,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,400	-	-	32,400
Develop annual work plans for the National Commissions	48,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,600	-	-	48,600
Capacity needs assessment/action plan: 4 National Commissions, 5 Regional Working Groups and up to	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	-	-	27,000

	eleven MPA												
	Blue Economy and Investment Management	-	-	-	-	-	174,960	-	174,960				174,960
	Design and implementation of Financial Mechanism	-	-	-	-	-	121,878	-	121,878				121,878
	Development of Knowledge Management Strategy	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,400	32,400				32,400
	Graphic Designer to support Knowledge Management Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,400	32,400				32,400
	Video: Knowledge Management Products: Video Creation and Editing (2 Videos)	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,200	43,200				43,200
	Incentives for suppliers of fishing resources (Santa Cruz and Isabela fishing cooperatives COPROPA G and COPAHISA)	-	-	-	-	20,600	-	-	20,600	-	-		20,600
	Incentives for business partners committed to a sustainable business model (restaurants and tourism operations).	-	-	-	-	15,600	-	-	15,600	-	-		15,600
	Experts who will assist in creating guidelines enabling the certification of organic fertilizer for commercial use.	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	-		5,000
	Expert who will provide guidance on the development of the trials.	-	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	1,200	-	-		1,200
	Materials, equipment, and supplies to convert 100% of fishing by-products into fish hydrolyzate	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-		10,000
	Incentives aimed at promoting blue economy ventures on nautical activities such as surfboards, paddle boards, and snorkeling equipment	-	-	-	-	44,500	-	-	44,500	-	-		44,500
	Blue economy strategy for Panama and the communities in the areas of influence of Coiba	-	-	-	-	93,393	-	-	93,393	-	-		93,393

Conservation International

Development of blue business plans: specific consultations with the sectors, workshops for creating and validating plans and implementation of pilot projects	-	-	-	-	243,500	-	-	243,500	-	-	243,500
Blue Economy - Evaluate feasibility of economic alternatives for coastal communities and resource users	-	-	-	-	59,705	-	-	59,705	-	-	59,705
Equipment provisions for handling and commercializing seafood	-	-	-	-	10,122	-	-	10,122	-	-	10,122
Small grants to local community organizations	-	-	-	-	65,650	-	-	65,650	-	-	65,650
Ecogourmet - Direct work with fisher organizations, retailers, and restaurants from at least 2 communities in the Pacific coast of Colombia	-	-	-	-	96,216	-	-	96,216	-	-	96,216
Equipment for strengthening fishing organizations	-	-	-	-	23,135	-	-	23,135	-	-	23,135
Blue economy sustainable MPA business plans	-	-	-	-	42,500			42,500			42,500
Strengthen capacities of users and business on sustainable blue economy	-	-	-	-	30,000			30,000			30,000
Build a blue economy portfolio related to the CMAR MPAs	-	-	-	-	28,750			28,750			28,750
Communities and environmental authorities liaison 1	-	-	-	-	61,317			61,317			61,317
Communities and environmental authorities liaison 2	-	-	-	-	18,260			18,260			18,260
Technician to oversee and manage the tests	-	-	-	-	9,000			9,000			9,000
Business plan aimed at fostering local businesses specializing in water sports	-	-	-	-	30,000			30,000			30,000
Provide training to partners on financial, social, and environmental education to ensure effective company management	-	-	-	-	15,000			15,000			15,000

	Design and maintaining access ramps and areas for surfing and other nautical activities	-	-	-	-	14,400			14,400			14,400	
	Enhancing the skills of young local entrepreneurs in the blue economy	-	-	-	-	14,400			14,400			14,400	
	Develop proposals to identify blue business investment opportunities	-	-	-	-	69,500			69,500			69,500	
	Blue Economy Strategy	-	-	-	-	50,000			50,000			50,000	
	Primary Identification Value Chain Analysis	-	-	-	-	54,900			54,900			54,900	
	Pilot for Blue Economy Business Associated with primary identification	-	-	-	-	59,352			59,352			59,352	
	Awareness and outreach to leverage sustainable blue economy	-	-	-	-	28,750			28,750			28,750	
	Establish a baseline with socio-economic indicators linked to the coastal marine area	-	-	-	-	22,500			22,500			22,500	
	Monitoring the project localities that are part of the Sanquianga-Gorgona Corridor	-	-	-	-	22,540			22,540			22,540	
	Blue economy business experts (2)	-	-	-	-	22,331	-	-	22,331	-	-	22,331	
	Business plan development for lobster, tuna, slipper lobster, and transformation of fishing subproducts	-	-	-	-	24,000			24,000			24,000	
	Development of social marketing activities to raise consumer awareness of the EcoGourmet program and promoting blue economy entrepreneurship	-	-	-	-	18,500			18,500			18,500	
<b>Subtotal Grants and Agreements</b>		<b>253,800</b>	<b>475,200</b>	<b>1,609,200</b>	<b>2,224,800</b>	<b>1,648,622</b>	<b>296,838</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>6,724,460</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,724,460</b>	
<b>Equipment</b>	Laptops, Monitors and Accessories	8,497	4,249	10,622	8,498	-	2,124	6,376	40,365	-	2,124	42,490	Fundación Pacífico
	Cellphones	388	291	485	291	-	194	291	1,940	-	-	1,940	
	Virtual Conferences Video Support	-	-	18,932	-	-	-	-	18,932	-	-	18,932	
	Improvements of the prioritized blue business plans	-	-	-	-	40,000	-	-	40,000	-	-	40,000	Conservation International

	Computers	-	-	-	-	12,300	-	-	12,300	-	-	12,300	
	Licenses & software	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	
	Promotional materials of the campaign for recreational activities and the Ecogourmet Program	-	-	-	-	18,390	-	-	18,390	-	-	18,390	
	Field material for the development of research	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	2,000	-	-	2,000	
	Materials for developing tests that enable the integration of new findings on the efficacy of fish hydrolyzate	-	-	-	-	1,920	-	-	1,920	-	-	1,920	
	Promoting blue economy ventures via nautical activities through merchandising efforts	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	
	<b>Subtotal Equipment</b>	<b>8,885</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>30,039</b>	<b>8,789</b>	<b>85,610</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>6,667</b>	<b>146,847</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>148,972</b>	<b>-</b>
Other Operating Costs	Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,402	25,402	-	-	25,402	Fundación Pacífico
	Rent	18,889	14,408	13,927	13,180	4,304	9,032	13,745	87,484	4,193	18,931	110,609	
	PASC Allocation	-	-	-	-	119,381	-	-	119,381	-	-	119,381	Conservation International
	Courier	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	250	-	-	250	
	Office supplies	-	-	-	-	15,239	-	-	15,239	-	-	15,239	
	Registration for the organic-hydrolyzed fish fertilizer transformation on plant and the registration of fish hydrolyzate (Agrocalidad and ABG)	-	-	-	-	5,200	-	-	5,200	-	-	5,200	
	Cell phone	-	-	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	
	Insurance for equipment	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	150	-	-	150	
	<b>Subtotal Other</b>	<b>18,889</b>	<b>14,408</b>	<b>13,927</b>	<b>13,180</b>	<b>148,124</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>39,147</b>	<b>256,707</b>	<b>4,193</b>	<b>18,931</b>	<b>279,831</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,794,260</b>	<b>1,190,601</b>	<b>2,548,022</b>	<b>3,086,291</b>	<b>3,241,496</b>	<b>742,150</b>	<b>826,782</b>	<b>13,429,604</b>	<b>272,454</b>	<b>676,841</b>	<b>14,378,899</b>	

Footnotes

Other Operating costs or indirect costs are incurred during the grant period to support the grant's core deliverables against the grant outcomes. CI conducted due diligence of Fundación Pacífico and CI verified that there is a clear methodology and that those indirect or other operating costs are auditable. These costs have been allocated across the expense categories using a consistent "best practices" methodology and are excluded from grants and agreements as well as evaluation consultancies.

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here



Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (US\$eq.)									Total (US\$eq.)	Responsible Entity	
		Component 1		Component 2		Component 3		Comp 4	Sub-Total	M&E			PMC
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2	Outcome 4.1					
Personnel and Professional Services	Personnel - Project Lead	93,861	46,930	61,009	61,009	23,465	46,930	61,009	394,215	-	75,088	469,303	Fundación Pacífico
	Personnel - Financial Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	352,904	352,904	
	Personnel - Grants and Contracts Officer	81,243	62,778	99,707	88,628	-	-	36,928	369,284	-	-	369,284	
	Personnel - MEL Specialist	77,083	38,542	57,812	46,250	-	-	38,542	258,229	127,187	-	385,416	
	Personnel - Safeguards & Gender specialist (ESS&GS)	51,310	51,310	68,413	68,413	17,103	17,103	68,413	342,066	-	-	342,066	
	Personnel - KM & Communications specialist	55,509	55,509	55,509	55,509	-	-	148,024	370,061	-	-	370,061	
	Personnel - Administrative Accountant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	146,191	146,191	
	Personnel - Technical Lead: Component 1 and Governance Lead	149,936	149,936	-	-	-	-	-	299,872	-	-	299,872	
	Personnel - Technical Coordinator	63,967	31,983	79,958	79,958	-	-	63,966	319,833	-	-	319,833	
	Personnel - Technical Lead: Component 3	-	-	-	-	89,962	209,911	-	299,872	-	-	299,872	
	Personnel - Country Technical Liaison for CMAR-Colombia	48,418	48,418	48,418	48,418	-	-	-	193,672	-	-	193,672	
	Personnel - Country Technical Liaison for CMAR-Costa Rica	56,436	56,436	56,436	56,436	-	-	-	225,746	-	-	225,746	
	Personnel - Country Technical Liaison for CMAR-Ecuador	56,436	56,436	56,436	56,436	-	-	-	225,746	-	-	225,746	
	Personnel - Country Technical Liaison for CMAR - Panama	56,436	56,436	56,436	56,436	-	-	-	225,746	-	-	225,746	
	Personnel- Regional Operations Director (AFD)	-	-	-	-	48,020	-	-	48,020	-	-	48,020	
	Personnel- Manager of Sustainable Blue Economy (Panama)	-	-	-	-	206,101	-	-	206,101	-	-	206,101	
	Personnel - Executive Director (Costa Rica)	-	-	-	-	32,508	-	-	32,508	-	-	32,508	
	Personnel - Marine Manager (Costa Rica)	-	-	-	-	47,914	-	-	47,914	-	-	47,914	
	Personnel - Coordinator of Azul Economy (Colombia)	-	-	-	-	8,556	-	-	8,556	-	-	8,556	
	Personnel - Oceans Program Assistant (Colombia)	-	-	-	-	5,642	-	-	5,642	-	-	5,642	
	Personnel -Technical Manager (Galápagos)	-	-	-	-	41,291	-	-	41,291	-	-	41,291	
	Personnel - Vice President of Oceans (Costa Rica)	-	-	-	-	92,008	-	-	92,008	-	-	92,008	
	Personnel - Director of Ocean Governance (Colombia)	-	-	-	-	38,155	-	-	38,155	-	-	38,155	
	Personnel - Fisheries Specialist Coordinator (Galápagos)	-	-	-	-	82,148	-	-	82,148	-	-	82,148	
	Personnel - Finance and Operations Director	-	-	-	-	74,500	-	-	74,500	-	-	74,500	
	Personnel - Grants and Contracts Team	-	-	-	-	54,735	-	-	54,735	-	-	54,735	
		Subtotal Personnel	790,635	654,716	640,136	617,495	862,108	273,944	416,883	4,255,919	127,187	574,183	4,957,289
	Consultancy - Mid-term review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	54,000	
	Consultancy - Final evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	54,000	
	Auditing - Project audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,800	64,800	

	Consultancy - Implement actions to improve manufacturing, handling, packaging, transportation, storage and cold chain practices.	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	Conservation International
	Consultancy - Technician to collect and analyze information on the species	-	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	
	Consultancy - Implement work plans to strengthen the value chain of artisanal fishing under the steps of the Ecogourmet program (Fishing Organizations 1)	-	-	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	
	Consultancy - Implement work plans to strengthen the value chain of artisanal fishing under the steps of the Ecogourmet program (Fishing organizations 2)	-	-	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	-	-	11,972	
	Consultancy- Analysis of the organic fertilizer including registration in Agrocalidad	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	
	Consultancy - Feasibility study specialist	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000	
	Consultancy - Conduct chemical analysis to facilitate the development of the tests	-	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	
	Consultancy - Specialist to craft the marketing strategy outlined in the business plan	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	
	Audit- Outcome 3.1 audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	
	<b>Subtotal Professional Services</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,945</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,945</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>69,800</b>	<b>255,745</b>	
	Meetings: CMAR Secretariat (In person and Virtual)	74,976	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,976	-	-	74,976	
	Meetings: National Commissions (In person & Virtual)	45,217	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,217	-	-	45,217	
		3,848	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,848	-	-	3,848	
	Workshops: Regional Working Groups (In person & Virtual)	67,471	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,471	-	-	67,471	
		3,371	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,371	-	-	3,371	
	Workshops Training: National Commissions (In person & Virtual)	56,193	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,193	-	-	56,193	
		2,698	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,698	-	-	2,698	
	Workshops: Capacity Building for MPA Managers (In person and virtual)	125,896	-	-	-	-	-	-	125,896	-	-	125,896	
	Workshops: Training (Virtual)	1,124	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,124	-	-	1,124	
	Meeting: Exchange Events	48,355	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,355	-	-	48,355	
	Events: Fundraising	-	16,857	-	-	-	-	-	16,857	-	-	16,857	

Travel, Meetings and Workshops	Workshop: Regional Exchange	-	-	-	183,619	-	-	-	183,619	-	-	183,619	Fundación Pacífico
	Meetings: Blue Economy	-	-	-	-	-	119,734	-	119,734	-	-	119,734	
	Workshop: Communication Exchange	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,520	55,520	-	-	55,520	
	Training: IW Learn	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,972	26,972	-	-	26,972	
	Workshop: Inception	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,111	-	16,111	
	Workshop: Closing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,962	-	16,962	
	Meeting: Steering Committee (In person & Virtual)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,679	10,679	
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,124	1,124	
	Travel - Project lead	30,800	-	17,086	13,770	-	21,743	12,687	96,086	-	-	96,086	
	Travel - MEL Specialist	37,143	-	18,784	-	-	-	15,765	71,693	-	-	71,693	
	Travel - ESS&GS	18,482	-	9,241	-	-	-	-	27,723	-	-	27,723	
	Travel - Financial Officer	-	-	18,357	-	-	-	-	18,357	-	-	18,357	
	Travel - Grants & Contracts Officer	-	-	30,976	-	-	-	-	30,976	-	-	30,976	
	Travel - Knowledge Management & Comms	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,143	37,143	-	-	37,143	
	Travel - Technical Lead & Gov: Comp 1	46,199	24,881	-	-	-	-	-	71,081	-	-	71,081	
	Travel - Technical Coordinator	27,840	-	27,840	24,637	-	-	-	80,318	-	-	80,318	
	Travel - Technical Lead: Comp 3	-	-	-	-	21,743	18,540	-	40,283	-	-	40,283	
	Travel - Country Liasons (4)	132,436	-	132,436	-	-	-	-	264,872	-	-	264,872	
	Capacity Building	-	-	-	-	13,360	-	-	13,360	-	-	13,360	
	Carbon Offset	-	-	-	-	4,521	-	-	4,521	-	-	4,521	
	Fertilizer mobilization	-	-	-	-	325	-	-	325	-	-	325	
	Workshop - Annual meeting of coordination	-	-	-	-	40,658	-	-	40,658	-	-	40,658	
	Workshop - Develop and distribute the guidelines necessary for certifying organic fertilizer to enable its commercial sale.	-	-	-	-	874	-	-	874	-	-	874	
	Workshop - Share the test results with prospective product buyers.	-	-	-	-	1,485	-	-	1,485	-	-	1,485	
	Workshop - Refreshments for training sessions focused on financial, social, and environmental education.	-	-	-	-	499	-	-	499	-	-	499	
	International trips - for national coordination to the 4 CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	16,122	-	-	16,122	-	-	16,122	
	Stakeholders Workshops	-	-	-	-	45,734	-	-	45,734	-	-	45,734	
	Domestic trips for Project Activities	-	-	-	-	33,031	-	-	33,031	-	-	33,031	

Workshop - Restaurant owners, hotels, tour operators, and partners.	-	-	-	-	374	-	-	374	-	-	374	Conservation International
Workshop - Socialization of the characterization and diagnosis tool for organizations and business partners	-	-	-	-	574	-	-	574	-	-	574	
Meeting: Build a participatory roadmap with improvement actions with organizations and potential business partners	-	-	-	-	574	-	-	574	-	-	574	
Workshop - Organizations, key partners, suppliers of fishing resources, and key commercial partners to implement strengthening strategies	-	-	-	-	499	-	-	499	-	-	499	
Workshop - Fishing cooperatives and commercial partners to establish criteria for fair and equitable trade and commercial agreements and training to ensure implementation of the blue economy entrepreneurship within the framework of the ECOGOURMET strategy	-	-	-	-	2,701	-	-	2,701	-	-	2,701	
Workshop and meetings: Partners to develop the company's strategic planning in alignment with the strategies outlined in the business plan	-	-	-	-	374	-	-	374	-	-	374	
Logistics mobilizations for the collection of representative weight and height data	-	-	-	-	1,258	-	-	1,258	-	-	1,258	
Application of ExAnte tool	-	-	-	-	120	-	-	120	-	-	120	
Workshops - Annual Initiative	-	-	-	-	19,873	-	-	19,873	-	-	19,873	
Transportation: Island mobilization for the development of meetings with potential partners and development of ExAnte Diagnostic.	-	-	-	-	2,938	-	-	2,938	-	-	2,938	
Transportation: Coordination of data registration, follow-up, and trial monitoring mobilization.	-	-	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	
Travel: Project coordinator to CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	12,855	-	-	12,855	-	-	12,855	
Domestic trips - Costa Rica for field research	-	-	-	-	46,200	-	-	46,200	-	-	46,200	
International trips - Oceans team - Annual coordination	-	-	-	-	9,509	-	-	9,509	-	-	9,509	
Travel - Panama activities	-	-	-	-	42,993	-	-	42,993	-	-	42,993	
Travel - Annual meeting coordination in CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	11,951	-	-	11,951	-	-	11,951	
Workshop: Development of the Work Plan on Blue Economy Issues	-	-	-	-	25,390	-	-	25,390	-	-	25,390	

Travel: Monitoring and coordination programs in CMAR countries	-	-	-	-	58,953	-	-	58,953	-	-	58,953	Fundación Pacífico
<b>Subtotal Travel, Meetings and Workshops</b>	<b>722,050</b>	<b>41,738</b>	<b>254,720</b>	<b>222,027</b>	<b>419,088</b>	<b>160,017</b>	<b>148,087</b>	<b>1,967,727</b>	<b>33,074</b>	<b>11,803</b>	<b>2,012,603</b>	
Equipment for MPA Managers	54,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	-	54,000	
Financial Instrument	-	475,200	-	-	-	-	-	475,200	-	-	475,200	
Development of a Climate Vulnerability Analysis for the CMAR region	-	-	172,800	-	-	-	-	172,800	-	-	172,800	
Needs assessment and Identification and prioritization of climate adaptation actions	-	-	140,400	-	-	-	-	140,400	-	-	140,400	
Development of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Action Plan	-	-	129,600	-	-	-	-	129,600	-	-	129,600	
Implementation of Prioritized Adaptation Actions in the MPAs	-	-	1,166,400	-	-	-	-	1,166,400	-	-	1,166,400	
Conduct a Baseline Survey and Current Situation Analysis	-	-	-	64,800	-	-	-	64,800	-	-	64,800	
Establish a Protocol or Tool to Measure Regional Management Effectiveness	-	-	-	86,400	-	-	-	86,400	-	-	86,400	
Implement the Developed Tool or Protocol	-	-	-	194,400	-	-	-	194,400	-	-	194,400	
Integrate regional aspects into local MPA management plan	-	-	-	151,200	-	-	-	151,200	-	-	151,200	
Execute restoration and conservation interventions in priority MPAs	-	-	-	1,728,000	-	-	-	1,728,000	-	-	1,728,000	
Women's Leadership Program	-	-	-	-	324,000	-	-	324,000	-	-	324,000	
IW Conference Participation - Travel Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	108,000	108,000	-	-	108,000	
Governance Baseline Assessment and Evaluation	54,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	-	-	54,000	
Develop an Operations Manual for CMAR	21,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,600	-	-	21,600	
Develop & Implement a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism for CMAR's Secretariat	16,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,200	-	-	16,200	
Develop annual work plans for Regional Working Groups (5)	32,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,400	-	-	32,400	
Develop annual work plans for the National Commissions	48,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,600	-	-	48,600	

Capacity needs assessment/action plan: 4 National Commissions, 5 Regional Working Groups and up to eleven MPA	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	-	-	27,000	Grants and Agreements
Blue Economy and Investment Management	-	-	-	-	-	174,960	-	174,960	-	-	174,960	
Design and Implementation of Financial Mechanism	-	-	-	-	-	121,878	-	121,878	-	-	121,878	
Development of Knowledge Management Strategy	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,400	32,400	-	-	32,400	
Graphic Designer to support Knowledge Management Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,400	32,400	-	-	32,400	
Video: Knowledge Management Products: Video Creation and Editing (2 Videos)	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,200	43,200	-	-	43,200	
Incentives for suppliers of fishing resources (Santa Cruz and Isabela fishing cooperatives COPROPAG and COPAHISA)	-	-	-	-	20,600	-	-	20,600	-	-	20,600	
Incentives for business partners committed to a sustainable business model (restaurants and tourism operations).	-	-	-	-	15,600	-	-	15,600	-	-	15,600	
Experts who will assist in creating guidelines enabling the certification of organic fertilizer for commercial use.	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	
Expert who will provide guidance on the development of the Materials, equipment, and supplies to convert 100% of fishing by-products into fish hydrolyzate	-	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	1,200	-	-	1,200	
Incentives aimed at promoting blue economy ventures on nautical activities such as surfboards, paddle boards, and snorkeling equipment	-	-	-	-	44,500	-	-	44,500	-	-	44,500	
Blue economy strategy for Panama and the communities in the areas of influence of Coiba	-	-	-	-	93,393	-	-	93,393	-	-	93,393	
Development of blue business plans: specific consultations with the sectors, workshops for creating and validating plans and implementation of pilot projects	-	-	-	-	243,500	-	-	243,500	-	-	243,500	
Blue Economy - Evaluate feasibility of economic alternatives for coastal communities and resource users	-	-	-	-	59,705	-	-	59,705	-	-	59,705	
Equipment provisions for handling and commercializing seafood	-	-	-	-	10,122	-	-	10,122	-	-	10,122	

	Small grants to local community organizations2	-	-	-	-	65,650	-	-	65,650	-	-	65,650	
	Ecogourmet - Direct work with fisher organizations, retailers, and restaurants from at least 2 communities in the Pacific coast of Colombia	-	-	-	-	96,216	-	-	96,216	-	-	96,216	
	Equipment for strengthening fishing organizations	-	-	-	-	23,135	-	-	23,135	-	-	23,135	
	Blue economy sustainable MPA business plans	-	-	-	-	42,500	-	-	42,500	-	-	42,500	
	Strengthen capacities of users and business on sustainable blue economy	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000	
	Build a blue economy portfolio related to the CMAR MPAs	-	-	-	-	28,750	-	-	28,750	-	-	28,750	
	Communities and environmental authorities liaison 1	-	-	-	-	61,317	-	-	61,317	-	-	61,317	
	Communities and environmental authorities liaison 2	-	-	-	-	18,260	-	-	18,260	-	-	18,260	
	Technician to oversee and manage the tests	-	-	-	-	9,000	-	-	9,000	-	-	9,000	
	Business plan aimed at fostering local businesses specializing in water sports	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000	
	Provide training to partners on financial, social, and environmental education to ensure effective company management	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000	
	Design and maintaining access ramps and areas for surfing and other nautical activities	-	-	-	-	14,400	-	-	14,400	-	-	14,400	
	Enhancing the skills of young local entrepreneurs in the blue economy	-	-	-	-	14,400	-	-	14,400	-	-	14,400	
	Develop proposals to identify blue business investment opportunities	-	-	-	-	69,500	-	-	69,500	-	-	69,500	
	Blue Economy Strategy	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	
	Primary Identification Value Chain Analysis	-	-	-	-	54,900	-	-	54,900	-	-	54,900	
	Pilot for Blue Economy Business Associated with primary identification	-	-	-	-	59,352	-	-	59,352	-	-	59,352	
	Awareness and outreach to leverage sustainable blue economy	-	-	-	-	28,750	-	-	28,750	-	-	28,750	
	Establish a baseline with socio-economic indicators linked to the coastal marine area	-	-	-	-	22,500	-	-	22,500	-	-	22,500	
	Monitoring the project localities that are part of the Sanquianga-Gorgona Corridor	-	-	-	-	22,540	-	-	22,540	-	-	22,540	
	Blue economy business experts (2)	-	-	-	-	22,331	-	-	22,331	-	-	22,331	
	Business plan development for lobster, tuna, slipper lobster, and transformation of fishing subproducts	-	-	-	-	24,000	-	-	24,000	-	-	24,000	
	Development of social marketing activities to raise consumer awareness of the EcoGourmet program and promoting blue economy entrepreneurship	-	-	-	-	18,500	-	-	18,500	-	-	18,500	
	<b>Subtotal Grants and Agreements</b>	<b>253,800</b>	<b>475,200</b>	<b>1,609,200</b>	<b>2,224,000</b>	<b>1,646,622</b>	<b>296,838</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>6,724,460</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,724,460</b>	
	Laptops, Monitors and Accessories	8,497	4,249	10,622	8,498	-	2,124	6,376	40,365	-	2,124	42,490	
	Cellphones	388	291	485	291	-	194	291	1,940	-	-	1,940	
	Virtual Conferences Video Support	-	-	18,932	-	-	-	-	18,932	-	-	18,932	
	Improvements of the prioritized blue business plans	-	-	-	-	40,000	-	-	40,000	-	-	40,000	
	Computers	-	-	-	-	12,300	-	-	12,300	-	-	12,300	
	Licenses & software	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	
	Promotional materials of the campaign for recreational activities and the Ecogourmet Program	-	-	-	-	18,390	-	-	18,390	-	-	18,390	
	Field material for the development of research	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	2,000	-	-	2,000	
	Materials for developing tests that enable the integration of new findings on the efficacy of fish hydrolyzate	-	-	-	-	1,920	-	-	1,920	-	-	1,920	
	Promoting blue economy ventures via nautical activities through merchandising efforts	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	
	<b>Subtotal Equipment</b>	<b>8,885</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>30,039</b>	<b>8,789</b>	<b>85,610</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>6,667</b>	<b>146,847</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>148,972</b>	
	Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,402	25,402	-	-	25,402	
	Rent	18,889	14,408	13,927	13,180	4,304	9,032	13,745	87,484	4,193	18,931	110,609	
	PASC Allocation	-	-	-	-	119,381	-	-	119,381	-	-	119,381	
	Courier	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	250	-	-	250	
	Office supplies	-	-	-	-	15,239	-	-	15,239	-	-	15,239	
	Registration for the organic-hydrolyzed fish fertilizer transformation plant and the registration of fish hydrolyzate (Agrocalidad and ABG)	-	-	-	-	5,200	-	-	5,200	-	-	5,200	
	Cell phone	-	-	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	-	-	3,600	
	Insurance for equipment	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	150	-	-	150	
	<b>Subtotal Other</b>	<b>18,889</b>	<b>14,408</b>	<b>13,927</b>	<b>13,180</b>	<b>148,124</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>39,147</b>	<b>256,707</b>	<b>4,193</b>	<b>18,931</b>	<b>279,831</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,794,260</b>	<b>1,190,601</b>	<b>2,548,022</b>	<b>3,086,291</b>	<b>3,241,496</b>	<b>742,150</b>	<b>826,762</b>	<b>13,429,604</b>	<b>272,454</b>	<b>676,841</b>	<b>14,378,899</b>	

#### Footnotes

Other Operating costs or indirect costs are incurred during the grant period to support the grant's core deliverables against the grant outcomes. CI conducted due diligence of Fundación Pacífico and CI verified that there is a clear methodology and that those indirect or other operating costs are auditable. These costs have been allocated across the expense categories using a consistent "best practices" methodology and are excluded from grants and agreements as well as evaluation consultancies.

## ANNEX I: 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.

### STAP Comments and Answers

STAP Comments	Response
Project rationale, and project description – are they sound?	

<p>Review and revise the Project Rationale, using a systems thinking approach, to more carefully distinguish and demonstrate the connections among drivers, environmental effects, and barriers to change. Critically, resolve the confusing language around climate change as driver and problem.</p>	<p>The project context section has been updated (see Figure 4 and Pages 21 to 27). This includes a detailed analysis of the Environmental Problems and Root Causes including a logic chain graphic and a description of the underlying system drivers, root causes, impacts and resulting problems. This allows the reader to better understand the origin of the resulting environmental and socioeconomic problems and the main problem which will be addressed by the project.</p> <p>Three main drivers have been distinguished that are essential to understand impacts on marine ecosystems:</p> <p><i>(1) climate variability and climate change (natural system),</i>  <i>(2) socioeconomic and</i>  <i>(3) governance conditions (including institutional and financial governance) as part of the human system.</i></p>						
<p>Clarify the connections among future narratives, the range of uncertainty in potential future scenarios associated with each, and how design options are robust given that uncertainty. Beyond considering aspects directly related to regional cooperation, it may also be helpful to consider narratives regarding other, external trends such as climate, pollution, and economy.</p>	<p>The CEO Endorsement includes a revised and updated “The proposed alternative scenario”, including a detailed analysis and graphic to explain the proposed approach for an alternative Paradigm Shift in CMAR (see Figure 5). In addition, the section develops the project approaches for Paradigm Shift, describing key interventions (see Figure 6).</p>						
<p>Clarify identified ambiguities in how proposed solutions address the threats and drivers as well as the primary objectives, including aspects related to destructive fishing, pollution, climate mitigation or adaptation, and the focus of blue economy investment. As part of this, clearly identify what is meant by “blue economy” in relation to this project – and in particular in relation to the threats affecting “marine connectivity” and ocean health.</p>	<p>Figure 5 “Approach for an alternative Paradigm Shift in CMAR” analyses changes needed to achieve the desired project results, by showing the relationship between the project components and the actions required for change. In addition, Figure 6 shows the 5 interconnected approaches the project will adopt: (i) Governance, (ii) Climate Action, (iii) Ecological Connectivity, (iv) Blue Economy and (v) Knowledge Management.</p> <p>Blue economy concept, in terms of this project, was defined along with CMAR stakeholders, focusing on three main sectors: i) tourism; ii) fishing; and iii) maritime transport.</p>						
<p>Review and revise identified outcome indicators to match the scale of ambition (notably the shifts in actions and behaviors of key actors) rather than output-level milestones.</p>	<p>Indicators have been updated and new impact indicators have been included. Please see updated Results Framework included in Annex C. In particular, some of the changes include:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="722 1563 1500 2132"> <thead> <tr> <th>PIF</th><th>CEO Endorsement</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Outcome 1.1: Regional governance of CMAR is strengthened and sustained in the long term.</b> <b>Indicator 1.1: # documents agreed and signed by the 4 governments approving a well-defined regional CMAR governance mandate.</b> <b>Target 1.1: 1 document</b></td><td><b>Outcome 1.1: Strengthened long-term sustainability of CMAR regional governance.</b> <b>Indicator 1.1: Percentage (%) points of governance effectiveness increased.</b> <b>Target 1.1: 20% governance effectiveness increased (based on governance assessment baseline and Y3).</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management.</b> <b>Indicator 2.2.a # of MPAs</b></td><td><b>Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management.</b> <b>Indicator 2.2: Percentage (%) of improvement of regional MPA</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	PIF	CEO Endorsement	<b>Outcome 1.1: Regional governance of CMAR is strengthened and sustained in the long term.</b> <b>Indicator 1.1: # documents agreed and signed by the 4 governments approving a well-defined regional CMAR governance mandate.</b> <b>Target 1.1: 1 document</b>	<b>Outcome 1.1: Strengthened long-term sustainability of CMAR regional governance.</b> <b>Indicator 1.1: Percentage (%) points of governance effectiveness increased.</b> <b>Target 1.1: 20% governance effectiveness increased (based on governance assessment baseline and Y3).</b>	<b>Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management.</b> <b>Indicator 2.2.a # of MPAs</b>	<b>Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management.</b> <b>Indicator 2.2: Percentage (%) of improvement of regional MPA</b>
PIF	CEO Endorsement						
<b>Outcome 1.1: Regional governance of CMAR is strengthened and sustained in the long term.</b> <b>Indicator 1.1: # documents agreed and signed by the 4 governments approving a well-defined regional CMAR governance mandate.</b> <b>Target 1.1: 1 document</b>	<b>Outcome 1.1: Strengthened long-term sustainability of CMAR regional governance.</b> <b>Indicator 1.1: Percentage (%) points of governance effectiveness increased.</b> <b>Target 1.1: 20% governance effectiveness increased (based on governance assessment baseline and Y3).</b>						
<b>Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management.</b> <b>Indicator 2.2.a # of MPAs</b>	<b>Outcome 2.2: Improved regional MPA connectivity and management.</b> <b>Indicator 2.2: Percentage (%) of improvement of regional MPA</b>						

	<p>under improved management effectiveness. Target 2.2.a: At least 5 Central ETP MPAs. Indicator 2.2.b # of hectares under improved management effectiveness for regional connectivity. Target 2.2.b: TBD hectares of the Central ETP.</p>	<p>connectivity and management from Y1 baseline. Target 2.2: At least 20 % of regional MPA connectivity and management improved</p>
	<p>Outcome 3.1: A regional 5-year blue economy plan is developed and integrated into the CMAR Regional Action Plan. Indicator 3.1: # of regional blue economy plans developed. Target 3.1: 1 plan.</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1: Mainstreaming and integration of Blue Economy interventions into the Central ETP MPAs that are part of CMAR. Indicator 3.1: Number of MPAs with blue economy enterprises in operation. Target 3.1: Six (6) multi-use MPAs in Central ETP.</p>

### Germany Comments and Answers

Germany Comments	Response
<b>Project rationale, and project description – are they sound?</b>	
<p>The full proposal should more clearly outline how the proposed work programme addresses the root causes of the environmental problems in the region. In this context it needs to be stated which definition of a Blue Economy the countries and region adopt. It needs to be emphasised that environmental protection forms an integral part of developmental agendas.</p>	<p>The project context section has been updated (see Figure 4 and pages 21 to 27). This includes a detailed analysis of the Environmental Problems and Root Causes including a logic chain and problem root tree figure and a description of the underlying system drivers, root causes, impacts and resulting problems, to understand the origin of the resulting environmental and socioeconomic problems and the main problem which will be addressed by the project.</p> <p>In addition, a definition for Blue Economy has been included (see “Glossary of Terms” page 15), which has been validated with project stakeholders in different meetings. Blue economy concept, in terms of this project, was defined along with CMAR stakeholders, focusing on three main sectors: i) tourism; ii) fishing; and iii) maritime transport.</p>
<p>Good governance relies on evidence-based and transparent decision-making. To accommodate multiple economic demands in a shared ocean space, adequate multi- sectoral data need to be gathered and curated, and conflicts addressed in a participatory setting. Marine spatial planning is a process that supports ocean governance in such complex settings, and it is recommended that it is promoted by the project as a method to achieve the balance between protection and sustainable utilisation of marine resources in the ETP region.</p>	<p>Incorporated in description of component 2.2</p>



The BBNJ framework offers an opportunity to strengthen regional ocean governance in the ETP region and contribute to global protection targets. The project can make use of this ambitious global political process and should make links to BBNJ.

The “*Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*” has been included in the “Policy Coherence” section (see pages 53- 56). This section indicates that the mentioned instrument will be key for the development of Component 1 (Governance).

### GEF Secretariat's Comments pending for PPG

GEF Secretariat's Comment	CI-GEF Response	Pending for PPG	Response at PPG Stage (CEO Endorsement)
<b>3. Indicative Project Overview.</b> <i>3.1. b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?</i>			
<p>The four country ministers have supported a nine-point action plan presented at <b>Our Oceans in Panama</b>, that includes establishing a CMAR treaty. Additionally, the PACA LME project aims to have a SAP ministerial endorsed. Please explain why this project does not aspire to this level of ambition.</p>	<p>According to what the countries agreed at the Our Oceans conference, the project will work with CMAR to have a transboundary agreement as ambitious as possible. However, the project cannot directly commit to a CMAR treaty given that this is a decision of the four governments and the decision will involve institutions beyond the Ministries of Environment that are part of CMAR. The project will facilitate the discussions and ensure a CMAR legally binding mechanism is discussed as part of CMAR involvement, in line of what was mandated by the Ministers of Environment in their highlevel meeting in March 1st, Panama City. Regarding the PACA LME project, the fact that it is aiming to produce a SAP calls for this project to not repeat the effort. Coordination with the PACA LME project has been established so that this project is able to incorporate SAP priorities into its actions.</p>	<p>During PPG it is expected that additional clarity on project's ambition is discussed with all key stakeholders, including the noted institutions beyond the Ministries of Environment that are part of CMAR.</p>	<p>Project focus has changed, and the CMAR Treaty will be undertaken by another initiative. This project will operationalize the CMAR treaty agreed by all four Governments.</p>
<b>5 B. Project Description</b> <b>5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE</b>			
<p>As presented now, the blue economy component is only related to national economic issues. What about regional blue economy coordination? The current Theory of Change logic with linear barriers aligned to specific</p>	<p>CI-GEF acknowledges these comments and confirms that it will be addressed during the PPG phase</p>	<p>Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG is it expected the Theory of Change will be considerably improved based on stakeholder feedback to project design and testing of</p>	<p>The ToC has been updated and clearly links root causes, impacts and barriers to project outcomes and outputs (see Figure 7 in section B.1 Theory of Change). In addition, an additional baseline analysis to strengthen the ToC has been developed (Underlying system</p>

GEF Secretariat's Comment	CI-GEF Response	Pending for PPG	Response at PPG Stage (CEO Endorsement)
components misses much of the rationale/importance of supporting countries with transboundary cooperation. Please revise the ToC to show a more integrated project design that improves the justification for a regional project funded by IW.		assumptions.	drivers, root causes, impacts and resulting problems) (see section A).
Please provide evidence to defend the assumption that the fisheries and tourism sectors are open to adopt blue economy principles proposed by this project. What baseline activities suggest these sectors are amenable to this at national and regional levels?	CMAR, through its regional thematic working groups in tourism and fisheries, will address this in fair detail once activity of these groups is fully resumed. Both user groups were added per direct recommendation and after direct approval of CMAR and all four countries.	Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG is it expected that both fisheries and tourism sectors are directly engaged at the national and regional level so that the project leverages their baselines (including cofinancing) and addresses their specific needs to participate in a sustainable blue economy.	During the PPG phase, specific workshops have been developed to address the Blue Economy theme (see Stakeholder Engagement Plan Annex). These workshops were attended by stakeholders from the Fisheries and Tourism Working Groups of CMAR. Possible lines of action and national and regional actors were analyzed. The analyses were reinforced with specific surveys that were answered by the 4 countries. The results are reflected in the description of Component 3, which has been adjusted and expanded
<b>5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING</b>			
The underlying baseline efforts are not reflected as part of the project cofinancing and some cofinancing partners are not specifically reflected in the ICR. Please see cofinancing comments about the need to capture the broader partner cofinancing efforts for the ETP and update the ICR accordingly.	Currently working on confirming new cofinancing from Wyss Foundation, US Gov, UK Gov and CAF.	Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG it is expected that the project baseline is significantly refined to reflect the specific project partners and additional cofinancing is secured.	Cofinancing has being expanded during PPG phase and the project has now on board organizations such as PEW, Bezos, Charles Darwin Foundation, PACIFICO, World Bank, among others.
<b>5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK</b>			
While there is some information on key initiatives like the PACA LME, other key actors that, including many key donor organizations that have recently announced plans of support are missing. This is reflected in the low cofinancing that is commented elsewhere in the review.	Information on USG investment, Enduring Earth/Connect to Protect, CAF, IADB and WildAid investments have been included.	This is considered addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG it is expected that the project baseline is significantly refined to reflect the specific project partners and additional cofinancing is secured.	Information of projects from different organizations that support initiatives in the region has being updated in Section A.1.2: Baselines Scenario and any associated baseline projects



GEF Secretariat's Comment	CI-GEF Response	Pending for PPG	Response at PPG Stage (CEO Endorsement)
KM and strategic communication are described. However, please consult with IW:LEARN to understand what is expected of IW projects and revise proposal accordingly	An email to IW:Learn requesting a chat to learn more about their program was sent but no response was received. Text has been revised to strengthen the projects use of IW:Learn knowledge and contributions to the portal and program.	Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG please work closer with IWLEARN to include expected activities and identify specific areas of collaboration are integrated into the project. CI has multiple GEF IW projects that currently participate in IWLEARN.	Text has been revised to strengthen the projects use of IW:Learn knowledge and contributions to the portal and program.
<b>5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines</b>			
In the Portal submission, the project proposes alignment with Core Indicators 2.2: 31,250,000 ha of marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness; and Core Indicator Indicator 11: 200,000 people (60,000 female and 140,000 male) benefiting from GEF-financed investments. The methodology refers to also alignment with Core Indicator 7 but it is not included in the Core Indicator table. Further, given the specific focus on supporting fisheries, please explain why no Core Indicator 8 is not completed. Please include the full table so the Core Indicators can properly be assessed.	CI-GEF confirms that methodologies for Core Indicator 8 and 11 will be refined during the PPG phase.	Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG please work with fisheries stakeholders at the national and regional level for Core Indicator 8. Also during PPG please present a significantly improved methodology for Core Indicator 11.	The two Core Indicators have been reviewed as follows: 1. CI 8: The indicator has not been included as various marine fisheries are not qualified as over-exploited. More specifically, only certain areas (Galapagos, Coiba) and for some specific species. Thus, the indicator was not deemed viable given the level of uncertainty under the ambition of the activities under Component 3. 2. CI 11 has been revised based on consultations and workshops with CMAR and member countries. The new estimate separates direct and indirect beneficiaries from the different project components.
<b>5.6 RISKS</b>			
<b>5.6. c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?</b>			
No, the only environmental and social risk provided is covid. Please give more thought to this section.	CI-GEF acknowledges this comment and confirms that it will be addressed during the PPG phase.	Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG it is expected that further thought is given to mitigating the presented and other Environmental and Social risks as reflected in safeguards assessments and integrated into the project's design.	A Social and Environmental Screening has been developed for CEO Endorsement and is included as Annex F. In addition, Social and Environmental Risks are included in the Risk table (see page 70).

GEF Secretariat's Comment	CI-GEF Response	Pending for PPG	Response at PPG Stage (CEO Endorsement)
<b>5.7 Qualitative assessment</b>			
<i>5.7.a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?</i>			
Please note earlier comments about the projects role in supporting countries meet their goal stated at Panama 2023 Our Ocean on establishing a regional ETP treaty. Please also discuss here how the project will ensure durability with the PACA LME TDA-SAP and the cofinancing from Enduring Earth.	CI-GEF confirms that project ambition will be discussed with all key stakeholders during the PPG phase.	Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG it is expected that additional clarity on project's ambition is discussed with all key stakeholders, especially including the noted institutions beyond the Ministries of Environment that are part of CMAR.	Project durability/sustainability has been incorporated under financial mechanisms to provide CMAR of a long-term financial strategy (Output 1.2.1 and Output 3.2.1) (see Project Component description).
<b>6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities</b>			
<i>6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?</i>			
As discussed in the Theory of Change comment, please revise the proposal to better present all the components as supporting the four countries with transboundary cooperation. Please also strengthen the evidence base to show the fisheries and tourism sectors in all four countries are willing to engage in the proposed project.	CI-GEF acknowledges this comment and confirms that it will be addressed during the PPG phase.	Addressed for PIF stage, but as noted elsewhere in review, it is expected during PPG that the transboundary rationale is strengthened further and the specific baselines (and cofinancing) of the fisheries and tourism sectors are improved based on stakeholder engagement.	TOC has been revised with stakeholders to present all project components in a clearer manner (see section B.1 Theory of Change).
<b>8. Annexes</b>			
<i>8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?</i>			
<i>Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?</i>			
Only Colombia is providing cofinancing. Why are the other participating countries not providing cofinancing?	CI-GEF acknowledges this comment and confirms that it will be addressed during the PPG phase	Addressed for PIF stage, but during PPG it is expected that significant additional cofinancing will be secured.	All 4 countries have provided cofinancing for the project (see table of cofinancing)
<i>8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country's(ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?</i>			
Yes, though the amounts may need to be adjusted per the above comments.	All four countries have submitted LOEs with the initial amount USD 20M. CI will work to obtain the updated LOEs before the project before it is Council approved and start PPG phase.	Addressed for technical clearance. GEF Agency (CI) commits to securing revised LOEs before GEF Council approval.	