

## Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management

### Basic Information

**GEF ID**

10778

**Countries**

Regional (El Salvador, Honduras)

**Project Title**

Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management

**GEF Agency(ies)**

World Bank

**Agency ID**

World Bank: P176323

**GEF Focal Area(s)**

International Waters

**Program Manager**

Christian Severin

**PIF**

## **Focal area elements**

### **1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): No, not eligible for review, since no LOEs has been uploaded. Please resubmit soonest with the needed LOEs.

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, the submitted proposed investments is aligned with the IW FA

#### **Agency Response**

4/13/2021

LOEs are submitted

## **Indicative project/program description summary**

### **2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Partly. Please address below points:

1) Please fill in more detail into the table B of the portal submission, to enable the reader to understand what activities will be undertaken and what they will deliver. Consider to utilize the headings that is already in the system (project components, financing type, project outcomes, project outputs). It is nearly impossible to understand what the project will deliver without more detail provided.

2) It was discussed that the project team would work towards including the last basin country, if possible. Please include a footnote to this effect under Table B as well as under the section that pertains to the LOE signatures2) Please produce a results Framework and include as

## Agency Response

4/20/21

Response:

1) The team added the requested details into table B. There are no columns for the outcomes or outputs in table B of the online template, therefore the requested information was added in the section above table as shown below:

**B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY**

**Project Objective**

Project Objective: To improve the capacity of the Project Countries to manage the transboundary natural resources of the Gulf of Fonseca, including for climate change adaptation.

**Project Outcomes**

Project interventions and outputs by components

Component 1: Preparation of key documents for transboundary management

Sub-component 1.1: Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

Project Component	Component Type	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1	Technical Assistance	GET	2,000,000.00	11,000,000.00

2) The team included two footnotes under table B and under the section that pertains to the LOE signatures mentioning the work towards including the last basin country.

3) The following Results Framework is included in section Project Outcomes and section C of the PID ('Project Development Objective(s)' / 'Key Results'):

1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (including climate change impacts) jointly prepared and endorsed at ministerial level in both countries (yes/no) (baseline: no / end of project: yes).
2. Strategic Action Program (SAP) jointly prepared and endorsed at ministerial level in both countries (yes/no) (baseline: no / end of project: yes).
3. Annual reports prepared by the Golf of Fonseca Task Force and endorsed at ministerial level in both countries (yes/no) (baseline: no / end of project: yes).
4. SAP activities address climate change issues (yes/no) (baseline: no / end of project: yes).
5. Direct Project Beneficiaries (number), of which female (percent) (baseline: 0 / end of project: 3,000, 50%).

## Co-financing

**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, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?**

### Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, Cofinancing is okay at this stage, it is noted though that it seems a bit odd that the cofinancing from the two countries is exactly the same. Further, co-financing source from CABEL should be labeled as "donor Agency" and not "others".

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

### Agency Response

4/20/2021

noted, thank you. Contribution from the countries will be specified during project preparation. We have modified the co-financing source from CABEL as requested

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion 7th of April 2021 (cseverin):Yes

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion 7th of April 2021 (cseverin):Yes

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): This is impossible to assess as there is near no information on project activities included in Table B. However:

1)Please assess if delivery is anticipated towards other Core indicators as part of the TDA/SAP process.

2) please include values under core indicator 11.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed, but please report on any of the core indicators, if during project implementation some additional results will be obtained.

Agency Response

4/23/2021

Noted. thank you

4/20/2021

Information on project activities is added in Table B.

1) Delivery is not anticipated towards other core indicators as part of the TDA/SAP process. That's because other related core indicators make reference to areas of protected areas created or under improved management, of land restored, of landscapes under improved practices, of marine habitat under improved practices. These will be consequences of this project, hopefully through a follow-up investment, but not outcomes of this project.

2) We have included values under core indicator 11.

## **Project/Program taxonomy**

### **7. Is the project/program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Please re-evaluate the taxonomy, as it seems that some Land based activities will have an impact on the gulf of Fonseca and hence will be part of the proposed investment.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

#### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

We have modified the taxonomy table G in the datasheet to add appropriate keywords.

## **Part II – Project Justification**

### **1. Has the project/program described the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): No, The project justification section of the portal submission is empty. Please insert information.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, as according to harmonization process guidelines. However, please provide more detailed information on output level indicators at the time of CEO Endorsement

### **Agency Response**

4/23/2021

Noted, thank you. Full project Results Framework will be prepared by the team during project preparation and submitted as part of the endorsement package.

4/20/2021

The World Bank has a different portal template than other GEF agencies, which dates back to the World Bank-GEF harmonization process that was adopted in 2014 with the approval of Council and remains in effect. Under this process, the Bank PIF and CEO Endorsement stage templates are abbreviated versions of the templates used by other agencies, and it is agreed that GEF requirements that are included in Part II of the templates are addressed directly in the Bank project documents (PCN, PID and PAD).

Hence, the global environmental problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed are described in section B ('Introduction and Context') of the PID and PIN (PCN)

## **2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): No baseline has been identified nor inserted into portal. Please do so

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed as aligned with the Harmonization process guidelines

### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

the World Bank has a different portal template than other GEF agencies.

Thus, the baseline scenario is described in section B ('Introduction and Context') / Sectoral and Institutional Context of the PID and PIN (PCN), especially its two last paragraphs.

### **3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): No filled in, so not possible to assess. please fill in.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed, as aligned with the Harmonization process guidelines

#### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

There is no section for alternative scenario in the online WB PIF template. Therefore, the proposed alternative scenario describing the expected outcomes and components of the project is described in sections C ('Project Development Objective(s)') and D ('Preliminary Description') of the Bank PID and PIN (PCN)

### **4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not filled in. Please do so, to enable responding to review question

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed through alignment with the Harmonization process guidelines requirements

#### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

described in section B ('Introduction and Context') / 'Relationship to CPF' of the Bank PID and PIN (PCN)

The project will contribute to Objective 1 of the International Waters portfolio of GEF-7 (Strengthening National Blue Economy Opportunities), in particular Strategic Action 1.1, sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems.

## **5. Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not filled in. Please do so, to enable responding to review question

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed, through alignment with the Harmonization process guidelines requirements

### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

There is no section to describe this information in the online WB PIF template. Therefore, the incremental/additional cost reasoning is described in section B ('Introduction and Context') / 'Relationship to CPF' of the PIN (PCN) and PID.

## **6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): the submission does not include a results framework nor a detailed table B. therefore it is not possible to respond to question. Please provide an RF and filled in table B.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed through alignment with the Harmonization process guidelines requirements

### **Agency Response**

The results framework is described in section C ('Project Development Objective(s)' / 'Key Results') of the PIN (PCN) and PID. Table B has been filled in (see Outcomes section, as Table B of the WB PIF does not have columns for outcomes/outputs)

## **7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not filled in. Please do so, to enable responding to review question

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed through alignment with the Harmonization process guidelines requirements

### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

The potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up is described at the end of section D ('Preliminary Description') of the PIN (PCN) and PID.

## **Project/Program Map and Coordinates**

### **Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes

### **Agency Response**

**Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Some information provided, but please provide more detail on which stakeholder groups will be consulted and worked with throughout the project preparation and implementation. Further, please include the stakeholder analysis, drawn from the socio-environmental diagnostic of the Gulf of Fonseca completed in 2020. List of stakeholders, interests in the project and potential roles.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Partly, please include the stakeholder analysis drawn from the socio economic diagnostic of the Gulf of Fonseca completed in 2020.

26th of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed adequately, but it is expected that a MUCH more detailed stakeholder analysis will be elaborated upon and delivered as part of the Request for CEO Endorsement.

#### **Agency Response**

4/26/2021

The socio-environmental diagnostic does not actually have a detailed stakeholder analysis, so the table included in the Stakeholders engagement section is the best we can do at this stage. More information and specific analysis will be done during the project preparation

4/20/2021

Table listing the stakeholder groups and their characteristics has been added to the datasheet. Note that the socio-environmental diagnostic of the Gulf of Fonseca did not include a stakeholder analysis. It will be undertaken during project preparation.

#### **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

that will be undertaken and the impact of these actions. The project should provide more detailed information on gender dimensions related to the project objective and components. In addition, the project indicate that it will contribute to closing the three gender gaps, but has not ticked the boxes that is expects to developed gender responsive measures or develop gender sensitive indicators. The Agency should further review its submission and also outline efforts, during project development to ensure gender responsive stakeholder consultations and plans to carry out further gender analysis prior to CEO submission.

22nd of april 2021 (cseverin): Partly, please elaborate on the activities that will be undertaken to ensure gender responsive stakeholder consultations and plans during project preparation.

26th of April 2021 (cseverin): addressed. but as with stakeholder engagement plans, this section need to be elaborated upon in MUCH more detail at the time of CEO Endorsement.

## **Agency Response**

4/26/2021

additional information on activities that will be undertaken to ensure gender-responsive stakeholder consultations and plans during project preparation is included in the relevant section of the online PIF template.

During project preparation, as a part of gender analysis a regional specific gender assessment will be developed assessing the role of women and men in some of the key activities identified, in particular in coastal and marine-based sectors (tourism and aquaculture). Consultations with the local CSO and communities will be conducted during PPG stage.

A specific effort will be made to identify initiatives that enhance women's incomes and rights and to consider issues of marginalized gender factors as a part of the stakeholder engagement plan. This information will inform the TDA and SAP that will take into account roles/responsibilities, with a participatory approach that ensures due consideration of gender roles.

The above information will be used to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women throughout the project implementation.

4/20/2021

The online datasheet template is updated, and provides additional details on gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

## **Private Sector Engagement**

**Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Some information included, but no detail to which associations, private sector interest groups, private sector players etc etc. Please provide more detail.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed adequately, but please work diligently during project preparation to expand on the private sector engagement strategy and opportunities to include the private sector in the project activities.

### **Agency Response**

4/23/2021

Noted, thank you. Will expand private sector engagement strategy and opportunities to include the private sector in the project activities during project preparation.

4/20/2021

More detailed information has been provided in the relevant section of the datasheet (Private Sector Engagement)

### **Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

**Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Partly. Please provide a matrix that categorizes the risks, while providing a specific risk and opportunity analysis of the impacts COVID will have on implementation.

26th of April 2021 (cseverin): addressed

### **Agency Response**

4/23/2021

Agency's COVID risks mitigation strategies and opportunities is included in the Project Roadmap as a separate document

4/20/2021

relevant information and risk assessment matrix is included in the Bank PIN (PCN) and PID "RISK AND STANDARDS" section.

## Coordination

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined?  
Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?**

### Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not filled into portal, please do so. But the PCN has some information, especially pertaining to the executing agency (CCAD). No information on coordination with other GEF investments or IBRD investments for that matter, please provide.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes

### Agency Response

4/20/2021

There is no section to describe this information in the online WB PIF template. The PCN information on coordination was updated as follows:

The project will be implemented by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo, CCAD). A commission of the Central American Integration System (Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana - SICA), CCAD was established with the mission of developing a regional regime for environmental cooperation and integration that contributes to improving the quality of life of the populations of its member states. It has the regional political legitimacy and sustainable development mandate to oversee the preparation and implementation of the project, recently leading preparation of a socio-environmental diagnostic of the Gulf of Fonseca (Diagnóstico Socio Ambiental del Golfo de Fonseca y Línea Base para el Programa Golfo Resiliente) completed in 2020 with the close collaboration of the three riparian nations.

With a dedicated unit for project implementation, CCAD has sufficient management and fiduciary capacity to ensure the efficient coordination of project activities, having implemented numerous donor-funded projects, including the regional aspects of the Corazon Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Project (P085488, a GEF-financed operation that closed in 2012).

For the purposes of the proposed project, the project implementation unit will be further strengthened with the participation of technical

y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano - OSPESCA), an agency of SICA created to promote the development and coordinated management of regional fishing and aquaculture activities to strengthen the Central American integration process.

The project will also liaise with relevant neighboring projects, via formal (participation in steering committees, sharing of information) and informal (virtual meetings with key project staff) channels. Such projects include the UNDP-GEF PACA project, currently under preparation, and the IBRD COMRURAL project.

## **Consistency with National Priorities**

**Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not filled in. Please do so.

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): yes

### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

There is no section to describe this information in the online WB PIF template. The information is provided in section B ('Introduction and Context') / 'Relationship to CPF' of the PID and PIN (PCN).

## **Knowledge Management**

**Is the proposed "knowledge management (KM) approach" in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?**

## Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not filled in. Please do so.

Please note that the KM section need to elaborate on plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives, evaluations and best practice during project/program preparation as well as proposed knowledge and learning outputs/deliverables, and to explain how the KM Approach will contribute to the project/program's overall impact. Further, the KM section should include processes to capture, assess, document and share, in a user-friendly manner, information, lessons, best practices, and expertise generated during implementation; plans for strategic communications; and an overview of existing lessons and best practice that inform the project concept.

22nd of april 2021 (cseverin): No, It is not adequate to simply reference sub-component 2.3 here. Those activities will definately be essential for the projects KM Strategy, but the documents package should somewhere elaborate on plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives, evaluations and best practice during project/program preparation on top of the activities in component 2.3. Further, this section should also explain how the KM Approach will contribute to the project/program's overall impact. Further, the KM section should include elaboration of processes to capture, assess, document and share, in a user-friendly manner, information, lessons, best practices, and expertise generated during implementation; plans for strategic communications; and an overview of existing lessons and best practice that inform the project concept.

26th of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed adequately, but again, it is expected that this will be elaborated upon in MUCH more detail at the time of CEO Endorsement.

## Agency Response

4/26/2021

Additional information to address comments on KM is included in the Stakeholders engagement section (as advised by the GEFSEC team, due to absence of this section in the GEF WB PIF online template).

The proposed project's KM areas of focus will be the regional blue economy, business and sustainable financing, as part of the TDA/SAP process. A learning and knowledge management exchange network will be created to disseminate project lessons and knowledge across the region, including through linkages with the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) program, leveraging the networks of the main project partners, CCAD, OSPESCA and CABI.

Knowledge products, data platforms, maps and communication materials generated by the project will be widely shared through the project website, which will be compliant with the IW: LEARN toolkit.

During project preparation detailed a KM strategy will be developed, in coordination with CCAD, OSPESCA, CABI and other development partners' available data and reports. The KM strategy will include various tools to inform countries and raise awareness among key stakeholders (governments, academia, private sector, donors, philanthropic organizations, CSO, and communities) about the TDA process and SAP formulation, and will contribute to formulation of the SAP investment solutions for blue economic development in the region. The results monitoring platform and activities such as communication campaigns and training provided to communities will help enhance the visibility of the project and contribute to raising awareness.

4/20/2021

Component 2 (see subcomponent 2.3 PIN (PCN) and PID) includes interventions on knowledge management. The project will finance knowledge sharing publications and events, including via the IW:LEARN platform and conferences. Lessons will be systematically documented and shared through the project's website, national and regional websites (for example the OSPESCA and CCAD websites) and IW:LEARN. The project's website will be developed and maintained following the IW:LEARN guidance. Project experience will be documented and disseminated using the GEF IW templates for experience notes and results notes. Country representatives and the project team will participate in IW:LEARN meetings and the International Waters Conferences.

## **Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)**

**Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): No, it seems that the PID has been uploaded instead of the ESRS as a supporting document. Please upload the EES document

22nd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes

### **Agency Response**

4/20/2021

Thank you. ESRS Concept Stage is uploaded instead

## **art III – Country Endorsements**

**Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes two LOEs have been uploaded. Please continue to work towards including the third basin country, if the political situation allows for that.

**Agency Response**

4/20/2021

thank you, noted

**Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects**

**Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

NA

**Agency Response**

**EFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

7th of April 2021 (cseverin): No, please address above comments and resubmit

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): No, please address comments and resubmit

26th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, project is recommended for CEO Approval

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

**Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**Review Dates**

**PIF Review    Agency Response**

<b>First Review</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>

**PIF Recommendation to CEO**

**Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval**

The Gulf of Fonseca is one of the most important tropical coastal systems along the Eastern Pacific Ocean in Latin America. A large, semi-enclosed bay covering 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> and shared by El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. It is a tropical estuarine system of shallow waters made up of interrelated ecosystems: estuaries, mangroves, saltwater forests, marshes and swamps, and continental and island coasts. The Gulf receives water from six main tributary watersheds and other smaller ones that together cover an area of approximately 21,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and is considered one of the most biologically rich maritime areas of Central America, providing spawning, nursery and feeding areas for a range of species of fish and shellfish, including stocks that have traditionally supported the most productive artisanal fisheries in the region.

The Gulf of Fonseca is a transboundary source of livelihood to close to a million people. The Gulf's ecosystems provide an important source of water, food, fuel and revenue to the riparian population. Subsistence agriculture and artisanal fishing remain the main sources of employment, even though small factories and agribusinesses producing nontraditional exports (e.g. shrimp farming, melon, watermelon, cashews) are developing rapidly. Aquaculture now employs around 60,000 people in the Gulf of Fonseca, almost half of whom are women.

The objective is to improve the capacity of the Project Countries to manage the transboundary natural resources of the Gulf of Fonseca, including for climate change adaptation. Such investment will be fully aligned with the Trinational Masterplan for Investment and Economic Development, that the three riparian countries mandated the Central American Bank for Economic Integration to formulate.

The project will prepare a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and a Strategic Action Program, to be endorsed by the two participating nations as this time. If the third nation joins the project it is the plan that this country will also sign on to TDA and SAP. The TDA/SAP process will enable transboundary management of the Gulf of Fonseca, by developing national and regional mechanisms, designing a trinational monitoring system, and improving adherence to the principles of sustainable management.

Ultimately this investment will strengthen the countries' capacity to manage the transboundary natural resources of the Gulf of Fonseca, leading to a healthier coastal and marine environment, and improved livelihoods of the coastal population in the Gulf.