GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title
Mexico Mesoamerica Forest IP Project: Securing benefits for the well-being of local communities and the ecosystems of the Maya Forest

Region	GEF Project ID
Mexico	11274
Country(ies)	**Type of Project**
Mexico	FSP
GEF Agency(ies)	**GEF Agency Project ID**
IUCN	
Project Executing Entity(s)	**Project Executing Type**
Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatán	CSO
GGGI	CSO
Yucatan State	Government
Quintana Roo State	Government
Campache State	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	**Submission Date**
Multi Focal Area	6/4/2024
Type of Trust Fund	**Project Duration (Months)**
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	**Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)**
11,932,416.00	1,073,917.00
PPG Amount: (c)	**PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)**
300,000.00	27,000.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	**Total Co-financing**
13333333	93,858,121.38

Project Sector (CCM Only)
AFOLU

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The "Securing benefits for the well-being of local communities and the ecosystems of the Maya Forest" Project is designed to tackle the severe issue of deforestation and degradation of primary forests in the Selva Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico [1]1. This loss has had significant impacts on biodiversity, carbon storage, and the provision of essential ecosystem services.

The project aims to slow and reverse this trend of forest loss and degradation. These efforts are in line with international commitments such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The project seeks to achieve this objective through strengthened governance, the protection and restoration of forest landscapes, the stable long-term mobilization of financial resources and regional cooperation, ensuring the sustainable provision of environmental services for the people and the planet.

The project's objectives will be achieved through four interlinked components as follows: 1) Enabling environment for the protection and conservation of primary forests; 2) Protection and accelerated restoration of primary forests; 3) Innovative financial mechanisms and investment; and 4) Coordinated and enhanced learning and regional collaboration.

This project is designed to deliver global environmental benefits (GEB) in biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and land degradation and forests as follows:

Table 2. Global environmental benefits

Global Environmental Benefits (GEB)	
Biodiversity:	Conservation of globally significant biodiversity.
	Sustainable use of the components of globally significant biodiversity.
Climate change mitigation:	Mitigated GHG emissions.
	Increased adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration.
	Conservation and enhanced carbon stocks in agriculture, forest, and other land use.
Land degradation:	Improved provision of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods and services.
	Mitigated/avoided greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration in production landscapes.
	Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in productive landscapes.
	Reduced pollution and siltation of international waters.

https://iucnhq-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mujicaroseron_iucn_org/Documents/Documents/Bosques%20Criticos/Subido%20al%20GEFSEC/Mexico/CEO%20END%20MX/GEF-8%20CEO_Endorsement_IUCN_Selva%20Maya%20Mexico_31.5.24.docx - _ftnref1[1]
http://www.intactforests.org/data.if.html

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

The primary forests of the Selva Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, are conserved by strengthening governance, protecting, and restoring forest landscapes, mobilizing stable long-term funding and regional cooperation, ensuring a sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet

Project Components

1. Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,685,575.00	13,140,137.00

Outcome:

1.1: Strengthened local, national, and regional governance mechanisms in support of primary forests conservation.

1.2: Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritize primary forest conservation.

1.3: Improved multisectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.

Output:

1.1.1: Awareness and defence plan for the protection and conservation of primary forests aimed at policy makers, sectoral entities and the private sector.

1.1.2: Strengthening local and national governance structures to improve the effectiveness of the protection and conservation of primary forests.

1.1.3: Reinforced agreements for cross-border collaboration in protected areas.

1.2.1: Updated intersectoral policies, regulations and instruments at the national and subnational levels that support the protection and conservation of primary forests.

1.2.2: Information to support fact-based decision making on forest conservation interventions.

1.3.1: National multi-sector platforms established or reinforced

1.3.2: Regional multi-sector meetings of interest groups and sectors to agree on actions and objectives for the conservation of primary forests.

1.3.3: Affirmative actions to integrate indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes.

2. Accelerated protection and restoration of primary forests

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
6,017,761.00	46,929,061.00

Outcome:

2. 1: Improved protection of primary forests in protected areas.

2.2: Increased area of OECMs that protect primary forests integrity and expand functional connectivity.

2.3: Ongoing restoration of 65,000 ha to increase primary forest connectivity.

Output:

2.1.1: Strengthening protected area management instruments and tools.

2.1.2: Regional assessment of the risk of collapse and extension of critical Mesoamerican Forest biomes.

2.1.3: Information on the contribution of protected areas and indigenous peoples to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support fact-based decision making.

2.2.1: National frameworks or protocols for the application of the OECM.

2.2.2: Establishment of national OECM networks that support the conservation of primary forests.

2.2.3: Collaboration agreements for transboundary OECM within the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

2.3.1: Updated evaluation of priority areas for the restoration of the Mesoamerican Forest landscape.

2.3.2: Key priority areas of community restoration.

3. Innovative finance and investment

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,722,290.00	21,587,368.00

Outcome:

3.1: Increase in financial resources for the conservation of primary forests.

3.2: Increase in the number of forest-friendly initiatives.

Output:

3.1.1: National analyses of financing gaps and barriers to investment in primary forest landscapes and forest-related livelihoods.

3.1.2: Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in protection of primary forests, protected areas, OECM and forest-related livelihoods.

3.1.3: High-level dialogue meetings to mobilize financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels to sustain the long-term conservation of critical forest biomes.

3.1.4: Regional coalition to mobilize funds to accelerate the conservation of primary forests and the development of viable forest-related livelihoods.

3.2.1: Innovative mechanisms to encourage forest-friendly initiatives.

3.2.2: Innovative business models to develop forest-friendly goods and services.

3.2.3: Project preparation mechanism to allow access to private and development financing.

3.2.4: High-impact and promotional events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials from Mesoamerica.

4. Coordinated and improved learning and regional collaboration

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
825,975.00	6,570,068.00

Outcome:

4.1: Improved national and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of the primary forests.

4.2: Lessons on primary forest protection and conservation models are available worldwide.

Output:

4.1.1: Regional coordination platform for the protection and conservation of primary forests.

4.1.2: Long-term regional communication plan to mobilize support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes

4.2.1: Mesoamerican knowledge platform on critical forest biomes (for example, biodiversity and social information, forest management models, regulations).

4.2.2: Lessons learned from the Child Project and its contributions to the Integrated Programme, forest management and governance models and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes documented and disseminated at regional and global levels.

4.2.3: South-South cooperation/knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes.

4.2.4: Annual regional knowledge sharing workshops.

4.2.5: Harmonized annual program planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
119,515.00	4,000,000.00

Outcome:

Output:

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	1,685,575.00	13,140,137.00
2. Accelerated protection and restoration of primary forests	6,017,761.00	46,929,061.00
3. Innovative finance and investment	2,722,290.00	21,587,368.00
4. Coordinated and improved learning and regional collaboration	825,975.00	6,570,068.00
M&E	119,515.00	4,000,000.00
Subtotal	**11,371,116.00**	**92,226,634.00**
Project Management Cost	561,300.00	1,631,487.38
Total Project Cost ($)	**11,932,416.00**	**93,858,121.38**

Please provide Justification

CHILD 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. Since this is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The Mayan Forest of the Yucatan Peninsula

The Selva Maya forest complex is composed of forest ecosystems located in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. It represents the largest intact forest remnant in Mesoamerica. Most of the Selva Maya is located in Mexico[1][2], covering three states in the Yucatan Peninsula (PY), namely Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan[2][3], and, outside this peninsula, the state of Chiapas[3][4] . This project focuses on the Maya Forest of the PY, i.e. the Maya Forest of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan, with an area of 13.3 million ha.

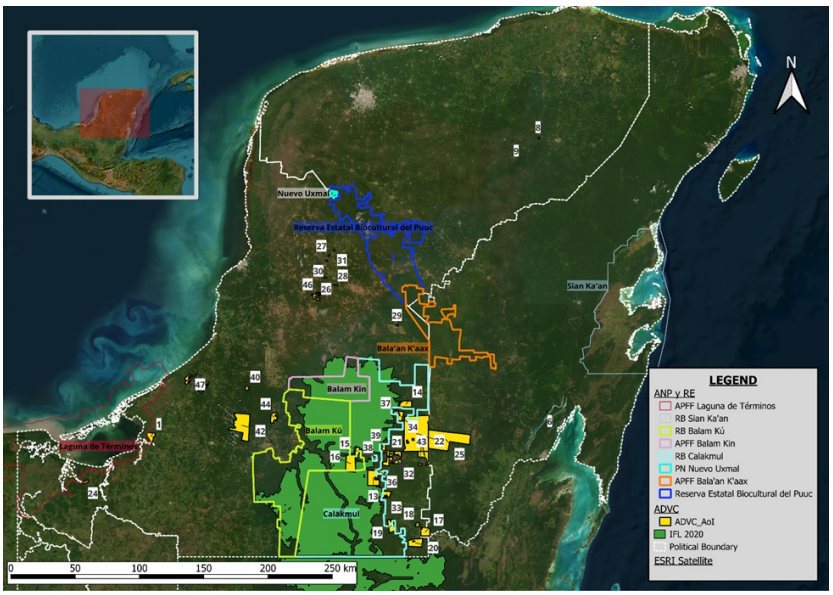
The Maya Forest of PY includes several forest types. Primary forest landscapes, i.e. without substantial human intervention and whose remnants can be approximated with intact forest landscape mapping (IFL[4][5]), cover an area of 921,217 ha[5][6] in the Maya Forest of the PY, i.e. 6.9% of the area of the Maya Forest of the peninsula. The primary forests of the SM of the PY are located in the state of Campeche, mainly in the municipalities of Calakmul, Hopelchén, Champotón, Escárcega and Candelaria - there are no primary forests in the states of Quintana Roo and Yucatán.

The Maya Forest of the PY is of critical importance to Mexico and the global community. It provides essential ecosystem services, including climate regulation and freshwater provision, and contributes to global soil and nutrient cycles. In addition, it has enormous value in terms of biological diversity, both flora and fauna, hosting several key endemic and non-endemic species, including, among others, unique and threatened wildlife such as jaguars, Central American river turtles, monarch butterflies, white-lipped peccaries, scarlet macaws, and flora such as the ramón tree (Brosimum alicastrum) and the sapote tree (Manilkara zapota). The Maya Forest of PY includes several strategic biological corridors. This forest complex is also home to hundreds of thousands of people of diverse cultural backgrounds, including indigenous communities of the Yucatec Maya and Ch'ol peoples, and thousands of archaeological sites.

Global environmental problem

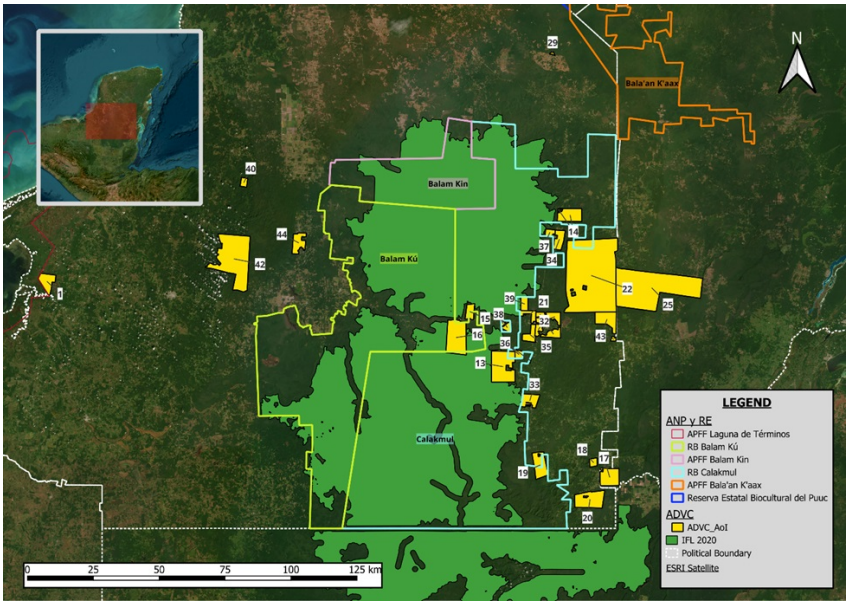
Given the importance of the Maya Forest of the PY for the conservation of biological diversity and the provision of ecosystem services, large areas of the Maya Forest of the PY (2,150,430 ha) have been protected (see Map 1 and Map 2), through different conservation figures: federal Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) (5 NPAs[6][7], 1,438,097 ha), state reserve[7][8] (1 reserve, 235,299 ha) and Areas Voluntarily Designated for Conservation (ADVCs) (34 ADVCs, 184,186 ha)[8][9] - essentially areas of land designated, at the initiative of individuals, communities, social organisations or companies, for conservation actions, according to their own management strategy, certified by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP). In total, 95.3% of primary forest is under a conservation scheme: 94.1% under a protected area and 1.2% under ADVCs. Only 4.7% of the primary forest of the Yucatan Peninsula is not under a conservation scheme. In addition, Mexico and the three states of the PY have regulatory and public policy frameworks and institutional structures favourable to the conservation and sustainable use of forests.

Map 1. Intact forest landscape and protected areas in the yucatan peninsula



Source: Made by Baastel with information from (CONABIO, 2024)[1], (Potapov, y otros, 2017)[2], and (CONANP, 2024)[3].

Map 2. Intact forest landscape and protected areas in the yucatan peninsula (Zoom)



Source: Made by Baastel with information from CONABIO[1], IFL Mapping Team[2], and CONANP[3].

Despite this, like other large forests and forest landscapes that remain intact in neighbouring Mesoamerican countries, Mexico's Selva Maya, and its primary forests, are in danger[4]. Although different studies provide dissimilar figures, there is consensus that the Maya Forest of the PY is suffering from aggressive deforestation and degradation. The Integral Selva Maya 2030 Strategy states that although the Maya Forest recovered approximately 9,000 hectares of forest between 2000 and 2012, more than 97,000 hectares were lost between 2000 and 2018. (3). Along these lines, a study by Global Forest Change (GFC), in Ellis et al. (18)on permanent deforestation in the PY between 2001 and 2020 found that at least 30,000 ha were deforested

annually in that period, with peaks of around 70,000 ha annually. According to Ellis et all, between 2001 and 2020 deforestation was particularly high in Campeche, followed by Quintana Roo and Yucatan.

The baseline study on deforestation prepared as part of the design of this project[5] with data from Vancutsem et al. 2021[6] points to a similar trend. According to this study, both in the Project Area of Interest (PIA) and in the forest ecosystem of the PY, there was a generalised loss of forest cover between 2015 and 2022 (see Map 3). Over that period, the average annual rate of forest cover change was negative in the two areas, at (-)69,979ha/year and (-)74,022 ha/year for the AIP and the PY forest ecosystem, respectively. In that period, in both areas, 12% of undisturbed forest was lost annually.

Map 3. Deforestation in the Yucatan peninsula 2015-2022 (Please see CEO Endorsement, p. 14 or map 3 in the document attachements)

Source: Baseline study on deforestation prepared as part of the design of this project

Additionally, degraded forest and secondary forest cover showed an increase in their average annual rates of forest cover change in both areas (AIP and the PY forest ecosystem). In the AIP, degraded forest cover increased by 4% (from 780,348 ha in 2015 to 1,034,540 ha by 2022), while the area of secondary forest cover increased by 23% (from 51,980 ha in 2015 to 265,751 ha in 2022).) On the other hand, within the PY forest ecosystem, degraded forest cover increased by 3% (from 997,361 ha in 2015 to 1,262,287 ha in 2022), while the area of secondary forest cover increased by 22% (from 72,610 ha in 2015 to 334,380 ha in 2022).

In addition to deforestation and degradation, the baseline study reports an increase in fragmentation in the undisturbed primary mature forest cover (undisturbed forest) in both the AIP and the PY forest ecosystem between 2015 and 2022. Indeed, although a decrease in the number of patches and a similar mean distance were identified over the period analysed, a reduction in the average patch size, a lower patch density and a lower aggregation index were found in 2022 compared to 2015.

This has resulted in difficulties for biodiversity movement (see Map 4). Indeed, in 2022, about 50% of this landscape had significant barriers to biodiversity movement, indicating a significant degree of ecological degradation, dominated by relatively low forest cover, relatively small fragments and land uses that are not compatible with biodiversity conservation objectives. Areas representing high and very high resistance to movement accounted for between about 7.5% of the total area of both the AIP and 9.8% of the ecosystem.

Map 4. Easiness of biodiversity to move in the yucatan peninsula (Please see CEO Endorsement, p. 15 or map 4 in project attachements)

Source: Baseline study on deforestation prepared as part of the design of this project

Although most deforestation and degradation has taken place outside protected areas, protected areas themselves have increasingly been sites of encroachment and illegal activities (e.g. logging of cedar and mahogany, poaching of fauna) and of deforestation and degradation. Linked to this, the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), in 2016 and IUCN/WRI, in 2017, identified multiple priority restoration areas in the Maya Forest of the PY, both inside and outside protected areas. In total, both exercises identified 4,816,143 ha as priority restoration areas, 2,656,257 ha in the intervention area, including different types of restoration activities.

In addition to serious global impacts, such as accelerating climate change and the loss of high-value biodiversity, the degradation and loss of the Maya Forest undermines the livelihoods of indigenous peoples

and local communities (IPLCs), which are vulnerable. Many of the indigenous communities living in and around the Selva Maya effectively live in poverty[1], face limited economic opportunities and education[2], and rely heavily on natural resources and subsistence agriculture. Although indigenous and local communities in Mexico generally enjoy legal protection for their lands under the Mexican Constitution and national laws, implementation and enforcement of these legal protections is limited, resulting in land tenure conflicts. These communities also face external pressures, such as illegal logging and agricultural expansion.

Threats

The deforestation and degradation of the Maya Forest of the PY is explained by several threats and underlying causes, on which the literature concurs. The forest faces persistent threats, such as conversion to agricultural land - mainly for cattle ranching - illegal logging, infrastructure development, forest fires, urban expansion and climate change, which have also been identified in the Maya Forest in general.

According to the national agriculture and livestock census (INEGI, 2022), the crops that are driving the expansion of the agricultural frontier are, primarily, sugar cane, corn (forrajero and grano blanco), cultivated grass (forage), and alfalfa. Combined these 5 crops registered a production yield ranging between 490,000 ton to 1,344,135 ton in Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan. Additionally, the expansion of the agricultural frontier by cattle ranching is one of the most intense threats to the Maya Forest of the PY. Although several actors contribute to this, communities that establish monocultures are one of the main drivers. The predominant livestock farming model is extensive and not very technified.

Although there are no specific figures for the Maya Forest of the PY, estimates of the percentage of traded timber (particularly mahogany -Swietenia *macrophylla,* and red cedar -Cedrela *odorata*) of illegal origin in Mexico range from 38% to 50%, depending on studies. Poaching is carried out on a small scale, but may pose a threat to some species or in some areas.

The PY has seen accelerated development of large infrastructure projects, including the expansion of tourism infrastructure, the expansion of the road network, and the 1,500 km Tren Maya project, among others. Some studies suggest that the construction of the Tren Maya may have resulted in deforestation and its design has implied the fragmentation of part of the Maya Forest on the peninsula. Largely linked to this infrastructure development, in rural and peri-urban areas, there is a boom in real estate development, especially in tourist areas and along the expansion of highways and roads.

An area of 21,990 hectares was affected by 85 fires in the states of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan in 2023, with Campeche showing the worst figures in terms of number of fires and area affected[3] . These fires are due to different causes, including the slash-and-burn system, a shifting cultivation system based on alternating intensive land use with long periods of rest that begins with felling a section of mature forest, extracting the timber and firewood, letting it dry and burning the rest of the vegetative material, before starting to cultivate.

Finally, the increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes, cyclones, droughts and extreme temperatures are negatively affecting the Maya Forest of the PY, among other things by favouring the spread of forest fires.

Underlying causes

These threats are rooted in several underlying factors. These include inadequate protection of many areas of the Maya Forest; inadequate resources and capacity for effective forest monitoring and forest law enforcement; insufficient livelihood options for indigenous and local communities; insufficient resource

mobilisation and investment in forest conservation and protection; and insufficient awareness among national, regional and global stakeholders of the importance of these resources.

Long-term solution

The current baseline scenario is complex, and it is impossible to fully address all causes of degradation and loss of the PY Maya Forest simultaneously. Without a major multi-level and integrated intervention to reduce pressures, the PY Maya Forest is likely to continue to deteriorate and be affected by high rates of deforestation, eventually disappearing.

Four major transformations are needed to change the current situation.

1. Change societal attitudes towards primary forests to ensure that their intrinsic value and contributions to society are recognised, valued and paid for.

2. Change policy and implementation processes, ensuring: (i) that there is multi-sectoral policy coherence, (ii) that decisions are made based on evidence of the social benefits and costs of intervening in primary forests, and (iii) that government funding and green financing mechanisms effectively support forest conservation.

3. Change land governance in primary forest areas, ensuring that the rights of indigenous and local communities over their lands and territories are recognised and enforceable.

4. Change the living conditions of people living where primary forests are located, ensuring that they can have a decent standard of living through sustainable forestry and non-forestry activities.

Achieving these long-term transformations requires a scalar, territorial and sectoral articulation that enables the creation of viable livelihoods linked to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forests.

The long-term goal is that the Maya Forest of PY, and the Maya Forest as a whole more broadly, is conserved and connected and contributes to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities and society at large. The protection and conservation of primary forests and the development of buffer areas with a mosaic of interconnected forest stands with varied land uses (e.g. secondary forests, agroforestry systems, farmland) will contribute to the conservation of high-value global biodiversity (e.g. tapirs, harpy eagles, jaguars) and mitigate the impacts of global climate change, as well as promote social stability and the fulfilment of human rights.

In the medium term, the achievement of this strategy involves generating enabling conditions for change, focusing on: (i) conserving intact protected forests; (ii) building capacities to mitigate pressures in areas of influence, expanding viable forest-related livelihoods to increase economic opportunities for indigenous peoples and rural communities, linking women and rural youth; (iii) strengthening local, national and regional governance as a means to rebuild the social fabric; and (iv) developing mechanisms to sustain structural change and long-term action (e.g. adequate long-term funding and raising awareness in society at large of the value of primary forests and their contribution to people and the planet).

Baseline

Mexico, Belize and Guatemala cooperate on the Selva Maya through the Operational Coordination Group and the Strategic Coordination Group established in 2015 as part of the Selva Maya 2030 strategy, which bring together key ministries from the three countries and served as a platform for dialogue to develop the strategy.

The three states are also part of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF task force) that promotes strategies and approaches that seek to advance balanced development between forest ecosystems and human well-being. The PY also has other governance structures and platforms in favour of the conservation and sustainable use of the Maya Forest. Also, as detailed in the Project Document, and mentioned above, federal and state governments have an extensive range of laws, plans and policies in this direction, from overall development strategies (such as the National Development Plan) to cross-sectoral policies (such as the National Climate Change Strategy and the National Biodiversity Strategy) and sectoral policies (such as the National REDD+ Strategy), at both government levels. There is a trend of state level protected areas becoming federal protected areas in the Yucatan Peninsula. Two of the six protected areas in the peninsula (i.e. the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and the Bala'an K'aax Flora and Fauna Protection Area) have been subject to effectiveness assessments. The latest assessments, conducted by CONANP in 2023, showed consistent effective or very effective management in the Calakmul BR, while the Bala'an K'aax APFF was characterised by mixed effectiveness, with effective or very effective management in some areas, partially effective management in others, and ineffective management from an administrative and financial points of view.

The Maya Forest of the PY has been the subject of multiple national and regional, public, private and cooperative programmes, projects and actions relevant to this project, some past, some ongoing and some planned, including six GEF projects (two (GEF ID 9380 and 9555) completed in 2023, one (GEF ID 10916) under implementation and three (GEF ID 11085 and 11510, and another unnumbered) in the process of approval). These are summarised in the Project Document. These projects have allowed and are allowing progress to be made in the conservation and sustainable use of the Maya Forest of the PY. However, as explained above, it continues to suffer an aggressive process of deforestation and degradation, with significant negative local and global consequences, given the intense threats and underlying causes described above. Despite the positive effects of these projects, a gap is identified in the deployment of integrated efforts at scale, territorial, sectoral and social levels to catalyse structural changes in favour of the conservation and sustainable use of the Maya Forest of the PY.

Incremental cost reasoning

Despite its importance to Mexico, Mesoamerica and the planet, deforestation and degradation of the PY's Maya Forest remain notable. As noted above, it faces serious threats, including agricultural expansion, illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, infrastructure development, urban development and forest fires, as well as climate change.

The Yucatan Peninsula has made significant progress in addressing this challenge. A substantial part of the rainforest has been designated as protected areas, through a network of national parks, biosphere reserves and other protected areas, the most significant of which are the 723,185 ha Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, located in the state of Campeche; the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve of 528,148 ha, in the state of Quintana Roo; and the Bala'an K'aax Flora and Fauna Protection Area of 128,390 ha, located in the extreme north of the Mayan Forest and covering the three states of the Yucatan peninsula. In addition, as witnessed by the volume and variety of co-financing, a wide range of relevant projects have been and are being implemented, with significant investment.

Although these initiatives are positive and have achieved interesting results, they have not been able to fully halt deforestation and degradation of the Maya Forest in the PY, given their narrow territorial and/or sectoral focus, the difficulty of promoting financing systems, investments and green businesses, and the insufficient exchange of good practices and regional coordination. Indeed, despite progress, protected areas are not fully effective, in part due to insufficient resources for monitoring and enforcement, and unsustainable uses of the forest take place in their areas of influence and beyond. If current threats and underlying causes continue, the

Maya Forest of the PY is likely to disappear within the next few decades. This would compromise the range of ecosystem services it provides to local groups and the planet. Many of the communities, including indigenous communities residing in and around the Mexican Selva Maya live in poverty, face a shortage of economic and educational opportunities, and are highly dependent on natural resources and subsistence agriculture, making them very vulnerable.

In this context, it is clear that the Mexican Selva Maya needs a project that addresses the above-mentioned threats and underlying causes in a comprehensive and articulated manner, that plays a catalytic role in generating a paradigm shift, and that allows for regional coordination, especially with Guatemala, given the connectivity of its primary forests. The project proposed here allows for such a strategic leap, in an incremental way, building on and in synergy with existing initiatives, which alone are not capable of halting deforestation and degradation in the Maya Forest of the PY. The incremental approach of the project consists of

1) scalar articulation, between various levels of government (federal, state and municipal), but also territorial, between federal NPAs, state reserves, ADVC, their areas of influence and productive areas (synergies between components 1 and 4).

2) cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder dialogue, negotiation and agreements to mainstream the protection of primary forests into specific and coherent policies and instruments at local, national and regional levels (component 1).

3) Mobilising finance for conservation (component 3).

The requested GEF funding will facilitate Mexico and the three peninsula states to advance multi-scalar and cross-sectoral processes, and to engage in transboundary processes that would be more difficult to promote and finance through governmental or non-governmental budgetary sources. GEF funding will harness the great potential for synergies and cooperation with a wide and diverse range of actors, mobilising some USD 90 million in co-financing, from local communities to development cooperation.

The project will generate multiple global environmental benefits, contributing substantively to the conservation of high-value biodiversity and the maintenance of global ecosystem services. These environmental benefits and very significant social benefits would most likely not be achieved in the absence of GEF funding.

[1] According to the latest available figures, and taking into account Mexico's definitions, in 2022, 45% of the population of Campeche, 39% of the population of Yucatan and 27% of the population of Quintana Roo were poor; and 9.6%, 5.6% and 4.2%, respectively, were living in extreme poverty.

[2] Six per cent of the population of Campeche and Yucatán and 3 per cent of the population of Quintana Roo were illiterate in 2020.

[3] CONAFOR. (08 February 2024). *Weekly fire report 2024*. Retrieved February 05, 2024, from https://www.gob.mx/conafor/documentos/reporte-semanal-de-incendios

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[1] Portal geo-información: http://www.conabio.gob.mx/informacion/gis/

[2] The IFL Mapping Team. “Intact Forest Landscapes 2000/2013/2016/2020” Available at www.intactforests.org

[3] CONANP ADVC: http://sig.conanp.gob.mx/website/interactivo/advc/

[4] According to the contract, the ecological analysis will be based on information provided by the CST. At the moment the information received from CST is scarce and preliminary. In this sense, this paragraph uses other sources. The section will be strengthened once CST shares its analysis.

[5] See annex X : Evaluación del grado de amenazas y degradación de los biomas forestales críticos de Mesoamérica en El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México.

[6] C. Vancutsem, F. Achard, J.-F. Pekel, G. Vieilledent, S. Carboni, D. Simonetti, J. Gallego, L.E.O.C. Aragão, R. Nasi. Long-term (1990-2019) monitoring of forest cover changes in the humid tropics. Science Advances 2021.

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[1] Portal geo-información: http://www.conabio.gob.mx/informacion/gis/

[2] The IFL Mapping Team. “Intact Forest Landscapes 2000/2013/2016/2020” Available at www.intactforests.org

[3] CONANP ADVC: http://sig.conanp.gob.mx/website/interactivo/advc/

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[1] There is no consensus in the literature on the nature of the Maya Forest. The Selva Maya strategy considers only protected areas, including terrestrial and marine areas. This project considers terrestrial, protected and unprotected areas, encompassing both primary and secondary forest.

[2] In 2020, the PY had 5,107,219 inhabitants.

[3] Municipalities in the state of Campeche: Hopelchén, Champotón, Escárcega, Calakmul and Candelaria. Municipalities in the state of Quintana Roo: Bacalar, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Othón P. Blanco and José María Morelos. Municipalities in the state of Yucatán: Tekax, Tzucacab, Oxkutzcab, Santa Elena, Ticul, Muna, Akil and Maní.

[4] Intact forest landscapes (IFL), www.intactforests.org

[5] The IFL Mapping Team. 'Intact Forest Landscapes 2000/2013/2016/2020' Available at www.intactforests.org

[6] Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Bala’an K’aax Flora and Fauna Protection Area, Balam Kin Flora and Fauna Protection Area, Balam Kú Biosphere Reserve and Nuevo Uxmal National Park.

[7] Puuc Biocultural State Reserve.

[8] In the SME, there are 11 additional ADVCs that are not part of the project intervention area.

B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. 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

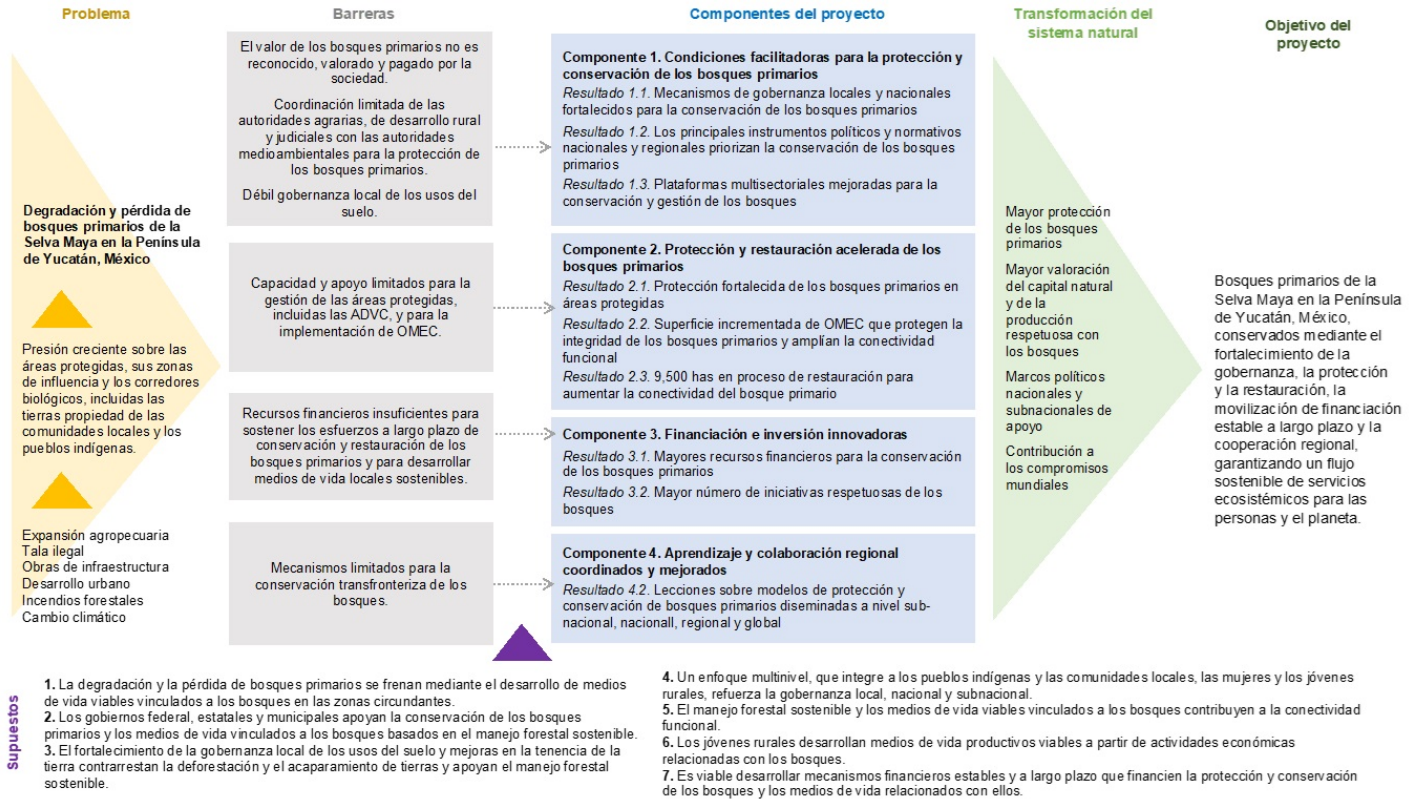
The **objective of** the project is to conserve the primary forests of the Selva Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, by strengthening governance, protecting and restoring forest landscapes, mobilising stable long-term funding and regional cooperation, ensuring a sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet.

The project seeks to remove the following **barriers to** slow the degradation and loss of primary forests in the Selva Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula:

- The value of primary forests is not recognised, valued and paid for by society.
- Coordination of agricultural, agrarian and judicial authorities with environmental authorities for the protection of primary forests is limited.
- There is weak local governance of land use. In particular, there is a need to strengthen and harmonise municipal and community land-use plans.
- There are limited capacities and resources for the management of protected areas, including Voluntary Conservation Areas (VCAs), and for the implementation of Other Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM).
- Available financial resources are insufficient to sustain long-term efforts to conserve and restore primary forests and to develop sustainable local livelihoods.
- Mechanisms for transboundary forest conservation can be strengthened.

In view of the above, the project will implement a set of **interventions** that, in line with the Regional Programme, include (1) strengthening governance and policy coherence at multiple levels, (2) strengthening protected area management, including ADVC, as well as the implementation of OECM and restoration initiatives, (3) mobilising new and additional funding for forest conservation and forest-friendly initiatives, and (4) enhancing regional learning and cooperation, at all times prioritising support to forest conservation efforts, and (5) improving regional learning and cooperation, (3) mobilising new and additional funding for forest conservation and forest-friendly initiatives, and (4) enhancing regional learning and cooperation, at all times prioritising support for conservation and restoration efforts led by local communities and indigenous peoples, with particular emphasis on the active involvement of youth and women (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Project's theory of change



Project components, outcomes, outputs and activities

In line with the regional programme, the project has four interrelated components, which are described below.

COMPONENT 1. Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests

Executing Agency PPY will support the awareness raising of decision-makers and the strengthening of the enabling public policy and governance framework for the conservation and protection of the primary forests of the Selva Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula. This component is expected to contribute to three outcomes:

- Outcome 1.1. Local and national governance mechanisms for primary forest conservation strengthened.
- Outcome 1.2. Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritise conservation of primary forests.
- Outcome 1.3. Enhanced multi-sectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.

Outcome 1.1. Local and national governance mechanisms for primary forest conservation strengthened.

The project will contribute to strengthening the positioning of primary forest conservation on the public policy and private sector agenda, as well as existing local and national governance mechanisms for this purpose.

-

Output 1.1.1. Plan to raise awareness and promote the protection and conservation of primary forests among policy makers, sectoral entities and the private sector.

This plan will target decision-makers (political and operational) from different levels and sectors of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, as well as private companies, with the objectives of (1) raising awareness of the irreplaceable value of primary forests in addressing social and development challenges; (2) promote coherence between environmental and agricultural policies; (3) promote the knowledge and application of environmental law by officials involved in land use decisions (from the National Agrarian Registry, the Agrarian Prosecutor's Office, civil and administrative courts, and municipal governments, among others).

Based on a diagnosis, tailor-made communication, training and experience-sharing activities will be defined and implemented for different audiences, which will be made known, based on a synthesis of the existing evidence on the subject:

- What primary forests are, where they are located in the Yucatan Peninsula and their importance in terms of biodiversity, ecosystem services and resilience to climate change.
- What other areas of the peninsula (e.g. secondary forests) should be protected and sustainably managed as a priority to maintain biological and ecosystem connectivity with and reduce pressure on primary forest areas.
- What are the main threats to the conservation of these forests (illegal logging, timber trafficking, fires and expansion of the agricultural frontier).
- What public policy instruments exist for the protection of primary forests and their connectivity and how they work, including for the protection of CWR, and what others have proven effective, considering in particular the extent to which they address the differentiated needs of people according to their gender, age and membership of indigenous groups.
- What economic activities are compatible with the protection of primary forests and their connectivity and how they benefit people differently according to gender, age and indigenous group membership.
- What options exist to reduce the negative environmental impacts of agricultural activities while securing the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples.

Output 1.1.2. Local and national governance structures strengthened to improve the effectiveness of primary forest protection and conservation.

The project will focus on supporting:

- The reactivation of the State Forest Councils and the Regional Climate Change Commission, building their financial sustainability and ownership by State Governments.
- The design and implementation of a plan to strengthen the Intermunicipal Biocultural Puuc Board (JIBIOPUUC) and the Municipal Association for the Environment of Southern Quintana Roo (AMUSUR) based on the lessons learned to date. The aim is that these local governance bodies can strengthen their role in articulating the actions of different institutions and actors that participate in and are responsible for the management and conservation of natural resources, including forestry, agriculture and livestock activities, in order to move towards sustainable rural development.

Output 1.1.3: Strengthened agreements for transboundary collaboration in protected areas.

The project will support the participation of Mexican representatives in meetings to forge or strengthen agreements for transboundary collaboration in protected areas.

Outcome 1.2. Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritise conservation of primary forests.

The project will strengthen the legal and public policy framework at federal and state level to favour territorial and economic planning aligned with the protection and conservation of primary forests and their connectivity.

Output 1.2.1. Updated national and sub-national policies, regulations and cross-sectoral instruments that support the protection and conservation of primary forests.

The project will provide technical advice to the relevant authorities to develop or update at least five public policy or regulatory instruments that support the protection and conservation of primary forests, including:

- The elaboration of three state ecotourism plans (one per state) to connect the Tren Maya with the ecotourism offer of local and indigenous communities, including forest communities, in order to ensure that they benefit from the expected increased flow of tourists.
- The incorporation of the protection of primary forests in municipal development plans, municipal regulations and/or Local Ecological Management Programmes, ensuring that the latter are harmonised with existing Community Land Use Plans and that they include ADVCs as Environmental Management Units for conservation. The project will also support the socialisation of these instruments with citizens and the training of groups of municipal officials for their implementation. Since municipal elections will be held in June 2024 throughout the PY, the municipalities to be supported will be selected at the beginning of project implementation, considering the following criteria:
    - Importance for the conservation of primary forests and their connectivity.
    - Political feasibility, prioritising municipal governments interested in participating.

These instruments will be designed with the active participation of local and indigenous communities, women and youth, and will include social inclusion and gender equality measures in accordance with the applicable legal and public policy framework.

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Output 1.2.2 Information to support evidence-based decision-making on forest conservation interventions.

Evidence will be generated, which will then be compiled and synthesised by the regional programme. This output could include:

- A study on the economic value of the ecosystem services provided by the Maya Forest of the Yucatan Peninsula.
- Calibration of the Species Threat Reduction and Restoration (STAR) metric to understand how effective forest conservation is in reversing the threat of species extinction.

Outcome 1.3. Enhanced multi-sectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.

High-level cross-sectoral dialogues and exchanges will be supported to promote policy coherence and the application of environmental law for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in and around primary forests, including through compensation schemes, elimination of perverse subsidies and other means.

Output 1.3.1. National multi-sectoral platforms established or strengthened.

The strengthening of intersectoral roundtables and working groups in each State will be supported in order to:

- Promote coherence between environmental and agricultural policies, with the participation of state and federal sectoral authorities, inter-municipal organisations such as JIBIOPUUC and AMUSUR, and organisations of forest communities and agricultural producers. In particular, it will seek to (a) harmonise development, conservation and land-use zoning plans at the state level; and (b) agree on concrete actions, such as the elimination or minimisation of perverse subsidies and the establishment of incentives for the adoption of forest-friendly agricultural practices.
- Facilitate the coordinated enforcement of environmental law in the face of environmental crimes or specific socio-environmental conflicts related to threats to primary forests and their connectivity. The participation of environmental, agrarian and agricultural authorities from the three levels of government, as well as representatives of forest communities and agricultural producers, will be sought. If appropriate, representatives of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies will also be invited.

The full and effective participation of local community and indigenous peoples, women and youth groups, as well as existing institutional, civil society and academic groups, such as the Inter-Institutional Gender and Climate Change Group (GIGCC), the Gender and Environment Network (RGEMA) and the Gender, Society and Environment Thematic Network (GESMA Network), will be sought in the supported intersectoral working groups and roundtables, which will be selected at the beginning of the project's implementation.

-

Output 1.3.2 Regional multi-sectoral meetings of stakeholder groups and sectors to agree on actions and targets for the conservation of primary forests.

The project will finance the participation of Mexican representatives in regional multi-sectoral meetings of stakeholder groups and sectors to agree on actions and objectives for the conservation of primary forests.

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Output 1.3.3: Affirmative actions to integrate indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes.

The project will support the operation of the Advisory Councils of the federal Natural Protected Areas and the Council of Users of the Puuc Biocultural State Reserve, in order to ensure full stakeholder participation in the management of protected areas, including local communities and indigenous peoples, and seeking to ensure, as far as possible, equitable representation of social groups and gender parity in these councils.

Similarly, an environmental leadership programme will be implemented for young people from forest communities located within or in the zone of influence of protected areas. Through training and mentoring, this programme will consolidate the leadership of young men and women in forest conservation, protection and restoration, both within their communities and with external stakeholders. This programme will seek to train as a priority young people from forest communities in the Balam Kú Biosphere Reserve, the Bala'an Ka'ax Flora and Fauna Protection Area, the Chichancanab State Reserve and other areas with a high incidence of socio-environmental conflicts.

COMPONENT 2. Protection and accelerated restoration of primary forests.

Executing Agency PPY, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, will strengthen the management of priority protected areas for the protection of primary forests and support the implementation of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) to improve protected area connectivity and thus support the overall health of the Maya Forest of the Yucatan Peninsula at scale. At all times, the participation of local communities in conservation and restoration activities, including youth and women, will be sought. This component is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Outcome 2.1. Strengthened protection of primary forests in protected areas
- Outcome 2.2. Increased area of OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and enhance functional connectivity.
- Outcome 2.3. 9,500 ha under restoration to increase connectivity of primary forest.

Outcome 2.1. Strengthened protection of primary forests in protected areas.

-

Output 2.1.1: Protected area management tools and instruments are strengthened.

The project will work in two strands:

(1) Strengthening the management of federal Natural Protected Areas and priority State Reserves for the protection of primary forests. Specifically, the project will provide technical advice and financial resources, as relevant, to:

a. The formulation and updating of management programmes and Annual Operating Plans, incorporating a gender and social inclusion perspective.

b. Fire prevention and firefighting, through the strengthening of early warning systems for the timely transmission of alerts to personnel in the field, the training of personnel from protected areas and community brigades, and the acquisition of tools and equipment.

c. Inspection and surveillance activities in protected areas for the prevention of illegal activities, e.g. by strengthening collaboration protocols between competent authorities, the capacities of the people in charge, equipment, and the construction or improvement of facilities (e.g. guard posts).

d. The monitoring and information systems of protected areas in terms of biodiversity, ecosystem health and climate change, including the SMART-CONANP system[1][10] and the citizen and community monitoring systems. In particular, support will be given to capacity building, the acquisition of equipment, as well as the systematisation and dissemination of the information collected, so that by the end of the project the protected areas will have installed capacities and self-sustainable monitoring and information systems accessible to the interested public. Of particular importance will be the monitoring of the environmental impacts of the Mayan Train.

e. Evaluations of the effectiveness of protected area management.

f. Institutional image, signage and outreach activities targeting the resident population within the protected areas. This will be reflected and supported by the communication plan (see output 4.1.2).

The project will focus on six key protected areas for the protection and connectivity of the primary forests of the Yucatan peninsula, providing tailored support according to the needs of each, which in coordination with CONANP, the three states and the relevant municipalities will be corroborated at the start of implementation. Based on the information collected, it is anticipated that the protected areas that will require the most support are the Balam Kin and Bala'an Ka'ax Flora and Fauna Protection Areas, the New Uxmal National Park and the Puuc Biocultural State Reserve, while the Balam Kú Biosphere Reserve will require complementary support to other GEF projects and the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve will require targeted support to strengthen its information and monitoring systems (see Table 4).

Table 4. Priorities for support in federal and state protected areas

Support priorities	Balam Kú[2][11]	Balam Kin	Bala'an Ka'ax	Calakmul	New Uxmal	Puuc
Management Programmes and/or AOPs		To be confirmed			To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Fire prevention and fire fighting	X	To be confirmed			To be confirmed	
Inspection and surveillance	X	To be confirmed	X		To be confirmed	X
Monitoring and information systems		To be confirmed	X	X	To be confirmed	X
Effectiveness evaluation	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institutional image, signage and dissemination		To be confirmed	X		To be confirmed	X

(2) Strengthening the management of the ADVCs with the support of adjacent federal Natural Protected Areas. At the beginning of project implementation, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the management of each ADVC within the project intervention area will be carried out using the tool that CONANP is developing for this purpose, and, in coordination with CONANP, the three states and the relevant municipalities, up to 10 community-based ADVCs will be selected to strengthen their management. The project will support, as relevant:

a. The elaboration of management plans, incorporating a gender and social inclusion perspective[3][12] .

b. Strengthening community fire prevention and response brigades with training, equipment and advice on developing fire prevention and response plans.

c. Strengthening biological monitoring systems, in particular by providing technologies and training for the storage, systematisation and interpretation of the information collected.

d. The participation of women and youth in the management of the ADVCs, including in decision-making spaces, respecting the governance mechanisms of the ejidos.

e. Capacity building to access public programmes and other financial support.

f. The exchange of experiences between ADVCs.

-

Output 2.1.2. Regional assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of the Mesoamerican critical forest biome.

In coordination with CONABIO, the project will contribute national data to this regional assessment. In this regard, this activity will generate updated geospatial scientific knowledge on the risk of collapse and extent of the Selva Maya and the critical forest biome of the Yucatan Peninsula. This will include an updated and accurate map of primary forest areas in the Selva Maya of the Yucatan Peninsula, using remote sensing data and validated with Mexican sources, as well as an analysis of the conservation status and extent of the critical forest biome in the peninsula, considering its ecosystem dynamics and processes, its collapse risks and main threats, and possible measures to mitigate or eliminate its impact[4][13] . This output will include the formation of a national team, training, threat analysis and the application of criteria A, B, C and D of the red list of ecosystems.

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Output 2.1.3. Information on the contribution of protected areas and indigenous communities to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision making.

The project will generate information on the contribution of protected areas and indigenous communities to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision-making. This will be based on information produced in outputs 2.1.2 and 1.2.2, among other sources.

Increased area of OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and enhance functional connectivity.

-

Output 2.2.1. National frameworks or protocols for the implementation of OECMs

The project will support the inter-institutional group created by the Federal Government of Mexico in the development of the legal and public policy framework for OECMs, to promote their establishment and ensure that minimum technical and permanence criteria are met.

-

Output 2.2.2. Established national networks of OECMs supporting the conservation of primary forests.

The project will support the development of two management programmes and the implementation of nature-based solutions in the Balam Beh Biological Corridor (State of Campeche) and in the 'Mayan Milpa' Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in the State of Yucatan. To contribute to reduced pressure on primary forest areas and their increased connectivity while fostering sustainable livelihoods, the project will support, among others, sustainable and regenerative livestock (mainly silvopastoral practices), agroforestry systems and sustainable forest management with communities committed to conserving forests through deforestation-free value chains. The project will provide training and accompaniment for the implementation of nature-based solutions, which will be planned and implemented in a participatory manner with the communities or families concerned, favouring the involvement of women and youth. In the area of agroforestry systems, synergies will be sought with the Sembrando Vida programme, and biodiversity and environmental criteria will be incorporated into the implementation of the programme. Likewise, an assessment will be carried out to identify one or more priority OECMs within the Calakmul-Sian Ka'an corridor.

In synergy with Output 3.2.1 *Innovative mechanisms to incentivise forest-friendly initiatives*, demonstration plots of sustainable agricultural practices in value chains driving deforestation and degradation (sugar cane, soy, citrus, livestock) will be developed in the zones of influence of protected areas and corridors to increase connectivity and climate resilience, including practices for large-scale agricultural production. These plots will have the double purpose to (a) demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of sustainable production practices that can be adopted by farmers to benefit from the financial incentives developed under Output 3.2.1, and (b) serve as an entry point for further work towards zero-deforestation value chains. In addition to effective forest conservation, practices to be showcased in the demonstration plots may include, for example, interconnected biodiversity corridors in crop areas, forest fire prevention measures, ecotourism, silvopastures, agroforestry, fertiliser and pesticide replacement by organic amendments, bio-inputs, crop diversification, or livestock and wildlife water troughs.

-

Output 2.2.3. Transboundary collaboration agreements on OECMs in the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

The project will support the participation of Mexican representatives in meetings to establish transboundary collaboration agreements on OECMs in the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

Outcome 2.3. 9,500 ha under restoration to increase connectivity of primary forest.

-

Output 2.3.1. Updated assessment of priority areas for forest landscape restoration.

In conjunction with state governments, CONABIO and CONAFOR, an updated diagnosis of priority sites for forest landscape restoration will be carried out to recover forest resources and thereby re-establish connectivity.

-

Output 2.3.2. Key Priority Areas under Community Restoration.

Community restoration actions will be supported in previously identified priority sites for restoration, for a total of 9,500 hectares, encouraging the participation of young people in these activities. Priority will be given to sites located within the areas of influence of protected areas, the Balam Beh Biological Corridor, the 'Mayan Milpa' Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in the State of Yucatan, as well as sites affected by the works of the Mayan Train. On at least 4,750 hectares, ecological restoration actions will be carried out focusing, as appropriate, on passive natural regeneration (reducing or eliminating sources of degradation), accelerating natural regeneration (e.g. through soil improvement and re-establishing hydrological connectivity) or reforestation with native species. In the remaining area, productive restoration actions will be carried out, which may include sustainable forest use in forested areas, as well as agroforestry and silvopastoral systems in areas adjacent to forested areas.[5][14] The technological packages developed in 2018 for functional landscape restoration actions in the Yucatan Peninsula will be considered to this end. As noted above, two exercises to identify restoration priority sites were conducted in the Yucatan peninsula, in 2016 by CONABIO and 2017 by IUCN/WRI. In total, the area covered by these two methodologies in the intervention area is 2,656,257 ha. Of this, 64.8% was identified only by CONABIO, with 9.9% of the priority restoration area being identified by the two exercises. In the project intervention area, IUCN/WRI's exercise identified intensive silvopastoral (44% of the prioritize area), acahual enrichment (20%), and rainfed agroforestry (10%) as the most relevant restoration opportunities, with the other eight (8) considered restoration categories with a percentage lower than 10%[6][15].

COMPONENT 3. Innovative financing and investment.

Executing Agency GGGI will support the design, piloting and initial implementation of financial instruments that promote sustainable practices in productive activities with the greatest environmental impact and investment in conservation and restoration of forest landscapes and protected areas in the Yucatan Peninsula. These financial instruments will be a key part of the sustainability strategy of the project's results. This component is expected to contribute to the following results:

- Outcome 3.1. Increased financial resources for primary forest conservation.
- Outcome 3.2. Increased number of forest-friendly initiatives.

Outcome 3.1. Increased financial resources for primary forest conservation.

Based on a diagnostic and strategic planning exercise, and in collaboration with state governments, financial instruments will be developed to increase investments in primary forest conservation and connectivity.

-

National analyses of financing gaps and barriers to investment in primary forest landscapes and forest-linked livelihoods

A diagnosis will be carried out of:

- Funding gaps, barriers to and opportunities for investment in primary forest protection and forest-friendly initiatives in the Maya Forest of the Yucatan Peninsula.
- The profile of the value chains causing deforestation and degradation (maize, sugar cane, soya, citrus, livestock) and their producers, analysing the differentiated participation of women, men, youth and indigenous people, as well as the specific barriers they face in accessing financing for the adoption of sustainable practices.
- Opportunities to strengthen and capitalise state environmental funds and to introduce innovative instruments, considering the interests and needs of stakeholders.

Based on this diagnosis, a strategy for the financial sustainability of primary forest protection and forest-friendly initiatives in the Maya Forest of the Yucatan Peninsula will be designed in collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders. This will detail the activities outlined in the following outputs of this component, using a demand-driven approach.

-

Output 3.1.2. Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in the protection of primary forests, protected areas, OECMs and forest-related livelihoods.

The project will strengthen three state environmental funds, including, as relevant, the improvement of their operating rules with harmonised criteria, the development of institutional capacities of the state Ministries of

Finance and Environment for the capitalisation of the funds, as well as the design and implementation of mechanisms for monitoring the disbursement of resources. In this way, it will be sought that, by the end of the project, these funds will be fully operational and sustainable from a financial and institutional point of view.

The project will also support the design, piloting and implementation of local demand-driven financial mechanisms linked to state environmental funds, including:

- One state mechanism for Payments for Environmental Services (tentatively, payments for hydrological services) to encourage the sustained provision of ecosystem services. While it has been shown that, in some contexts, these mechanisms can have positive environmental and socio-economic outcomes, the evidence on their effectiveness is mixed. In this context, the design of these mechanisms will include careful targeting of areas and people and institutions that pay and receive funds based on the environmental and social benefits they seek to promote, strong and participatory governance structures, and piloting and evaluation activities to ensure effective design at the end of the project.[7][16] Attention will be given to defining sustainable financing mechanisms based on supply and demand for environmental services, e.g. strengthened state environmental funds or a levy on water tariffs in a municipal water system that is earmarked for forest conservation at the water source, which does not depend on one-off transfers from a third party that does not directly benefit from the environmental services provided. Furthermore, these PES mechanisms will include specialised and tailor-made advice for forest communities, encouraging the participation of youth and women, as well as the use of support to invest in forest-friendly economic activities.

- A green or biodiversity bond issued by a state government. GGGI will act as the Sustainable Lending Structuring Agent, leading the development of a green or biodiversity bond, the prioritisation of the underlying project portfolio, the negotiation with the Second Party Opinion provider and the justification to national authorities and investors. This bond will raise resources in the debt market to promote investments in productive projects that reduce pressure on forests and conserve biodiversity while strengthening the climate resilience of productive activities.

- The strengthening of the regulatory, policy and/or institutional framework for forest carbon initiatives at the federal and state level.

In developing these mechanisms, the project will ensure equitable access to the benefits generated.

-

High-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources through bilateral, multilateral, private and philanthropic channels to sustain long-term conservation of the critical forest biome.

The participation of Mexican representatives in high-level dialogue meetings will be funded to mobilise financial resources to sustain the long-term conservation of the critical forest biome.

-

Output 3.1.4 Regional coalition to mobilise resources to accelerate the conservation of primary forests and the development of viable forest-based livelihoods.

The participation of Mexican representatives in the Selva Maya donor roundtable (Mexico, Guatemala and Belize), which the regional project will support in order to promote linkages between donors and initiatives in the territory, will be financed.

Outcome 3.2. Increased number of forest-friendly initiatives.

The project will support the implementation of mechanisms and business models for the adoption of sustainable production practices in value chains causing deforestation and degradation, as well as for the strengthening of forest-friendly value chains.

-

Output 3.2.1. Innovative mechanisms to incentivise forest-friendly initiatives.

This product, focused on five agricultural value chains that cause deforestation and degradation (maize, sugar cane, soy, citrus, livestock), will support the adoption of sustainable practices to increase ecological connectivity and climate resilience in the areas of influence of protected areas and corridors, through:

- Value chain dialogue roundtables with representatives of the different links in the chain (producers, input and service providers, intermediaries, buyers), seeking inclusive representation, e.g. by inviting women leaders or groups of women producers to participate. The results of the work of these roundtables will be shared and considered, as relevant, in the roundtables supported under Output 1.3.1.
- The design, piloting and initial implementation of financial incentives (e.g. interest rate premiums) linked to deforestation traceability mechanisms in value chains. This mechanism, to be developed in collaboration with Nuup[8][17] and development banks (tentatively Fideicomisos Instituidos en Relación con la Agricultura - FIRA), will encourage the transition to sustainable production practices by providing financial incentives to 'zero deforestation' producers. Financial intermediaries interested in this mechanism will be trained and their piloting and initial implementation will be accompanied.
- The design, piloting and initial implementation of a risk-sharing facility[9][18] to support the implementation of the incentives. This facility, which may be developed in collaboration with Nuup and development banks (tentatively the Fideicomisos Instituidos en Relación con la Agricultura - FIRA), will offer different mechanisms

(such as guarantees, blended finance, first losses and mezzanine, among others) to optimise risk sharing in the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

These activities will be articulated with the pilot plots to be developed under Output 2.2.2.

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Output 3.2.2. Innovative business models for developing forest-friendly goods and services.

Considering existing mechanisms (e.g. Blended Finance Engine), a financing mechanism will be designed, piloted and implemented to support the scaling up of innovative MSMEs with advanced levels of consolidation in the value chains of timber forest products, non-timber forest products, ecotourism, honey, livestock (silvopastoral systems) and agroforestry products. At the same time, financial education will be offered to interested MSMEs to enable them to access the mechanism, comply with the requirements and take advantage of the financing in an appropriate manner, seeking to train in particular MSMEs led by young people and women. Technical assistance and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) education will be provided to financial intermediaries to facilitate the adoption and implementation of the financial incentives designed in Output 3.2.1. A dialogue will be established with the Productive Forests Programme of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) and FIRA to generate synergies and avoid duplication. Synergies will be sought with initiatives that promote the aggregation of producers (e.g. the formation of cooperatives) and marketing, aspects that the project will not cover directly.

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Output 3.2.3. Project preparation mechanism to enable access to private and development finance.

Based on GGGI's Greenpreneurs model, an incubator for innovative MSMEs will be implemented. The incubator will support 70 MSMEs in the value chains of timber forest products, non-timber forest products, ecotourism, honey, livestock (silvopastoral systems) and agroforestry products, prioritising projects led by youth and women. The two-year programme will offer a seed capital fund and technical assistance for one-year cohorts to participants for the creation, consolidation and acceleration of their MSMEs, as well as for the commercialisation of their products. The incubator will directly benefit approximately 600[10]19 people, and indirectly approximately 2,400 people[11]20. The most advanced MSMEs will be able to access the financing mechanism developed as part of product 3.2.2.

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Output 3.2.4. Regional high-impact and promotional events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials in Mesoamerica.

The project will support the participation of Mexican participants in regional high-impact and promotional events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials in Mesoamerica.

COMPONENT 4. Coordinated and enhanced regional learning and collaboration.

This component, implemented by PPY in close collaboration with the regional project, will support capacity building and knowledge exchange between Belize, Mexico and Guatemala, and more broadly other critical forest biome sites in Mesoamerica, South America (with emphasis on the Amazon) and globally. This component is expected to contribute to the following outcomes[12][21] :

- Outcome 4.1 Improved national and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests.
- Outcome 4.2. Lessons on models of primary forest protection and conservation disseminated globally.

Outcome 4.1 Improved national and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests.

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Output 4.1.1. Regional coordination platform for the protection and conservation of primary forests.

The participation of Mexican representatives (mainly CONANP and the three states) in a regional platform to be created by the regional programme will be financed. Coordination between national authorities and the regional project will also be supported. In addition, in conjunction with the GEF-8 project in Guatemala, the project will support the consolidation of a specific platform for the Selva Maya, under the umbrella of the GEF-8 regional platform, in the framework of the Selva Maya 2030 integral strategy, seeking to complement the Selva Maya II project, strengthening the Selva Maya Strategic Group and the Selva Maya Coordination Operational Group (GEC and GOC), and in particular its coordination with donors, investors and civil society stakeholders.

Output 4.1.2. Long-term regional communication plan to mobilise support for the conservation of primary forests and the critical forest biome.

Regional outreach activities defined in the regional communication plan will be implemented, including the production of communication materials. These communication efforts will take into account the characteristics of the target audience, and will include technical information communication and translation exercises, involving promoters where relevant. These activities will be linked to activities under Output 1.1.1 on awareness raising and promotion of the protection and conservation of primary forests aimed at policy makers, sectoral entities and the private sector.

Outcome 4.2. Lessons on models of primary forest protection and conservation disseminated globally.

Lessons learned and good practices from the project will be identified and systematised and will contribute to their dissemination through the development of knowledge products.

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Mesoamerican knowledge platform on the critical forest biome (e.g. biodiversity and social information, forest management models, regulations).

A Mexican node will be created in the Mesoamerican knowledge platform on the critical forest biome to be established by the regional programme. The Mexican node will seek to strengthen the exchange between existing platforms, including the Selva Maya Observatory. In addition, strategic knowledge products capturing lessons learned and good practices from the project will be developed, using the formats provided by the regional knowledge platforms supported by the regional project, most likely the Environmental Observatory of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Mesoamerican Centre for the Exchange of Knowledge and Forestry Experiences (CMICEF).[13][22]

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Output 4.2.2. Programme lessons, models of forest management and governance and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes documented and disseminated regionally and globally.

A process of identification and systematisation of lessons learned and good practices of the project will be carried out with the active involvement of the participating local and indigenous communities, encouraging the participation of women and youth. The process will conclude with activities to return these lessons learned and good practices to the communities participating in the project. These lessons will be documented in relation to forest management and governance models, the application of incentives and disincentives, the development of forest-friendly businesses and the integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes.

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Output 4.2.3. South-South cooperation/knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes.

The project will contribute to travel costs to participate in south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange activities organised by the regional project. In addition, the project will promote South-South cooperation in the peninsula (promoting exchange between landscapes and coastal-marine landscapes) and the country (between forest ecosystems across Mexico), with peer-to-peer exchanges through field visits, workshops and webinars. These exchanges will include REDD+ frameworks, carbon markets, nature-positive trade policies, and climate and biodiversity negotiations. For example, at the regional level, exchanges of experiences will be organised between forest ejidos in the Yucatan peninsula and ACOFOP, an association of forest concessions in the Mayan Forest of Guatemala, which includes a carbon credit project (Guatecarbon), the harvesting of non-timber products (e.g. ramón) and a wood processing factory.

Output 4.2.4. Annual regional workshops for knowledge-sharing.

The project will contribute to the travel costs to participate in the annual regional knowledge sharing workshops organised by the regional project.

Output 4.2.5. Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

Under this output, project planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities will be carried out. The latter are described in section 8 of the Project Document.

Table . outcomes, products and activities

Results *(regional programme)*	**Products** *(regional programme)*	**Activities** *(national project)*
Outcome 1.1. Local and national governance mechanisms for primary forest conservation strengthened.	**1.1.1.** Awareness raising and promotion plan on the protection and conservation of primary forests for policy makers, sectoral bodies and the private sector.	1.1.1.1.1 Diagnosis, design and implementation of the plan including communication activities, training and exchange of experiences tailored to different audiences.
	1.1.2. Strengthened local and national governance structures to improve the effectiveness of protection and conservation of primary forests.	1.1.2.1 Reactivation of the State Forest Councils and the Regional Commission on Climate Change, building their financial sustainability and ownership by State Governments. 1.1.2.2 Design and implementation of a plan to strengthen the Junta Intermunicipal Biocultural del Puuc (JIBIOPUUC) and the Asociación Municipal para el Medio Ambiente del Sur de Quintana Roo (AMUSUR) based on lessons learned to date.

Results *(regional programme)*	Products *(regional programme)*	Activities *(national project)*
	1.1.3 Strengthened agreements for transboundary collaboration in protected areas.	1.1.3.1 Participation in regional meetings to strengthen arrangements for transboundary collaboration in protected areas.
Outcome 1.2. Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritise conservation of primary forests.	**1.2.1.** Updated national and sub-national policies, regulations and cross-sectoral instruments supporting the protection and conservation of primary forests.	1.2.1.1 Development of three state ecotourism plans (one per state) to connect the Mayan Train with the ecotourism offer of local and indigenous communities, including forest communities, in order to ensure that they benefit from the expected increased flow of tourists. 1.2.1.2 Incorporation of primary forest protection in municipal development plans, municipal by-laws and/or Local Ecological Management Programmes.
	1.2.2. Information to support fact-based decision making on forest conservation interventions.	1.2.2.1 Generation of evidence, which will then be compiled and synthesised by the regional programme. This output could include: A study on the economic value of ecosystem services provided by the Mexican Selva Maya. Calibration of the Species Threat Reduction and Restoration (STAR) metric to understand how effective forest conservation is in reversing the threat of species extinction.
Outcome 1.3. Enhanced multi-sectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.	**1.3.1.** Establishment or strengthening of national multi-sectoral platforms.	1.3.1.1 Strengthening of inter-sectoral roundtables and working groups in each State to: • Promote coherence between environmental and agricultural policies, with the participation of state and federal sectoral authorities, inter-municipal organisations, and organisations of forest communities and agricultural producers. • Facilitate coordinated environmental law enforcement for specific environmental crimes or socio-environmental conflicts related to threats to primary forests and their connectivity.
	1.3.2. Regional multi-sectoral meetings of stakeholder groups and sectors to agree on actions and objectives for the conservation of primary forest.	13.2.1 Participation of Mexican representatives in regional multi-stakeholder group and sectoral multi-stakeholder meetings.
	1.3.3 Affirmative actions to integrate indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth into decision-making processes.	1.3.3.1 Support the operation of the Advisory Councils of the federal Natural Protected Areas and of the Council of Users of the Puuc Biocultural State Reserve. 1.3.3.2 Implementation of an environmental leadership programme for young people from forest communities located within or in the zone of influence of protected areas.
Outcome 2.1. Strengthened protection of primary	**2.1.1.** Strengthening protected area management instruments and tools.	2.1.1.1 Strengthening the management of priority federal Natural Protected Areas and State Reserves by providing technical advice and financial resources.

Results *(regional programme)*	Products *(regional programme)*	Activities *(national project)*
forests in protected areas.		2.1.1.2 Strengthening the management of up to 10 community-based ADVCs with the support of adjacent protected areas.
	2.1.2. Regional assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of critical Mesoamerican forest biomes.	2.1.2.1 Assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of the Selva Maya and critical forest biomes of the Yucatan Peninsula, using geospatial information.
	2.1.3 Information on the contribution of protected areas and indigenous communities to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision making	2.1.3.1. Generating information on the contribution of protected areas and indigenous communities to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision making.
Increased area of OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and expand functional connectivity**.**	**2.2.1.** National frameworks or protocols for the implementation of OECMs.	2.2.1.1. Support to the inter-institutional group set up by the Federal Government of Mexico in the development of the legal and public policy framework for OECMs.
	2.2.2. Established national networks of OECMs supporting the conservation of primary forests.	2.2.2.1 Elaboration of management programmes for the Balam Beh Biological Corridor (State of Campeche) and in the 'Mayan Milpa' Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in the State of Yucatan. 2.2.2.2.2 Implementation of nature-based solutions in the Balam Beh Biological Corridor (State of Campeche) and in the 'Mayan Milpa' Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in the State of Yucatan. 2.2.2.3 Assessment for the creation of one or more OECMs within the Calakmul-Sian Ka'an corridor. 2.2.2.4 Development of demonstration plots of sustainable agricultural practices in value chains that cause deforestation and degradation (sugar cane, soya, citrus, livestock) in the areas of influence of protected areas and corridors.
	2.2.3 Transboundary collaboration agreements on OECMs within the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.	2.2.3.1 Participation in meetings for transboundary collaboration agreements on OECMs in the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.
Outcome 2.3. 9,500 ha under restoration to increase connectivity of primary forest.	**2.3.1.** Updated assessment of priority areas for forest landscape restoration.	2.3.1.1 Updated assessment of priority sites for forest landscape restoration to restore forest resources and thereby re-establish connectivity.
	2.3.2. Key priority areas under Community restoration.	2.3.2.1 Community restoration actions on previously identified priority sites for restoration, totalling 9,500 hectares (including at least 4,750 hectares with ecological restoration actions).
Outcome 3.1. Increased financial resources for primary forest conservation.	**3.1.1.** National analyses of financing gaps and barriers to investment in primary forest landscapes and forest-based livelihoods.	**3.1.1.1** Assessment of funding gaps and barriers to investment in primary forest protection and forest-friendly initiatives in the Maya Forest of the PY. **3.1.1.2** Design of a strategy for the financial sustainability of primary forest protection and forest-friendly initiatives

Results *(regional programme)*	Products *(regional programme)*	Activities *(national project)*
		in the Maya Forest of the PY, in collaboration with the public and private sector.
	3.1.2. Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in the protection of primary forests, protected areas, OECMs and forest-based livelihoods.	**3.1.2.1** Strengthening three state environmental funds. **3.1.2.2.** Design, piloting and implementation of local demand-driven financial mechanisms linked to state environmental funds, including: ○ One state mechanisms for Payments for Environmental Services (tentatively, payments for hydrological services). ○ A green or biodiversity bond issued by a state government. ○ The strengthening of the regulatory, policy and/or institutional framework for forest carbon initiatives at the federal and state level. ○
	3.1.3. High-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources to sustain conservation of critical forest biomes.	**3.1.3.1** Participation of Mexican representatives in high-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources to sustain long-term conservation of the critical forest biome.
	3.1.4 Regional coalition to mobilise resources to accelerate the conservation of primary forests and the development of viable forest-linked livelihoods.	**3.1.4.1** Participation of Mexican representatives in the Selva Maya donor round table (Mexico, Guatemala and Belize), which the regional project will support in order to promote links between donors and initiatives in the region.
Outcome 3.2. Increased number of forest-friendly initiatives.	**3.2.1.** Innovative mechanisms to encourage forest-friendly initiatives.	Support for the adoption of sustainable practices to increase ecological connectivity and climate resilience in the areas of influence of protected areas and corridors, focusing on agricultural value chains with large producers causing deforestation and degradation (e.g. sugar cane, soy, citrus, livestock), through: **3.2.1.1.** Value chain dialogue roundtables with representatives of the different links of the chain. **3.2.1.2** Design, piloting, calibration and implementation of financial incentives (e.g. interest rate premiums) associated with conservation indicators (e.g. deforestation traceability) for the productive activities of the value chains considered. **3.2.1.3** Design, piloting, calibration and implementation of a risk sharing facility to mitigate the risk of productive activities selected either due to the characteristics of the activity or of the beneficiaries to facilitate access to financing.
	3.2.2. Innovative business models to develop forest-friendly goods and services.	**3.2.2.1** Design, piloting and implementation of a financing mechanism to support the scaling up of innovative medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) with advanced levels of consolidation in the value chains of timber forest products, non-timber forest products,

Results *(regional programme)*	Products *(regional programme)*	Activities *(national project)*
		ecotourism, honey, livestock (silvopastoral systems) and agroforestry products. **3.2.2.2** Financial training for interested MSMEs to be able to access the mechanism, comply with the requirements and take advantage of the financing in an appropriate manner.
	3.2.3. Project preparation mechanism to enable access to private and development finance.	Based on I's Greenpreneurs model, implement an incubator of 70 innovative MSMEs in the value chains of timber forest products, non-timber forest products, ecotourism, honey, livestock (silvopastoral systems) and agroforestry products, which will include: • **3.2.3.1** Entrepreneurship capacity building. • **3.2.3.2.** Seed capital fund.
	3.2.4 High-impact regional and promotional events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials in Mesoamerica.	3.2.4.1 Participation in high-impact regional and promotional events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials in Mesoamerica.
Outcome 4.1 Improved national and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests.	**4.1.1.** Regional coordination platform for the protection and conservation of primary forests.	**4.1.1.1** Participation of Mexican representatives in a regional platform to be created by the regional programme.
	4.1.2. Long-term regional communication plan to mobilise support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes.	**4.1.2.1** Regional outreach activities defined in the regional communication plan, including the production of communication materials.
Outcome 4.2. Lessons on models of primary forest protection and conservation disseminated globally.	**4.2.1.** Mesoamerican knowledge platform on critical forest biomes (e.g. social and biodiversity information, forest management models, regulations)	**4.2.1.1.** Creation of a Mexican node in the Mesoamerican knowledge platform on critical forest biomes to be established by the regional programme, which will seek to strengthen the exchange between existing platforms, including the Selva Maya Observatory. **4.2.1.2** Development of strategic knowledge products capturing lessons learned and good practices from the project.
	4.2.2 Programme lessons, models of forest management and governance and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes documented and disseminated regionally and globally.	**4.2.2.1** Identification and systematisation of lessons learned and good practices of the project with the active involvement of the participating local and indigenous communities, encouraging the participation of women and youth. **4.2.2.2.2** Dissemination of lessons learnt and good practices identified, including handing back activities to communities involved in the project.
	4.2.3. South-South cooperation / knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes.	**4.2.3.1** Participation in south-south cooperation and knowledge-sharing activities organised by the regional project. **4.2.3.2** South-South cooperation activities on the peninsula (promoting exchange between land and coastal-marine landscapes).

Results *(regional programme)*	Products *(regional programme)*	Activities *(national project)*
		4.2.3.3 South-South cooperation activities in Mexico (between forest ecosystems across Mexico). In all cases, peer-to-peer exchanges will include field visits, workshops and webinars.
	4.2.4. Annual regional knowledge sharing workshops.	**4.2.4.1** Participation in the annual regional knowledge-sharing workshops organised by the regional project.
	4.2.5 Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.	**4.2.5.1** Project planning. **4.2.5.2** Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Relevant stakeholders

A wide and diverse range of actors is relevant to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the Maya Forest of the PY. At the federal level, key ministries are the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), the Ministry of Welfare, and the Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU); and national commissions, such as those for natural protected areas (CONANP), for the knowledge and use of diversity (CONABIO), and forestry (CONAFOR). The National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change, the Federal Attorney's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), the Agrarian Attorney's Office, and the National Agrarian Registry (RAN) are other important actors. Social bodies or bodies that serve vulnerable populations, such as the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples and the National Women's Institute, are also key.

At the state level, several secretariats in the three states are key, in particular those for environment and sustainable development[1] , rural development[2] and economic development[3] . The two existing inter-municipal environmental boards, and the ejido commissioners and assemblies are also key actors[4] .

In addition, civil society organisations (CSOs and NGOs), multilateral institutions, private sector actors, national development banks and regional bodies have been identified. These are detailed in section 3.4 of the Project Document.

Knowledge management

The Selva Maya de México project will identify and apply/use existing knowledge. Good practices from existing development, conservation and restoration initiatives will be incorporated and indigenous and local knowledge will be integrated. This will consider the often limited information available from Mexico's (e.g. CONAFOR's National Forest Monitoring System) and the three states' environmental and forestry information systems, the Selva Maya Observatory, the forest MRV and safeguards systems for the State REDD+ Strategies, and community biodiversity monitoring actions, mainly in the transition zones of NPAs and buffer zones, which

are generating baseline data on flora and fauna. The Selva Maya de México project will also take advantage of regional and global knowledge. For example, it will work with the Mesoamerican Virtual Centre of Excellence in Forest Monitoring (CMICEF)[5] . Best practices from IUCN and FAO's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme will also be considered.

In addition, the proposed project will generate new knowledge, through its different components, that will address information gaps on specific priority issues, including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and access to finance, among others. On the one hand, the project will develop high priority knowledge products. Specifically,

- Activity 1.2.2.1 will generate information to support evidence-based decision-making on forest conservation interventions, e.g. on the economic value of ecosystem services provided by the Maya Forest of the PY.
- Activity 2.1.2.1 will generate up-to-date geospatial scientific knowledge on the risk of collapse and extent of the Maya Forest of the PY, and other parts of the Mesoamerican critical forest biome, more broadly.
- Activity 2.3.1.1 will generate updated information on priority areas for forest landscape restoration in the Maya Forest of the PY.
- Activity 3.1.1.1 will generate information on the financing gap and barriers to investment in primary forest landscapes and forest-linked livelihoods in the Maya Forest of the PY.

On the other hand, in addition to the studies mentioned above, the implementation of activities will generate lessons and knowledge on best practices. Through component 4, knowledge will be managed, both that produced through studies and that generated through the implementation of the other activities. Through this component, lessons and knowledge will be captured, systematised, compiled and disseminated to project stakeholders and the general public, and actors in charge of future project development. The approach will be inclusive, providing a rich space for learning and knowledge exchange, but at the same time strategic, selecting audiences, channels and messages. In this sense, component 4 will support and catalyse the work of the previous components by documenting and sharing relevant lessons and knowledge. This exercise (capture, systematisation, compilation and dissemination) will take place within the intervention area, but also more widely across the Yucatan peninsula, and more broadly at the national level. The integration of the Mexican Selva Maya project into the regional Mesoamerican programme will stimulate and facilitate the exchange of information with other countries in the region. Furthermore, in coordination with the regional programme, the Mexican Maya Forest project will disseminate knowledge on a global scale. In this respect, the project will promote a two-way exchange: from the local to the global via the regional, and from the global to the local via the regional. In other words, the Selva Maya project will be both a sender and a receiver of information, experiences and knowledge products, maximising impact and sustainability. Among the other critical biomes, priority will be given to exchange with the Amazon biome, due to its geographical and cultural proximity.

The project includes specific activities in this regard. Output 4.2.2 will indeed be devoted to the identification, documentation and dissemination of lessons from the programme in relation to models of forest management and governance, the application of incentives and disincentives, the development of forest-friendly businesses, and the integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes. Output 4.1.2 will be devoted to disseminating and raising awareness of the importance and benefits of the Mexican Selva Maya, and more broadly other parts of the Mesoamerican forest biome, which will complement output 1.1.1 linked to raising awareness and promoting the protection and conservation of primary forests among policy makers, sectoral entities and the private sector. These

awareness-raising efforts will take into account the characteristics of the target audience, and will include technical information communication and translation exercises involving women promoters.

Spaces for the exchange of knowledge and practical experiences will also play a key role in the identification of knowledge and its dissemination. Outputs 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 will be dedicated to South-South cooperation in the peninsula (promoting exchange between landscapes and coastal-marine landscapes), the country (between forest ecosystems across Mexico), the region (in the Mesoamerican forest) and globally (with other critical forest biomes, namely those of Congo, Indo-Malaya, West Africa, Guinea and especially the Amazon), with peer-to-peer exchanges through field visits, workshops and webinars. These exchanges will include REDD+ frameworks, carbon markets, positive trade policies for nature, and climate and biodiversity negotiations. For example, at the regional level, exchanges of experiences will be organised between forest ejidos in the Yucatan peninsula and ACOFOP.

Knowledge will also be compiled and disseminated through output 4.2.1, related to the creation of a Mexican node in the Mesoamerican knowledge platform on the critical forest biome (e.g. geospatial, social and biodiversity information, forest management models, regulations) to be established by the regional programme. The Mexican node will seek to strengthen the exchange between existing platforms, including the Selva Maya Observatory. This regional platform will share lessons and knowledge gained throughout the programme with the active participation of conservation stakeholders from all participating countries. The programme will establish synergies with the global platform Biodiversity Conservation for Development, as the national WCD project, to be led by WWF, will also work in the same geographical area, with a strong emphasis on the jaguar corridor, which overlaps with the Selva Maya. The platform will also link with the Amazon Knowledge Platform to obtain ideas and recommendations and, where appropriate, replicate materials, avoid duplication and create synergies with this similar initiative in South America. Information will also be disseminated through global platforms such as the Panorama Conversation Areas Community and other channels.

Finally, it is important to note that the proposed project will have a robust results framework to assist not only adaptive management, but also to measure and report impact, in terms of transparency, and continuous learning. This could be linked to the establishment of community biodiversity monitoring systems and tracking of priority and invasive species, under a citizen science scheme as part of Output 2.1.1. To this end, the project will support access to technologies (e.g. camera traps, drones) and provide training.

This results framework will be aligned with the regional results framework in order to aggregate results and facilitate the identification, systematisation and dissemination of lessons learned, identifying similarities and differences among the countries that are part of the regional programme. This results framework will be consistent with the GEF monitoring guidelines, applying the Kirkpatrick four-stage model[6].

A knowledge management plan based on STAP guidelines will be developed at the beginning of project implementation.

Sustainability

The Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program will be a key part of long-term efforts to conserve and connect Mesoamerica's intact forests, and to sustain the livelihoods of local communities and society at large. The program's contribution will focus on developing national and regional enabling conditions for

primary forest conservation. In this context, this child project takes a multi-pronged approach to ensuring effective contributions to the intended project impacts beyond the timeframe of implementation.

Through its Component 1, the project will contribute to **institutional sustainability** by (a) improving the positioning of primary forest conservation on the public policy and private sector agenda; (b) strengthening sectoral and multi-actor governance structures, with particular attention to building government ownership and financial sustainability; and (c) strengthening the local regulatory framework for the protection and conservation of primary forests, while also building capacities for its implementation and enforcement.

Also central to the continuity of project results is the focus of Component 3 on creating **financial and economic sustainability**. This will be done through the development or strengthening of financial mechanisms that will support long-term primary forest conservation and shifts to sustainable practices in value chains that drive deforestation and forest degradation.

Meaningful stakeholder engagement will also be promoted across all project components to foster ownership and long-term commitment by government partners as well as private-sector and social actors in the intervention area.

With its local presence in the Yucatan Peninsula, Executing Agency PPY, which will lead project Components 1, 2, and 4, will have a key role in ensuring continuity in support as needed through adequate sequencing with other interventions.

A **sustainability strategy** will be developed one year before project end and integrated into the annual work plan for the final year of implementation. This strategy will consist in a short document that, at a minimum, addresses the following questions:

- What are the risks and capacity gaps for project results to be sustained after project end?
- To what extent have Executing Agencies and government partners the capacity to provide continued support to beneficiaries to address these gaps after project end?
- What other measures are needed to ensure sustained results?
- Which of these measures can be implemented by the project?
- What partnerships can the project establish with other organizations and initiatives to ensure that these gaps are addressed, or that continued support is provided?

The sustainability strategy will encompass all project components, with particular attention to Outputs 2.2.2, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3, which work directly with low-income and potentially vulnerable populations.

Replication

The project interventions will contribute to the establishment of an enabling environment for primary forest conservation in the Yucatan Peninsula, setting the scene for the replication of activities in other sites of the peninsula and, as relevant, in other sites in Mexico and globally. The activities with greater replication (or scaling) potential are the following:

- Under Component 2:
    - Activity 2.2.2.1. Implementation of nature-based solutions in the Balam Beh Biological Corridor (State of Campeche) and in the OECM area identified in the State of Yucatan.
    - Activity 2.2.2.3 Development of demonstration plots for sustainable agricultural practices in value chains that drive deforestation and degradation.
- Under Component 3:
    - Activity 3.1.2.2. Design, piloting and implementation of local financing mechanisms.
    - Activity 3.2.1.2 Design, piloting, calibration and implementation of financial incentives (e.g. interest rate premiums) associated with conservation indicators (e.g. deforestation traceability) for the productive activities of the value chains considered.
    - Activity 3.2.1.3 Design, piloting, calibration and implementation of a risk sharing facility to mitigate the risk of productive activities selected either due to the characteristics of the activity or of the beneficiaries to facilitate access to financing.
    - Activity 3.2.2.1 Design, piloting, and implementation of a financing mechanism to support the scaling up of innovative MSMEs with advanced levels of consolidation.
    - Activities 3.2.3.1 and 3.2.3.2 Implementation of an incubator for 100 innovative MSMEs based on GGGI's Greenpreneurs model.

Executive Agencies PPY and GGGI will play a key role in leveraging opportunities for replication of successful pilots in the Yucatan Peninsula, or even for scaling up at the national level, through parallel or sequential projects. For instance, GGGI will seek that the three states adopt the Greenpreneur model through their economic activities support programmes and funding will be raised through activities 3.1.2.1 and 3.1.2.2. Component 4, on the other hand, will focus on the dissemination of lessons learned and good practices from the child project to foster replication at the regional and global level.

[1] Secretariat of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Energy (SEMABICCE), Campeche; Secretariat of Sustainable Development, Yucatan; Secretariat of Ecology and Environment (SEMA), Quintana Roo.

[2] Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario, Campeche; Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural, Yucatán; Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario, Rural y Pesca, Quintana Roo.

[3] Secretariat of Economic Development (SEDECO), Campeche; Secretariat of Economic Development and Labour (SEFOET), Yucatan; Secretariat of Economic Development (SEDE), Quintana Roo.

[4] Junta Intermunicipal Biocultural del Puuc (JIBIOPUUC) and Asociación Municipal para el Medio Ambiente del Sur de Quintana Roo (AMUSUR).

[5] https://cmicef.org

[6] https://www.kirkpatrickpartners.com/the-kirkpatrick-model/

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[1] This system is used for the analysis, graphs and statistics of the data from the walks carried out in the Protected Natural Areas with the Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART).

[2] While the needs of the Balam Kú Biosphere Reserve are more extensive, it is expected to receive complementary support through the GEF-8 project *Mex30x30: Conserving Mexican biodiversity through communities and their protected areas*. See: https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11510

[3] Using the guide 'Design, implementation and evaluation of participatory procedures with a gender perspective and cultural relevance in the management of Natural Protected Areas' developed by CONANP in 2021 with support from IUCN and KfW.

[4] This will build on previous RLE assessment and related work, global data layers (e.g. Global Forest Watch, NASA GEDI, NASA/USGS Landsat, and NASA/NOAA VIIRS, Smart-re) and ensure adherence and alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) monitoring framework (target 1).

[5] See: IUCN (n.d.). IUCN Restoration Intervention Typology for Terrestrial Ecosystems. Available at: https://www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/content/documents/2021/iucn_restoration_intervention_typology.pdf

[6] The other restoration types are natural regeneration, ecological restoration, conservation agriculture, mangrove restoration, improved milpa, forest plantations, agropastoral, and agroforestry irrigation.

[7] See: Snilstveit, B, et al. (2019). *Incentives for climate mitigation in the land use sector - the effects of payment for environmental services (PES) on environmental and socio-economic outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: a mixed-method systematic review*. 3ie Systematic review 44. Retrieved from: https://www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub/publications/systematic-reviews/incentives-climate-mitigation-land-use-sector-effects

[8] Nuup is a social organisation that conceives, incubates and accompanies small-scale agriculture and trade projects and initiatives in Mexico. See: https://nuup.org

[9] The *risk-sharing facility* is a financial instrument that serves to promote financing to the population with a risk profile that prevents them from accessing the formal financial market. This instrument is structured to issue guarantees, mixed financing, first losses or mezzanine financing to participating financial intermediaries to encourage the generation of a portfolio that meets specific criteria.

[10] Considering that each MSME is composed on average of 6 persons.

[11] Considering that the average family has four members.

[12] Note that activities linked to project management and M&E are still to be integrated, probably in this component.

[13] It is recommended that some products be produced in formats and media suitable for use by local and indigenous communities, so that the exercise is not purely extractive.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). 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)

Regional Decision making and planning:

As this project is part of the Mesoamerican regional programme, the two main national stakeholders of the Mexico project will participate in the Project Steering Committee of the Mesoamerica regional programme. In particular, representatives from SHCP and CONANP will be members of that committee. In addition, the project coordinator will participate in the meetings of the regional programme's Steering Committee, although as an observer. Furthermore, the project coordinator will have regular meetings with the coordinator of the Mesoamerica regional programme and other members of this regional programme's management unit, as relevant. This structure will allow strategic and operational coordination and complementarities/synergies between the Mesoamerica regional programme and the Mexico project.

Moreover, as the Mexico project is part of the architecture of programmes on critical forest biomes, the two main national stakeholders of the Mexico project, that is, SHCP and CONANP will also communicate with the other regional programmes, with the support of the Mesoamerica regional programme's Steering Committee and management unit. This will allow coordination and complementarities/synergies between the other regional programmes and the Mexico project.

Figure 2. Institutional arrangements (other regional programmes, Mesoamerica programme and Mexico project)

National decision making and planning:

At the national level, the Selva Maya project will be guided by a Project Steering Committee (PSC). This will be composed by high level representatives of the implementing agency (i.e. IUCN), the executing agencies (i.e. PPY, GGGI), the federal government, including the GEF Focal point (i.e. SHCP) and relevant line ministry (i.e. SEMARNAT) and commissions (i.e. CONANP, CONAFOR), and the three states in the Yucatan Peninsula (i.e. Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan, through their environmental secretariats (i.e. SEMABICCE, SEMA and SDS). The PSC will be chaired by the GEF Focal point. Specific members of the PSC will be designated during the first quarter of the project. The main function of the PSC will be to provide political strategic leadership to the Project, creating effective coordination among the highest level environmental and forest authorities involved at the federal and state levels. This will ensure the alignment of the Project with the government strategies and programmes underway in the territory ensuring the consistency of the interventions at both jurisdictional levels. In addition, this Committee will ensure transparency with regard to the Project's intervention processes. The PSC will be responsible for approving annual project reviews and annual work plans. The Steering Committee will meet in person at least once a year (ideally twice a year) and when required.

In addition, to support on the ground implementation, three state technical committees (STCs) will be established, one in each of the three states where the interventions will be carried out. These technical committees will involve the executing agencies (i.e. PPY and GGGI), several relevant state secretaries, including on environment, economic development, agriculture and gender aspects, as well as relevant state non-government institutions, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, private sector associations and development partners. The executing agencies will participate in these TCs, with the implementing agency attending when possible. The federal government will be represented by its territorial representatives (e.g. CONANP, CONAFOR, CONABIO). Members of the three TCs will be designated during the first quarter of the project. The composition will be approved by the PSC. The TCs will provide technical support to the Project Management Unit (PMU) regarding the planning and implementation of the project activities, based on the expertise and experience of their members. The TCs will also act as coordination space, as the PMU will collaborate with stakeholders focusing on different aspects. The TCs will also review key technical studies and outputs (Red list of ecosystems, PA effectiveness management, information for fact-based decision making etc). The TCs will meet, ideally in person, at least four times a year and when required.

Moreover, to support coordinated on the ground implementation across the three states, a peninsular technical committee (PTC) will be created. This committee will be composed of the executing agencies, representatives of three secretaries from each state (tentatively, environment, planning and economic development), and the local representatives of CONANP, CONAFOR and CONABIO. The PTC will meet, ideally in person, twice a year and when required.

These three structures complement each other. The PSC allows strategic guidance, with a focus on political alignment and scalability, while the STCs contributes to technically sound and locally owned territorial, on the ground implementation with a wider range of stakeholders and with more frequent inputs. The PTC ensures coordination of on the ground implementation across the three states.

Project coordination and management:

Day to day project management will be carried out by the Project Management Unit (PMU). This will be led a Project Coordinator. In addition, the PMU will include component officers (three, one for components 1, 2 and 3 – the project coordinator will also act as the officer for component 4), three technical specialists (one for outcome 2.1, one for outcome 2.3 and one for outcome 2.2)[1], an M&E officer, a safeguards, gender and indigenous people officer, a part-time communications officer and two financial, administrative and procurement staff (a financial officer and a administrative and operations assistant). The PMU will be based in the Yucatan Peninsula. More specifically, the PMU will be based in PPY's office in the city of Campeche, and will use PPY's other offices in the peninsula as relevant. In particular, the PMU will also use PPY's office in Merida and PPY's operations centre in Zoh-Laguna, Campeche, in Calakmul. This office will also be used to work in Quintana Roo. The technical specialist for outcome 2.2 will be based in Quintana Roo. The project coordinator, the component officers, the technical specialists for outcomes 2.1 and 2.3 and the supporting thematic experts (M&E; safeguards, gender, indigenous people; communications) will travel to sites in the three states. The PMU, especially the PC and the component officers, as relevant, will travel to Mexico City when required to move the agenda of the project forward, in particular regarding national level activities. PPY will execute components 1, 2 and 4, while GGGI will execute component 3. In line with this, PPY will hire the PC and the officers of components 1, 2 and 4, as well as the M&E officer, the safeguards, gender and indigenous people officer, the technical specialists, the communications officer and the two financial, administrative and procurement staff. GGGI will hire the officer of component 3. As noted, except for the technical specialist for outcome 2.2. based in Quintana Roo, all the members of the PMU will be based in PPY's office in Campeche.

Figure 3. Institutional arrangements (Project Steering Committee, Technical Committees, Project Management Unit and other initiatives)

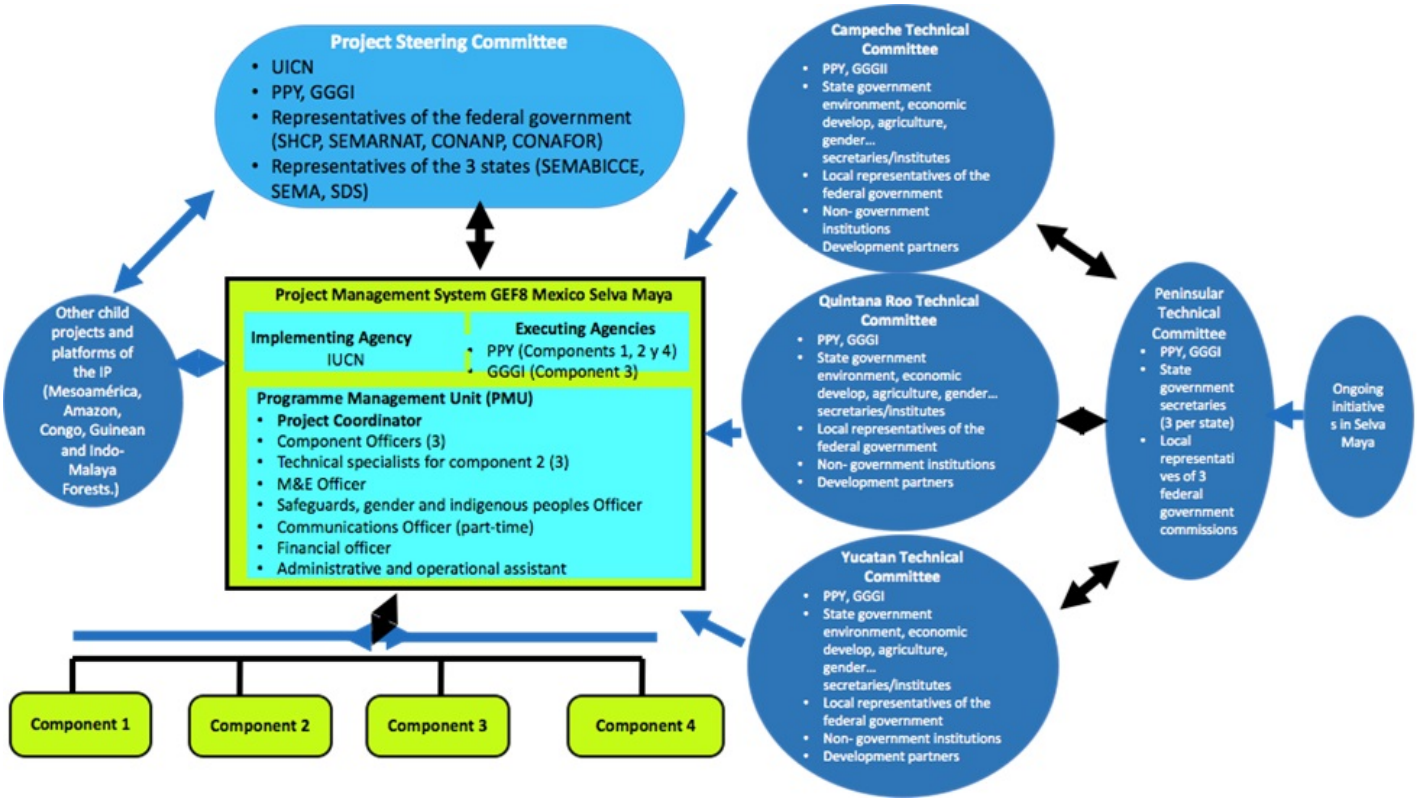
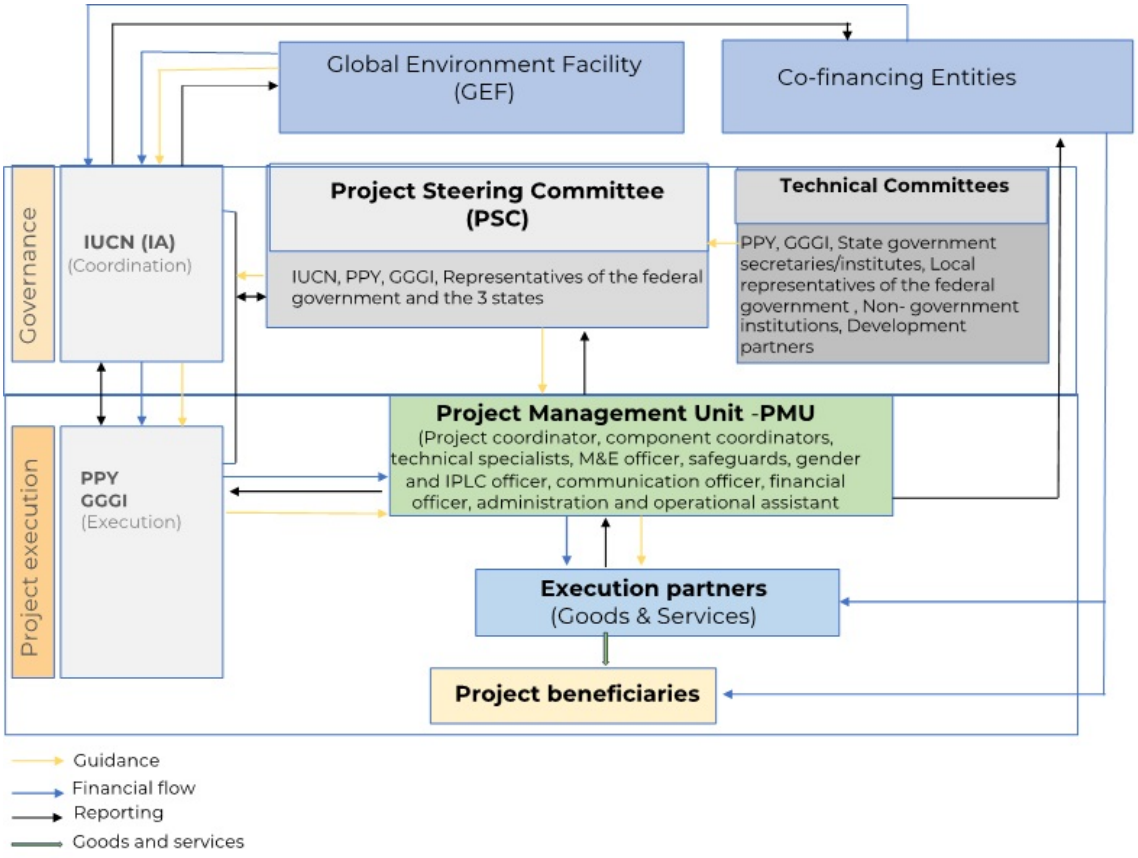


Figure 4. Institutional arrangements (guidance, finance, reporting and good and services flows)



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

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

n/a

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)

Coordination with ongoing projects and initiatives:

As explained in section A, some coordination spaces already exist at the federal, regional and state level. As detailed in section B, the project will strengthen existing governance systems. This will allow coordination with ongoing projects and initiatives. This will also be ensured through the TCs that will be established in each of the three states, as they will involve the coordinators and/or government counterparts of ongoing projects and initiatives. In addition, the PC will be in regular communication with the coordinators of the most relevant ongoing projects and initiatives, including GEF and non-GEF projects, to maximize synergies and avoid duplication. That said, potential for co-location and sharing of staffing has not been identified.

The project will pay particular attention to coordinate and build synergies with the projects and initiatives that provide co-financing, namely:

- Implemented by IUCN
  - Sustainable Financing in New Protected Natural Areas (FINANP), funded by KFW
  - Selva Maya II Resource Protection, funded by KFW;
- Implemented by TNC
  - Sustainable and Prosperous Communities (SPC), financed by the United States Agency for International Cooperation (USAID).
  - Community-Led Conservation in Tropical Forests Landscapes, financed by Anne Ray Foundation.
  - Building Resiliency and Restoring Healthy Landscapes, financed by MetLife Foundation.
  - Impactful Natural Climate Solutions to Increase Resilience in World Food Landscapes, financed by John Deere Foundation.
  - Empowered women in rural landscapes of the Yucatan Peninsula, financed by The L'Oréal Fund for Women

Table On Core Indicators

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 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1887646	1727568.38	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	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 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
1887646	1727568.38	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
			1,887,646.00	1,727,568.38					

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
9500	9500	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Rangeland and pasture	1,500.00	1,750.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,000.00	4,750.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

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

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
15000	11147505	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	11,147,505.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,000.00			

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
		1,200,000.00			

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	1624526	12445395	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	3016976	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	1,624,526	12,445,395		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	3,016,976	0		
Anticipated start year of accounting	2024	2025		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	55,249	53,138		
Male	54,448	55,307		
Total	**109,697**	**108,445**	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)

The project will contribute to several key GEF indicators, particularly to increasing the area of terrestrial protected areas under improved management, forest under restoration, and landscapes with improved practices outside protected areas, contributing to the mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and directly benefiting 108,445 people (Table 6).

The project will also contribute to developing enabling conditions for progress towards the long-term objective of the Regional Programme: Intact forests in Mesoamerica are conserved, connected and contribute to sustaining the livelihoods of local communities and society at large.

The target of protected areas created or under improved management was established considering the surface of federal Natural Protected Areas, State Reserves and 10 ADVCs located within the project intervention area as they play a key role for the conservation of primary forests and for maintaining their ecological and biological connectivity with other forest stands. The project will focus on improving the management effectiveness of existing protected areas, including 10 ADVCs. With respect to the concept note, the New Uxmal National Park, decreed in January 2024, was added, while the surface of the following protected areas was updated: the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, following its expansion in September 2023, the Balam Kin Flora and Fauna Protection Area and the Balam Kú Biosphere Reserve, decreed as federal Natural Protected Areas on the same date, and the Puuc Biocultural State Reserve, as the Government of the State of Yucatan is planning an expansion. On the other hand, two protected areas were excluded: the Chichancanab State Reserve, as its decree was declared void in 2023, and the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, to focus efforts on the main primary forest area of the Yucatan Peninsula and to prevent duplication of efforts with other projects. Since the 10 ADVCs to be supported by the project will be selected at the beginning of implementation, a target of

54,172.2 hectares was estimated based on the average area of the ADVCs located within the project intervention zone, which is 5,417.22 hectares.

The target for landscapes under improved practices refers to the updated surface of the Balam Beh Biological Corridor (excluding ADVCs), which the Government of the State of Campeche is in the process of decreeing, and the “Mayan Milpa” Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in the State of Yucatan, as they are well positioned to meet the IUCN OECM criteria with the support of the project, and could align with the new OECM framework that the Federal Government of Mexico is in the process of developing. While there is interest in implementing OECMs in the Calakmul-Sian Ka'an Corridor (included in the concept note target), it is not included in the target as there are no plans for the creation of governance and management mechanisms in specific areas of this corridor, where the project will be limited to supporting the identification of potential OECMs. The 15,000 hectares, considered in the concept note, corresponding to the co-financing of the South of Mexico Generating Employment and Sustainability (SURGES), Prosperous and Sustainable Communities, and Forest Stewardship Council initiatives are also not included, as they are not within the project's sphere of control and therefore not attributable to the project, even though there could be synergies with these initiatives.

The target for ecosystems under restoration includes both forests and degraded croplands and grasslands to enable a holistic approach that enhances forest connectivity and land productivity at the same time.

The GHG emissions mitigated were estimated using EX-ACT and considering the deforestation and forest degradation trends to 2030, within the protected areas and the potential OECMs in the intervention area, i.e., areas where the project will have a direct and more substantial intervention. The estimation was updated in relation with the concept note to reflect updates in the intervention area and project activities, as well as to provide a less conservative estimate of the project's mitigation potential.

The people benefiting from the GEF-financed investments were estimated as a percentage of the rural population residing within the project intervention area, based on the 2020 Population and Housing Census. It was considered that the project will benefit 20% of the rural population in municipalities partially included within the intervention area and 30% in municipalities fully included. For three municipalities, higher percentages were considered as a significant portion of their territory resides within protected areas. Women and men beneficiaries were estimated based on the proportion of women (49%) and men (51%) of the rural population in the states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan. The target of women beneficiaries is ambitious considered the barriers to participation in rural and forestry initiatives that women face in the Yucatan Peninsula.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	Forests and rural livelihoods in the Selva Maya of the Yucatan Peninsula will be strongly hit by climate change. Mitigation strategies: The design

		and implementation of project activities has been and will be informed by climate risk assessments and the identified and prioritized federal and state adaptation approaches, strategies and actions.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The project involves a number of activities that have moderate social risk in terms of ensuring the proper participation and representation of IPLCs. Mitigation strategy: The project will prepare and implement indigenous peoples, gender and stakeholder engagement action plans.
Political and Governance	Moderate	The project will be affected by elections at the federal level and in one of the three states between the approval of the proposal and the start of implementation. During implementation, elections will take place in two of the three states of the project. This can affect the ownership of the federal and state governments. Mitigation strategies: The project design is aligned with long and medium term federal and state strategies, as well as with the long and medium term international commitments of the country, which the elected government will need to follow. In addition, the PSC involves a variety of institutions, diluting the impact of changes in a singular institution. Furthermore, IUCN will maintain fluid communication with pertinent authorities at the regional, national, subnational and local levels. GGGI and PPY can contribute to this dialogue, GGGI specially at the national level, and PPY specially at the state level. When there are changes in the authorities, the implementing and executing agencies, together with other members of the PSC and the project coordinator, will inform the new authorities about the rationale and progress of the project. The project will retain some level of flexibility to adjust to contextual changes, including changes in government priorities.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	In Mexico and the three states of the project, the political and strategic frameworks are generally supportive of the project objectives. Mitigation strategies: Fluid communication will be maintained with key stakeholders to foster policy coherence through the PSC and to a lesser extent through the TCs. Factual information will be strategically presented to support sound analysis and decision-making. Components 1 and 4 will significantly contribute to this. Macro-economic Mexico has experienced macroeconomic stability over the years and is now in the midst of a broad-based expansion, recovering pre-pandemic levels. The federal and state governments are expected to have more room for to implement policy reforms. Mitigation strategies: The macro-economic situation will be monitored to identify developments that will significantly affect policy reforms and, if necessary, adjust workplan accordingly. The wide range of cofinancing sources will contribute to the stability of cofinancing.
Technological		No risks to project implementation are identified regarding innovation.

Financial and Business Model		No risks to project implementation are identified regarding the financial business model, as GGGI, in charge of implementing Component 3, is an expert on the field and will build on existing successful initiatives.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	At the federal and state levels the Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability is available. In addition, non-institutional stakeholders are also present in the area. Mitigation strategies: The project will build on existing capacities, including through the Technical Committees, and will build alliances with partners that can support the strengthening of pertinent capacities.
Fiduciary	Low	UICN has strong financial management and financial control systems. Mitigation strategies: no additional action needed.
Stakeholder	Moderate	At both the institutional level and IPLC level the engagement risk is moderate, as the IPLC are used to get involved in this type of projects. Mitigation strategies: Implement stakeholder engagement and IPLC plans. Ensure fluid communication and collaboration with key stakeholders during program implementation. To that end, the PMU will include a safeguards, gender and IPLC officer in charge of ensuring free, informed and prior consensual participation.
Other	Low	1.- Technical design of project: The project was developed with the input provided from key stakeholder at the federal, state and local level, including a wide range of actors. Mitigation strategies: A participatory approach will be followed during the implementation. In addition, international, federal and state guidelines and best practices will be considered. Furthermore, the institutional structure includes the establishment of three Technical Committees, one per state, to ensure the technical robustness of the implementation of the activities.
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Most of the risks are moderate or low. Mitigation strategies will diminish the likelihood of risk actually affecting the project outcomes.

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

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

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.

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Alignment with GEF-8 Programme Strategies:

Mexico's Selva Maya project is in tune with GEF's vision that "forests are preserved, managed, and restored, generating GEBs in response to the urgent climate, biodiversity, and land degradation crises, while empowering IPLCs"[1]. Indeed, the project is in harmony with GEF's overarching goal of its forest strategy, which is "to maintain, preserve, and restore the integrity and functioning of forest biomes, primarily in tropical areas"[2], and with its strategic objectives, which include combating deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, restoration, sustainable uses, and improved practices and governance, all of which are promoted by the project. Moreover, the Mexico Selva Maya project is consistent with some of its strategies and priority investments, including the focus on landscapes with primary forests and critical forest biomes, the targeting of investments that generate impact (including the improvement of governance and the enabling environment (Component 1 of the project), strengthening the management of PAs (Component 2 of the project) and mobilizing finance and positive incentives for sustainable forest management (Component 3 of the project), supporting restoration of forest ecosystems (Component 2 of the project), and putting forward an integrated approach[3].

In this context, the Mexico Selva Maya project will contribute to four of the expected global environmental benefits of the GEF and the GEF-8 programming architecture: i) conserve biodiversity (1,758,131.77 hectares of protected areas under improved management and 409,262.51 hectares of land under improved practices), ii) mitigate greenhouse emissions (12,445,395 million tons of CO2e avoided) , iii) promote sustainable land management (9,500 hectares of land under restoration) and iv) area of landscapes under sustainable management (1,114,750.46 ha).

This project proposal is in line with the GEF-8 strategy of the Integrated Programme for the Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes, as well as the Mesoamerica programme.

The Selva Maya project in Mexico is in line with the purpose of the GEF Integrated Critical Forest Biomes Programme. The project focuses on one of the seven intact forest landscapes identified in the 2020 global IFL map (IFL Mapping Team, 2020). In addition, the project will develop several of the planned key interventions of the CBIP, mainly:

- improving the management of protected areas,
- expanding the use of OECMs to protect and connect primary forests,
- promoting cross-border cooperation,
- applying a multi-level and multi-sectoral approach to strengthen governance (from local to regional),
- involve indigenous peoples and local rural communities in the conservation of primary forests,
- support local communities to develop viable forest-related activities on the periphery of primary forests that improve their livelihoods and protect intact forest,

- develop stable long-term sources of funding to support the conservation of primary forests and the development of forest-related livelihoods, and

- promote multi-level coordination and South-South learning.

A key element of this strategy is to involve rural women and youth in forest conservation and in the development of viable forest-related livelihoods so that they become agents of change.

-

Alignment with multilateral agreements:

Mexico's Selva Maya project is aligned with the main multilateral agreements:

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This intervention will directly support Mexico's progress towards the following goals:

    - Objective 5, targets 5.1 and 5.5. The project will implement affirmative actions to facilitate women's participation in forest conservation actions and decision-making, as well as in viable forest-related productive activities.

    - Objective 13, target 13.2. The project will promote and mainstream the importance of forest conservation for climate change mitigation.

    - Objective 15, target 15.2 and 15.5. The core of the project is to protect primary forests, restore forest areas to rebuild functional connectivity and implement viable sustainable forest management that is compatible with the protection of primary forests.

- Convention on Biological Diversity. The project is in line with the Convention and key decisions on forest biodiversity (i.e. Decision IX/5 and the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity). The project will directly contribute to objectives 1 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The results of the project will improve conditions for the survival of threatened species, thus indirectly contributing to target 4. The project also contributes to target 19.

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The draft is consistent with the Convention and, in particular, with the Paris Agreement (Article 5.1).

- United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. The project will directly contribute to objectives 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 3.1 and 4. 2, taking into account that the envisaged actions will (i) avoid deforestation of primary forests, thereby maintaining relevant carbon stocks and associated biodiversity, (ii) increase the area of forests under conservation measures such as protected areas and OECMs, (iii) promote the development of forest-related small-scale enterprises to improve rural livelihoods, and (iv) increase sustained financing to protect primary forests and develop forest-related livelihoods.

Alignment with regional policies and instruments:

-

Mexico's Selva Maya project is consistent with the Selva Maya Integral Strategy 2030, developed by the Strategic Coordination Group established in 2015 by the governments of Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, which brings together the relevant ministries of the three countries for the effective conservation and management of the Maya Forest shared by the three countries.

In addition, Mexico's Selva Maya project is in line with several instruments of the Central American Integration System (SICA), in which Mexico has been a Regional Observer State since 2004. In particular, Mexico's Selva Maya project contributes to the Regional Environmental Framework Strategy (2021-2025) and its new version 2026-2030, the Regional Strategy on Climate Change (strategic objective 1.3), the Regional Agro-environmental and Health Strategy (2009-2024) (action lines 2.5, 3.1 and 4.5), the Regional Strategic Programme for the Management of Forest Ecosystems, the Regional Strategy for Rural Youth 2022-2030 and the Regional Policy on Gender Equality and Equity (2014-2025).

-

Alignment with national policies and instruments:

Mexico is strongly committed to safeguarding and restoring its natural resources, including forests, as demonstrated by a series of commitments and policies at all levels. Mexico is a signatory to the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD, supported the ratification of the new Global Biodiversity Framework and ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Mexico's Selva Maya project will contribute to Mexico's biodiversity, climate change and forestry strategies and plans. In particular, the project contributes to

- *The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016 - 2030*. The Strategy presents the main elements for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity and the services it provides. In this sense, the project contributes to several strategic axes, including axes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

- *The National Climate Change Strategy. Vision 10-20-40.* This strategic document presents a biodiversity conservation and sustainable development approach, integrating the conservation efforts of NPAs, priority regions for conservation (PRCs) and CLCAs. In this sense, the project contributes to several strategic axes, including i) integrated landscape management, ii) biodiversity conservation and management, iii) social and cultural participation for conservation, iv) conservation economics, v) climate change, vi) inter-sectoral and multi-level policy coordination, vii) legal framework for conservation, and viii) institutional capacities.

- *The 2022 Nationally Determined Contribution*. This is a national strategic tool that sets out the Mexican government's commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Under this strategic framework, the project contributes to the mitigation component through its subcomponent 'Land use, land use change

and forestry'. In addition, the project contributes to the adaptation component through axis C: Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- *General Law on Sustainable Forest Development of 2018.* This law regulates and encourages the integrated and sustainable management of forest territories, promoting the conservation, protection, restoration, production, management, cultivation, management and use of the country's forest ecosystems and their resources. In this sense, the project contributes to the general objectives of this law, including objectives I, III, IV, VII, Xi, XII and XIII.

- *The 2017 National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2030.* The ENAREDD+ seeks to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to conserve and increase forest carbon stocks through integrated land management with a sustainable rural development approach. The project contributes to several lines of action, including i) public policies and legal framework, ii) financing schemes, and iii) institutional arrangements.

- *The National Forest Programme 2020-2024.* PRONAFOR is a programme linked to sustainable development and forest protection in the country. The project contributes to several of the Programme's priority objectives and strategies, and their respective actions, including objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4.

In this regard, the project is consistent with the country's commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 30% by 2030, and its strategy to significantly meet this goal through forest conservation and restoration. Along those lines, Mexico's updated NDC for 2022 seeks to expand protected area coverage by 2 million hectares, in part through voluntary conservation easement agreements and the continued implementation of its National REDD+ Strategy. Mexico's Selva Maya project contributes directly to this goal.

In addition, the Selva Maya Mexico project is aligned with the policies of the three states in the Yucatan peninsula, in particular with their strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity[1][23] . The three states formalised their strong political will to participate in this project in October 2022.

No national policies have been identified that directly contradict the expected results of the project, but there are certain tensions between the conservation and sustainable use objectives mentioned above, and the policies that seal and promote them, and the productive objectives of the agricultural sector and even tourism development. As presented in section 3.2the project will seek to harmonise these objectives, promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the landscape in agricultural practices, through activities 1.2.1 on strengthening local and national governance structures to improve the effectiveness of protection and conservation of primary forests, 1.3.1 on the creation or strengthening of national multi-sectoral platforms and 1.3.2. on regional multi-sectoral meetings of stakeholder groups and sectors to agree on actions and objectives for the conservation of primary forests.

[1] Specifically the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of the state of Yucatan (ECUSBEY), the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of the state of Campeche (ECUSBEC), and the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of the state of Quintana Roo (ECUSBEQROO).

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 child 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 child 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 child 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 Child 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; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain) Yes

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child 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
	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. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child 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).

The project will generate multiple global environmental benefits, contributing substantively to the conservation of high-value biodiversity and the maintenance of global ecosystem services. These

environmental benefits and very significant social benefits would most likely not be achieved in the absence of GEF funding.

The project will indeed bring significant socio-economic benefits. In particular, 108,445 people (53,138 women and 55,307 men) will benefit from the project. Population living in the intervention area and some populations living further away will benefit from the increased and sustained provision of ecosystem services, including provision, regulation and cultural services, which will be promoted through the implementation of all components, but especially through the ecosystem conservation and restauration activities included in component 2. In this sense, the project will contribute to the sustained availability of food and water, among others, and the regulation of the climate, increasing the resilience to climate change of local communities Furthermore, component 3 will expand the access to sustainable economic opportunities, increasing the revenues of local populations while preserving the ecosystem. MSMEs at different stages of development in key value chains will be strengthened benefiting not only their owners and employees but also other stakeholders along the value chain. Beyond economic benefits, the project will bring social benefits to local populations, especially to vulnerable groups such as women, youth and indigenous peoples. Among other aspects, component 1 will include the implementation of affirmative actions to integrate these communities by carrying out a leadership programme and promoting their participation in relevant governance structures. Local communities will also be involved in the implementation of the project, participating in the knowledge management activities carried out in Component 4. Moreover, the project will preserve ecosystem that are culturally important for local communities. A gender action plan and an indigenous people plan, as well as a stakeholder engagement plan and a grievance mechanism, have been developed as part of project design to ensure the project contributes to the socio-economic well-being of local communities in culturally-appropriate ways.

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 ($)
IUCN	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	8,949,312.00	805,438.00	9,754,750.00
IUCN	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	2,983,104.00	268,479.00	3,251,583.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**11,932,416.00**	**1,073,917.00**	**13,006,333.00**

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($)
IUCN	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	225,000.00	20,250.00	245,250.00
IUCN	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	75,000.00	6,750.00	81,750.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**300,000.00**	**27,000.00**	**327,000.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
IUCN	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	10,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					**10,000,000.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CFB MesoAmerica IP	GET	11,932,416.00	93858121.38
Total Project Cost		**11,932,416.00**	**93,858,121.38**

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($)
Recipient Country Government	Yucatan Regional Goverment	Grant	Investment mobilized	30384892.38

Recipient Country Government	CONANP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1700000
Recipient Country Government	Fideicomisos instituidos en Relación con la Agricultura (FIRA)	Grant	Investment mobilized	30000000
GEF Agency	IUCN (Selva Maya II / FINANP)	Grant	Investment mobilized	5816775
Civil Society Organization	PPY	Grant	Investment mobilized	376454
Recipient Country Government	Campeche Regional Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	16000000
Recipient Country Government	Quintana Roo Regional Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6500000
Civil Society Organization	The Nature Conservancy	Grant	Investment mobilized	3080000
Total Co-financing				**93,858,121.38**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Investment mobilized are linked to projects located on the ground, where articulations will be developed in order to ensure project results in PAs management effective improvement and Has. restoration among others. In addition, FIRA resources will support the activities linked to component 3 about deforestation free activities and improve livelihoods.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator		SungAh Lee		sungah.lee@iucn.org
Project Coordinator	5/31/2024	Nadia Mujica	50660221799	nadia.mujica@iucn.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)
Laura Aguirre	Director General- Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit	5/9/2023

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. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

Table . Project Results framework

Objective/Outcome	Indicators (Program Framework Document)[1][24]	Baseline	Target(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
Project Objective: The primary forests of the Selva Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, are conserved by strengthening governance, protecting, and restoring forest landscapes, mobilizing stable long-term funding and regional cooperation, ensuring a sustainable flow of ecosystem services for people and the planet.	**Indicator 1** Surface of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (ha) (=GEF CI-1)	0	1,727,568.38 [2][25]	Surface of protected areas under improved management with project support as per the official gazette.	Assumptions: Project activities are carried out at an adequate scale and depth to result in the expected project outcomes, which will work in synergy to strengthen the protection of forest landscapes. Risk: Any barriers to achieve project outcomes might affect the full achievement of the project objective.
	Indicator 2 Area of landscapes under improved practices (ha) (=GEF CI-4)	0	1,114,750.45 [3][26]	Project records	
	Indicator 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (=GEF CI-6) (tCO2e)	0	12,445,395	Estimate based on Project records	
	Indicator 4 People benefiting from GEF-financed investment (= GEF CI-11) (female, male)	0	108,445 (53,138 women; 55,307 men)	Project records	
	Indicator 6 Number of local, national, and regional instruments with specific measures for primary forest protection and conservation.	0	11	Approved plans and regulations	
	Indicator 9 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (ha) (=GEF CI 3)	Pending	Pending		

Objective/Outcome		Indicators (Program Framework Document)[1][24]	Baseline	Target(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
			0	9,500	Project records	
Component 1. Enabling conditions for the protection and conservation of primary forests	**Outcome 1.1** Strengthened local, national, and regional governance mechanisms in support of primary forests conservation.	**Indicator 1.1.1** Number of strengthened local, national, and regional governance structures.	0	6 (3 State Forest Councils, the Regional Climate Change Committee, JIBIOPUUC, and AMUSUR)	Meetings attendance lists and minutes	Assumptions: Active participation of key government and private sector stakeholders Risk: Limited government support and ownership, limited interest of private sector stakeholders
	Outcome 1.2 Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritize primary forest conservation.	**Indicator 1.2.2** Number of updated policies and regulations that support primary forest protection and conservation.	0	11 (3 state-level ecological tourism plans, 8 municipal development plans, municipal regulations, or local land use plans)	Approved plans and regulations	Assumptions: Government partners will actively support the development and approval of these plans and regulations. Risk: Limited government support and ownership, political bottlenecks for approval
	Outcome 1.3 Improved multisectoral platforms for forest conservation and management.	**Indicator 1.3.1**[4][27] Number of multi-sectoral agreements that support primary forest conservation.	0	1	Text of the agreement signed by all relevant parties	Assumptions: Stakeholder participation and commitment across sectors Risk: Limited incentives to participate and make commitments for actors outside the environmental sector
		Indicator 1.3.2 Number of public and private political statements, declarations, and commitments dealing with conservation of primary forests.	0	1	Published statement, declaration or commitment	
		Indicator 1.3.3 Number of IPLC, women and rural youth organizations involved into decision making processes at regional, national and/or local level.	[TBD at project inception.]	10 organizations additional to baseline	Attendance lists	

Objective/Outcome		Indicators (Program Framework Document)[1][24]	Baseline	Target(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
Component 2. Accelerated protection and restoration of primary forests	**Outcome 2. 1** Improved protection of primary forests in protected areas.	**Indicator 2.1.1.** Increased management effectiveness of the protected areas that include primary forests with METT scores that improved at least by 10%.	0	1,673,396.18 [5][28]	Tracking Tool for GEF-7 Protected Area Projects in the Biodiversity Focal Area (project start, midterm and completion)	Assumption: Increased management effectiveness leads to improved protection of primary forests Risk: Further reductions in government budget for protected areas, insufficient government staff
	Outcome 2.2 Increased area of OECMs that protect primary forests integrity and expand functional connectivity.	**Indicator 2.2.2** Area of landscapes under improved practices (=GEF CI-4) (ha) (excluding sub indicator 4.5. – terrestrial OECMs supported)	0	1,114,750.45 [6][29]	Project records	Assumption: Beneficiaries adopt improved practices Risk: Slow or limited adoption of improved practices
	Outcome 2.3 Ongoing restoration of 9,500 ha to increase primary forest connectivity.	**Indicator 2.3.1** Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (=GEF CI-3) (ha)	0	9,500	Project records	Assumption: Forest communities actively participate in forest restoration Risk: Limited community engagement, fires, land use tensions within communities
Component 3. Innovative finance and investment.	**Outcome 3.1** Increased financial resources for primary forest conservation.	**Indicator 3.1.1** Resources mobilized through new financial mechanisms that contribute to primary forest protection and conservation and to sustainable livelihoods (USD)	0	2,000,000	Project records with third party evidence on incentives mobilized through the mechanism developed as per Output 3.2.1.	Assumptions: Active participation of key government and private sector stakeholders Risk: Limited government support and ownership, limited interest of private sector stakeholders

Objective/Outcome		Indicators (Program Framework Document)[1][24]	Baseline	Target(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
	Outcome 3.2 Increased number of forest-friendly endeavours.	**Indicator 3.2.1** Number of new women or youth led businesses established.[7][30] **Indicator 3.2.2** Amount of funds issued to forest-friendly MSMEs through innovative financing mechanisms (USD)	0 0	20% of potential MSMEs supported 500,000	Project records with third party evidence of the businesses that achieved formal registration among those supported under Output 3.2.3 (Greenpreneurs). Project records with third party evidence of the amount of funds issued to forest friendly MSMEs through the financial mechanism developed under Output 3.2.2.	Assumption: With project support, forest-friendly endeavours will achieve consolidation and scale. Risk: Limited access to market, persisting capacity and organizational gaps that require long-term support
Component 4. Coordinated and improved learning and regional collaboration	**Outcome 4.1** Improved national and regional coordination for primary forest protection and conservation.	**Indicator 4.1.2** Increased participation of private sector, indigenous peoples' organizations, and civil society organizations in the national and regional coordination platforms.	[TBD at project inception.]	10 organizations additional to baseline	Attendance lists	Assumptions: Stakeholder participation and commitment across sectors Risk: Limited incentives to participate and make commitments for actors outside the environmental sector
	Outcome 4.2 Lessons on primary forest protection and conservation models are available worldwide.	**Indicator 4.2.1** Number of local, national, and regional lessons sharing events. **Indicator 4.2.2** Number of lessons learned documents.	0 0	4 3	In-person events: attendance lists; remote events: Video recording Final documents in Spanish and English.	Assumptions: Extensive participation in events and dissemination of lesson learned documents Risk: Limited participation in events and access to lesson learned documents due to limited internet accessibility and busy agendas

[1] Indicators were selected, among those included in the Program Framework Document, based on relevance for the child project. IUCN, please validate selection.

[2] The target for ADVC is 54,172.2 ha, considering 10 ADVC with an average area of 5,417.22 has.

[3] This target includes the surface of the Balam Beh Corridor and the SIPAM Mayan Milpa in the State of Yucatan.

[4] A conservative target was established for indicators 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 as their achievement is largely outside the control of the project.

[5] This is the target of Indicator 1 minus the ADVCs.

[6] This target includes the surface of the Balam Beh Corridor and the OECM zone in the State of Yucatan. It needs further refinement as it is likely that project activities will only focus on parts of these areas.

[7] A conservative target was established for indicator 3.21 as its achievement is largely outside the control of the project.

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
Consultancies (CEO endorsement, coordination, ecosystem collapse)	259,394.97	218,867.60	40,527.37
Admin/financial support	10,605.03	6,348.77	4,256.26
travel	15,000.00	11,931.29	3,068.71
workshops	15,000.00	8,527.77	6,472.23
Total	**300,000.00**	**245,675.43**	**54,324.57**

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
Sian Ka'an - Bala'an K'aax and CB Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax meet.	17.815614	-89.151714	

Location Description:

Southeast vertex where the perimeters of CB Sian Ka'an - Bala'an K'aax and CB Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax meet.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Southwest corner of the Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax CB, where the states of Campeche and Tabasco border.	17.815473	-90.987640	

Location Description:

Southwest corner of the Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax CB, where the states of Campeche and Tabasco border.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Southeast vertex where the Laguna de Términos APFF borders the states of Campeche and Tabasco.	18.085942	-92.078118	

Location Description:

Southeast vertex where the Laguna de Términos APFF borders the states of Campeche and Tabasco.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Northwest vertex of CB Balam Beh, where it borders the coast of the state of Campeche.	19.214535	-90.864713	

Location Description:

Northwest vertex of CB Balam Beh, where it borders the coast of the state of Campeche.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Northeast corner of CB Balam Beh, where it borders CB Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax and APFF Balam Kin.	19.041983	-90172819	

Location Description:

Northeast corner of CB Balam Beh, where it borders CB Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax and APFF Balam Kin.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Northwest vertex of the CB Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax, located to the north of the Puuc Biocultural State Reserve; within the state of Yucatan.	20.596182	-89.750771	

Location Description:

Northwest vertex of the CB Calakmul - Bala'an K'aax, located to the north of the Puuc Biocultural State Reserve; within the state of Yucatan.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Northwest vertex of the Yucatan OECM.	20.810069	-89.68078	

Location Description:

Northwest vertex of the Yucatan OECM.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Northeast vertex of the Yucatan OECM.	20.822791	-88.374458	

Location Description:

Northeast vertex of the Yucatan OECM.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Eastern vertex of the Yucatan OECM, on the state border perimeter between the states of Yucatan and Quintana Roo.	20.493520	-87.913435	

Location Description:

Eastern vertex of the Yucatan OECM, on the state border perimeter between the states of Yucatan and Quintana Roo.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
West-central vertex of the CB Sian Ka'an - Bala'an K'aax bordering the APFF Bala'an K'aax; within the state of Quintana Roo.	19.246733	-88.925617	

Location Description:

West-central vertex of the CB Sian Ka'an - Bala'an K'aax bordering the APFF Bala'an K'aax; within the state of Quintana Roo.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
East vertex to the coast of the state of Quintana Roo, where the RB Sian Ka'an and the CB Sian Ka'an - Bala'an K'aax border.	19.087580	-87.549667	

Location Description:

East vertex to the coast of the state of Quintana Roo, where the RB Sian Ka'an and the CB Sian Ka'an - Bala'an K'aax border.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Southeast vertex on the coast of Quintana Roo, where Mexico borders Belize; forming the entrance to the bay of the city of Chetumal, Quintana Roo.	18.193531	-87.843738	

Location Description:

Southeast vertex on the coast of Quintana Roo, where Mexico borders Belize; forming the entrance to the bay of the city of Chetumal, Quintana Roo.

Activity Description:

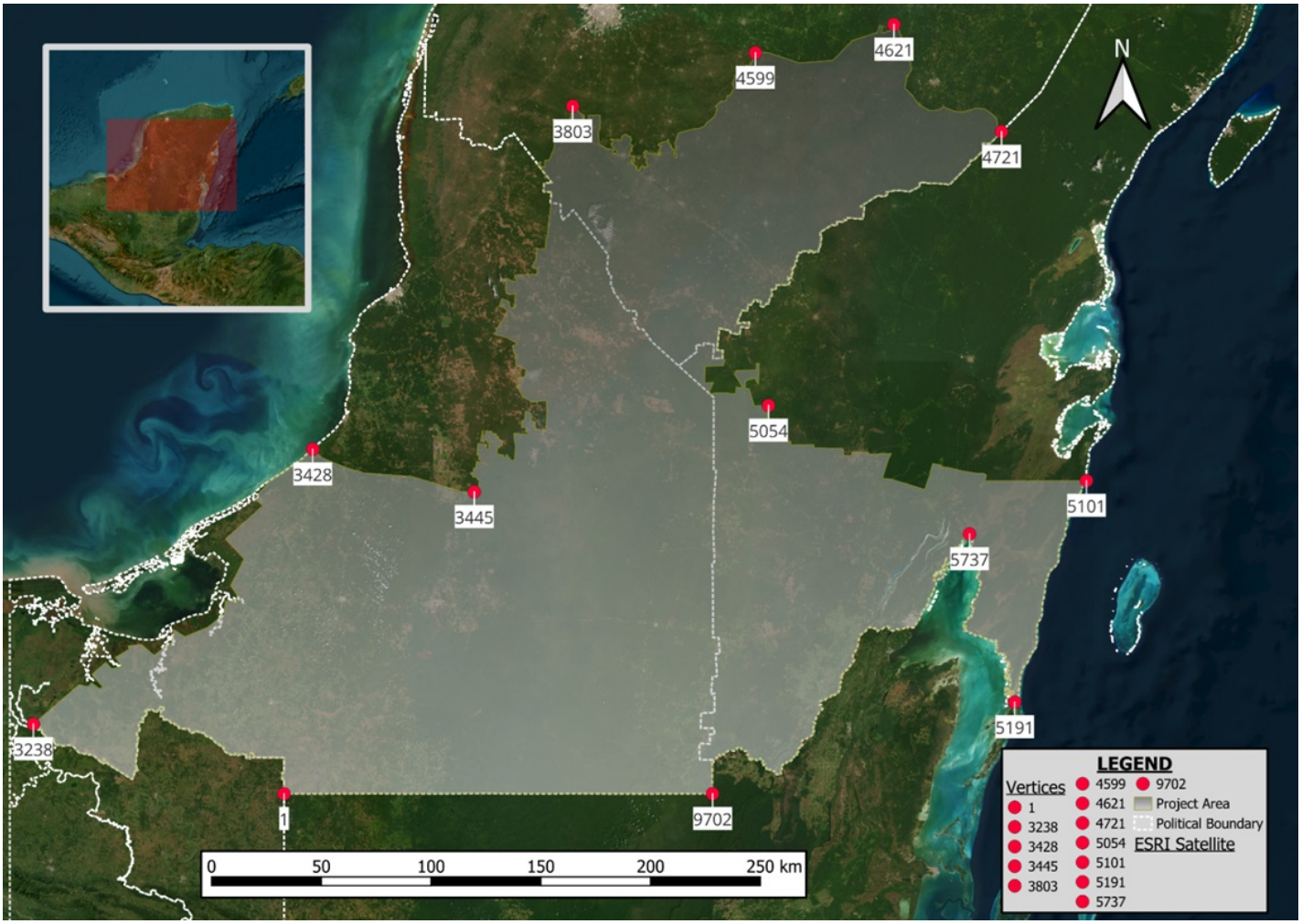
Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
North vertex of the bay of the city of Chetumal, Quintana Roo.	18.871219	-88.050862	

Location Description:

North vertex of the bay of the city of Chetumal, Quintana Roo.

Activity Description:

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



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING 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
2. Climate Risk
1. Mexico ESMS
7. Gender action plan

6. Gender analysis

5. Grievance Mechanism

4. Indigenous people plan

3. Stakeholder engagement plan

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

TABLE 1. PROJECT FINANCING

Component	Outcome	Output	Budget				
C1	Outcome 1.1. Local and national governance mechanisms for primary forest conservation strengthened.	1.1.1. Awareness raising and promotion plan on the protection and conservation of primary forests for policy makers, sectoral bodies and the private sector.	70,600	294,575	2%	1,685,675	14%
		1.1.2. Strengthened local and national governance structures to improve the effectiveness of protection and conservation of primary forests	215,850				
		1.1.3 Strengthened agreements for transboundary collaboration in protected areas	8,125				
	Outcome 1.2. Key national and regional policy and regulatory instruments prioritise conservation of primary forests	1.2.1. Updated national and sub-national policies, regulations and cross-sectoral instruments supporting the protection and conservation of primary forests	331,950	487,550	4%		
		1.2.2. Information to support fact-based decision making on forest conservation interventions	155,600				
	Outcome 1.3. Enhanced multi-sectoral platforms for forest conservation and management	1.3.1. Establishment or strengthening of national multi-sectoral platforms	193,650	496,550	4%		
		1.3.2. Regional multi-sectoral meetings of stakeholder groups and sectors to agree on actions and objectives for the conservation of primary forest.	16,250				
		1.3.3 Affirmative actions to integrate indigenous peoples and local	286,650				

		communities, women and rural youth into decision-making processes					
	Cross-cutting to component 1		407,000	407,000			
C2	Outcome 2.1. Strengthened protection of primary forests in protected areas	2.1.1. Strengthening protected area management instruments and tools	2,535,200	2,704,500	23%	6,017,761	50%
		2.1.2. Regional assessment of the risk of collapse and extent of critical Mesoamerican forest biomes	106,500				
		2.1.3 Information on the contribution of protected areas and indigenous communities to the conservation of primary forests and the advancement of the global biodiversity framework to support evidence-based decision making	62,800				
	Outcome 2.2. Increased area of OECMs that protect the integrity of primary forests and expand functional connectivity.	2.2.1. National frameworks or protocols for the implementation of OECMs	131,000	1,533,531	13%		
		2.2.2. Established national networks of OECMs supporting the conservation of primary forests	1,394,406				
		2.2.3 Transboundary collaboration agreements on OECMs within the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor	8,125				
	Outcome 2.3. 9,500 ha under restoration to increase connectivity of primary forest.	2.3.1. Updated assessment of priority areas for forest landscape restoration	54,400	1,034,200	9%		
		2.3.2. Key priority areas under Community restoration	979,800				
	Cross-cutting to component 2		745,530	745,530			

C3	Outcome 3.1. Increased financial resources for primary forest conservation	3.1.1. National analyses of financing gaps and barriers to investment in primary forest landscapes and forest-based livelihoods	258,984	967,780	8%	2,772,190	23%
		3.1.2. Innovative financing instruments and tools to increase investments in the protection of primary forests, protected areas, OECMs and forest-based livelihoods	646,296				
		3.1.3. High-level dialogue meetings to mobilise financial resources to sustain conservation of critical forest biomes	31,250				
		3.1.4 Regional coalition to mobilise resources to accelerate the conservation of primary forests and the development of viable forest-linked livelihoods	31,250				
	Outcome 3.2. Increased number of forest-friendly initiatives	3.2.1. Innovative mechanisms to encourage forest-friendly initiatives	690,694	1,517,910	13%		
		3.2.2. Innovative business models to develop forest-friendly goods and services	209,184				
		3.2.3. Project preparation mechanism to enable access to private and development finance	593,032				
		3.2.4 High-impact regional and promotional events to accelerate demand for products from sustainably managed secondary forests and deforestation-free raw materials in Mesoamerican	25,000				
	Cross-cutting to component 3		236,500	236,500			
C4	Outcome 4.1 Improved national and regional coordination for the protection and conservation of primary forests	4.1.1. Regional coordination platform for the protection and conservation of primary forests.	62,500	85,500	1%	825,975	7%

		4.1.2. Long-term regional communication plan to mobilise support for the conservation of primary forests and critical forest biomes.	23,000				
	Outcome 4.2. Lessons on models of primary forest protection and conservation disseminated globally	4.2.1. Mesoamerican knowledge platform on critical forest biomes (e.g. social and biodiversity information, forest management models, regulations)	44,100	647,700	5%		
		4.2.2 Programme lessons, models of forest management and governance and integration of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and rural youth in decision-making processes documented and disseminated regionally and globally	63,100				
		4.2.3. South-South cooperation / knowledge exchange with other critical forest biomes	165,500				
		4.2.4. Annual regional knowledge sharing workshops	62,500				
		4.2.5 Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	312,500				
	Cross-cutting to component 4		92,775	92,775			
Components						11,251,601	
M&E						119,515	1%
Components + M&E						11,371,116	
PMC						561,300	5%
Total						**11,932,416**	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

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.

n/a