GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title
Towards resilient cities in Guatemala: addressing biodiversity loss and recovery through integrated urban planning and development

Region	GEF Project ID
Latin America and the Caribbean	11293
Country(ies)	**Type of Project**
Guatemala	FSP
GEF Agency(ies)	**GEF Agency Project ID**
IUCN	
Project Executing Entity(s)	**Project Executing Type**
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala FUNDAECO Defensores para la Naturaleza	Government CSO CSO
GEF Focal Area (s)	**Submission Date**
Multi Focal Area	6/19/2025
Type of Trust Fund	**Project Duration (Months)**
GET	48
GEF Project Grant: (a)	**Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)**
3,876,053.00	348,843.00
PPG Amount: (c)	**PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)**
150,000.00	13,499.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	**Total Co-financing**
4388395	21,132,961.00

Project Sector (CCM Only)
Mixed & Others

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 project *'Towards resilient cities in Guatemala: addressing biodiversity loss and recovery through integrated urban planning and development'* tackles the compounded challenges arising from global environmental crises and national urban dynamics. Guatemala is experiencing rapid, unplanned urban growth (around 3% annually), resulting in the loss of native forest cover—less than 30% remaining in peri-urban zones—and increasing fragmentation of urban green corridors and urban forests. Critical ecosystems, including dry forest and remnant pine-oak forests, face high risk, while areas of water recharge are being degraded. These environmental pressures are compounded by territorial inequality, limited institutional capacity, scarce funding, and insufficient reliable data, constraining effective management of climate change impacts and biodiversity loss.

As part of the Global Environment Facility's Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (GEF-8 SCIP), the project adapts the five global transformation levers—policy integration, financing, urban innovation, strategic partnerships, and capacity and knowledge strengthening—to the Guatemalan context to address structural weaknesses in the territorial development model.

Its objective is to catalyze a transformative shift toward sustainable urban development by integrating urban and environmental planning, mobilizing innovative financial resources, and promoting Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to conserve biodiversity, enhance climate resilience, and reduce social inequalities in urban and peri-urban areas.

Global environmental and adaptation benefits include biodiversity conservation, restoration of degraded ecosystems, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, protection of water resources, and improved urban health and equity. Key outcomes include integrated urban policies, pilot urban plans in the Guatemala City Metropolitan Area (AMCG) and Huehuetenango, application of monitoring tools (IUCN Urban Nature Indexes, STAR metric), mobilization of innovative financing, and strengthened institutional and local capacities.

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

The objective of the project is to catalyze a transformative shift towards urban sustainability in Guatemala by integrating urban and environmental planning, mobilizing innovative financial resources, and promoting nature-based solutions (NbS) to conserve biodiversity, protect and enhance the value of urban forests, and strengthen climate resilience.

Project Components

1. Integrated planning, strategies and policies

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,200,000.00	1,801,100.00

Outcome:

1 Regulatory and territorial/urban planning instruments strengthened to integrate urban forests, biodiversity, climate resilience and gender-responsive approaches into urban development.

1.2 Biodiversity considerations integrated into urban planning with evidence-based tools and knowledge

Output:

1.1.1 National urban biodiversity policies, guidelines and related regulations drafted and adopted to integrate urban forests, biodiversity, climate resilience, and nature-based solutions into urban planning and land-use instruments.

1.1.2 Planning instruments for urban and territorial management in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala and Huehuetenango strengthened, adopted, and integrated into local and metropolitan planning frameworks to incorporate biodiversity, climate resilience, and gender equity criteria and Nature-based Solutions.

1.2.1 Urban biodiversity and sustainability monitoring system developed to inform territorial planning in Guatemala.

1.2.2 Urban and peri-urban ecosystems are officially recognized and managed as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) with technical, legal, and financial support to ensure their long-term conservation, restoration, and integration into municipal planning frameworks.

2. Mobilization of public and private investments to scale up resilient and nature-positive urban development

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,750,000.00	16,684,323.00

Outcome:

2.1 Sustained and scaled-up financing mobilized for urban investments in biodiversity and climate resilience

2.2 Urban investment models adopted to promote ecological restoration and territorially integrated climate resilience.

Output:

2.1.1 National funding mechanisms adapted to finance urban and peri-urban forests, biodiversity, resilience, and nature-based solutions

2.1.2 Innovative financial mechanisms designed to mobilize local resources for urban forest conservation, ecological restoration, and green infrastructure development in cities

2.2.1 Transformative green infrastructure investments implemented for the restoration and social valorization of urban ravines in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, incorporating guidelines for complementary urban spaces, with women's full participation and safety considerations

2.2.2 Strategic investments implemented in the Huehuetenango Municipal Regional Park – Manantiales Reserve for ecological restoration and urban water security.

2.2.3. Municipal green park system in Huehuetenango strengthened to support urban biodiversity, urban forests climate resilience, and inclusive public space management, including women's recreational and economic needs.

3. Knowledge Management on Urban Biodiversity and NBS

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

600,000.00	1,532,972.00

Outcome:

3.1 Collaboration networks established to amplify the impact of the project.

3.2 Local mechanisms for participatory environmental monitoring and social auditing strengthened to inform evidence-based urban planning.

Output:

3.1.1. National community of practice with mandatory gender parity (minimum 50% women) established on urban biodiversity, urban forest, sustainable planning, and nature-based solutions (NbS)

3.1.2 Institutions and local governments strengthened through training programs and technical cooperation on sustainable urban planning, urban biodiversity and climate action

3.2.1 Citizen platform for urban and nature monitoring in Guatemala City established in partnership with universities and regional organizations

3.2.2 Urban innovation and citizen science lab established in Huehuetenango in coordination with SEGEPLAN and the Departmental Government

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
146,000.00	50,000.00

Outcome:

Project activities monitored and evaluated.

Output:

Annual, mid-term and final evaluations completed.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Integrated planning, strategies and policies	1,200,000.00	1,801,100.00
2. Mobilization of public and private investments to scale up resilient and nature-positive urban development	1,750,000.00	16,684,323.00
3. Knowledge Management on Urban Biodiversity and NBS	600,000.00	1,532,972.00

M&E	146,000.00	50,000.00
Subtotal	**3,696,000.00**	**20,068,395.00**
Project Management Cost	180,053.00	1,064,566.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**3,876,053.00**	**21,132,961.00**

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

Context of the project

Guatemala faces a complex interplay between global environmental problems and national urban dynamics, manifested mainly in environmental degradation associated with rapid growth. The country, considered a global biodiversity hotspot[1]1, has 14 terrestrial ecoregions that act as carbon sinks, regulate the hydrological cycle and mitigate the effects of climate change. However, this natural wealth is at risk.

The project addresses serious environmental problems that affect both the natural environment and the quality of life of the populations. Among these issues are the loss of biodiversity, the degradation of ecosystems and the contamination of bodies of water by residual discharges and untreated solid waste[2]2, compromising their use for consumption, irrigation and fishing. Added to this are the degradation of air quality[3]3, deforestation[4]4, the deterioration of watersheds[5]5 and soil erosion. These processes are aggravated by climate change, which intensifies extreme events such as floods, landslides, droughts and heat waves[6]6, affecting vulnerable species and ecosystems.

In the Guatemalan context, the drivers of environmental change are linked to structural and territorial factors. Accelerated and disorderly urban growth, guided by short-term economic interests, has promoted expansion into risk areas such as slopes and ravines, driving informal occupation[7]7 and the loss of vegetation cover. This phenomenon is reinforced by the housing deficit[8]8, which pushes vulnerable populations to settle in exposed areas, without adequate access to water or sanitation, increasing their exposure to risk.

The Metropolitan Area of Guatemala exemplifies the country's deep socio-economic inequalities, particularly affecting Indigenous peoples and women. Income distribution is highly unequal, with the richest 20% holding 58% of total income and the poorest 20% only 3%. Indigenous communities face systemic barriers in political participation, land rights, and access to basic services, while women—especially Indigenous

women—suffer from compounded discrimination. Guatemala has the highest Gender Inequality Index in Latin America, with urban women disproportionately engaged in informal, low-paid jobs and a significant gender wage gap. Safety is a major concern, as over half of urban women report experiencing violence, affecting their mobility and use of public spaces. Gendered responsibilities and unsafe infrastructure further limit women's access to services and economic opportunities. While national strategies and civil society initiatives aim to close these gaps, major challenges remain.

Huehuetenango hosts a diverse Indigenous population, including Q'anjob'al, Mam, and Chuj peoples, who depend on natural resources and face significant climate and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Despite legal frameworks, Indigenous communities struggle for equitable participation in land and urban governance. Rapid urbanization has led to deforestation, poor waste management, and inadequate sanitation, disproportionately affecting women—especially Indigenous women—who are largely responsible for household water and caregiving. Mobility challenges, unsafe public spaces, and limited access to parks further constrain their opportunities for education, work, and recreation. Excluded from decision-making, Indigenous women in Huehuetenango have called for inclusive urban planning, community-led green infrastructure, water governance reforms, and safe, accessible public spaces tailored to their needs and traditional knowledge.

Limited institutional capacity, especially at the municipal level, hinders territorial planning and environmental management, in a framework of fragmented competencies and disconnection between national policies and local implementation. The absence of an integrated urban development framework and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms reinforces an unsustainable growth model, sustained by a dispersed regulatory framework. Investment in sustainable infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) is scarce, given the low level of public spending and the municipal trend towards grey infrastructure.

Financial constraints are an additional barrier: municipalities face limited revenue-generating capacity, receive insufficient transfers, and have difficulty accessing international financing or applying innovative financial tools, compromising the sustainability of interventions. This concentrating territorial model perpetuates inequalities between urban and rural areas. Finally, the social exclusion and high vulnerability of communities—particularly indigenous peoples such as those of Huehuetenango, and women and girls across the country—represent a central challenge, given their historical marginalization, dependence on natural resources, and limited capacity to adapt to environmental degradation and climate impacts.

Baseline

In Guatemala, the current institutional, normative and programmatic context shows a growing attention to urban sustainability and the integration of nature-based solutions (NBS), in an environment characterized by significant structural challenges, but also by emerging opportunities to drive urban transformations. This scenario is defined by an evolving legal framework, a still fragmented multisectoral governance, multiple initiatives and projects underway, and financing mechanisms that are beginning to include innovative and sustainable approaches.

From a regulatory point of view, the country has a set of key policies and laws that guide urban planning, environmental conservation, and risk management. These include the National Climate Change Policy (PNCC), which promotes adaptation and mitigation in all sectors, and the National Territorial Planning Policy (PNOT 2022–2050), which aims to promote sustainable and resilient territories by integrating climate and environmental criteria into development planning. Likewise, the Climate Change Law (Decree 7-2013) and its National Agenda (2021–2030) articulate actions to reduce vulnerabilities and emissions, with an emphasis on infrastructure, ecosystems, and water resources. In terms of urban management, the National Urban Agenda and the National Policy on Housing and Human Settlements promote inclusive, orderly and resilient urban growth. At the same time, progress is being made in the formulation of the National Urban Development Policy and a new National Construction Code with a focus on environmental sustainability, which seek to modernize the regulatory framework to respond to current urban challenges. Despite these advances, significant legal gaps remain. The current Urban Planning Law dates from 1956 and does not respond to contemporary needs, while only a small fraction of municipalities have adopted Territorial Planning Regulations (ROT)[9] with normative value. Institutional fragmentation, the absence of a metropolitan authority in the AMCG, and the limited technical capacity of many local governments hinder the effective implementation of these regulatory frameworks and perpetuate disorderly urban growth.

In terms of governance, the key actors are distributed at different levels. At the national level, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) leads environmental policy and climate action, the Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing (CIV) is in charge of infrastructure and housing policy, and the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN) coordinates territorial planning. For their part, the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) and the National Institute of Forests (INAB) are responsible for biodiversity conservation and forest management respectively. At the local level, municipalities and municipal associations have a central role in the planning and implementation of urban development policies, although they face technical, financial and governance constraints. Commonwealths, for example, lack a mandatory regulatory mandate and depend on the political will of mayors, which limits their effectiveness in inter-municipal management.

To this institutional framework is added an active civil society (NGOs, communities, academia) that promotes conservation, environmental monitoring and capacity building projects. Organizations such as FUNDAECO and research centers such as CECON and CEUR contribute technical

knowledge and encourage citizen participation in planning and conservation processes. Likewise, the private sector is beginning to show interest in financing sustainable projects, although its participation remains limited due to regulatory barriers and the perception of low immediate financial return.

At the programmatic level, Guatemala has a variety of projects and initiatives that address urban sustainability from different angles. Among them are 'Nature4Cities' (MARN/Green Climate Fund), focused on integrating NBS into urban planning in Guatemala City; 'RESILIENT CITIES' (UNEP/Adaptation Fund), with interventions in multiple cities in the country; 'Trames vertes urbaines' (FUNDAECO/FFEM); and 'Cities Forward' (Municipality of Guatemala/ICLEI), which promotes integrated approaches to sustainable urban development. These experiences have generated valuable learnings and collaboration frameworks that can be leveraged and expanded.

From a financial point of view, public investment in sustainable urban infrastructure remains low, representing on average 1.1% of GDP in recent years. Most of the resources are allocated to gray infrastructure, which limits the development of NBS and other sustainable alternatives. In addition, transfers from the central government to the municipalities are insufficient to cover territorial planning needs. Access to international financing is also limited by the lack of capacity to structure bankable projects and by the scarcity of innovative financial instruments. However, the country has begun to explore mechanisms such as green bonds, payment schemes for ecosystem services, land valorization and public-private partnerships (PPP), especially after the recent reform of the PPP Law that seeks to facilitate the participation of municipalities in these schemes without the need for legislative approval. The PPG diagnostic identified that the main barrier to financing urban NbS is not the absence of financial instruments, but the lack of well-prepared project profiles and limited awareness among implementing entities. Consultations with the Ministry of Finance, SEGEPLAN, and other stakeholders confirmed the need to adapt existing national funds (e.g., FONCC, FONACON) and Development Council mechanisms by revising eligibility criteria and project typologies to include urban biodiversity, urban forests, and climate resilience initiatives. At the local level, the diagnostic highlighted the potential of innovative financing tools such as land value capture, environmental offsets, and green bonds, using the “Guide for Land Value Capture to Finance NbS” as a reference for regulatory and financial feasibility.

A preliminary policy coherence analysis identified barriers that could undermine urban biodiversity objectives, including zoning and sectoral regulations that favor development-oriented land uses over conservation, limited enforcement of land-use change and forest protection provisions, and incentives that prioritize grey infrastructure in areas of high ecological value such as ravines. In addition, current Development Council project typologies rarely recognize Nature-based Solutions (NbS), largely due to limited institutional awareness of their benefits and applicability. The project will address these barriers by promoting legal and regulatory reforms, updating municipal ordinances, generating NbS project profiles, and adapting public financing criteria to enable investment in urban biodiversity, urban forests, and climate resilience.

Objective, justification and sustainability of the project

The objective of the project is to catalyze a transformative change towards urban sustainability in Guatemala, integrating urban and environmental planning, mobilizing innovative financial resources and promoting nature-based solutions (NBS), to conserve biodiversity, improve climate resilience and reduce social inequalities in urban and peri-urban areas.

The rationale for this project lies in the urgent need to address the complex challenges described: accelerated urbanization, environmental degradation, climate change, and limited institutional capacity. The project seeks to reverse unsustainable trends and build resilient cities that balance urban development with environmental conservation. GEF financing is justified as an incremental cost necessary to overcome the identified systemic barriers (fragmented planning, limited capacity, lack of financing) and catalyze this transformative change that goes beyond the no-project baseline scenario. It allows for the introduction of innovative mechanisms and the mobilization of resources that would otherwise be unavailable.

The selection of this project responds to its ability to address in an integrated way the systemic barriers and structural causes that perpetuate environmental degradation and climate vulnerability in Guatemala. Unlike fragmented approaches, the design proposed under the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (SCIP) offers a coherent and transformative pathway, articulating territorial planning, sustainable financing and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS).

This project is distinguished by strategically integrating biodiversity and NBS into regulatory and planning frameworks, responding to a critical gap in the country's urban and environmental policies. It also proposes innovative financial mechanisms and the redirection of existing funds, which makes it possible to overcome one of the main constraints for the implementation of sustainable solutions: the limited availability of resources. In parallel, it promotes capacity building at the local level, promoting the empowerment of municipal and community actors in the design and execution of resilient interventions. All this is implemented in pilot territories selected for their strategic potential to demonstrate and replicate solutions adapted to different urban contexts in the country.

The sustainability and durability of the results in the face of pressure factors such as urban growth, climate change or socio-economic inequalities are ensured through an articulated set of strategies. First, the project promotes regulatory reforms and the formulation of public policies that establish a long-term enabling framework, including territorial plans aimed at resilience and the protection of biodiversity, with the capacity to adapt to future scenarios.

Second, it envisages the creation of sustainable financing mechanisms—such as revolving funds, land value capture and compensation for urban development and the loss of natural habitat—that guarantee financial flows beyond the project implementation period, reducing reliance on uncertain government funds.

Institutional strengthening is another fundamental axis, through the provision of tools, methodologies and technical training to improve the capacity of local governments and key actors in the use of NBS, environmental monitoring and the structuring of sustainable projects. This approach is complemented by the creation of monitoring and evaluation systems with standardized indicators, which make it possible to measure impacts, adjust strategies and reinforce the continuity and replicability of interventions. The active participation of the different stakeholders: government institutions, municipalities, NGOs, the private sector, academia and research institutes, local communities, Indigenous peoples, women, and other vulnerable groups in all phases of the project, from design to implementation, is also an essential pillar. This social appropriation ensures the maintenance of the benefits achieved, strengthening the institutional and social fabric in the intervened territories.

Finally, the project is articulated with large urban infrastructure initiatives, incorporating green infrastructure and ecological rehabilitation criteria in projects such as the metro or wastewater treatment plants. This synergy ensures that NBS are integrated into large-scale development, thus contributing to a structural transformation of the urban model in Guatemala.

How the context fits into the SCIP

The project 'Towards resilient cities in Guatemala' is fully aligned with the strategic framework of the Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (SCIP) of the GEF-8, which identifies uncontrolled growth, biodiversity loss, climate change, policy fragmentation, and limited financial capacity as critical challenges in urban environments. To respond to these challenges, the GEF articulates five levers of transformation: (1) policy integration, (2) expansion of financing and support for investment projects, (3) urban innovation, (4) strategic alliances between actors, and (5) knowledge management and capacity building.

The project adapts these five levers to the Guatemalan context, recognizing the complex territorial dynamics of the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala (AMCG) and expanding intermediary cities such as Huehuetenango. Urban biodiversity is taken as an anchor point for the intervention, allowing the articulation of territorial planning, green financing, ecological restoration and community empowerment. In this way, the project directly contributes to generating a transformative change towards a more inclusive, resilient and regenerative urban model.

Each of the three components of the project is a concrete expression of the SCIP levers:

- **Component 1: Integrated planning, strategies and policies.** It promotes the integration of territorial, environmental and urban policies, strengthening multilevel governance through national policies, methodological guides and the updating of TEPs with a focus on nature-positive development, adaptation to climate change and protection of urban ecosystems.

- **Component 2: mobilizing investments in resilient and nature-positive urban development.** It drives financial innovation through mechanisms such as green infrastructure funds, compensation for urban development and land valuation schemes. These mechanisms are articulated to multiply the capacity to mobilize resources and ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Component 3: Knowledge management on urban biodiversity and SBN.** It introduces urban innovation through replicable models of ecological restoration in cities, the creation of observatories, citizen science and collective learning platforms, strengthening institutional and community capacities for evidence-based decision-making.

The project's approach makes it possible to connect global priorities with locally viable and scalable solutions, while promoting synergies between public, private and community actors. Thus, it is positioned as a strategic tool to operationalize the SCIP agenda in Guatemala, catalyzing a new paradigm of sustainable urbanization at the national level.

Baseline, Project Outcomes, Barriers and Facilitators

Based on the understanding of the trends and drivers of change described in the sources, we can outline the following simplified future scenario (baseline):

Without intervention, uncontrolled urbanization will persist, with settlements in areas of high geological and environmental risk, increasing exposure to disasters (landslides, floods). Urban and peri-urban ecosystems will continue to degrade[10]10, with the loss of vegetation cover and key ecosystem services. Inequalities will worsen, with more informal housing in precarious conditions. Limited institutional and financial capacity will hinder structural investments and access to finance, while sustainability efforts will remain fragmented. The country will remain vulnerable to climate change, without the capacity for effective adaptation, resulting in less resilient cities with greater social and environmental risks.

To reverse the trends of the intervention-free scenario – characterized by disorderly urbanization, environmental deterioration and high climate vulnerability – the project proposes a series of strategic outcomes that act as levers of transformation.

First, coherent multi-level governance will allow national policies to be aligned with local realities and capacities. By integrating urban, Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and resilience approaches into policies such as biodiversity and urban development, and by applying them in departmental and municipal territorial plans, strong institutional frameworks will be established to manage urban growth and protect key areas.

The design and implementation of nature-positive and climate-resilient municipal planning tools will make it easier for local governments to move from reactive management to proactive planning. Incorporating NBS in POTs and executing green infrastructure and restoration projects will directly contribute to mitigating risks such as flooding and loss of vegetation cover, improving the quality of the urban environment.

Simultaneously, the project seeks to generate solid evidence on urban biodiversity, using metrics such as STAR or IUCN indexes. This information will allow for more informed and strategic decisions, ensuring that conservation is based on verifiable data and not isolated perceptions, favoring more effective interventions.

To guarantee long-term viability, work will be done to ensure financial sustainability, through a transformed urban investment model that encourages restorative and resilient solutions. This involves redirecting public funds, attracting private investment, and innovating with instruments such as land value capture, and compensation for urban development/loss of natural habitat, generating an enabling environment for the sustainable financing of urban projects.

The impact of the project will be amplified through sustainable collaboration networks, connecting public, private, community and academic actors, facilitating the exchange of good practices and the replication of successful experiences in other territories.

Finally, better evidence-based decision-making will be promoted at all levels, through the creation of an urban sustainability observatory that centralizes and disseminates key data on biodiversity, climate and urban development. This will strengthen the ability to anticipate and adapt to future uncertainties.

Together, these results will change the trajectory of a fragmented and vulnerable urban development towards a more orderly, inclusive and resilient model, where biodiversity and nature occupy a central place in the transformation of the territory.

The achievement of the proposed results faces significant structural barriers. At the normative and institutional levels, policy fragmentation, the absence of an inclusive national framework and weak coordination between levels of government persist. Technical and financial management capacities in many municipalities are limited, making it difficult to plan and structure viable projects. In financial terms, public investment is insufficient, municipal transfers are scarce, and access to climate and international finance remains complex, in part due to the lack of innovative tools and low private sector involvement. In addition, the scarcity of structured data, standardized methodologies, and NBS expertise limits informed decision-making and effective follow-up.

Despite these challenges, there are enabling conditions that open up opportunities. The project is aligned with national policies on key issues such as sustainability, land use, biodiversity and decentralization. There is political will at different levels to advance in urban infrastructure and services. Existing initiatives (Nature4Cities, Cities Forward, among others) provide learning and active networks. In addition, there is an ecosystem of committed actors and strategic pilot territories – AMCG and Huehuetenango – that offer contextual diversity and high potential for replicability.

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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 project is based on a theory of change (Figure 1) that links the structural causes of environmental degradation and urban vulnerability in Guatemala with transformative solutions, articulated around the five levers of the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (SCIP): policy integration, scaling up financing, urban innovation, strategic alliances and knowledge management. This approach makes it possible to address key challenges such as urban sprawl, biodiversity loss, and weak institutional and financial capacity, promoting a more resilient, inclusive, and ecologically integrated urban model.

Guatemala faces a context of accelerated urbanization, pressure on critical ecosystems, and territorial inequalities. Within this framework, the project adapts the SCIP levers to two strategic territories: the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala (AMCG) and the intermediate city of Huehuetenango. There, the proposal aims to transform the current growth model, promoting territorial planning instruments that incorporate Nature-based Solutions (NBS), innovative financing and multisectoral participation, with emphasis on urban biodiversity as an articulating axis.

The Theory of Change outlines the project's response to critical environmental challenges—such as biodiversity loss, climate change pressures, and unsustainable urban growth—by addressing key barriers including low institutional capacity, insufficient funding, and lack of integration between biodiversity and urban planning. Through three interlinked components, the project will strengthen policy and planning instruments, mobilize innovative financial mechanisms, and build collaborative knowledge networks. These pathways are grounded in key assumptions such as strong political will, active participation of municipalities, and sustainable financing. The expected impacts include enhanced biodiversity conservation, improved climate resilience, and reduced social inequalities in urban and peri-urban areas of Guatemala.

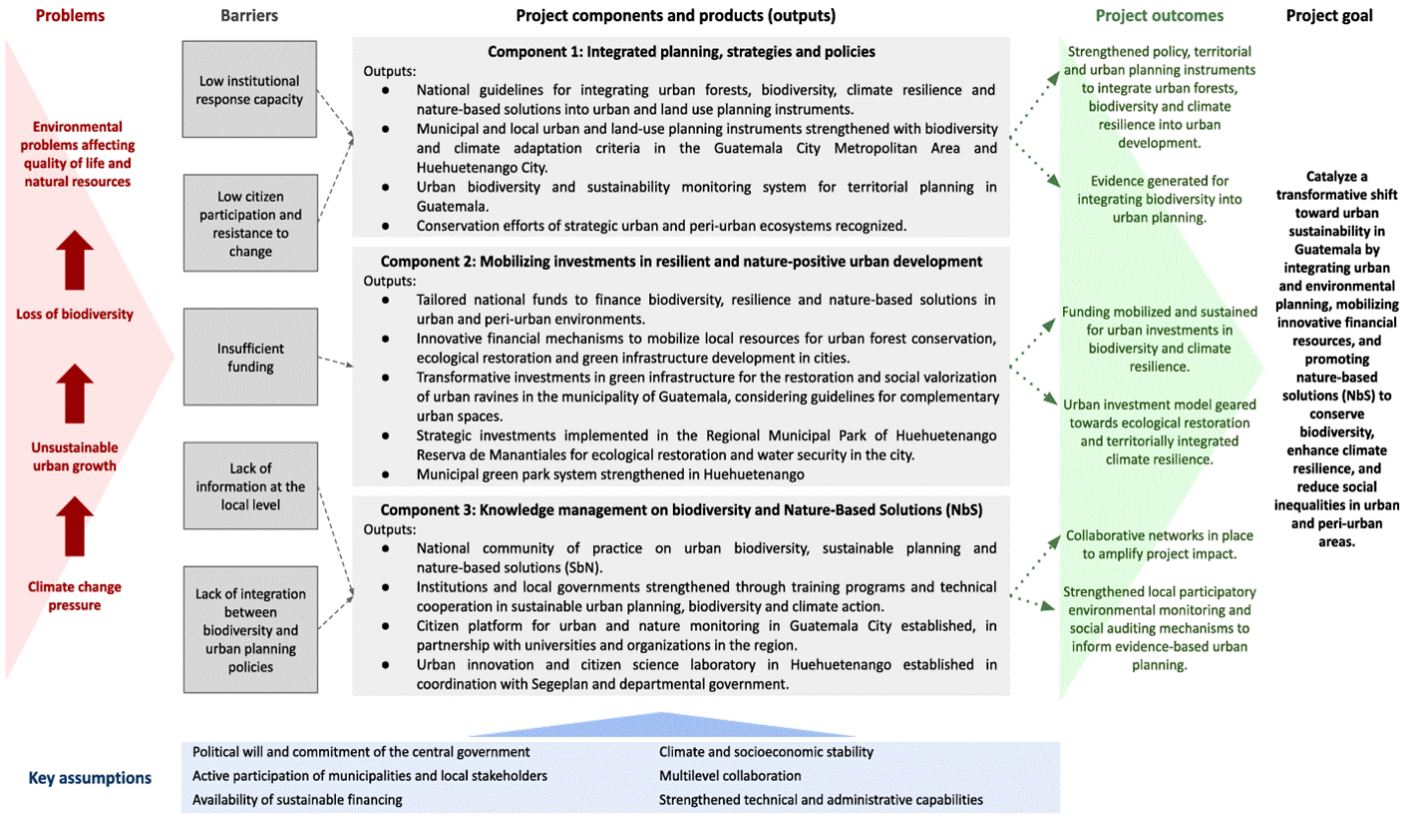


Fig. 1: Project's theory of change

The Project seeks to ensure that the application of Nature-based Solutions in urban and peri-urban areas is carried out with equal opportunities and benefits for women and Indigenous peoples, contributing to environmental sustainability and inclusive urban development. It is based on 3 interrelated components, which integrate the gender issue in a transversal way:

Component 1: INTEGRATED PLANNING, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

This component seeks to strengthen the regulatory and planning frameworks at national and local levels to integrate urban forests, biodiversity, climate resilience, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into urban development. It promotes coherence between Guatemala's national urban development, biodiversity, and climate change policies, and facilitates the articulation of these priorities into territorial instruments such as Municipal Land Use Plans (POTs), with a focus on ecological connectivity, water recharge zones, and risk mitigation in vulnerable urban and peri-urban areas.

Outcome 1.1 focuses on enhancing national guidelines and municipal planning instruments. Under **Output 1.1.1**, the project supports the implementation of the recently adopted Urban Forest Law and the preparation of a practical guide to facilitate the inclusion of biodiversity, vegetation, and blue-green infrastructure in POTs, contributing to the monitoring of national targets under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), particularly Target 12. This includes also assisting the elaboration and environmental mainstreaming of Guatemala's National Construction Code. **Output 1.1.2** strengthens local planning instruments in municipalities such as Guatemala City, Amatitlán, Fraijanes, and Huehuetenango. Key activities include the design of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) strategy for the "Great Green District" of the capital, emphasizing aquifer recharge and identifying investment opportunities in green infrastructure; the elaboration of territorial diagnoses and mapping of ecosystem services using tools like InVEST; and the participatory formulation of local planning instruments that prioritize concrete interventions in urban forest conservation and sustainable

land management. Urban land use planning guides and instruments will be inclusive and participatory, integrating the perspectives of women, Indigenous peoples, and youth to address context-specific challenges. These activities will develop or revise urban planning tools (e.g., POTs) to incorporate gender- and culture-sensitive criteria (e.g., safety, accessibility, cultural uses of space).

Outcome 1.1: *Regulatory and territorial/urban planning instruments strengthened to integrate urban forests, biodiversity, climate resilience and gender-responsive approaches into urban development.*

Output 1.1.1*: National guidelines developed to integrate urban forests, biodiversity, climate resilience, and nature-based solutions into urban planning and land-use instruments***.**

Activities:

- *1.1.1.1 Support the legislative process and subsequent implementation of the Urban Forest Law (currently under development) to integrate biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and Nature-based Solutions into urban and metropolitan planning in Guatemala City and intermediary cities. This will include technical assistance for drafting and adopting the Law's implementing regulations, developing city-level green maps to identify and monitor urban forests and ecological corridors, and strengthening institutional capacities of MARN and municipalities through multi-level governance platforms to ensure effective enforcement and integration into municipal and metropolitan land-use instruments.*

- *1.1.1.3 Prepare and/or implement in a participatory manner (Professional Associations) the National Construction Code with a focus on environmental sustainability (materials, energy efficiency, etc.) and its associated regulation, including adequate lighting, safe pedestrian paths, and accessibility features for women and persons with disabilities.*

- *1.1.1.4 Create a guide to facilitate the inclusion of the natural component (forests, vegetation), biodiversity and the management of blue (water management) and green areas in the Land Use Plans (POT), aligned with national priorities and contributing to local implementation of Global Biodiversity framework, incorporating women's safety, mobility needs, and access to green spaces.*

- *1.1.1.5 Establish and operationalize a Permanent Multi-level Urban Planning and Investment Coordination Roundtable to strengthen vertical and horizontal governance for the integration of urban biodiversity, climate resilience, and Nature-based Solutions into public investment and land-use planning. The roundtable will convene key national institutions (MARN, CIV, CONAP, INAB, SEGEPLAN, INFOM), municipal associations, metropolitan and local governments, and the project's co-executing NGOs (FUNDAECO and FDN). It will meet at least twice per year to: align planning instruments at national, metropolitan, and municipal levels (e.g., POTs, investment programs); review and coordinate investment priorities; ensure integration of NbS into zoning and infrastructure portfolios; and facilitate exchange of lessons learned. The mechanism will also serve as a decision-support space for adjusting work plans based on new evidence or emerging risks. This activity will directly enhance multi-level governance and institutional coordination, benefiting both project sites and replication areas nationwide.*

Output 1.1.2: Planning instruments for urban and territorial management in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala and Huehuetenango strengthened, adopted, and integrated into local and metropolitan planning frameworks to incorporate biodiversity, climate resilience, and gender equity criteria and Nature-based Solutions.

-***Activities****:*

- *1.1.2.1 Design and promote the implementation strategy for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in the Great Green District of Guatemala City, with emphasis on aquifer recharge and integrated water management, identifying investment opportunities and nature-based infrastructure projects.*

- *1.1.2.2 Prepare with a focus on municipal capacity building and promote the approval of Territorial Planning Plans (POT) for the municipalities of Fraijanes and Amatitlán, incorporating nature-positive urban development strategies that enable concrete interventions in green infrastructure (especially water and urban forest), risk mitigation and ecosystem protection.*

- *1.1.2.3 Carry out territorial diagnoses and technical-environmental evaluations of the water recharge zones and the forest cover dynamics of the Regional municipal park "Manantiales Reserve" in Huehuetenango and the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, with emphasis on mapping ecosystem services using the InVEST tool.*

- *1.1.2.4 Formulate the Local Territorial Planning Plan for the Huehuetenango Water Recharge Zone in a participatory manner with mandatory inclusion of women water user committees and indigenous women's organizations, identifying priority areas and intervention portfolios that enable future public or co-financed investments in sustainable land and urban forest management.*

Outcome 1.2 enhances the use of data and evidence for biodiversity planning. **Output 1.2.1** supports the development of an urban biodiversity monitoring system, integrating data into the national biodiversity portal managed by CONAP. It includes the application of IUCN Urban Nature Indices and promotes environmental education campaigns to foster public engagement. **Output 1.2.2** focuses on the recognition and support of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in cities. The project will develop technical guidelines to identify and manage OECMs, support their delimitation in Guatemala City and Huehuetenango, and integrate them into territorial plans through legal instruments and voluntary conservation agreements. These actions aim to mobilize future investments in ecological restoration and contribute to the long-term conservation of high-biodiversity areas that are not part of the formal protected areas system.

Outcome 1.2: *Biodiversity considerations integrated into urban planning through the use of evidence-based tools and knowledge*

Output 1.2.1: *Biodiversity, urban forest and sustainability monitoring system developed to inform territorial planning in Guatemala*.

Activities*:*

- *1.2.1.1 Develop and validate protocols for measuring biodiversity, urban forests, the state of natural spaces and their components applicable at the local level, applying the IUCN Urban Nature Indices in Huehuetenango and the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City.*
- *1.2.1.2 Integrate biodiversity and urban forest data into the Guatemalan Biodiversity Portal of the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), ensuring the effective governance of the monitoring system with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN).*
- *1.2.1.3 Design and implement public awareness campaigns on biodiversity and urban forests, connected to existing digital platforms, specifically targeting women and youth through culturally appropriate channels and women's networks.*

Output 1.2.2:Urban and peri-urban ecosystems are officially recognized and managed as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) with technical, legal, and financial support to ensure their long-term conservation, restoration, and integration into municipal planning frameworks.

-***Activities****:*

- *1.2.2.1 Develop guidelines to identify and manage OECMs in urban and peri-urban ecosystems, specifying the route of recognition and technical and legal validation of urban OECMs as part of the corresponding national framework, differentiating between public, private and communal areas.*
- *1.2.2.2 Identify and delimit OECMS in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City and Huehuetenango to prevent degradation of forest and high biodiversity areas and to enable the mobilization of future conservation investments and restoration actions.*
- *1.2.2.3 Integrate OECMS into land use and urban planning instruments, including the promotion of voluntary conservation agreements with private landowners and reserve associations (such as the Association of Private Nature Reserves of Guatemala), facilitating long-term stewardship and funding eligibility.*

Component 2: MOBILIZING INVESTMENTS IN RESILIENT AND NATURE-POSITIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

This component aims to unlock and direct financial resources—public, private, and blended—toward transformative investments in biodiversity, urban forests, and climate resilience in Guatemalan cities. It

promotes both top-down and bottom-up financial pathways to enable the implementation of territorial planning priorities (from Component 1), particularly those focused on ecological restoration and green infrastructure in strategic landscapes such as ravines, springs, water recharge zones, and urban parks.

The component combines two complementary strategies: first, improving the availability and design of national and local financial instruments for green urban investments (Outcome 2.1), and second, demonstrating how urban ecological restoration and inclusive public space planning can be implemented through territorialized pilot interventions (Outcome 2.2). This component contributes to long-term sustainability by facilitating financial co-responsibility, reinforcing decentralized governance, and enabling institutional learning on investment frameworks for Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

Outcome 2.1 mobilizes and scales up sustainable financing for field-level urban investments in biodiversity, urban forests, and climate resilience. **Output 2.1.1** supports the adaptation of national public funds—such as FONCC and FONACON—to explicitly prioritize urban ecological restoration and Nature-based Solutions (NbS), establishing eligibility criteria and evaluating the creation of a dedicated Biodiversity and Urban Forests Fund. This provides a robust institutional and budgetary foundation to sustain long-term investment in urban ecosystems. **Output 2.1.2** focuses on the design and validation of innovative subnational financial mechanisms such as compensation schemes, land value capture, and reinvestment of offsets into concrete interventions. Activities include fiscal-legal diagnostics, the design of financial instruments, and the implementation of demonstration pilots in selected municipalities. These instruments will enable municipalities to mobilize local co-financing for the restoration of ravines, water recharge zones, and urban forests, bridging the gap between territorial planning and investment implementation. The pilot projects to be implemented (green areas and belts, parks) will be innovative and inclusive, ensuring equitable participation in their design and generating benefits for women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups.

Under Outcome 2.1.2, the project will pilot innovative local financing tools such as land value capture and green bonds, and will support the development of the regulatory and technical framework for potential future environmental offset schemes. In line with GEF guidance, offsets will not be claimed as project benefits, but the groundwork established will enable their operationalization beyond the scope of this project. Both national and local mechanisms will be applied to finance ecological restoration and green infrastructure investments under Outcome 2.2, ensuring operational alignment with the governance arrangements established in Outcome 2.1.

Outcome 2.1: *Sustained and scaled-up financing mobilized for effective urban investments in biodiversity, urban forests, and climate resilience*

Output 2.1.1: *National funding mechanisms adapted to finance urban and peri-urban forests, biodiversity, resilience, and nature-based solutions*

Activities:

- *2.1.1.1 Promote eligibility criteria for projects and programs of national funds (National Climate Change Fund -FONCC-, National Fund for the Conservation of Nature -FONACON-, Development Councils), to prioritize financing of field-level interventions in urban forests, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience, explicitly incorporating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into project design and execution. This will also include the identification and adaptation of regulatory frameworks and project typologies to enable financing of urban NbS, based on the results of the detailed technical and economic analysis to be conducted during project implementation.*

- *2.1.1.2 Evaluate the viability and operating mechanisms of a Biodiversity and Urban Forests Fund to channel financing towards Nature-based Solutions projects that includes specific windows for women-led NbS initiatives and enterprises, within the framework of the national budget (including sustainable bonds) and the public investment system.*

Output 2.1.2: *Innovative financial mechanisms designed to mobilize local resources for urban forest conservation, ecological restoration, and green infrastructure development in cities while preventing negative impacts on women landowners and promoting women's economic empowerment.*

Activities:

- *2.1.2.1 Carry out the legal, fiscal, and institutional analysis of the existing framework in Guatemala to enable mechanisms for urban compensation and capture of capital gains applicable to green infrastructure and ecological restoration projects, facilitating territorial investments and including adaptive social protection criteria.*
- *2.1.2.2 Design specific financial instruments to attract and reinvest resources from environmental offsets and land valorization into concrete initiatives such as restoration of urban forests, ravines, reforestation, and implementation of Nature-based Solutions in prioritized municipal areas.*
- *2.1.2.3 Develop demonstration pilots in coordination with prioritized municipalities to validate urban environmental compensation and urban valorization schemes, through field investments focused on urban ecological restoration for urban forests, water recharge zones, and sustainable green infrastructure.*
- *2.1.2.4 Establish partnerships with public and private actors to strengthen governance and mobilize co-financing for the implementation of green financial mechanisms and urban investment projects in ecological restoration and green infrastructure.*

Outcome 2.2 operationalizes territorial investment models to implement nature-based solutions and ecological restoration in urban and peri-urban areas. **Output 2.2.1** supports the restoration and revaluation of ravines in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City through transformative green infrastructure projects. These interventions will be based on prioritization criteria, participatory design, and social inclusion, and will incorporate complementary uses such as recreation and environmental education. **Output 2.2.2** enables large-scale ecosystem restoration and water security interventions in the Huehuetenango Municipal Regional Park – Manantiales Reserve. Activities include prioritizing areas of intervention, co-designing restoration projects, and mobilizing funding and local co-financing mechanisms. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the participatory governance of the park to ensure sustainability and community ownership. **Output 2.2.3** focuses on strengthening the urban park system in Huehuetenang**o** as an inclusive and climate-resilient public space network. This includes implementing green infrastructure pilots in vulnerable neighborhoods, linking local parks with the Manantiales Reserve, and promoting environmental education and participatory monitoring. These actions aim to consolidate ecological connectivity while generating socio-environmental co-benefits at the local level.

Outcome 2.2: *Urban investment models adopted to promote ecological restoration and territorially integrated climate resilience.*

Output 2.2.1: *Transformative green infrastructure investments implemented for the restoration and social valorization of urban ravines in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, incorporating guidelines for complementary urban spaces, with women's full participation and safety considerations*

Activities:

- *2.2.1.1 Design and implement green infrastructure in five strategic ravines in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, based on mechanisms for prioritization and selection of pilot investments in green infrastructure and ecological restoration with social and environmental criteria.*
- *2.2.1.2 Implement ecological restoration and community participation for the environmental and social revaluation of ravines, with mandatory community participation ensuring minimum 40% women's participation and integration of women's traditional ecological knowledge*

- *2.2.1.3 Establish environmental monitoring and ecosystem valuation systems in restored ravines.*

Output 2.2.2: *Strategic investments implemented in the Huehuetenango Municipal Regional Park – Manantiales Reserve for ecological restoration and urban water security*

Activities*:*

- *2.2.2.1 Prioritize critical areas of intervention in the Municipal Regional Park of the Manantiales Reserve.*
- *2.2.2.2 Design and structure comprehensive ecosystem projects with criteria of restoration, tourism, recreation and local participation.*
- *2.2.2.3 Mobilize financing and apply financial mechanisms.*
- *2.2.2.4 Strengthen the participatory governance of the park and the community ownership of the results.*

Output 2.2.3: *Municipal green park system in Huehuetenango strengthened to support urban biodiversity, urban forests, climate resilience, and inclusive public space management, including women's recreational and economic needs*

Activities*:*

- *2.2.3.1 Implement pilot green infrastructure interventions in vulnerable urban areas of the municipality, identified through geospatial analysis (e.g., landslide hazard and exposure mapping) and socio-environmental vulnerability assessments, ensuring evidence-based site selection and planning.*
- *2.2.3.2 Integrate the urban park system with the Municipal Regional Park and develop environmental education actions.*
- *2.2.3.3 Carry out impact monitoring and strengthen participatory evaluation of interventions.*

Component 3: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ON URBAN BIODIVERSITY AND SBN

This component leverages knowledge management, capacity building, and participatory monitoring to ensure the replicability, visibility, and long-term sustainability of the project. It supports the creation of a national community of practice, the strengthening of institutional and local capacities, and the consolidation of local platforms for data generation and social engagement in two pilot cities. The component also aims to position Guatemala within regional and international networks, particularly through collaboration with the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) under the Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (SCIP). This component will incorporate the exchange of knowledge from the perspective of Indigenous worldviews.

Outcome 3.1 strengthens knowledge exchange and institutional learning to amplify the project's impact and ensure its long-term sustainability. **Output 3.1.1** focuses on the establishment of a national community of practice on urban biodiversity, urban forests, sustainable planning, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This platform will facilitate dialogue between government agencies, academia, NGOs, and civil society, allowing for the systematization and scaling of knowledge generated by the project. Activities include the installation of the community of practice, learning exchanges, and the dissemination of best practices and results through public policy and national platforms. **Output 3.1.2** targets the strengthening of institutional and local government capacities through training programs and technical cooperation. This includes the implementation of a university diploma in urban ecology, the training of local officials on urban biodiversity and planning, and the creation of a financing line for applied scientific research on NbS in cities. The project also promotes Guatemala’s participation in global knowledge networks, including the Global Platform for

Sustainable Cities (GPSC) under the Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (SCIP), reinforcing South-South collaboration and policy influence.

Outcome 3.1: *Collaboration networks established to amplify the impact of the project*

Output 3.1.1: *National community of practice with mandatory gender parity (minimum 50% women) established on urban biodiversity, urban forest, sustainable planning, and nature-based solutions (NbS)*

Activities:

- *3.1.1.1 Design and install the national community of practice, coordinating with organizations, institutions and universities in the country, incorporating women's organizations, feminist collectives, and female professionals*
- *3.1.1.2 Facilitate spaces for exchange and collaborative learning.*
- *3.1.1.3 Systematize lessons learned from the project and make them available to the community of practice and facilitate gender-responsive learning spaces including specific sessions on women's roles in urban biodiversity conservation.*
- *3.1.1.4 Promote the scaling up of knowledge of the project in public policies and national platforms, sharing gender equality outcomes and women's empowerment results.*

Output 3.1.2: *Institutions and local governments strengthened through training programs and technical cooperation on sustainable urban planning, urban biodiversity, urban forest and climate action*

Activities:

- *3.1.2.1 Design and implement a university diploma course in urban ecology in coordination with the Directorate of Training and Social Participation (DIFOPAS-MARN), CONAP and the National Institute of Forests (INAB), and including materials adapted for educational centers and community leaders, ensuring active participation of youth representatives and integrating materials adapted for educational centers, community leaders, and youth organizations.*
- *3.1.2.2 Develop training programs for local authorities on project formulation, territorial planning, and environmental management, with mandatory gender modules, led by the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP), MARN, the Secretariat of Executive Coordination of the Presidency (SCEP), and the Institute of Municipal Development (INFOM).*
- *3.1.2.3 In coordination with the National Secretariat of Science and Technology (SENACYT) and the National Fund for Science and Technology (FONACYT), establish a line of financing for applied scientific research in Nature-based solutions in urban environments, explicitly prioritizing woman and youth-led applications and research teams.*
- *3.1.2.4 Strengthen local capacities and action plans to meet requirements for membership in international networks and actively participate in knowledge exchange events organized under the SCIP by the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) and its partners*

Outcome 3.2 promotes participatory monitoring and social accountability mechanisms to inform evidence-based urban planning. **Output 3.2.1** establishes a citizen platform for monitoring urban biodiversity and green infrastructure in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, in alliance with universities and local organizations. This platform will support citizen engagement in data collection, dissemination, and environmental education using tools such as iNaturalist and drawing from the demonstration examples of restored ravines. The platform will enhance public understanding of biodiversity and enable communities to contribute meaningfully to urban sustainability efforts. **Output 3.2.2** focuses on the creation of an Urban Innovation and Citizen Science Lab in Huehuetenango, in coordination with SEGEPLAN and the Departmental Government. The Lab will function as a multi-stakeholder space (local government, academia, civil society) to generate open data, foster innovation in citizen monitoring, and promote participatory planning. It will

also support community-based biodiversity monitoring, leadership training, and the development of local databases to guide investment decisions in ecological restoration and green public space.

In both Guatemala City and Huehuetenango, locally driven collaborative spaces—adapted to existing initiatives—will foster citizen participation, youth engagement, and applied research on NbS, serving as replicable hubs for monitoring, policy auditing, and knowledge exchange; the difference in naming reflects their distinct origins, with Guatemala City's platform building on concepts promoted by universities and NGOs, and Huehuetenango's lab emerging under SEGEPLAN and the Departmental Development Council with a stronger focus on innovation. The model's flexibility and institutional anchoring will enable its scaling to other cities through national entities such as SEGEPLAN, ensuring broader territorial reach and impact.

The project's Knowledge Management strategy around component 3 integrates a strong gender perspective to ensure that equality achievements and lessons learned are systematically captured, disseminated, and scaled. This includes producing dedicated knowledge products and documenting best practices that highlight women's leadership in urban Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Communication materials will be tailored to women's networks, and policy briefs will emphasize the gender co-benefits of urban biodiversity investments. Regional learning exchanges will focus on women's experiences and innovations in urban sustainability. Furthermore, the project will document and share gender-transformative best practices through case studies (e.g., women-led green belt recovery and youth ecological clubs), toolkits and briefs on inclusive urban biodiversity governance, and municipal knowledge exchange platforms addressing the intersection of gender and NbS. These efforts will strengthen inclusive decision-making, amplify women's contributions, and promote equitable outcomes in biodiversity and climate resilience initiatives.

Outcome 3.2: *Local mechanisms for participatory environmental monitoring and social auditing strengthened to inform evidence-based urban planning*

Output 3.2.1: *Citizen platform for urban and nature monitoring in Guatemala City established in partnership with universities and regional organizations*

Activities:

- *3.2.1.1 Establish the operational and technical structure of the citizen platform of the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, ensuring structured participation of women's network, youth networks, student associations, and young community leaders in monitoring, advocacy, and policy auditing.*
- *3.2.1.2 Implement a citizen monitoring system on biodiversity, urban forests, and green infrastructure.*
- *3.2.1.3 Establish strategies for communication, dissemination and mass citizen education on biodiversity and urban forests, based on the demonstration examples of the ravines intervened.*

Output 3.2.2: *Urban innovation and citizen science lab established in Huehuetenango in coordination with SEGEPLAN and the Departmental Government*

Activities:

- *3.2.2.1 Support the creation of the Urban Innovation Laboratory in Huehuetenango and its governance structure (municipality, academia, civil society), integrating youth innovation groups, specific inclusion of women's organizations and indigenous women leaders, technical high schools, and university programs to co-design and implement local NbS monitoring and restoration initiatives.*
- *3.2.2.2 Develop the monitoring and open data generation system.*
- *3.2.2.3 Implement the Urban Innovation and Citizen Science Laboratory, and promote mechanisms for advocacy, convening, communication, dissemination and mass citizen education on biodiversity and urban forests.*

- *3.2.2.4 Develop community monitoring of biodiversity and urban forests through the use of iNaturalist, training community leaders and creating a local database to feed municipal planning.*

Benefits of the project

Urban biodiversity acts as an anchor point for interventions. Spaces such as the ravines of Guatemala City or the springs of Huehuetenango function as 'integrating pieces' of the project, since they connect planning, regulation, investment and monitoring actions. Its conservation allows for the articulation of municipal ordinances, the activation of financial mechanisms, the generation of environmental indicators, and the empowerment of local actors through participation in citizen science or governance processes. Thus, the proposed model offers an intervention logic that seeks to transform the current scenario – of chaotic urban sprawl, loss of ecosystems and degraded environmental services – into one where urban biodiversity and NBS are pillars of development. The project is additional to the baseline, as it introduces instruments, capacities and partnerships that would not be developed without the support of the GEF.

The project will generate benefits both at the global environmental level and in terms of adaptation and social co-benefits at the local level. It will directly contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in urban and peri-urban environments through the restoration of critical habitats such as ravines, wetlands and water recharge areas. These spaces, in addition to housing keystone species, perform essential functions such as water regulation, improving air quality and mitigating the heat island effect.

By integrating Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) into urban planning and infrastructure, the climate resilience of cities will be strengthened. These interventions will reduce runoff, improve water infiltration, and decrease the risks of flooding, landslides, and heat stress. The benefits will be particularly relevant in vulnerable areas, such as informal settlements exposed to geological and climatic risks.

Considering the importance of ensuring the project's results are effective, risk analysis and mitigation measures were applied even to the products and activities related to design. It was found that there is evidence showing that if the design of plans, pilot projects, etc., is not adequate, it could have negative repercussions in areas such as: exclusion of vulnerable groups, safety concerns in the case of unlit green areas and overall security conditions, labor conditions, and the resolution of water pollution and foul odors in ravines, among others, when these are implemented.

In this regard, risks and mitigation measures are included, organized by Safeguard, and by the project's components, products, and activities. The mitigation measures already identified will be included both in the terms of reference for the design of the various instruments and mechanisms, as well as in the management instruments required by IUCN safeguards. Additionally, procedures are included for identifying and managing the environmental and social risks of the pilot projects to be financed.

In terms of additionality, the project's results would not be achieved without GEF funding. Currently, public policies and investment in Guatemala do not prioritize biodiversity or NBS approaches. The project introduces innovative governance and financing mechanisms, as well as technical tools to integrate biodiversity into urban development in a structural and replicable way.

It will also generate important social co-benefits, by improving access to green spaces, promoting well-being, reducing inequalities and creating green employment opportunities. Its cross-cutting approach to

gender and inclusion ensures that women, indigenous communities and young people actively participate and benefit equitably from the transformations promoted. Recognizing these structural inequalities, the project adopts an intersectional and inclusive approach that embeds gender equality and cultural pertinence into its planning, implementation, and governance arrangements. Dedicated Gender and Indigenous Peoples Participation Plans were developed based on participatory diagnostics and will guide targeted actions across all components to ensure that the voices, knowledge, and priorities of these groups are not only considered, but actively shape transformative urban and environmental solutions. The Gender Action Plan includes specific measures to promote the participation of women and girls in urban planning, ecological restoration, and local governance of green infrastructure, with actions budgeted and embedded across Components 1 to 3. Similarly, the Indigenous Peoples Plan ensures culturally appropriate engagement with indigenous actors—particularly in the metropolitan peripheries and in the Huehuetenango Valley—supporting inclusive planning processes, knowledge exchange, and access to environmental benefits. These plans are not stand-alone documents; rather, they inform the design of the Theory of Change, guide capacity-building efforts, and strengthen the legitimacy and equity of project outcomes.

The project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework incorporates a robust gender-responsive approach to ensure that women's roles, contributions, and benefits are fully recognized and addressed throughout implementation. All monitoring tools and reports will include gender-disaggregated data, while the Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation will explicitly assess progress on the Gender Action Plan, as well as the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming in decision-making, benefit-sharing, and ecosystem governance. Participatory monitoring methods will be applied to capture qualitative feedback from women and youth, ensuring that their perspectives shape project adjustments. All progress reports will feature dedicated sections on gender-specific results and Gender Action Plan progress, complemented by regular participatory evaluations with women beneficiaries. Additionally, the project will systematically document women's empowerment outcomes and challenges, generating actionable evidence to strengthen inclusive governance in biodiversity and climate resilience initiatives.

The sustainability of results is based on several key assumptions: sustained political will at the national and local levels; the active participation of municipalities, communities and the private sector; the availability and mobilization of climate finance; and a relatively stable environment in climatic and socioeconomic terms. It is also assumed that institutional strengthening will allow interventions to be maintained and scaled up beyond the life of the project.

The project strategically integrates government, municipal, civil society, private sector, academia and local communities actors to ensure effective and sustainable implementation. At the national level, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) will lead the environmental agenda, facilitating the integration of nature-based solutions (NBS) and resilience in public policies. Together with MARN, institutions such as SEGEPLAN, CIV, CONAP, INAB will play a fundamental role in territorial planning, biodiversity management, urban development and capacity building

At the subnational level, priority will be given to the municipalities of Guatemala and Huehuetenango as pilot territories. Their participation will be decisive for the development and implementation of land use plans (POT), the application of NBS and the operation of innovative financing mechanisms. To strengthen their capacity, technical training, methodological advice and institutional support are planned. The Commonwealth of Gran Ciudad del Sur will facilitate the articulation and scalability of the results to other municipalities in the country.

Civil society organizations—including FUNDAECO, TNC, FUNCAGUA, and CALMECAC—will contribute their expertise in conservation, ecological restoration, and environmental education. Networks such as the Mesa de Barranqueros and citizen platforms such as iNaturalistGT will promote local ownership of interventions, participatory science and transparency in biodiversity management. Likewise, an active participation of communities and COCODES in decision-making on green infrastructure and special plans is foreseen, thus promoting lasting socio-environmental benefits.

The private sector – through actors such as Foncagua, ARNP, ADIG, CNE and the GGBC – will be incentivized to invest in sustainable developments, participate in compensation schemes for ecosystem services and in mechanisms such as green bonds or land valorization. These actors will benefit from a clearer regulatory environment, opportunities for public-private partnerships, and reputational and financial returns.

The project leverages a rich pre-existing knowledge base and at the same time generates new applied knowledge. Through the creation of a national community of practice, experiences, methodologies and lessons learned will be articulated between municipalities, NGOs, universities and private sector actors. This community will be consolidated as a space for co-creation, training and collaborative learning focused on urban biodiversity, NBS and climate resilience.

In addition, advanced tools such as Urban InVEST, STAR and the IUCN Urban Biodiversity Indexes will be implemented to assess the economic, ecological and social impacts of interventions. These tools will facilitate evidence-based decision-making and generate useful information for both local authorities and citizens.

The project will strengthen existing monitoring platforms, such as the Urban Sustainability Observatory led by CEUR and CALMECAC and contribute with new data and territorial analysis for policy updating. All the knowledge generated will be systematized and disseminated through an open repository, in order to promote its use by future projects, research and planning processes. The use of citizen science and participatory platforms, such as iNaturalistGT, will also be promoted to expand social involvement and documentation of urban biodiversity.

In turn, it will promote the inclusion of specific chapters on green infrastructure and biodiversity in the POTs of selected municipalities. Articulation with the MARN Institutional Strategic Policy, the National Climate Change Policy and the National Biodiversity Policy will be strengthened, especially with regard to Kunming-Montreal Framework, which promotes the increase and connectivity of green spaces in urban areas. The project will also contribute to operationalizing the National Building Code under development, incorporating guidelines on green design and urban resilience.

This alignment will not only enhance the effectiveness of interventions but also facilitate their scaling by institutionalizing sustainability and resilience criteria in urban planning, thereby creating an enabling environment for future climate and biodiversity investments. Through the project, the aim is to catalyze regulatory and governance changes that will outlast the project itself and benefit future generations.

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)

The project "Towards Resilient Cities in Guatemala: Addressing Biodiversity Loss and Recovery through Integrated Urban Planning and Development" will be implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), which will serve as the national counterpart and political focal point for the GEF. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as the GEF Implementing Agency, will be responsible for fiduciary oversight, quality assurance, and strategic coordination. Implementation will be carried out through two nationally recognized civil society organizations with strong technical and territorial capacity: the Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO), in charge of Component 2 and Outcome 1.1 (focused on national guidelines and integration of biodiversity and climate resilience into planning instruments and mobilization of investment and nature-based urban pilots); and Defensores de la Naturaleza (DFN), responsible for the implementation of the activities related to evidence generation, participatory monitoring, and institutional capacity-building. Both executing entities will operate under the coordination of MARN and the supervision of IUCN.

The institutional governance of the project is structured into three levels: a Project Steering Committee (PSC), a National Strategic Committee, and Local Technical Committees. The PSC will serve as the highest-level political coordination body. It will be chaired by MARN and composed of senior representatives from the Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing (CIV), the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), IUCN, and the executing agencies. The PSC will be responsible for validating the annual work plan and budget, addressing strategic risks, providing high-level guidance, and ensuring policy coherence with national environmental, urban development, and climate agendas. IUCN will serve as the technical secretariat of the PSC.

To ensure operational coordination and technical harmonization, a National Strategic Committee will be established. It will include technical representatives from MARN, CIV, CONAP, the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), the Municipal Development Institute (INFOM), the Metropolitan Association of the Southern Cities (Mancomunidad de la Gran Ciudad del Sur), IUCN, the executing agencies, as well as representatives from the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM). This committee will act as an inter-institutional coordination platform, review key deliverables, identify bottlenecks, and align project activities with national regulatory frameworks and territorial planning instruments, including municipal land-use and development plans (POTs and PDMOTs).

At the local level, Technical Committees will be created in the selected pilot territories: one in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City (including Guatemala City, Amatitlán, and Fraijanes) and one in the municipality of Huehuetenango and surrounding areas. These committees will include municipal authorities, local branches of national agencies, community representatives, and the executing agencies. Their role will be to support field-level implementation, provide input to the design and adoption of local planning tools, foster participatory governance, and ensure the effective territorialization of interventions.

Financial management and procurement will be carried out by IUCN in accordance with its internal rules and fiduciary standards aligned with GEF requirements. IUCN will channel funds to FUNDAECO and Defensores de la Naturaleza based on approved annual work plans and a results-based approach. Each executing agency will maintain independent accounting records and submit periodic financial and technical reports to IUCN, which will consolidate these for submission to the GEF. Annual external audits will be conducted to ensure transparency and accountability.

A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) will be established within MARN and staffed with a National Project Coordinator, technical specialists, a monitoring and evaluation officer, a social and gender expert, a financial and administrative officer, and a communication specialist. The PCU will act as the operational liaison between national institutions, executing agencies, municipalities, and IUCN, and will ensure the effective technical and administrative coordination of the project. The unit will also ensure alignment with ongoing national strategies such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the "Guate Reverdece" forest strategy, the updated National Urban Policy, and existing municipal planning frameworks.

The implementation model ensures a clear and effective distribution of responsibilities. FUNDAECO will lead actions related to national policy instruments and biodiversity financing, focusing on the systemic integration of biodiversity and nature-based solutions into planning and investment. Defensores de la Naturaleza will drive the development of monitoring systems, citizen observatories, participatory science initiatives, and institutional training, fostering evidence-based planning and long-term urban ecological resilience.

The project establishes an institutional structure that integrates municipalities into the National Strategic Committee and the Local Technical Committees in the pilot territories, with representation through the Gran Ciudad del Sur Association and the Municipality of Huehuetenango, strengthening multi-level governance and vertical and horizontal coordination between national, metropolitan, and local levels.

The project will be guided by a Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, which includes mid-term and terminal evaluations conducted by independent consultants. Indicators are aligned with GEF Core Indicators and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and data will be collected through a combination of institutional sources, citizen monitoring tools, and the observatories established under Component 3.

This institutional arrangement ensures robust governance, technical consistency, and transparency, while enabling strong alignment with Guatemala's national and local strategies for sustainable urban development, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.

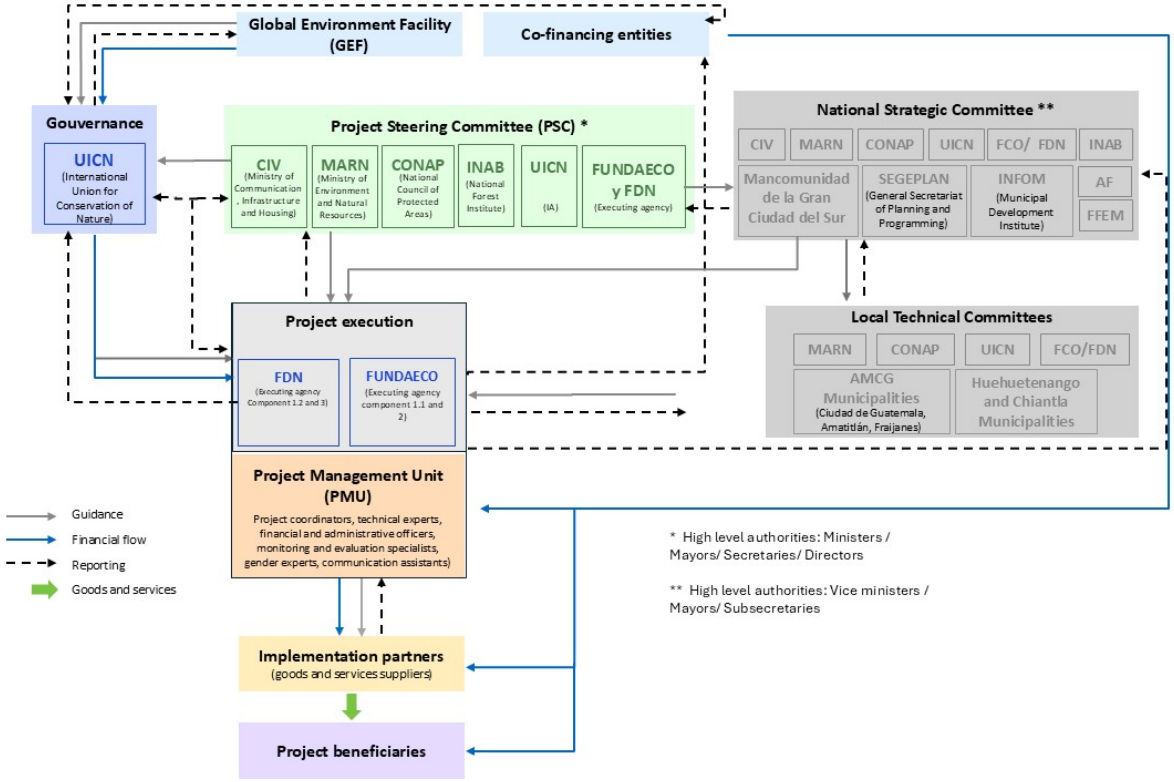


Fig 2 Project's institutional arrangements

The project applies a strong adaptive management approach, integrating participatory and scientific monitoring systems, vulnerability-based prioritization, and annual inter-institutional reviews to adjust work plans based on emerging evidence. Co-executing NGOs bring proven experience in adaptive management, ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to climate, social, and institutional changes

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)

Cooperation with ongoing initiatives and opportunities for co-location or sharing of expertise

The GEF project is embedded within a dynamic ecosystem of ongoing and emerging initiatives that collectively promote resilient, inclusive, and nature-positive urban development in Guatemala and the broader Central American region. Notably, two flagship programs stand out for their strong alignment and operational complementarity: (i) the "Urban Green Corridors" initiative financed by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), and (ii) a regional project concept currently under review by the Adaptation Fund (AF), titled *"Building Resilience of Urban Communities in Central America by Leveraging Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Adaptation."*

The FFEM is a French public fund that supports innovative pilot projects addressing global environmental challenges, with a focus on biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, and chemical pollutants. The FFEM-funded project in Guatemala, implemented by FUNDAECO in partnership with MARN and municipalities, focuses on the planning, design, and participatory management of ecological corridors ("trames vertes") in urban and peri-urban areas of Guatemala City and selected intermediate municipalities of the metropolitan region. The project contributes directly to Component 1 of the GEF project by supporting the formulation of Municipal Land Use Plans (POTs) in additional jurisdictions, thereby expanding the territorial impact and governance reach of biodiversity-sensitive planning. It also reinforces Component 2 through complementary interventions in urban ravines and ecological restoration, strengthening the functional connectivity of the proposed Green Belt. Furthermore, it aligns with Component 3 by contributing to the national community of practice on NbS and biodiversity in cities, through joint training modules and shared knowledge platforms. Coordination mechanisms such as co-location of teams, integrated planning tools, and harmonized reporting frameworks are being explored to ensure consistency, avoid duplication, and maximize learning.

The Adaptation Fund proposal, coordinated by UNEP with national stakeholders, builds on the successful experiences of Nature4Cities and CityAdapt. Although still under consideration and not included as co-financing, it remains highly relevant. The project targets nine cities in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador and is structured around four components: (1) strengthening urban climate risk analysis and planning tools; (2) implementing inclusive and gender-responsive NbS; (3) designing sustainable financing instruments for urban adaptation; and (4) facilitating South-South exchanges among local governments. If approved, the AF project would offer a unique opportunity for complementarity in the implementation of NbS, especially in shared target areas like Guatemala City and Huehuetenango, where all three initiatives (GEF, FFEM, AF) would converge geographically and thematically.

In addition to these regional programs, the GEF project is grounded in a robust national institutional framework. Key national partners include MARN, the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), and the Vice-Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (CIV), all of whom are leading the formulation and operationalization of Guatemala's National Biodiversity Strategy, the Climate Change Framework Law, and the forthcoming National Urban Development Policy. Municipalities (Huehuetenango, Amatitlán, Fraijanes), conservation NGOs (Fundaeco, CALMECAC), and academic institutions (USAC, UVG) contribute technical expertise, data systems, co-investments, and training platforms. Together, these alliances provide political legitimacy, territorial ownership, and operational capacity to deliver impact at scale.

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)
0	369	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)
0	369	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)
Parque Nacional Naciones Unidas Amatitlan	107119	National Park		339.00					
Parque regional municipal Reserva de Manantiales Huehuetenango	555629305	Others		30.00					

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)
71902	8000	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)
71,902.00	8,000.00		

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)

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)

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)
Green belt, Guatemala (urban biological corridor)	TBD	50,000.00	31,000.00		
Green belt, Huehuetenango (Urban biological corridor)	TBD	15,000.00	20,000.00		

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)	3647682	57201	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	7759967	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)	3,397,682	57,201		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)		7,759,967		
Anticipated start year of accounting	2024	2024		
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)	250,000			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2024	2024		
Duration of accounting	10	20		

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	60,600	24,500		
Male	59,400	25,500		
Total	**120,000**	**50,000**	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)

Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (ha): 369 ha

The project will improve the management effectiveness of two protected areas: (i) Parque Nacional Naciones Unidas (339 ha), a key peri-urban green area in Amatitlán, and (ii) the Municipal Reserve of Manantiales in Huehuetenango (30 ha), essential for water recharge and ecological resilience. Both areas will benefit from NBs investments, biodiversity restoration, and integration into municipal land use planning instruments. Improvements will be tracked through the METT tool and aligned with national and local conservation frameworks.

Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (ha): 59,000 ha

The estimated target corresponds to urban and periurban landscapes that will implement improved management practices through ecological urbanism, integrated land-use planning, and the promotion of nature-based solutions (NbS). This includes areas influenced by territorial planning instruments (PLUS, PDMOT), improved zoning regulations, strategic investments in green infrastructure, and pilot biodiversity compensation mechanisms. Practices include native vegetation recovery, ravine management, implementation of ecological parks, and green corridors that promote ecosystem connectivity and sustainable land occupation.

Indicator 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (tCO_2e): 7,817,168 tCO_2e

The avoided GHG emissions were calculated using the EX-ACT (Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool) developed by FAO, adapted to urban and peri-urban contexts. The full methodological description, including model parameters and detailed EX-ACT tables, is provided in the annex to this document. The modeling combines spatial land-use projections to 2045, carbon coefficients, and differentiated “with” and “without project” scenarios. The baseline scenario assumed business-as-usual urban expansion into peri-urban forests and degraded lands, while the project scenario incorporated stricter territorial regulations that prevent urban sprawl into forested areas, restoration of ravines and ecological parks, and improved management of peri-urban forests. The model integrates data from national land-use and cover maps (MAGA 2020), municipal cadastre data, and projected urban expansion under the SLEUTH methodology (Slope, Landuse, Exclusion, Urban, Transportation, and Hillshade; Clarke et al., 1997).

In line with GEF Secretariat guidance, the assumptions and data use underlying the calculations are explicitly detailed. For the deforestation module, the model applied standard EX-ACT coefficients for tropical shrubland and tropical moist deciduous forest, assuming conversion to “other land (non-vegetated)” under a “without project” scenario. Forest areas subject to urban expansion were estimated using spatial overlays of current land cover and projected urban growth, resulting in avoided deforestation of approximately 6,919 ha under the “with project” scenario. The reforestation module considered the recovery of degraded peri-urban lands (≈100 ha) under project interventions. The forest management and degradation module assumed improvements in fire risk reduction and lower degradation levels in peri-urban forests, leading to measurable emission reductions.

A detailed review of the EX-ACT results confirmed that the largest share of mitigation potential derives from avoided deforestation (≈3.99 $MtCO_2$), improved forest management reducing degradation and fire risk (≈3.76 $MtCO_2$), and peri-urban reforestation of degraded lands (≈0.06 $MtCO_2$), for a total of ≈7.8 $MtCO_2$ over a 20-year accounting period. This cumulative estimate reflects the impact of urban sprawl containment, ecological restoration, and the protection of areas at risk of being converted to urban land, particularly in municipalities such as Guatemala, Villa Canales, Fraijanes, Amatitlán, Huehuetenango, and Chiantla.

Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by gender (count): 50,000

The total number of direct beneficiaries was estimated based on eight (8) lines of intervention producing tangible impacts on individuals or communities. This includes: i) 40,000 annual users of restored urban parks (with environmental education, mobility, and ecosystem services improvements), ii) 1,500 community members engaged in ravine restoration, iii) 2,000 users of sustainability observatories, iv) 150 trained municipal technicians, v) 200 participants in the urban ecology diploma program, vi) 50 actors in international urban diplomacy exchanges, vii) 60 beneficiaries of urban biodiversity compensation pilots, and viii) 4,000 water users linked to spring protection zones. Estimates were grounded on field data, comparable projects, population records and expected intensity of support (as per GEF criteria). Gender-disaggregated projections suggest 24,500 women (49%) and 25,500 men (51%).

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	Increased frequency and severity of climate-related events (e.g., floods, landslides, heatwaves) in urban and peri-urban areas may compromise infrastructure investments, ecological restoration actions, and the safety of vulnerable communities. This risk is particularly relevant in Guatemala City and Huehuetenango, where rapid urbanization has exacerbated exposure to hydrometeorological hazards. Without adequate integration of climate risk data into land-use plans, key project sites (such as urban ravines, municipal

		reserves, or low-lying neighborhoods) could face significant environmental and social damage. Mitigation strategy: To mitigate this risk, the project will ensure that all municipal planning instruments and green infrastructure investments incorporate climate vulnerability assessments. It will also promote nature-based solutions (e.g., reforestation, urban wetlands, retention zones) and coordinate with local disaster risk management systems. Relevant ESMS Standards: 1 (Risk Management), 3 (Climate Change), 6 (Biodiversity).
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Limited participation from women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and marginalized communities may result in inequitable project outcomes. If community voices are not adequately represented, the design of conservation agreements, urban investments, or training programs may not reflect the priorities of those most affected by environmental degradation. This could reduce project legitimacy and long-term sustainability. Mitigation strategy: The project has developed specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans, Indigenous Peoples Plans, and Gender Action Plans to ensure inclusive and culturally appropriate consultation, representation, and benefit-sharing. Participatory monitoring will be supported through local observatories and community science platforms. Relevant ESMS Standards: 7 (Indigenous Peoples), 9 (Gender), 10 (Stakeholder Engagement).
Political and Governance	Low	Changes in political leadership or institutional fragmentation may disrupt coordination or reduce government support. Guatemala's urban and environmental institutions have faced periods of instability or overlapping mandates. While recent years have seen improved coordination, local elections and institutional turnover may slow project execution or shift political priorities. Mitigation strategy: To mitigate this, the project emphasizes institutional anchoring, multisectoral governance mechanisms, and coordination with national frameworks (e.g., MARN, SEGEPLAN, CIV CONAP). Inter-municipal associations and formal agreements (e.g., MoUs) will help safeguard continuity. Relevant ESMS Standards: 1 (Risk Assessment), 10.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Institutional fragmentation and lack of municipal enforcement capacity may limit the effective implementation of urban biodiversity and climate resilience policies. Although Guatemala's national and regional policy frameworks (e.g., PNCC, National Biodiversity Strategy, SICA Urban Agenda) are broadly supportive of the project's goals, the translation of these frameworks into enforceable municipal regulations remains weak. Urban planning responsibilities are often divided among overlapping entities, and legal mechanisms to protect ecological assets (e.g., OMECs) are still underused at the local level. In addition, there is a risk that municipal councils may deprioritize environmental components in favor of short-term development agendas. Mitigation strategy: To mitigate this, the project will work closely with CIV, SEGEPLAN, MARN, CONAP and municipal governments to ensure policy coherence and alignment with territorial

		planning instruments. Legal guidance, model ordinances, and political economy dialogues will support the institutionalization of urban biodiversity and resilience criteria. Relevant ESMS Standards: 1 (Policy Alignment and Risk Management), 10 (Stakeholder Engagement).
Technological	Low	Low adoption or operational sustainability of digital tools and urban observatories introduced by the project. The project relies on digital platforms, geospatial systems, and citizen science tools to support evidence-based planning and participatory environmental monitoring. However, municipalities or local actors may lack the IT infrastructure, technical skills, or budgetary resources to maintain these systems in the long term. Mitigation strategy: To mitigate this, the project will ensure that tools are co-designed with users, employ open-source and interoperable platforms, and include capacity-building components for both technical staff and community users. Maintenance protocols and transfer of ownership to universities or municipal technical units will be embedded in the design. Relevant ESMS Standard: 1 (Risk and Impact Management), 10 (Stakeholder Engagement).
Financial and Business Model	Low	Limited financial sustainability of pilot initiatives and challenges in scaling urban biodiversity and resilience investments. While the project will pilot nature-based urban investments and innovative financial instruments (e.g., biodiversity compensation, blended finance models), there is a risk that these models may not be financially viable or adopted at scale after project closure. Municipalities may lack the fiscal space to sustain investments, and private sector engagement may remain limited. Mitigation strategy: To mitigate this, all pilot initiatives will include a pre-launch feasibility analysis (environmental, social, economic) and co-design of business models with local stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples where relevant. Strategic partnerships will be sought with financial institutions (e.g., INFOM, multilateral banks), and tools for resource mobilization will be transferred to local governments. Relevant ESMS standards: 1 (Environmental and Social Risk Assessment), 7 (IPs), 10 (Stakeholder Engagement).
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	Limited institutional capacity among local and regional actors may delay or compromise the implementation of project components. The successful implementation of the project depends on the technical and operational capacity of municipal governments and partner organizations to execute planning tools, green infrastructure investments, and community engagement activities. While project partners (e.g., Defensores de la Naturaleza, FUNDAECO) have demonstrated capacity, some local institutions may lack experience with GEF procedures or long-term environmental governance. Mitigation strategy: To mitigate this, the project will provide sustained technical assistance, partner with experienced NGOs and agencies, and tailor training programs to local needs. Execution readiness and institutional capabilities were verified during the design phase. Relevant ESMS Standard: 1 (Risk Assessment and Capacity Strengthening).

Fiduciary	Low	Weak financial management or accountability mechanisms could affect project resource efficiency. IUCN, the GEF Implementing Agency, and the national executing entities have strong fiduciary systems in place, with clear internal controls, audits, and financial monitoring mechanisms. Project financial flows will follow the protocols validated by IUCN's due diligence procedures and will be subject to periodic financial reviews.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Limited engagement or lack of trust among key stakeholders may undermine the uptake of project results or create resistance to planning reforms. Urban and periurban resilience require long-term collaboration between municipalities, communities, civil society, and sectoral institutions. If stakeholder interests are not well mapped or addressed, conflicts may arise over land use, priorities for investment, or representation in governance structures. Mitigation strategy: To mitigate this, the project has prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), along with Indigenous Peoples and Gender Action Plans, to ensure inclusive participation and culturally appropriate engagement. Communication strategies and community-based monitoring mechanisms will help ensure transparency and build trust. Relevant ESMS Standards: 7 (IPs), 9 (Gender), 10 (Stakeholder Engagement).

Other		

Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk rating of the project is assessed as moderate. While several external and contextual risks—such as climate-related hazards, institutional fragmentation, and social exclusion—have been identified, all are considered manageable with the appropriate mitigation strategies. The project includes robust safeguard instruments (ESMS), strong implementing and executing partners, and well-defined stakeholder engagement mechanisms. Capacity building, legal support, and multi-level governance approaches are embedded in the design to address execution and sustainability challenges. The risk mitigation framework has been developed to ensure that none of the identified risks compromise the achievement of the project's outcomes or its long-term impact.

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)

The 'Towards Resilient Cities in Guatemala' project is intrinsically aligned with the eighth cycle of financing of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8), which establishes urban sustainability as a priority axis. Recognizing the fundamental role of cities in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and efficient use of resources, the project was selected under the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (SCIP). The project's goal to catalyze transformative change towards urban sustainability by integrating planning, innovative financing and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to improve climate resilience, conserve biodiversity and reduce inequalities responds directly to the GEF's overall strategy.

The project is firmly anchored in Guatemala's national priorities. It is aligned with the General Government Policy 2024-2028, which prioritizes the care of nature, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, sustainable transport and territorialization/decentralization. It is also in line with MARN's Institutional Strategic Policy, articulating urban challenges with key environmental goals such as land use, climate change mitigation (green buildings, energy efficiency), biodiversity conservation (forest recovery, ecological connectivity), and water pollution control and waste management. The project supports the National Policy on Territorial Planning (PNOT) 2022-2050, the National Climate Change Agenda (2021-2030), the National REDD+ Strategy and the National Strategy for the Transition to a Circular Economy, all of which are geared towards more sustainable and resilient development.

In relation to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the project contributes to the fulfillment of Guatemala's commitments. Climate change mitigation and adaptation actions are aligned with the Paris Agreement. Fundamentally, the project supports the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly within the framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, ratified by Guatemala. The project contributes directly to Target 12 of this Framework, which seeks to increase the surface area, quality and connectivity of green and blue spaces in urban areas. This will be achieved by:

- The inclusion of the urban approach in the update of the National Policy on Biological Diversity.
- The structuring of the national report on the progress of the biodiversity framework targets.
- The creation of a methodological guide to incorporate NBS in land use plans, including urban biodiversity.
- The implementation of pilots of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OMEC) in strategic urban ecosystems such as ravines and recharge zones.
- The development of an urban biodiversity monitoring system, applying the IUCN Urban Nature Indexes and the STAR metric.

Furthermore, thanks to its comprehensive approach, the project also contributes to other targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework:

Target 1 – Plan and Manage All Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss

The project promotes participatory, biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning through the integration of conservation into land-use planning instruments like POTs in Guatemala’s urban and peri-urban areas, thus contributing to halt the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance by 2030. It supports the identification and protection of ecologically significant areas (e.g., ravines, wetlands), while ensuring the inclusion of local communities and indigenous groups in governance and decision-making processes.

Target 3 – Conserve 30% of Land, Waters, and Seas

By conserving and managing key ecosystems such as urban ravines, water recharge zones, and ecological corridors in cities like the Metropolitan Region of Guatemala and Huehuetenango, the project contributes to in situ conservation efforts within human-modified landscapes. It strengthens the ecological connectivity of protected and conserved areas, helping integrate urban biodiversity into broader landscape-level management.

Target 4 – Halt Species Extinction and Protect Genetic Diversity

The project strengthens urban biodiversity monitoring using IUCN STAR metrics and citizen science platforms, enabling early detection and conservation of threatened species. It supports habitat restoration to reduce global species extinction risks, maintains genetic diversity through native vegetation replanting, and facilitates coexistence by reducing human-nature conflict in urban interfaces.

Target 19 – Mobilize $200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity

The project pilots and promotes innovative financial mechanisms such as green bonds, payments for ecosystem services (PES), and land valorization schemes, mobilizing domestic and international resources for biodiversity. It supports institutional frameworks and local capacities for blended finance approaches and aligns with Guatemala's biodiversity finance strategy to ensure long-term sustainability beyond GEF investment.

No national policies have been identified that directly contradict the expected results of the project. However, structural barriers such as institutional fragmentation, weak territorial planning, limited institutional capacity, and lack of resources to adequately manage environmental and urban challenges exist. The project addresses these barriers through its Component 1, focused on integrated planning, strategies and policies, seeking coherent multilevel governance and institutional strengthening. Regulatory reforms and the development of plans and guidelines seek to improve the coherence of existing policies and effectively integrate sustainability and biodiversity criteria into decision-making.

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;

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

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

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;

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)

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).

Socio-economic benefits of the project

The project delivers a multidimensional set of co-benefits by promoting urban sustainability through nature-based solutions (NbS). These interventions—particularly the restoration of ravines, creation of ecological parks, and implementation of green infrastructure—produce tangible health, environmental, social, and economic improvements for vulnerable urban populations, while contributing to systemic policy transformation.

Urban ecological parks and green corridors, as envisioned for Guatemala City and Huehuetenango, play a critical role in improving public health. Access to green spaces reduces respiratory illness, improves mental health, and promotes physical activity, especially in densely populated neighborhoods with limited recreational infrastructure. By lowering temperatures, filtering air pollutants, and absorbing excess rainwater, NbS mitigate the effects of climate change while enhancing urban livability.

Environmentally, the restoration of urban ecosystems improves biodiversity and hydrological regulation. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), ecological buffers, and forested ravines reduce flood risks, prevent erosion, and protect aquifers. These services are crucial in informal and peri-urban areas where infrastructure is often absent. The recovery of ecological functions also enhances landscape aesthetics and ecosystem connectivity across the urban matrix.

Socially, the project promotes equity and empowerment through inclusive governance. The Gender Action Plan ensures women participate meaningfully in decision-making processes, benefit from training and employment in NbS interventions, and access restored public spaces safely. The Indigenous Peoples Participation Plan recognizes and integrates Indigenous knowledge in land stewardship and ensures that activities are culturally appropriate, especially in Huehuetenango and areas with high ethnic diversity. These communities are engaged not merely as beneficiaries, but as active partners in co-designing and maintaining ecological infrastructure.

Urban ecological parks also contribute to local economic development. They create short- and long-term employment opportunities—ranging from ecological restoration to park management, environmental education, and nature tourism. Micro-enterprises linked to green infrastructure, such as plant nurseries and eco-guides, can emerge as sustainable income sources for local residents. The participatory planning approach fosters community ownership and builds capacity for maintenance and monitoring, further embedding the economic value of ecosystem services in local development strategies.

The project strengthens social cohesion by activating green spaces as educational and cultural venues. Recovered ravines and ecological parks become platforms for environmental learning, intergenerational

dialogue, and cultural expression, enhancing collective identity and environmental stewardship. Community monitoring and partnerships with academic institutions promote environmental literacy and citizen science.

Finally, by embedding NbS within municipal and national planning frameworks, the project creates an enabling environment for long-term transformation. It demonstrates that green infrastructure not only addresses climate and biodiversity goals, but also improves quality of life, empowers marginalized groups, and stimulates green livelihoods. The co-benefits generated form a compelling case for sustained investment in urban resilience that is inclusive, participatory, and regenerative.

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 ($)
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	2,451,694.00	220,652.00	2,672,346.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	455,346.00	40,981.00	496,327.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	817,231.00	73,550.00	890,781.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	151,782.00	13,660.00	165,442.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**3,876,053.00**	**348,843.00**	**4,224,896.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount ($) 150000

PPG Agency Fee ($) 13499

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)

IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	94,773.00	8,530.00	103,303.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	17,727.00	1,595.00	19,322.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	31,591.00	2,843.00	34,434.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	5,909.00	531.00	6,440.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**150,000.00**	**13,499.00**	**163,499.00**

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	Guatemala	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,775,649.00
IUCN	GET	Guatemala	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	515,649.00
Total GEF Resources					**3,291,298.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
Cities IP	GET	3,876,053.00	21132961
Total Project Cost		**3,876,053.00**	**21,132,961.00**

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($)
Civil Society Organization	Fundacion CALMECAC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4765500

Civil Society Organization	Defensores de la Naturaleza	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	796388
Private Sector	FUNCAGUA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	370000
Recipient Country Government	Mancomunidada Gran Ciudad del SUR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	137600
Others	Universidad del Valle	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	407984
Others	Universidad de San Carlos	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	39000
Recipient Country Government	CONAP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1682992
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	321500
Recipient Country Government	Municipality of Guatemala	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Natural resources	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	231170
Civil Society Organization	FUNDAECO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Civil Society Organization	FUNDAECO	Grant	Investment mobilized	1078000
Recipient Country Government	MInistry of housing	Grant	Investment mobilized	1214890
Recipient Country Government	MInistry of housing	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50000
Recipient Country Government	Municipality of Huehuetenango	Grant	Investment mobilized	1500000
Recipient Country Government	Municipality of Huehuetenango	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	20000
Private Sector	Asociacion de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala	Grant	Investment mobilized	70748
Private Sector	Asociacion de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	494989

Recipient Country Government	Municipality of Amatitlan	Grant	Investment mobilized	6532500
Recipient Country Government	Municipality of Amatitlan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	31000
Recipient Country Government	Municipality of Fraijanes	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	388700
Total Co-financing				**21,132,961.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The proposed project in Guatemala mobilizes additional investments from a wide range of public, private, and non-governmental actors committed to advancing nature-positive urban development.

Significant co-financing is provided by national entities such as the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the Viceministry of Housing and Urban Development (CIV), SEGEPLAN, and CONAP, which contribute both technical support and alignment of national planning and investment instruments. The Viceministry of Housing contributes direct investments to urban upgrading works in vulnerable neighborhoods, particularly in green infrastructure projects in public spaces under its Integrated Neighborhood Improvement Policy.

At the municipal level, the municipalities of Amatitlán, Huehuetenango, Guatemala City, and Fraijanes, as well as the Mancomunidad Gran Ciudad del Sur, provide co-financing through technical teams, territorial planning processes, and capital investment in public parks and urban green infrastructure. These municipal contributions reflect strong ownership of the project and are aligned with their local development plans and land use regulations.

In the private and non-governmental sector, FUNCAGUA, Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala, CALMECAC, and academic institutions such as Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and USAC-CECON are supporting the project through technical expertise, research, and advisory services. These actors are particularly active in Components 2 and 3, supporting financial modeling, biodiversity monitoring, knowledge dissemination, and community engagement. For example, FUNCAGUA's institutional contribution is key to developing financial instruments for green infrastructure, while Fundaeco and CALMECAC supports metropolitan-level restoration initiatives in ravines.

The project also complements and builds upon parallel initiatives, including the FFEM-FUNDAECO cooperation programs on sustainable urbanism and biodiversity. Through this collaborative architecture, the project leverages existing investments, ensures complementarity, and avoids duplication by aligning with ongoing programs, infrastructure initiatives, and territorial strategies already deployed across the metropolitan and peri-urban landscapes of Guatemala.

Overall, the project mobilizes over USD 21 million in co-financing, of which a substantial portion is investment mobilized (grants and capital works), particularly under Component 2, where over USD 14 million supports transformative infrastructure in strategic ravines and public spaces. This co-financing strategy ensures long-term viability, national relevance, and stronger integration of biodiversity in urban development.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/17/2025	Janie Rioux		janie.rioux@iucn.org
Project Coordinator	6/14/2025	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)
Norman Mendoza	Coordinator of International Cooperation Unit	Ministry of Environment	4/27/2023

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.

Aim of the project	Basic indicators	Baseline	Objective(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions
Catalyze a transformative shift towards urban sustainability in Guatemala by integrating urban and environmental planning, mobilizing innovative financial resources, and promoting nature-based solutions (NbS) to conserve biodiversity, protect and enhance the value of urban forests, and strengthen climate resilience.	Core indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	**0**	**369**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that local and regional authorities provide the necessary political and technical support to recognize or enhance the protection status of selected areas, particularly in Huehuetenango. Surrounding communities indigenous people inclusive, are expected to actively participate in environmental governance processes and recognize the long-term benefits of urban and periurban ecosystem conservation. No major land use conflicts or abrupt changes in urbanization patterns are anticipated in the designated areas, and institutional continuity will sustain inter-agency agreements over the life of the project.

	Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes with improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	**0**	**59,000**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that municipal authorities and recommendations and the perceptions and needs expressed by the local population (women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, youth) will incorporate the project's recommendations into updated land-use plans and regulatory instruments, adopting sustainable urban practices in public space design, infrastructure, and territorial management. Political will and institutional capacity will be sufficient to translate planning outputs into effective implementation on the ground. It is also assumed that these practices will be maintained beyond the duration of the project and embedded in local urban governance frameworks.
	Core indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tonnes of CO2e)	0	**4,238,196**	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that the project's mitigation measures—such as ecological restoration and improved land use—will remain operational throughout and beyond the project period. No external pressures (e.g., wildfires) will reverse land use improvements. The carbon accounting methods (e.g., Ex-ACT) used for GHG estimations will remain valid and accepted by evaluators. Local governance structures (including respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples and the participation of grassroots local groups, including women) will ensure continuous monitoring and transparent reporting of emission reductions.
	Core Indicator 11: Persons benefiting from GEF-financed investments, disaggregated by gender	0	**50,000 beneficiaries** *Men: 25,500* *Women: 24,500*	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that project activities will be delivered with broad and inclusive public engagement, ensuring equitable access across target territories, and that individuals will voluntarily participate in training programs, restoration actions, public park usage, and access to

					local observatories. Health, safety, and climatic conditions will allow for in-person activities in community spaces, and municipalities will provide logistical support to mobilize and sustain engagement. The estimated gender disaggregation (52% women) reflects demographic trends and inclusive design. The participation of Indigenous populations living in urban and peri-urban areas will be taken into account, respecting their worldview and ensuring their free, prior, and informed consent.

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
Component 1 - Integrated planning, strategies, and policies						
Outcome 1.1: Regulatory and territorial/urban planning instruments strengthened to integrate urban forests, biodiversity, climate resilience and gender-responsive approaches into urban development.	**Indicator 1:** Number of cities that have scaled up their commitments based on an improved integrated urban policy and planning approach	0	2	4	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that the municipalities involved will demonstrate political will and institutional stability to adopt or update their urban and territorial planning instruments in line with project-supported guidelines. Technical staff at local level will have sufficient capacity to integrate biodiversity and climate criteria, and national institutions such as CIV, MARN and SEGEPLAN will accompany and validate these planning processes. No major governance disruptions, electoral transitions, or legal barriers are expected to delay planning reforms. It is assumed that women, Indigenous peoples, youth, and the local population are aware of the project and actively

						participate in urban planning, thereby receiving the benefits equally.
	Indicator 2: Number of cities that have used the various tools provided to build a foundation for integrated strategic plan	0	2	4	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that the project will successfully develop and disseminate decision-support tools (e.g., planning guides, participatory methodologies, inclusive gender and indigenous people, geospatial datasets) and that municipal authorities will be willing and able to adopt and apply them. Sufficient time will be available during the project period to ensure institutionalization and replication. Local technical teams will receive adequate training and support to operationalize these tools in their planning processes.
	Indicator 3: Percentage of women and Indigenous women participating in urban planning formulation processes and capacity-building activities under Component 1.	0	30%	40%	Participant lists, disaggregated by sex and ethnicity, from POT formulation processes and capacity-building events; mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that project activities will be designed to ensure inclusive participation, with targeted outreach to women and Indigenous women, and that local authorities will facilitate their involvement. Adequate resources and culturally appropriate approaches will be applied to overcome participation barriers.
Products and activities to achieve result 1.1	**Output 1.1.1** National guidelines developed to integrate urban forests, biodiversity, climate resilience, and nature-based solutions into urban planning and land-use instruments. ***Activities:*** • *1.1.1.1 Support the legislative process and subsequent implementation of the Urban Forest Law (currently under development) to integrate biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and Nature-based Solutions into urban and metropolitan planning in Guatemala City and intermediary cities. This will include technical assistance for drafting and adopting the Law's implementing regulations, developing city-level green maps to identify and monitor urban forests and ecological corridors, and strengthening institutional capacities of MARN and municipalities through multi-level governance platforms to ensure effective enforcement and integration into municipal and metropolitan land-use instruments.*					

- *1.1.1.2 Prepare and/or implement in a participatory manner (Professional Associations) the National Construction Code with a focus on environmental sustainability (materials, energy efficiency, etc.) and its associated regulation, including adequate lighting, safe pedestrian paths, and accessibility features for women and persons with disabilities.*

- *1.1.1.3 Create a guide to facilitate the inclusion of the natural component (forests, vegetation), biodiversity and the management of blue (water management) and green areas in the Land Use Plans (POT), aligned with national priorities and contributing to local implementation of Global Biodiversity framework, incorporating women's safety, mobility needs, and access to green spaces.*

- *1.1.1.4 Establish and operationalize a Permanent Multi-level Urban Planning and Investment Coordination Roundtable to strengthen vertical and horizontal governance for the integration of urban biodiversity, climate resilience, and Nature-based Solutions into public investment and land-use planning. The roundtable will convene key national institutions (MARN, CIV, CONAP, INAB, SEGEPLAN, INFOM), municipal associations, metropolitan and local governments, and the project's co-executing NGOs (FUNDAECO and FDN). It will meet at least twice per year to: align planning instruments at national, metropolitan, and municipal levels (e.g., POTs, investment programs); review and coordinate investment priorities; ensure integration of NbS into zoning and infrastructure portfolios; and facilitate exchange of lessons learned. The mechanism will also serve as a decision-support space for adjusting work plans based on new evidence or emerging risks. This activity will directly enhance multi-level governance and institutional coordination, benefiting both project sites and replication areas nationwide.*

Output 1.1.2. Planning instruments for urban and territorial management in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala and Huehuetenango strengthened, adopted, and integrated into local and metropolitan planning frameworks to incorporate biodiversity, climate resilience, and gender equity criteria and Nature-based Solutions.

***Activities**:*

- *1.1.2.1 Design and promote the implementation strategy for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in the Great Green District of Guatemala City, with emphasis on aquifer recharge and integrated water management, identifying investment opportunities and nature-based infrastructure projects.*

- *1.1.2.2 Prepare with a focus on municipal capacity building and promote the approval of Territorial Planning Plans (POT) for the municipalities of Fraijanes and Amatitlán, incorporating nature-positive urban development strategies that enable concrete interventions in green infrastructure (especially water and urban forest), risk mitigation and ecosystem protection.*

- *1.1.2.3 Carry out territorial diagnoses and technical-environmental evaluations of the water recharge zones and the forest cover dynamics of the Regional municipal park "Manantiales Reserve" in Huehuetenango and the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, with emphasis on mapping ecosystem services using the InVEST tool.*

- *1.1.2.4 Formulate the Local Territorial Planning Plan for the Huehuetenango Water Recharge Zone in a participatory manner with mandatory inclusion of women water user committees and indigenous women's organizations, identifying priority areas and intervention portfolios that enable future public or co-financed investments in sustainable land and urban forest management*

Outcome 1.2: Biodiversity considerations integrated into urban planning through the use of evidence-based tools and knowledge	**Indicator 4:** A national web-based platform developed and operational, providing municipalities and urban planners with access to evidence-based tools, geospatial data, and biodiversity indicators to support urban planning decisions, and leveraging access to resources available on the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities and UrbanShift	0	Design	1	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that there will be strong collaboration among national agencies (e.g., MARN, SEGEPLAN, CONAP), academic institutions, and municipal governments to co-develop and maintain the platform. The platform will build on global platforms (e.g. UrbanShift) by leveraging existing online course and documetation, and municipalities will be incentivized to actively use it. Data availability and interoperability with existing observatories or information systems will be ensured. The internet infrastructure and digital skills at municipal level will be sufficient for uptake. It is assumed that information gaps related to urban women and Indigenous peoples and their connection to Nature-based Solutions (NbS) will be investigated to ensure relevant data is available for urban planning.
Outputs and activities to achieve the result 1.2	**Output 1.2.1.:** Biodiversity, urban forest and sustainability monitoring system developed to inform territorial planning in Guatemala. ***Activities**:* • *1.2.1.1 Develop and validate protocols for measuring biodiversity, urban forests, the state of natural spaces and their components applicable at the local level, applying the IUCN Urban Nature Indices in Huehuetenango and the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City.* • *1.2.1.2 Integrate biodiversity and urban forest data into the Guatemalan Biodiversity Portal of the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), ensuring the effective governance of the monitoring system with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN).* • *1.2.1.3 Design and implement public awareness campaigns on biodiversity and urban forests, connected to existing digital platforms, specifically targeting women and youth through culturally appropriate channels and women's networks.* **Output 1.2.2.** Urban and peri-urban ecosystems are officially recognized and managed as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) with technical, legal, and					

	financial support to ensure their long-term conservation, restoration, and integration into municipal planning frameworks. ***Activities**:* • *1.2.2.1 Develop guidelines to identify and manage OECMs in urban and peri-urban ecosystems, specifying the route of recognition and technical and legal validation of urban OECMs as part of the corresponding national framework, differentiating between public, private and communal areas.* • *1.2.2.2 Identify and delimit OECMS in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City and Huehuetenango to prevent degradation of forest and high biodiversity areas and to enable the mobilization of future conservation investments and restoration actions.* • *1.2.2.3 Integrate OECMS into land use and urban planning instruments, including the promotion of voluntary conservation agreements with private landowners and reserve associations (such as the Association of Private Nature Reserves of Guatemala), facilitating long-term stewardship and funding eligibility.*

Result	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Medium-term objective**	**Final objective**	**Source of verification**	**Assumptions**
<u>Component 2 -</u> Mobilization of public and private investments to scale up resilient and nature-positive urban development						
Outcome 2.1: Sustained and scaled-up financing mobilized for effective urban investments in biodiversity, urban forests, and climate resilience	**Indicator 5:** Number of municipalities and public institutions that have designed, piloted or implemented innovative financial mechanisms or regulatory instruments to mobilize resources for urban biodiversity and climate-resilient investments	0	1	3	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that legal frameworks and public finance rules will allow the creation or adaptation of local financial mechanisms (e.g., ecological compensation, value capture). Municipalities will show interest and leadership in implementing such instruments, and technical assistance provided by the project will be sufficient to ensure quality and feasibility. National ministries (e.g., MINFIN, MARN) will provide guidance and political backing to support these innovations.

Products and activities to achieve result 2.1	**Output 2.1.1.** National funding mechanisms adapted to finance urban and peri-urban forests, biodiversity, resilience, and nature-based solutions ***Activities:*** • *2.1.1.1 Promote eligibility criteria for projects and programs of national funds (National Climate Change Fund -FONCC-, National Fund for the Conservation of Nature -FONACON-, Development Councils), to prioritize financing of field-level interventions in urban forests, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience, explicitly incorporating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into project design and execution. This will also include the identification and adaptation of regulatory frameworks and project typologies to enable financing of urban NbS, based on the results of the detailed technical and economic analysis to be conducted during project implementation.* • *2.1.1.2 Evaluate the viability and operating mechanisms of a Biodiversity and Urban Forests Fund to channel financing towards Nature-based Solutions projects that includes specific windows for women-led NbS initiatives and enterprises, within the framework of the national budget (including sustainable bonds) and the public investment system..* **Output 2.1.2** Innovative financial mechanisms designed to mobilize local resources for urban forest conservation, ecological restoration, and green infrastructure development in cities while preventing negative impacts on women landowners and promoting women's economic empowerment. ***Activities:*** • *2.1.2.1 Carry out the legal, fiscal, and institutional analysis of the existing framework in Guatemala to enable mechanisms for urban compensation and capture of capital gains applicable to green infrastructure and ecological restoration projects, facilitating territorial investments and including adaptive social protection criteria.* • *2.1.2.2 Design specific financial instruments to attract and reinvest resources from environmental offsets and land valorization into concrete initiatives such as restoration of urban forests, ravines, reforestation, and implementation of Nature-based Solutions in prioritized municipal areas.* • *2.1.2.3 Develop demonstration pilots in coordination with prioritized municipalities to validate urban environmental compensation and urban valorization schemes, through field investments focused on urban ecological restoration for urban forests, water recharge zones, and sustainable green infrastructure.* • *2.1.2.4 Establish partnerships with public and private actors to strengthen governance and mobilize co-financing for the implementation of green financial mechanisms and urban investment projects in ecological restoration and green infrastructure.* -

Outcome 2.2: Urban investment models adopted to promote ecological restoration and territorially integrated climate resilience	**Indicator 6:** Total value (USD) of investments in nature-positive, low-carbon, and ecosystem-based urban restoration interventions mobilized through GEF support, including public, municipal, and co-financed contributions	0	4,986,858	9,973,716	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that there will be strong collaboration among national agencies (e.g., MARN, SEGEPLAN, CONAP), academic institutions, and municipal governments to co-develop and maintain the platform. The platform will build on global platforms (e.g. UrbanShift) by leveraging existing online course and documetation, and municipalities will be incentivized to actively use it. Data availability and interoperability with existing observatories or information systems will be ensured. The internet infrastructure and digital skills at municipal level will be sufficient for uptake. It is assumed that information gaps related to urban women and Indigenous peoples and their connection to Nature-based Solutions (NbS) will be investigated to ensure relevant data is available for urban planning.
	Indicator 7: Number of nature-positive and climate-resilient urban restoration projects identified and documented with pre-investment studies, enabling their inclusion in future investment pipelines (e.g., GEF-9, municipal budgets, multilateral financing).	0	2	5	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	The project will be able to deliver the necessary technical assistance (e.g., feasibility assessments, pre-investment studies, technical designs, or environmental profiles) for at least five initiatives. The identified projects will meet basic standards of investment-readiness to be eligible for integration into national or multilateral funding programs (such as GEF-9, IDB, or national funds). Political support and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms will facilitate continuity of interest beyond the current project timeline.

	Indicator 8: Percentage of women benefiting from green infrastructure investments that also report improved accessibility and safety in restored urban green spaces.	0	40%	50%	Beneficiary registries and project monitoring reports disaggregated by sex; safety and accessibility surveys; mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that green infrastructure interventions will be designed to ensure equitable access and benefits for women, incorporating safety, accessibility, and inclusion measures from the planning stage. Engagement processes will actively involve women in design and monitoring, and institutional partners will allocate sufficient resources to address identified barriers and sustain improvements.
Outputs and activities to achieve the result 2.2	**Output 2.2.1:** Transformative green infrastructure investments implemented for the restoration and social valorization of urban ravines in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, incorporating guidelines for complementary urban spaces, with women's full participation and safety considerations Activities: • *2.2.1.1 Design and implement green infrastructure in five strategic ravines in the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, based on mechanisms for prioritization and selection of pilot investments in green infrastructure and ecological restoration with social and environmental criteria.* • *2.2.1.2 Implement ecological restoration and community participation for the environmental and social revaluation of ravines, with mandatory community participation ensuring minimum 40% women's participation and integration of women's traditional ecological knowledge* • *2.2.1.3 Establish environmental monitoring and ecosystem valuation systems in restored ravines.*					

	Output 2.2.2: Strategic investments implemented in the Huehuetenango Municipal Regional Park – Manantiales Reserve for ecological restoration and urban water security ***Activities**:* • *2.2.2.1 Prioritize critical areas of intervention in the Municipal Regional Park of the Manantiales Reserve.* • *2.2.2.2 Design and structure comprehensive ecosystem projects with criteria of restoration, tourism, recreation and local participation.* • *2.2.2.3 Mobilize financing and apply financial mechanisms.* • *2.2.2.4 Strengthen the participatory governance of the park and the community ownership of the results.* **Output 2.2.3:** Municipal green park system in Huehuetenango strengthened to support urban biodiversity, urban forests, climate resilience, and inclusive public space management, including women's recreational and economic needs ***Activities**:* • *2.2.3.1 Implement pilot green infrastructure interventions in vulnerable urban areas of the municipality, identified through geospatial analysis (e.g., landslide hazard and exposure mapping) and socio-environmental vulnerability assessments, ensuring evidence-based site selection and planning.* • *2.2.3.2 Integrate the urban park system with the Municipal Regional Park and develop environmental education actions.* • *2.2.3.3 Carry out impact monitoring and strengthen participatory evaluation of interventions.*

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Medium-term objective	Final objective	Source of verification	Assumptions
<u>Component 3 -</u> Knowledge management on urban biodiversity and nature-based solutions						

Outcome 3.1: Collaboration networks established to amplify the impact of the project	**Indicator 9**: number of cities engaged in knowledge exchanges, capacity development, and networking activities.	0	2	4	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that municipal authorities and urban stakeholders in Guatemala will be interested and available to engage in regional and international knowledge exchanges promoted by the project. The coordination with the global **platform** and associated technical partners will be effective in organizing relevant and timely activities. There will be no major institutional or logistical obstacles (such as travel restrictions or political instability) that prevent cities from participating. Language accessibility and contextual relevance of the knowledge shared will be ensured to maximize usefulness and adoption. Highlighting collaboration with other cities and countries will further strengthen the project's alignment with the GPSC's role as the SCIP knowledge-sharing platform.
	Indicator 10: number of urban practitioners that used the knowledge acquired from the training or materials from SCIP GP (gender disaggregated)	0	150	350	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that technical staff, planners, and practitioners trained or reached by project activities (including through the SCIP GP and national counterparts) will apply the knowledge gained in their day-to-day work. Training programs and materials will be contextually adapted, practical, and relevant to their professional responsibilities. Institutional support from local governments and national ministries will reinforce the application of new practices. The project will

						monitor not just participation but actual uptake and use of tools, methods, or insights, while ensuring balanced gender representation. It is assumed that the project will strengthen participation of women and youth in the implementation of the Urban Innovation and Citizen Science Lab (e.g., hackathons, monitoring apps) and in the development of community-based urban biodiversity monitoring through the use of iNaturalist, by training community leaders—both women and men—and creating a local database to inform municipal planning.
	Indicator 11: Percentage of women in leadership or facilitation roles within project-supported knowledge networks and platforms.	0	40%	50%	Membership records, event reports, and meeting minutes from knowledge networks and platforms.	Knowledge networks and platforms will prioritize the inclusion of women in leadership roles and implement mechanisms to promote their active participation and decision-making influence.
Products and activities to achieve result 3.1	**Output 3.1.1:** National community of practice with mandatory gender parity (minimum 50% women) established on urban biodiversity, urban forest, sustainable planning, and nature-based solutions (NbS) ***Activities:*** • *3.1.1.1 Design and install the national community of practice, coordinating with organizations, institutions and universities in the country, incorporating women's organizations, feminist collectives, and female professionals* • *3.1.1.2 Facilitate spaces for exchange and collaborative learning.* • *3.1.1.3 Systematize lessons learned from the project and make them available to the community of practice and facilitate gender-responsive learning spaces including specific sessions on women's roles in urban biodiversity conservation.* • *3.1.1.4 Promote the scaling up of knowledge of the project in public policies and national platforms, sharing gender equality outcomes and women's empowerment results.*					

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Output 3.1.2: Institutions and local governments strengthened through training programs and technical cooperation on sustainable urban planning, urban biodiversity, urban forest and climate action

Activities:

- *3.1.2.1 Design and implement a university diploma course in urban ecology in coordination with the Directorate of Training and Social Participation (DIFOPAS-MARN), CONAP and the National Institute of Forests (INAB), and including materials adapted for educational centers and community leaders, ensuring active participation of youth representatives and integrating materials adapted for educational centers, community leaders, and youth organizations.*

- *3.1.2.2 Develop training programs for local authorities on project formulation, territorial planning, and environmental management, with mandatory gender modules led by the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP), MARN, the Secretariat of Executive Coordination of the Presidency (SCEP), and the Institute of Municipal Development (INFOM).*

- *3.1.2.3 In coordination with the National Secretariat of Science and Technology (SENACYT) and the National Fund for Science and Technology (FONACYT), establish a line of financing for applied scientific research in Nature-based solutions in urban environments, explicitly prioritizing women and youth-led applications and research teams.*

- *3.1.2.4 Strengthen local capacities and action plans to meet requirements for membership in international networks and actively participate in knowledge exchange events organized under the SCIP by the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) and its partners*

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Outcome 3.2: Local mechanisms for participatory environmental monitoring and social auditing strengthened to inform evidence-based urban planning.	**Indicator 12:** Number of local platforms or laboratories for participatory environmental monitoring and citizen engagement operationalized and generating data to inform urban planning processes	0	1	2	Annual, mid-term and final evaluation reports.	It is assumed that civil society organizations, academic institutions, and local research centers will provide leadership in establishing and maintaining participatory monitoring platforms and citizen science labs in Guatemala City and Huehuetenango. These institutions will have the technical capacity and institutional credibility to convene diverse stakeholders and ensure continuity over time. The platforms will be co-designed with active community participation and supported by accessible digital infrastructure. It is also assumed that municipalities and planning authorities will recognize and use the data and evidence produced by these platforms to inform local urban and environmental policies, planning instruments, and public decision-making.
Outputs and activities to achieve the result 3.2	**Output 3.2.1:** Citizen platform for urban and nature monitoring in Guatemala City established in partnership with universities and regional organizations ***Activities:*** • *3.2.1.1 Establish the operational and technical structure of the citizen platform of the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City, ensuring structured participation of youth networks, student associations, and young community leaders in monitoring, advocacy, and policy auditing.* • *3.2.1.2 Implement a citizen monitoring system on biodiversity, urban forests, and green infrastructure.* • *3.2.1.3 Establish strategies for communication, dissemination and mass citizen education on biodiversity and urban forests, based on the demonstration examples of the ravines intervened.* **Output 3.2.2:** Urban innovation and citizen science lab established in Huehuetenango in coordination with SEGEPLAN and the Departmental Government ***Activities:*** • *3.2.2.1 Support the creation of the Urban Innovation Laboratory in Huehuetenango and its governance structure (municipality, academia, civil society), integrating youth innovation groups, specific inclusion of women's organizations and indigenous women leaders, technical high schools, and university programs to co-design and implement local NbS monitoring and restoration initiatives.*					

	• *3.2.2.2 Develop the monitoring and open data generation system.* • *3.2.2.3 Implement the Urban Innovation and Citizen Science Laboratory, and promote mechanisms for advocacy, convening, communication, dissemination and mass citizen education on biodiversity and urban forests.* • *3.2.2.4 Develop community monitoring of biodiversity and urban forests through the use of iNaturalist, training community leaders and creating a local database to feed municipal planning.*

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 (Baseline Studies, Institutional and Policy Analysis, Design of Governance Arrangements, Gender and Safeguards Planning, • Results Framework and Budget)	100,000.00	48,304.00	51,696.00
Travel (Field Assessments and Site Visits)	20,000.00	1,114.00	18,866.00
workshop (Project Inception Workshop, Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation, Multi-Actor Final Workshop)	30,000.00	8,889.00	21,111.00
Total	150,000.00	**58,307.00**	**91,673.00**

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
Los Sabinos Huehuetenango	Los Sabinos	15.32684	-91.521225	15.32684	-91.521225	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Zaculeu Lagoon	15.322163	-91.515001	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cerro Negro Huehuetenango 15.290626 -91.445152 Huehuetenango	15.290626	-91.445152	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ocubila Lagoon	15.335914	-91.427084	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Los Manantiales	15.36276	-91.486873	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Laguna Beach Plant	14.463351	-90.58649	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Golden Beach	14.486512	-90.572725	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Fraijanes Park	14.461267	-90.449213	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Los Planes	14.518858	-90.570684	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

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

LOCATION OF THE INTERVENTIONS TO BE MADE AT GUATEMALA AREA

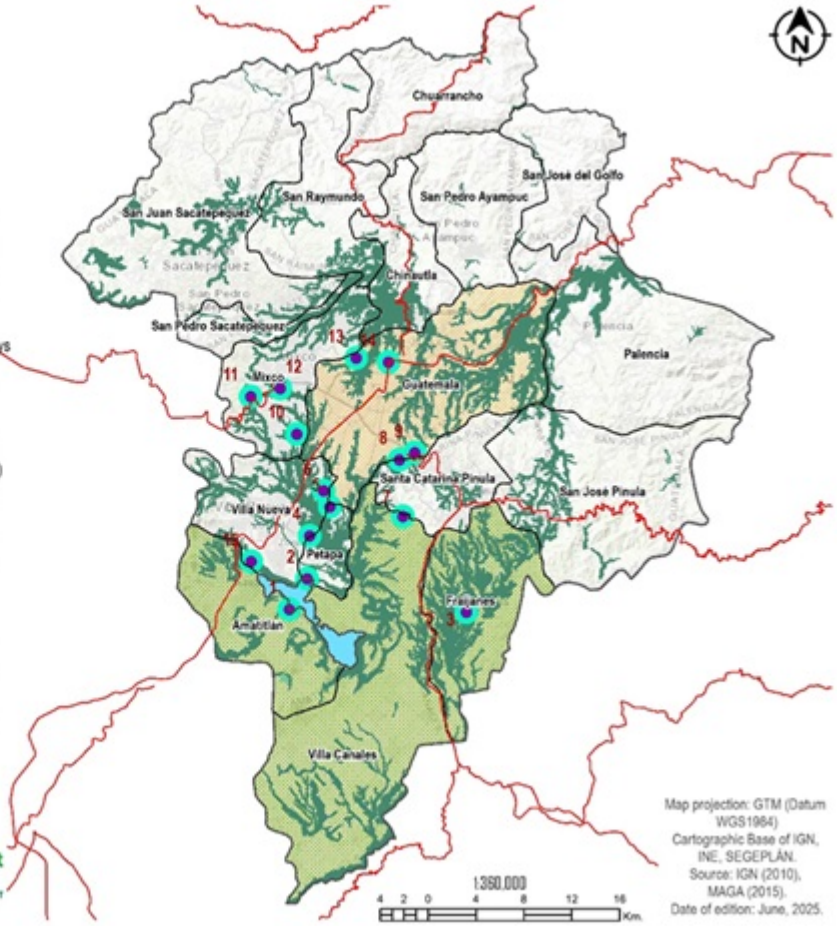
SIMBOLOGY

- Primary road network
- Guatemala department boundary
- Municipal boundaries
- Canyons and ravines; escarpments; small valleys
- Water bodies

Interventions

- Municipalities to work on Land Use Plan
- Municipalities to work Local Land Use Plan (GO)
- Interventions (parks)

1. Laguna Beach Plant (Amatitlán) (9.14 ha)
2. Golden Beach (San Miguel Petapa) (3.12 ha)
3. Fraijanes Park (11.42 ha)
4. Los Planes (Villa Nueva) (11.91 ha)
5. Cerro Gordo (Villa Nueva) (2.46 ha)
6. Ciudad Real (Villa Nueva) (1.59 ha)
7. Las Manzanillas (Villa Canales) (139.5 ha)
8. MICUDE Ravine (Guatemala) (63.57 ha)
9. Jungla Urbana Park (Guatemala) (16.2 ha)
10. Zone 8 Site (Mixco) (3.15 ha)
11. Las Hojarascas (Mixco) (10.23 ha)
12. Zone 2 Site (Mixco) (11.23 ha)
13. María Teresa Caballeros (Guatemala) (16.26 ha)
14. Barrio Moderno Ravine (Guatemala) (1.24 ha)
15. United Nations National Park (Villa Nueva) (334.15 ha)

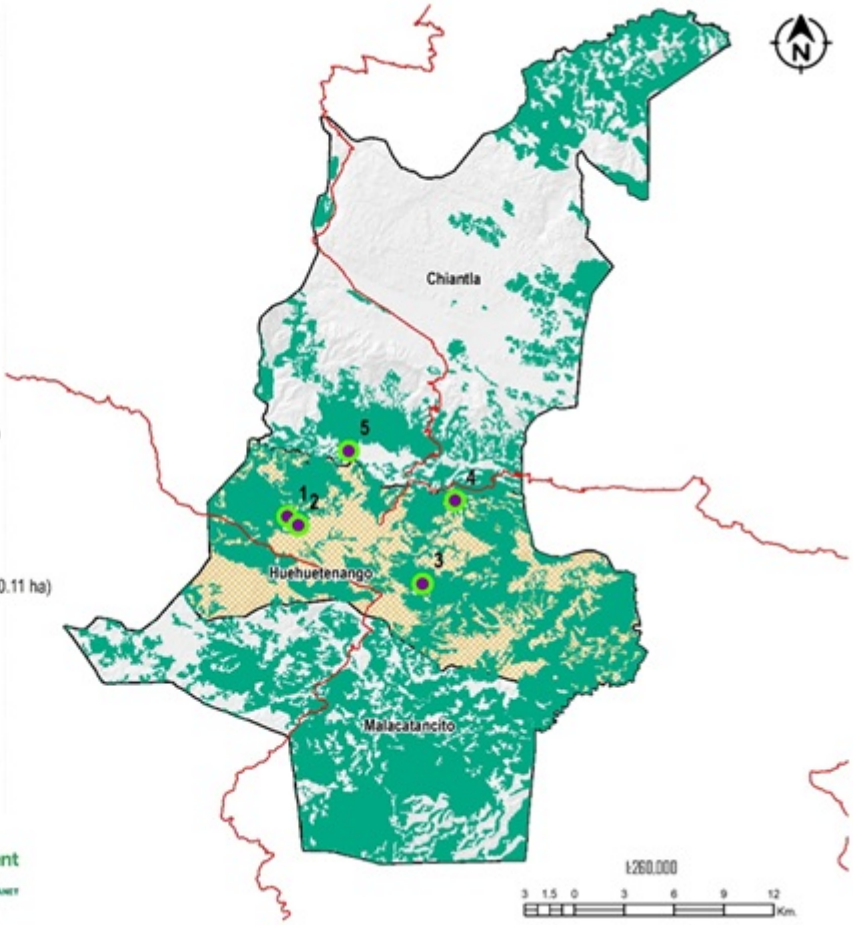


LOCATION OF PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS IN THE HUEHUETENANGO CITY AREA

SIMBOLOGÍA

- Primary road network
- Municipal boundaries
- Water bodies
- Forest cover
- Municipalities to work on Land Use Plan
- Interventions (parks)

1. Los Sabinos (1.86 ha)
2. Zaculeu Lagoon (1.89 ha)
3. Cerro Negro (487.01 ha)
4. Ocubilá Lagoon (157.02 ha)
5. Los Manantiales Municipal Regional Park (30.11 ha)



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

Gender action plan_English 19-08

ENG Stakeholder engagement plan

ENG Abstract_ Social management plan

ENG Abstract_ Indigenous People Plan

IUCN ESMS Screening-Guatemala cities signed DB NM17-6-25

MGAS Ciudades Sostenibles FINAL17-6-25

Stakeholders participation

Indigenous people Plan

Plan de Participación de Género GEF Ciudades Resilientes FINAL 10062025

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category			Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)									Total (USD eq.)	Responsible Entity	
				Component 1		*Component 2*		*Component 3*		*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		-	-
				Outcome 1.1	*Outcome 1.2*	*Outcome 2.1*	*Outcome 2.2*	*Outcome 3.1*	*Outcome 3.2*					FUNDAECO	Defensores de la Naturaleza
SubGrants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.2.1**	Comprehensive package of intervention in ravine that includes participatory design, green infrastructure works, community equipment, environmental education, monitoring and local management of the grant - Barranco 1.				150,000			150,000			150,000	150,000	0

SubGrants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.2.1**	Comprehensive package of intervention in ravine that includes participatory design, green infrastructure works, community equipment, environmental education, monitoring and local management of the grant - Barranco 2.				150,000			150,000			150,000	150,000		
SubGrants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.2.1**	Comprehensive package of intervention in ravine that includes participatory design, green infrastructure works, community equipment, environmental education, monitoring and local management of the grant - Barranco 3.				150,000			150,000			150,000	150,000		
SubGrants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.2.1**	Comprehensive package of intervention in ravine that includes participatory design, green infrastructure works, community equipment, environmental education, monitoring and local management of the grant - Barranco 4.				140,000			140,000			140,000	140,000		
SubGrants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.2.1**	Comprehensive package of intervention in ravine that includes participatory design, green infrastructure works, community equipment, environmental education, monitoring and local management of the grant - Barranco 5.				140,000			140,000			140,000	140,000		
SubGrants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.2.3**	Comprehensive package of intervention in ravine that includes participatory design, green infrastructure works, community equipment, environmental education, monitoring and local management of the grant - Barranco 1.				85,000			85,000			85,000	85,000		0

SubGrants	**Project structures/grants**	**2.2.3**	Comprehensive package of intervention in ravine that includes participatory design, green infrastructure works, community equipment, environmental education, monitoring and local management of the grant - Barranco 2.				85,000			85,000			85,000	85,000	0
Equipment	**Tools and supplies**	**2.2.2**	Tools and supplies for restoration activities				10,000			10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Equipment	**Tools and supplies**	**2.2.2**	Equipment/computer				6,000			6,000			6,000	6,000	
Equipment	**Tools and equipment**	**2.2.3**	Tools and equipment for park maintenance and implementation				10,000			10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Equipment	**Citizen monitoring kits**	**3.2.1**	Citizen monitoring kits (cameras, GPS, sensors, tablets)						10,000	10,000			10,000		10,000
Equipment	**Tools and supplies**	**3,2,1**	Computers						10,000	10,000			10,000		10,000
Equipment	**Data collection devices**	**3.2.2**	Adquisition of tablets, GPS Data collection devices,						10,000	10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Equipment	**Data collection devices**	**3.2.2**	mobile equipment for monitoring and documentarion						12,000	12,000			12,000	0	12,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**		Midterm and final evaluation								146,000		146,000	100,000	46,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.1.2**	POT fraijanes (Land use plan)	185,000						185,000			185,000	185,000	0
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.1.2**	POT Amatitlán (Land use plan)	185,000						185,000			185,000	185,000	0
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.1.2**	Huehuetenango Water Recharge Zone Plan	100,000						100,000			100,000	100,000	0
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.2.1**	Universities for field surveys in AMCG and Huehuetenango,		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.2.1**	Conceptual design of the campaign (messages, visual identity)		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.2.1**	Multimedia production (videos, animations, graphic kits),		15,000					15,000			15,000	0	15,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.2.1**	Digital strategy (networks, community management)		5,000					5,000			5,000	0	5,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.2.1**	Territorial activations and printed material, Editing and digital		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000

			publication of a guide												
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**1.2.2**	Editing and publishing the guide		5,000					5,000			5,000	0	5,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**2.1.1**	National consultancy for the survey of the NBS portfolio			25,000				25,000			25,000	25,000	
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**2.2.2**	Participatory design and implementation of ecosystem restoration and infrastructure				30,000			30,000			30,000	30,000	0
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**2.2.2**	Small-scale works and restoration actions,				24,500			24,500			24,500	24,500	0
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**2.2.3**	Construction and installation of green infrastructure components by executing entity				50,000			50,000			50,000	50,000	0
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**3.2.1**	Development and deployment of the digital monitoring platform						40,000	40,000			40,000	0	40,000
Contractual Services – Company	**Contracts**	**3.2.2**	Development of monitoring and open data platform						25,000	25,000			25,000	0	25,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Technical drafting of the National Sustainable Construction Code	30,000						30,000			30,000	30,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Technical development of the National Guide on Nature and NBS in the Land Use plans	27,000						27,000			27,000	27,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Green infrastructure specialist	35,000						35,000			35,000	35,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Urban hydrology consultant	25,000						25,000			25,000	25,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Governance and policy consultant	20,000						20,000			20,000	20,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.1**	Engineering and project profiling expert	20,000						20,000			20,000	20,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.2**	Territorial planning and GIS specialist	25,000						25,000			25,000	25,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.2**	Environmental/ecosystem consultant	25,000						25,000			25,000	25,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.2**	Water resources consultant	25,000						25,000			25,000	25,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.1.2**	Enviromenttal economist	20,000						20,000			20,000	20,000	0

Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.1**	Technical Coordinator of the Urban Nature Index		20,000					20,000			20,000	0	20,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.1**	Urban Biodiversity Specialist		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.1**	GIS and Spatial Analysis Specialist		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.1**	Urban Environmental Governance Specialist		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.1**	Consultant in computer science and environmental data management		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	Legal Consultant for Legal Route of Recognition		15,000					15,000			15,000	0	15,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	Conservation consultant for methodological guide		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	Lead territorial consultant for identification and delimitation		20,000					20,000			20,000	0	20,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	Local technical consultant for field support and GIS		10,000					10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**1.2.2**	Environmental Economist for Voluntary Agreements and Analysis		15,000					15,000			15,000	0	15,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.1**	Specialist in climate finance and public funds			12,000				12,000			12,000	12,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.1**	Legal/Tax Specialist for Eligibility Regulations			8,000				8,000			8,000	8,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.1**	Huehuetenango Regional Consultant			15,000				15,000			15,000	15,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.1**	Regional Consultant Guatemala			15,000				15,000			15,000	15,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.2**	National consultant on green financial instruments and land use rights			5,000				5,000			5,000	5,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.2**	International consultancy specialising in urban capital gains and value recovery			15,000				15,000			15,000	15,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.2**	National consultant expert in environmental			5,000				5,000			5,000	5,000	0

			offsets and soil valorization												
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.1.2**	International consultancy specialising in compensation mechanisms			10,000				10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**2.2.2**	Expert consultant on conservation finance				5,000			5,000			5,000	5,000	0
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.1**	Design and coordination of the national community of practice (mapping, outreach and stakeholder engagement)					12,000		12,000			12,000	0	12,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.1**	Systematization of project lessons and development of knowledge products					10,000		10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.1**	Design of communications campaign for the community of practice					10,000		10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.1.2**	Technical assistance for developing financing line for scientific research with SENACYT/FONACYT.					20,000		20,000			20,000	0	20,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.2.1**	Specialist in citizen monitoring platforms and urban biodiversity						10,000	10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.2.1**	Specialist in participatory governance and institutional articulation						8,000	8,000			8,000	0	8,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.2.2**	Support for the design and governance of the innovation lab						10,000	10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Consultants	**Consultants**	**3.2.2**	Design of citizen monitoring system (iNaturalist						5,000	5,000			5,000	0	5,000
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Consultants**		Audit									40,000	40,000	40,000	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**1.1.2**	Technical Specialist	120,000						120,000			120,000	120,000	0
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity - Salaries professionals	**Salaries professionals**	**1.2.1**	Technical specialist in Capacity Building and biodiversity		80,000					80,000			80,000	0	80,000
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**2.1.1**	Technical Assistant 1 Huehuetenango			36,000				36,000			36,000	36,000	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**2.1.1**	Finance Specialist			80,000				80,000			80,000	80,000	0

Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**2.1.2**	Technical Assistant 2 Huehuetenango			54,000				54,000			54,000	54,000	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**2.2.1**	General Project Coordinator				180,000			180,000		60,000	240,000	240,000	0
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**		Administrative Assistant DFN									50,000	50,000		50,000
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**2.2.1**	Administrative Assistant Fundaeco				75,000			75,000			75,000	75,000	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**2.2.1**	Specialist in social inclusion, social and environmental safeguards				75,000			75,000			75,000	75,000	0
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	**Salaries professionals**	**3.1.1**	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist					80,000		80,000			80,000	0	80,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop**	**1.1.1**	8 workshops (4 national + 4 regional) on the implementation of the Urban Forest Law	10,000						10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**1.1.1**	4 regional workshops, 3 national workshops and 1 international event on the Construction Code	12,000						12,000			12,000	12,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**1.1.1**	4 national workshops and validation event of the Guide	9,000						9,000			9,000	9,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop**	**1.1.2**	Workshops and field visits	10,000						10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop**	**1.1.2**	POTS (Land Use plans)	3,000						3,000			3,000	3,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Training Budget**	**1.2.1**	CONAP/MARN Technical Meetings for Validation		5,000					5,000			5,000	0	5,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshops**	**1.2.2**	National workshops for technical validation and participation		20,000					20,000			20,000	0	20,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshops**	**1.2.2**	Meetings and logistics with key players		5,000					5,000			5,000	0	5,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**2.1.1**	3 national multi-sectoral workshops			10,000				10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**2.1.1**	4 Regional Workshops and National Project			11,800				11,800			11,800	11,800	0

			Prioritization Workshop												
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**2.1.2**	Local participatory validation and municipal training workshops (4 workshops)			8,000				8,000			8,000	8,000	0
Workshop	**Worshop**	**2.1.2**	Operational costs for meetings with key stakeholders and regulatory analysis			2,000				2,000			2,000	2,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**2.2.2**	Workshop with local actors for validation				2,000			2,000			2,000	2,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**2.2.2**	Technical and validation workshop				2,000			2,000			2,000	2,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**2.2.2**	Three community governance workshops				5,000			5,000			5,000	5,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**2.2.3**	Community training on biodiversity, urban forestry, and inclusive park management				10,000			10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.1.1**	Organization of National Forum + Academic Contest and Award Ceremony on urban NbS					18,000		18,000			18,000	0	18,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.1.1**	Design and execution of communications campaign for the community of practice					10,000		10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.1.2**	University diploma course in urban ecology and training materials (in coordination with MARN, CONAP, INAB).					10,000		10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.1.2**	Training programs for local governments on territorial planning and environmental management (INAP, MARN, INFOM).					50,000		50,000			50,000	0	50,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.1.2**	Workshops and exchange events aligned with Sustainable Cities forums.					20,000		20,000			20,000	0	20,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.2.1**	Community workshops and training on platform and citizen science						7,000	7,000			7,000	0	7,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.2.2**	Workshops to define governance and lab operation						5,000	5,000			5,000	0	5,000

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.2.2**	Launch and public presentation events						4,000	4,000			4,000	0	4,000
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	**Workshop/Training**	**3.2.2**	Training of community leaders						6,000	6,000			6,000	0	6,000
Travel	**Travel**	**1.1.1**	Technical missions to accompany municipalities	3,000						3,000			3,000	3,000	0
Travel	**Travel**	**1.1.1**	Validation and institutional coordination missions	2,000						2,000			2,000	2,000	0
Travel	**Travel**	**1.1.2**	POTs (Land use plans)	2,000						2,000			2,000	2,000	0
Travel	**Travel**	**2.1.1**	Logistics and transfers for field validation			9,000				9,000			9,000	9,000	0
Travel	**Travel**	**2.1.1**	Mobilization			2,200				2,200			2,200	2,200	
Travel	**Travel**	**2.2.2**	Transportation and mobilization				1,500			1,500			1,500	1,500	
Travel	**Travel**	**3.1.2**	Participation in global events and international networks (airfare, per diem, registration).					150,000		150,000			150,000	0	150,000
Travel	**Travel/Fiield Missions**	**3.2.2**	Field visits and monitoring support						7,000	7,000			7,000	0	7,000
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**1.1.1**	Printed and technical materials on the Urban Forest Law	2,000						2,000			2,000	2,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**1.1.1**	Production and design of versions of the Code for dissemination	2,000						2,000			2,000	2,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**1.1.1**	Printing and dissemination of the Guide	3,000						3,000			3,000	3,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**2.1.2**	Digital publication of financial recommendations and models (design, editing, dissemination)			4,000				4,000			4,000	4,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**2.1.2**	Technical and printed materials, logistics costs			5,000				5,000			5,000	5,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**2.2.2**	Materials and local transport				1,000			1,000			1,000	1,000	0

Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**2.2.2**	Printing of plans and documentation				1,000			1,000			1,000	1,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**2.2.2**	Meetings and mobilization				1,000			1,000			1,000	1,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**2.2.2**	Logistics and material printing				1,000			1,000			1,000	1,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**2.2.3**	Logistical and operational costs for participatory monitoring activities				10,000			10,000			10,000	10,000	0
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**3.2.1**	Logistics and materials						5,000	5,000			5,000	0	5,000
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**3.2.1**	Production and dissemination of educational materials						10,000	10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**3.2.2**	Logistical costs for lab installation process						3,000	3,000			3,000	0	3,000
Operational Costs	**Operational Costs**	**3.2.2**	Operational logistics						3,000	3,000			3,000	0	3,000
Goods	**Licenses**	**1.2.1**	Licencias de software para interoperabilidad e integración de datos (QGIS, plugins, hosting, etc.)		5,000					5,000			5,000	0	5,000
"Contractual services - Individual o Company"	**"Contractual services - Individual o Company"**	**2.1.1**	National NBS Eligibility Criteria Manual			6,000				6,000			6,000	6,000	0
Other	**Other**	**2.1.1**	National digital platform for NBS projects			12,000				12,000			12,000	12,000	0
Other	**Other**	**3.1.1**	Development of online collaborative learning platform					10,000		10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Communication / Visibility	**Communication / Visibility**	**3.2.2**	Public awareness and communication strategy						10,000	10,000			10,000	0	10,000
Other Operating Costs	**Other Operating Costs**		**PMC office supplies**							0		30,053	30,053	24,042	6,011
Grand Total		**Grand Total**		900,000	300,000	350,000	1,400,000	400,000	200,000	3,550,000	146,000	180,053	3,876,053	2,874,042	1,002,011

1,200,000	**1,750,000**	**600,000**
31%	**45%**	**15%**

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.

GEF Council comments	Responses
It is recommended that the program better integrate gender considerations and also focus on other vulnerable groups, such as youth.	The project has developed a comprehensive Gender Action Plan and ensured the integration of gender equality and youth inclusion across all components and activities. Gender-responsive approaches are embedded in the design of the observatories, the training programs, and stakeholder participation strategies. Indicators are disaggregated by gender, and the ESMS includes gender and inclusion standards aligned with GEF policy
Please also coordinate with the global project for program level reporting, i.e. providing data and progress update to them as part of their M&E.	The project framework has been aligned with the Results Framework and Core Indicators of the GEF Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (PFD), ensuring compatibility with program-level monitoring and evaluation requirements. All outcome and output indicators have been designed to contribute to aggregated results reporting. Data sharing mechanisms will be established with the Global Platform as required.
Coordination with the Cities Forward Initiative is encouraged, given Guatemala City's participation.	Although the Cities Forward Initiative supported by ICLEI and the U.S. Department of State is no longer active due to discontinued funding, the project team established initial coordination during the inception phase. For example, early discussions on value capture mechanisms and green urban finance helped inform the project's proposed activities under Outcome 2.1. These inputs have been incorporated into the design of financial instruments to support urban nature-based solutions.