

Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11595

Countries

Peru

Project Name

Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC)

Agencies

WWF-US

Date received by PM

2/8/2025

Review completed by PM

4/4/2025

Program Manager

Sarah Wyatt

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

GBFF

PIF

CEO

1. General Project Information

**a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?b)
Are the project tags properly selected, i.e. any tag on 'support to IPLCs' or KMGBF target is justified
given the project description.**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

No, it still says others not CSO.

4/4/2025

Yes.

3/31/2025

No. Please revise to CSO.

3/5/2025

No. Please address the following.

a. Executing partners - Is PROFONAPE 'other' or is it a CSO?

Agency Response

04/04/2025

CSO. Thank you for your comment. The change has been made in the portal.

01/04/2025

a. Thanks for your guidance. The type of institution has been changed to "CSO".

28/03/2025

Thanks for your question. PROFONANPE is not a CSO, it is a non-profit organization, specialized in raising and managing financial resources for the execution of programs and projects that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the mitigation and adaptation of climate change. For this reason, it has been classified as "other".

c) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected with corresponding CCM, CCA, BD and LD benefits made explicit in the project objective, log-frame and/or theory of change?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes.

3/5/2025

No, please include significantly more on adaptation and/or put it as no contribution.

Agency Response

28/03/2024

Thanks for your guidance. We have changed the Rio Marker section to "no contribution" to adaptation.

2. Project Summary

a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs and other key expected outcomes?

b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/4/2025

Yes.

4/1/2025

No, the project objective has not been changed.

3/31/2025

No. The changed text looks good but needs to be in the Portal entry.

3/5/2025

No.

a. The project objective would benefit from a revision to shorten it. Also "empowering IP&LC agency" is a bit of a problematic phrasing in English so we recommend that you rephrase.

Agency Response

04/04/2025 **Project Objective:** Thank you for your comment. The change has been made in the portal

01/04/2025

Summary: Thank you for your comment. The portal entry has been revised, and it is confirmed that the new proposed summary is included. The text has been highlighted in pink for easy verification, as shown in the screenshot below.

Project Summary ⓘ

Provide a brief summary description of the project (max. 2000 characters, approximately ½ page)

Maximum 2000 characters are allowed (Remaining 138 characters) and Maximum 2 images are allowed!(Remaining 2 image)

Peru's Northern Transversal Economic Corridor (CETN) crosses a diversity of well preserved and intervened ecosystems, situated across the departments of Piura, Lambayeque, Cajamarca, San Martin, Amazonas and Loreto. The Peruvian Government has designated the CETN as one of the country's priority geographic areas for promoting economic development. Agriculture production and the flow of goods and services have already increased in the region, with positive socio-economic benefits. However, unsustainable resource exploitation, land-use change and transport infrastructure development, have also led to habitat fragmentation and degradation of its ecosystem services. To combat these environmental challenges, this GBFF project supports the implementation of Peru's environmental policies and the advancement of GBF Target 3 in the CETN, to consolidate an ecological-economic corridor where biodiversity and its ecosystem services are conserved, and local well-being is enhanced. The project will expand and strengthen the management of conservation areas, restore priority landscapes, and promote a local sustainable bio-economy. Special consideration will be given to IPLCs, that will participate in project activities strengthening their governance and the sustainable management of their territories, developing sustainable bio-business, and improving the management of their conservation areas. The project will enhance the effective management of 24 terrestrial protected areas (475,160.97 ha) and one marine protected area (115,675 ha), establish four terrestrial protected areas (67,579.76 ha), contribute to restoration initiatives (1,000 ha), support sites under other

28/03/2025

Thanks for your comment. The project objective has been shortened and reframed to avoid the "problematic" phrasing noted. Now it reads "To increase the coverage and effective biodiversity management of Conserved Areas and IP&LC's territories in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru".

3. Project Description Overview

- a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?**
- b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**
- c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?**
- d) For multi-Trust Fund projects with GEFTF financing, are the GEFTFT Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**
- e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for projects with GEF project financing less than or equal to \$2 million) or 5% (for projects above \$2 million)? If above, is the justification acceptable?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/31/2025

Yes. Thank you for the changes, it seems like a good opportunity to work with GRID and hopefully there can be other opportunities to work on policy coherence and strategy in relation to infrastructure development.

3/5/2025

No. Please address the following:

b. One particularly interesting aspect of this project is working with the IIRSA project. Roads represent a major threat to the integrity of landscapes globally. We would like to encourage the project proponents, if possible, to try to take a more strategic approach than the basic mitigation measured mentioned (focused on after the fact). We would welcome learning that focuses particularly on this subject.

Another option might be to participate in some of the activities of the GRID IP which is being managed by WWF.

In addition, While it is not a requirement, it would be good to have an edit for clarity by someone not directly involved in the heart of the project. There are a lot of acronyms used and sometimes assumption of background knowledge of the reader that may not be there. At the same time, shortening some things might make it more readable such deleting "in the CETN" or "in Northern Peru".

Agency Response

28/03/2025

b. Thanks for your comment. This GBFF project focuses on implementing and scaling up Area Based Conservation, aiming to solve barriers prioritized by project stakeholders during PPG consultations, that are hindering: 1. the sustainable finance and effective management of regional conservation systems, 2. the reporting and effective management of OMECs, 3. the realization of sustainable economic opportunities for IPLCs in biodiversity rich areas, and 4. the sustainable and effective territorial management of IPLC's territories. Considering these project priorities and the limited funding available, there isn't a big opportunity for the project to tackle transport infrastructure threats to biodiversity with the strategic systems approach it would require. However, we agree it is essential the project considers this threat to biodiversity in the landscape. With this purpose, the project strategy has been strengthened in the following aspects:

1. Under Output 1.1.4, the project will facilitate the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy at the regional level in the landscape, as a fundamental tool for regional territorial planning. The preparation of Regional Biodiversity Strategies will provide a structured framework and process, facilitated by the PMU, allowing regional authorities and stakeholders to identify and prioritize threats to biodiversity, including the impacts generated by transport infrastructure projects such as the IIRSA highway or future secondary roads, as well as to discuss and prioritize measures and actions to avoid and mitigate those identified impacts, thus contributing to more harmonious development in line with biodiversity conservation objectives. The project description section has been strengthened in this regard.

2. Under Component 4, Knowledge Management, the project now includes provisions for national and regional government focal points, members of the PMU, and other relevant project stakeholders to participate in learning and knowledge management events of the GEF funded Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development (GRID) Integrated Program that will help generate awareness and knowledge about transport infrastructure impacts and options for their avoidance and mitigation in the project landscape.

Project Outline

4. CHANGES COMPARED to PPG REQUEST

4.1 Are changes to the project design, including to elements put forward in the PPG request to meet GBFF selection criteria, been described and justified. And are they acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/5/2025

Yes. We note that core indicators have changed with the total number of hectares being significantly higher even if the PA hectares are lower.

Agency Response

5 B. Project Rationale

- a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?
- b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?
- c) If this is a blended finance project under GBFF Action Area 4, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes.

3/31/2025

No, thank you for the edits but it would be good to make the one adjustment below.

Drivers - Every other driver is a negative force, so it would be good to clarify that this could be a driver of positive change (perhaps making it the last one and specifically noting it as such). It still sounds too much like poaching or illegal timber harvesting could be included. Maybe noting sustainable use in the first sentence would be good or to talk about both as a potential positive or negative.

3/5/2025

No, please address the following:

- Please include a list of acronyms.
- Pg 16 - Clarify the difference between IPs, rural communities, and native communities.
- Pg 17 - Are vegetation cover units types of vegetation or areas of vegetation?
- Barriers: The barriers here are often presented as the lack of money but really the barrier is about the lack of something else that hopefully could be fixed with money. Please rephrase the barriers to focus on the issue rather than lack of financial resources. In addition, it seems like some of the barriers.

- Driver 2 - It's a bit confusing that there is encouragement of bio-business but then this is an identified driver. It would be good to make sure that this issue is articulated clearly to contrast to what the project is looking to support.
- Land titling - Is this project going to try to facilitate/lay the ground work for/collect data/etc. land titling in any way? This seems like a pretty fundamental driver and challenge with it being notoriously challenging in Peru for communities.
- OMECs - Please include some background information about what Peru's rules and OMEC situation. Some of the sites described really seem to be more of protected areas (places with conservation as the primary reason for management) and OMECs may or may not be a designation desired by IPLCs, so it would be helpful to have the information about Peru's approach.

b.

Indigenous organizations - Please discuss a bit more their role in project design and definition. When this section refers to projects does it mean "project activities" as project would refer to the whole thing. Perhaps the last sentence about CODEPISAM could saying 'designing' rather than 'deciding'. This would place more emphasis on co-design as partners.

PROFAONANPE - We welcome this national institution as the executing partner!

Agency Response

01/04/2025

Drivers. Thanks for your suggestion. In the section, it has been noted that the demand for sustainably produced biodiversity-based products is considered, in this case, as a driver of positive change. This driver is now presented last in the list of drivers. It has also been specified in the text that the biodiversity products referred in the text are "sustainably produced". The changes have been highlighted in pink.

28/03/2025

Acronyms: Thank you for your comment. A list of acronyms has been uploaded as an independent document in the roadmap and is also provided as part of the *Annexes_GBFF_G11595* document uploaded in the Portal.

a. Parragraph 16. Thanks for your comment, we understand the misunderstanding, as this is a particular terminology used in Peru. In Peru "native communities" refer to Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, while "rural communities" are typically fishing or traditional farming communities that do not necessarily belong to Indigenous groups. To ensure the text is clear, we have adjusted the document, using only the term "Indigenous Peoples" to refer to all Indigenous Peoples groups (coastal, Andean, or Amazonian), and "local communities" to refer to the rest of non-Indigenous

Peoples communities. In this context, "local communities" refers to any human group that is organized and has legitimate representation but does not identify as Indigenous Peoples.

a. Paragraph 17. The term "vegetation cover units", refers to the dominant plant species or communities that cover a particular area of land, influencing the landscape's structure and ecosystem.

a. Barriers: Barrier 2, that had been presented as "lack of funds", has been reformulated to actually describe the technical, and institutional limitations the system is facing to achieve the effective management of PAs. The title of barriers 4, 5 and 6 has been reformulated to better present what are the actual limitations that are preventing the solution of the problems presented.

a. Drivers: In the future narrative analysis, Driver 2 (the demand for biodiversity-based products) refers to a factor that can influence the system positively in the future. If the national and international demand for biodiversity-based sustainable products continues to increase, opportunities for bioeconomy products local producers and for their associated local supply chains will increase in the landscape. The project aims to strengthen local capacities to ensure existing barriers associated to lack of technical, technological and financial capacities are progressively overcome so IPLCs are able to take profit of those emerging market opportunities, in an equitable and sustainable way, ensuring the bioeconomy development is compatible with the biodiversity conservation and ecological connectivity objectives of the landscape and managed in an inclusive way. The project will support development of bio-businesses linked to conservation agreements that include commitments to support the management of protected areas of the SINANPE. The results of this component will directly contribute to sustain area-based conservation and to advance the conservation and sustainable development mosaics. This rationale has been strengthened in the text of the section, in paragraph 55.

a. Land titling: Thank you for your comment. We agree land titling is a fundamental driver and an important challenge for communities in Peru. However, tackling that driver in the project geography would require a focused approach on the topic, potentially a longer project duration, and a much higher budget, given the big project geography. The experts and stakeholders in general that participated in the development of the project strategy during the PPG process, prioritized other barriers the project should solve to enhance the coverage and effective management of Conserved Areas and IPLCs territories and considered that the project should not focus on land titling, given that there are other ongoing initiatives in the region, managed by national authorities, that are already covering that topic. However, the issue of the land titling could be further explored during the development of the Regional Biodiversity Strategies, where specific assessments on drivers and barriers for biodiversity conservation will be developed in the regions.

a. OMECS. In the project rationale section, additional background information describing the situation of the OMECs approach and process in Peru has been included.

b. Indigenous Organizations: To address your remark, in the Project Stakeholders Table, the role of Indigenous organizations in the project design phase has been detailed. The revised text now

emphasizes how Indigenous organizations, through their deep knowledge of the local context, have been actively involved in co-designing the GBFF project activities during the PPG phase, ensuring the GBFF project aligns with the needs and priorities of Indigenous communities.

The language has been clarified in the section to distinguish between 'GBFF project activities' and the broader term 'project' for better accuracy. Following your guidance, the CODEPISAM sentence now reads 'designing the activities that' instead of 'deciding what activities,' to highlight the co-development nature of the process.

6 B. Project Description

6.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (a narrative and a diagram) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?

b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on previous and ongoing investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described, proposed solutions, critical assumptions, and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other options?

d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits identified?

e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?

f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?

g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options)?

h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, IPLCs, private sector, CSOs) and their roles adequately described within the components?

i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and descriptions?

j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communications adequately described?

k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations, or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes? How will that be addressed?

l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Are the specific levers of transformation identified and described? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

m) For blended finance project only, is the financial structure adequately explained?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/4/2025

Yes.

4/1/2025

No.

i. there were some references to ?gender variable?. Please rephrase to gender perspectives or gender equality considerations as ?gender variable? is not a phrase commonly used in our context

3/31/2025

No, thank you for the edits but the following issues remain.

a. The TOC still goes off the screen. Perhaps it can be loaded in sideways/vertically.

Para 147 - The output text doesn't match table B. If you want the revised text, it should be "in IPLCs' territories" or "by IPLCs"

Gender - Thank you for the changes. Our comment on "gender-sensitive" training or work but not necessarily equal participation of women and men applies to activities where there is a very skewed ratio in the target populations. For example, there are often far more men than women park rangers so a training for park rangers will likely not be 50/50 and wouldn't be expected to be so.

3/6/2025

No, please address the following:

a. In the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view, which is the document circulated to Council and web posted once the project is CEO Endorsed (attached) the figure included in the section ?Theory of Change? it is not visible.

c. "Embedding Target 3" - This idea or similar is said repeatedly throughout the document, but it is not clear what that means. Please elaborate on this at least at the beginning of the document.

1.1.1 - It would be good to review what tools may already exist from other countries and institutions that could be part of the toolbox directly or revised for the Peru context. In addition, where will the toolbox be hosted at the end of the project to ensure durability?

1.2 - It would be good for the project to examine and seek to change some of the structural barriers noted here. It's great to have someone supporting partnerships but it seems unlikely that a short term role would be sufficient for the partnerships to actually have results.

Para 147 - What is NDD?

2.3 - If groups are already doing things that are leading to the protection of biodiversity and thus potentially be declared OMECs, what type of support is needed? It seems like everything is already working well in that case. This may belong more in the barriers but understanding how this will create BD benefits would be helpful.

Para 190 - It seems like the language should be "support development" of life plans rather than "develop" life plans. The latter sounds like the government is doing that for the communities.

2.4 - Please use existing life plans if they are still relevant rather than drafting new ones.

2.5 - The work with the road is really interesting. However, it is important that the GEF resources are not used to support any of the statutory or other obligations of the road building or to mitigate or repair damage that it has done. These are the responsibility of the road builder and cannot be supported with limited GEF resources.

Para 198 - What type of restoration work? Is the focus on restoration to natural habitats or agriculture?

2.5.2 - Please do not limit this work to canopy bridges as there are many species that would benefit more from other interventions such as amphibians with culverts.

Para 213 - I would reword the second sentence to say - In order to have a variety of participants, the selection process will seek a balance of different groups among those selected.

Para 213 - Please make sure there is a plan for conflict of interest.

Para 242 - This description sounds like these communities are passive beneficiaries of activities rather than helping to design them. Please revise or clarify the language.

i. Gender-sensitive - Please note that a reasonable end goal isn't always 50/50 for number of participants, but rather that the activities are undertaken in a gender-sensitive manner. For instance, a park ranger training should be designed in a gender-sensitive manner but if the population of park rangers is skewed then it isn't reasonable to expect even numbers to be trained.

Please align what is in the detailed gender action plan with the relevant components and outputs in the project document. For example, there are key gender considerations in Outputs 1.1.4, 1.2.2, and the various outputs under Component 3. Under Component 4, please ensure that knowledge products, lessons learned and good practices capture gender dimensions and successful gender equality and women's empowerment interventions and that these are widely disseminated. Please ensure that under M&E, gender-specific results and the gender action plan are regularly monitored and reported on.

Agency Response

04/04/2025

i. Gender. Thank you for your comment. The changes have been made and are highlighted in green

01/04/2025

Thanks for your comments.

a. Theory of change: Thanks for your advice. The TOC diagram has been uploaded vertically.

Output 3.1.3. in paragraph 147 has been adjusted following your advice. Now it includes "by IPLCs". Text has been highlighted in pink in the Table B and in the Project Description Section.

Gender. Thanks for your clarification. We agree with your consideration of establishing gender targets according to a realistic assessment of the baseline conditions. This is the approach followed in the design of this project and in the establishment of its targets.

28/03/2025

a. Theory of change: Thank you for your comment. We have ensured that all figures included in the "Theory of Change" section are clearly visible.

c. Project Components. "Embedding target 3" Thank you for your remark. A detailed explanation is provided in the Project Rationale section, clarifying that the terms "delivering Target 3" or "contributing towards Target 3" or "embedding Target 3" refer to the aim of the project, and its Components, Outcomes and Outputs, to promote the advancement of this GBF Target in the landscape, in all its dimensions, including: i. Incrementing the % of terrestrial and inland water conservation areas coverage. ii. Prioritizing areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. iii. Promoting the its effective conservation and management or sustainable use consistent with conservation objectives. iv. Ensuring PAs and OECMs are ecologically representative and ecologically connected, through corridors and with the wider landscape. v. Ensuring Conserved Areas are equitably governed. vi. Guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

c. Project Components. Output 1.1.1 Thank you for your suggestion. A review of existing tools from other countries and institutions that could be adapted or incorporated into the toolbox for the Peruvian context has been incorporated in the project strategy section, in the description of this Output. The toolbox will be made available through the SINIA, the Regional Environmental Information Systems of the Regional Governments, and through other relevant platforms to ensure its long-term accessibility and durability after the project's completion.

c. Project Components. Outcome 1.2: Thank you for the valuable feedback. The concerns about the short-term nature of the local coordinators' roles and the potential risks for sustaining

partnerships and financial mechanisms are understood. The aim of the project is precisely to promote change of structural barriers, for example institutional and technical barriers of Regional and Local Governments that are preventing them to benefit from existing sustainable financial opportunities in Peru. Although the coordinators will be contracted for three years, they won't be working in isolation, but in coordination with the PMU specialists and other project consultants. Their work will focus on providing technical assistance and capacity-building to help GOREs, GOLOs, and key stakeholders in the landscape to access sustainable funding and to benefit from the new sustainable financial mechanisms the project will develop.

c. Project Components. Paragraph 147: NDD is the Spanish acronym for "Núcleos Dinamizadores del Desarrollo Territorial Sostenible" (Sustainable Territorial Development Dynamizing Nuclei). This is an approach led by SERNANP and supported by UNDP in Peru, based on a voluntary alliance between a Natural Protected Area (NPA) and the surrounding local populations such as communities and producer organizations that use and hold rights over the territory's natural resources. This alliance aims to promote inclusive and sustainable territorial development, balancing economic growth, social well-being, and environmental conservation. The NDD functions as a seed for sustainable development within the territory. Its core mechanism is a set of Conservation and Sustainable Development Agreements, which reflect a shared vision and mutual commitments between the NPA and the local stakeholders. The definition of NDD has been detailed in the section "B3. Global Environmental Problems, Threats, Barriers, and Future Narratives" and highlighted in yellow.

c. Project Components. Outcome 2.3: During the PPG phase, in the project landscape, several areas with potential for being recognized as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), including conservation and ecotourism concessions, environmental conservation areas, surf breaks, and RAMSAR sites, were identified. The PPG field work and stakeholder consultations revealed that many of those areas, despite having a legal protection status, present technical and managerial challenges that put at risk their sustainability, and require support to ensure their effective management in the long term. The project aims at providing strategic technical and financial assistance to address the identified barriers, to ensure the areas are effectively and sustainably managed and create BD benefits.

c. Project Components. Paragraph 190 (now Paragraph 206). Thank you for the feedback. We agree the language should better reflect the role of assistance that the government will provide in supporting the development of Life Plans. Overall, Life Plans present the indigenous communities' visions for the future and their expectations for their territories. The phrasing has been adjusted to ensure it accurately conveys this.

c. Project Components. Outcome 2.4: Thank you for your valuable feedback. We fully agree that if an existing Life Plan is available and relevant, it should be updated rather than creating a new one from scratch. In cases where no Life Plan exists, a new one will be prepared. We've adjusted the text accordingly to better reflect this approach.

c. Project Components. Outcome 2.5: Thank you for your observation. We understand GEF resources cannot be used to cover the road concessionaire obligations on damage mitigation. The project activities will focus solely on activities (e.g., biodiversity monitoring equipment for specific BD assessments, for example) and strengthening local capacities (e.g., university alliances for research), beyond and additional to the responsibilities of the road concessionaire in front of the government. A clarification is included in the section: GEF funding will be used exclusively for eligible activities aligned with the project's objectives and will not cover the obligations of the road concessionaire.

c. Project Components. Restoration. Thanks for your comment. The project aims to establish partnerships and secure funding for habitat restoration that promotes ecological connectivity and sustains various ecosystem services. The restoration will be defined depending on the extent of the degradation impact and the location of the degraded area, and could include activities such as soil recovery or vegetation cover regeneration (such as agroforestry). In some cases could aim at restoring natural habitats, a process that typically takes many years. Some of the areas identified by the Peruvian government are located near Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) under national, regional, and private management or in potential OMECs, which represents a priority for restoration efforts. To effectively determine the restoration needs of each area, the project will take into account the type of ecosystem, the level of degradation, and the land tenure of the areas involved, in assessments that will occur at the beginning of the project. This clarification has been added to the "Output 2.5.1" description, and is highlighted in yellow.

c. Project Components. Output. 2.5.2 Thank you for your comment. The project acknowledges the importance of various wildlife crossing measures, including culverts for species such as amphibians. However, any intervention along the IIRSA Norte road must first be assessed for feasibility and alignment with the concessionaire's contract terms. The project will conduct a rapid assessment of the current situation and explore various wildlife crossing solutions. The working group will review and identify the most appropriate measures, including culverts, based on the road's conditions. These proposed measures will be carefully evaluated in consultation with the concessionaire and relevant authorities to ensure their technical, legal, and financial feasibility, within the framework of regulatory requirements. This clarification has been added to the description of "Output 2.5.2 ", and is highlighted in yellow.

c. Project Components. Paragraph 213 (now Paragraph 230): Thank you for your remark. The sentences was rewritten according to your suggestion.

c. Project Components. Paragraph 213 (now Paragraph 230): Related to conflict of interest, to ensure fairness and transparency, a conflict-of-interest criterion will be applied in the selection process. This has been added to the text.

c. Project Components. Paragraph 242 (now Paragraph 259): Thank you for your observation. We recognize the importance of emphasizing the active role of communities in the project design and implementation process. The text now reflects their involvement in co-designing activities, rather than just being passive beneficiaries.

- i. Gender-sensitive: The project will effectively implement a series of affirmative actions to ensure the effective participation of 50% women in its activities. These actions include gender-balanced calls for participation, enabling women to attend events with their young children, scheduling meetings at times that accommodate women's availability, and creating safe spaces for women to contribute to decision-making, among others. More than simply reaching the 50% target, the goal is to implement more inclusive actions that enhance women's participation, making their contributions to conservation and natural resource management more visible.

Alignment with gender action plan: Thank you for your comments. The gender action plan has been aligned with the relevant project components and outputs, including Outputs 1.1.4, 1.2.2, and those under Components 3 and 4. Additionally, knowledge products, lessons learned, and good practices have been revised to incorporate gender dimensions, ensuring that successful gender equality and women's empowerment interventions are widely disseminated. Furthermore, it has been ensured that under M&E, there is regular monitoring and reporting of key gender results and the progress of the gender action plan throughout the project. The text incorporating these gender aspects has been added to the project components and is highlighted in blue.

6.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

- a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?**
- b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?**
- c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed initiatives (e.g., government, other bilateral/multilateral).**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes. We note the coordination and cooperation is in an annex.

Agency Response

6.3 GEF Core indicators and GBFF indicators

- a) Are the identified GBFF and relevant GEF core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)?**
- b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through GBFF indicators, relevant GEF core indicators, and additional listed outcome indicators) reasonable and achievable?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

6.4 Risks

- a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
- b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
- c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/31/2025

Yes, thank you.

3/7/2025

No.

Please expand more on the political risks and mitigation measures. We note that working with regional governments is a key piece of this project which comes with potential for significant delays with changes in leadership.

Please describe how the Overall risk rating was identified.

Agency Response

28/03/2025

6.4 Risks. Political and Governance. Thank you for your comment. More detail has been included in the political risk and mitigation measures. The project acknowledges that leadership turnover at the regional level may affect decision-making, approvals, and implementation timelines. This, in turn, could lead to further delays due to challenges in interinstitutional coordination. To mitigate these risks, the project will: (i) define clear institutional roles and responsibilities, (ii) secure formal agreements with national, regional, and local governments to maintain commitments beyond political cycles, (iii) promote structured coordination platforms, and (iv) strengthen the management capacities of key stakeholders to ensure governance continuity. This clarification has been added to "Table 7: Risks to Project Implementation and Assessment and Mitigation Measures", and is highlighted in yellow.

6.4 Risks. Overall Risk Rating: Thank you for your comment. A description on how the overall risk was identified has been included in the section.

7 C. Alignment with Programming Strategies, Country/Regional Priorities

7.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with the GBFF Action Areas and, for MTF projects, with Focal Area objectives?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/31/2025

Yes.

3/7/2025

No.

- Please include narrative on alignment with AA along with other national priorities.

- AA 2 - It's not clear how the percentage of IPLC work does not match this figure. In particular, AA 2 is focus on support going to IPLCs and so should lower than the figure given for IPLCs. Please note that the GEF follows the CBD definition of local community which is local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Agency Response

28/03/2025

7.1. a) Action Areas: Thank you for your feedback. The narrative describing the alignment with GBFF Action Areas, as well as with national priorities, has been included in Section D- ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES of the CEO ER document and has been highlighted in yellow.

7.1. a) IPLC and AA2: Thank you for your feedback. A mistake has been identified in the amount assigned to AA2. This has been corrected and now AA2 amount now accurately reflects the project resources allocated to support IPLCs.

7.2 Is the project aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, National Biodiversity Finance Plans, and/or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities. For MTF projects, is the project aligned with other relevant country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and relevant sectors)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

7.3 Does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

8 D. Policy Requirements

8.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

8.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

8.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

8.4 IPLCs:

- a) Has the amount of GBFF project financing to support actions by IPLCs been sufficiently justified and have changes compared to PPG request stage, if any, been adequately justified?**
- b) If applicable, does Section C 'Project Description' describe the IPLCs who will benefit from the project and detail their role in the project? Have appropriate project tags related to IPLCs been selected?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes.

We would like to encourage the project proponents to continue to explore these options during implementation. Please note that such a change would only require reporting in the PIR.

3/7/2025

No.

- b. We would like to encourage the project team to consider having an Indigenous leader as part of the project steering committee. Some of the comments were made on the action areas but it would be good to have a discussion to clarify the issues.

Agency Responseb. Thank you for your comment. As for your suggestion to consider an Indigenous leader as part of the project steering committee, we appreciate this recommendation. We recognize the importance of Indigenous leadership and representation in decision-making processes, particularly for projects focused on IPLCs. We have explored this further, and Indigenous representation is essential in the high-level meetings to ensure their voice and perspective are included throughout the project's implementation. However, given the large number of IPLCs across the project area, which spans six departments of Peru and includes ten different Indigenous groups from both Amazonian and Andean regions, selecting just one leader would be challenging. Therefore, we recommend that Indigenous representation be integrated into a more flexible arrangement, such as the Technical Committee, where different representatives can participate based on the specific topics and decisions at hand, ensuring that the perspectives of the various groups are reflected when issues directly affecting their communities are discussed. During the first months of project implementation, the option of implementing a consultative committee were project IPs and other local communities?representatives can effectively participate in project related decision making processes, will be further explored.

9 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

9.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

9.2 Source of Funds

If using GEFTF resources, does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?

Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/7/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

9.3 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type:

Noting GBFF does not require but encourages co-financing, are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes. Thank you for the clarifications.

3/7/2025

No, please provide English translation of letter of cofinancing support from Gobierno Regional Cajamarca for both grant and in-kind contribution.

Agency Response

28/03/2025

9.3 Co-financing letters: Thank you for your comment. An English translation of the co-financing letter from the Cajamarca Regional Government has been uploaded. The letter indicates that the co-financing resources are derived from a Public Investment Project (PIP), which is classified as

both a grant and mobilized investment. This is why, in the letter, the Regional Government simply defines the type as "cash" or "efectivo" in Spanish. The same applies to the letter from the Amazonas Regional Government, where co-financing resources are also derived from PIPs. Additionally, all co-financing letters originally in Spanish have been translated into English. The English translation of each letter can be found in the same document, immediately following the original letter.

Annex C: Project Results Framework

9.4 a) Have the GBFF indicators and relevant GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; are the targets appropriate for the total project financing (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes. This is a good approach noting how recently these have been adopted. We would also encourage biocultural indicators and those deemed relevant for the Indigenous Peoples involved.

3/7/2025

No, the content is fine -

However, now that the GBF monitoring framework has been adopted, we encourage projects to use these indicators where relevant.

d. The Results Framework Table in the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view is off the margins. Please ask the Agency to amend.

Agency Response

28/03/2025

Annex C: Project Results Framework. a. Thank you for your comment. A review for integrating relevant GBF indicators into the Project Results Framework will be conducted during the first months of the project, to ensure alignment with the new GBF monitoring framework. This has been included and clarified in the CEO Endorsement Request (CEO ER), specifically in Component 5, and highlighted in yellow for your reference.

Annex C: Project Results Framework. d. Thank you for your comment. We have corrected the formatting issue, and ensured that the table now fits within the margins as required.

Annex D: Status of utilization of PPG

9.5 Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes, thank you.

3/6/2025

No, the status of utilization of PPG is not presented using the eligible categories included in Guidelines ? please amend.

Agency Response

28/03/2025

Annex D: PPG Utilization: Thank you for your comment. We have reviewed Annex D: Status of Utilization of PPG and have updated the category terminology, changing "Lead Consultant" to "Principal Consultant for CEO Endorsement Preparation" and "Project Design" to "Technical Assistance for Preparing the CEO Endorsement". If this revision does not fully address your concern, please, let us know what are the categories we need to use, or show us an example that we can follow.

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

9.6 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes.

3/6/2025

No, in Annex E on Project Map and Coordinates, the geographic coordinates are entered in degrees, decimal, minutes (DDM) format. Please provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format as per Geocoding User Guide (available through a link under Geolocation Information section).

Agency Response

28/03/2025

Annex E: Project Map. Thank you for your comment. We have reviewed the coordinates in Annex E: Project Map and have converted them to Decimal Degrees (WGS84) format. The updated coordinates are now reflected in the Annex E of the CEO ER document as well as in the GEF portal.

Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Documentation and Rating

9.7 Have the relevant safeguard documents been uploaded to the GEF Portal? Has the safeguards rating been provided and filled out in the ER field below the risk table?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/6/2025

Yes.

Agency Response

Annex G: GEF Budget template

9.8 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?

b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/1/2025

Yes.

3/6/2025

No,

1. On the budget table:

i. The budget table in the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view lacks the column Responsible Executing Entity ? please ask the Agency to amend.

ii. Please ask the Agency what ?Technical Assistance on NDD approach? entails (the footnotes are not readable - the numbers in the table don't match them in the bottom part of the table).

iii. Baseline measurement of indicators, Annual measurement of indicators, Mid-Term Review, and Terminal Evaluation (below in red color) must be fully charged to M&E (component 5) because these are activities related to Monitoring and Evaluation.

iv. In absence of TOR's (we could not find them), it is not possible to understand which positions in the green rectangle below are part of the project executing unit, and which ones are consultants. Please ask the Agency to clarify and provide TORs for those that are part of the project executing unit.

v. Co-executing agency targeted assistance for US\$ 721.380 (in blue color below) looks an administrative cost which cannot be covered with GEF resources. The explanation in the footnote (*Two-day meeting in a location within the project area. 21 persons (two persons per GORE + 3 persons from SERNANP, SERFOR and MINAM + 6 persons from local communities, ACPs and other conservation modalities). USD22 per person per day for venue, food and materials + USD100 per person per day to cover transportation and lodging.*) does not match the title. Please ask the Agency to explain.

vi. Trave for PMU members (in orange color below) must be charged to PMC.

Agency Response

28/03/2025

i. Responsible Executing Entity: Thank you for your feedback. The budget table has been amended to include Profonampe in the "Responsible Executing Entity" column.

ii. NDD and footnotes: Thank you for pointing this out. "Technical Assistance on NDD approach" refers to the services of a specialized third party providing technical assistance for the on the ground implementation of the NDD approach activities (defined in B3. Global Environmental Problems, Threats, Barriers, and Future Narratives) in target area 2, including the honorarium and travel expenses for two specialists over three years. Additionally, the footnotes have been reviewed to ensure the numbers match the corresponding entries in the table. The budget has been revised to ensure better readability.

iii. M&E. Thank you for your observation. The activities related to baseline measurement, annual measurement, mid-term review, and terminal evaluation are fully allocated under M&E (Component 5, Output 5.1.1: Project monitoring and evaluation system implemented.), as illustrated in the image below.

Project Budget by Output																			
	Detailed Description	budget notes and assumptions # / Please	Component (US\$eq.)					Subtotal	PMC	Total Project	Responsible (Executing Entity receiving funds from the)								
			TOTAL COMPONENT 2	TOTAL COMPONENT 3	TOTAL COMPONENT 4	TOTAL COMPONENT 5													
Local Consultants	Baseline measurement of GEF and	41	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	Profonampe								
Local Consultants	Annual measurement of GEF core	42	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	Profonampe								
Local Consultants	Mid-term review	43	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00	Profonampe								
Local Consultants	Terminal Evaluation	44	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00	Profonampe								
Local Consultants	Technical file to support the project	45	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -		\$ 16,000.00	Profonampe								

iv: TOR for key project staff. Thank you for your remark. The PMU Terms of Reference (TORs) have been uploaded as an independent document in the roadmap and are also provided in the uploaded document titled Annexes_GBFF_G11595. The PMU positions are clearly identified in the budget under the category Salary-Benefits/Staff.

v. Co-executing agency assistance. Thank you for your observation. In accordance with your comment, the budget line for co-executing agency targeted assistance has been removed. Instead, the relevant technical staff positions that are integral to the successful delivery of the project components (and are not managerial or administrative in nature) have been included under the Budget Category ?Salary-Benefits/Staff? . The footnotes has been updated to reflect these changes accurately.

vi. Travel expenses. Thank you for your comment. The travel expenses for PMU members have been left as is because they are not related to project management or coordination; rather, they are directly associated with technical assistance and direct technical execution of project activities.

Annex H: Blended Finance Relevant Annexes

9.9 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

b) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response

Additional Annexes

10. GEFSEC DECISION

10.1 GEFSEC Recommendation

Is the project recommended for approval?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/4/2025

No, please include the carbon mitigation indicator. It can be a conservative estimate at this time with a commitment to refine reporting during implementation.

4/1/2025

No, there are a few issues remaining with the portal entry and one comment on gender.

4/1/2025

No, thank you for the significant edits and just a few issues remain.

3/6/2025

No, please revise and resubmit.

10.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		