

MID-TERM REVIEW

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
A. Description	3
B. Key Dates	3
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES	4
A. Main MTR Findings	4
B. Stakeholder Engagement	6
C. Gender Equality	10
D. Knowledge Management	11
III. CORE INDICATORS	11
IV: CO FINANCING	14
V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	17
VI. ANNEX	18

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Criteria in Mexico's Tourism Sector with Emphasis on Biodiversity-rich Coastal Ecosystems

Country

Mexico

GEF ID

9613

Implementing Agency

UNDP

Executing Entity

Government

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

Objective

To promote biodiversity conservation with emphasis on BD-rich coastal ecosystems through the design and implementation of innovative policies and models of sustainable tourism in Mexico at the national and the local levels.

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

4/2/2020

Agency Approval

10/26/2020

Implementation Start

10/26/2020

First Disbursement

2/28/2021

Expected MTR

10/26/2023

MTR Submission

3/5/2025

Actual MTR

6/25/2024

Expected Completion

10/26/2026

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

Relevance

- The project is perfectly aligned in its design, with the United Nations Country Programme in Mexico (CPD) in its outcome A; is linked to the 2018-2021 strategic plan as well as with the new UNDP plan for the period 2022-2025, the Agenda 2030 and the Sectoral Tourism Programme 2020-2024 and, as has been proven in the field, with the state strategies of the three pilot states to promote nature-friendly tourism. Likewise, the indigenous communities and microentrepreneurs themselves perfectly understand the relevance of the project and the mainstreaming of biodiversity in their tourism activities.

Design

- The present prodoc is the result of the merger, at the request of GEFSEC, of three projects that were submitted in 2014 by three of the actors involved in the present project, SECTUR, ASK and ISLA. This means that each partner had formulated its own project. The formulation process was very long and therefore many things changed from the original design to the start of the project.
- The project strategy is considered robust, although the results framework does not have good alignment between indicators and outputs, which has led to difficulties in the interpretation. The results framework presents 16 indicators, four mandatory and 12 project indicators, but these are not linked to component outcomes. This has made monitoring and evaluation very difficult.
- In general terms the indicators are well defined, SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, resource-bound and time-bound), with the exception of indicator 13 on 'indicator species population', as the targets are not achievable for a project of this nature. Docusign Envelope ID: D4FD6979-1BEA-4C02-996F-EE4526EAEAAF 13
- The prodoc presents a very well-designed gender action plan that proposes clear measures that should be implemented by the project. There is only one indicator with gender disaggregation.
- In terms of proposed governance, this is standard with a Project Board and a Technical Advisory Committee that should provide input to the Board.
- The proposed monitoring and mandatory annexes are well defined and aligned with GEF standards.

Effectiveness

- In terms of achievement of mid-term results, according to the results framework, most objectives are on target to be achieved (with 62.5% of the indicators), followed by 18.7% of objectives not on target to be achieved; 12.5% achieved and 6.2% not applicable (only 1 indicator). Although most of the project's efforts have focused on Component 3 of the results framework, the way of measuring the indicators fails to reflect its achievements. Components 1 to 3 are considered moderately satisfactory and 4 satisfactory. The latter is due to the interpretation of the indicator, not to the outputs and activities carried out on knowledge management, which are scarce or non-existent; there is an opportunity here to share experiences among actors both in the states and in the region.

- The analysis of effectiveness is directly related to the monitoring carried out by the PMU and how the three implementing partners report on the ground. The evaluation team has had to do a traceability analysis of all quarterly reports from ASK, WWF and ISLA to understand how their activities contribute to which outputs and to the results framework indicators. All three implementing partners have focused on activity reporting, neglecting objectives and outcomes.
- The three implementing partners on the ground:
 - They report quarterly, but not SECTUR;
 - They are not well-informed about SECTUR's activities and achievements. Internal communication is not bidirectional;
 - They spend a lot of time on reporting, but the reports do not provide clear information on outputs and indicators, losing the common thread. The PMU also spends a lot of time interpreting what the partners (ASK, ISLA and WWF) report. It is therefore an inefficient process;
 - They are following different approaches to achieve the objectives. In Q.ROO they continue to work with communities and the state to promote a clear brand, Maya Ka'an, which aims to be a model of tourism based on biodiversity conservation. In OAX they have followed the prodoc by promoting the ZDTS of Huatulco, but it lacks socialization. And in BCS, they have focused on having all the baseline and relevant studies together with the University and scientists, but they still do not have a well-defined model to push;
 - They are working as fast as they can with standards, training of guides, certification of companies and monitoring of species. It is worth highlighting the importance of environmental education events to continue to raise awareness among beneficiaries, communities and operators about the importance of biodiversity conservation in the tourism sector;
 - They have managed to interact with relevant key actors, such as CONANP, SEMARNAT, CONAFOR, CONABIO, etc. This is not the case at the Federal level.
- Planning has been carried out according to the rules and following what is foreseen in the results framework, not the strategy described in the prodoc. For example, the prodoc talks about the importance of environmental education to raise awareness among the target population and key actors, but it does not appear as an indicator. This has led to a lack of approval of such field activities. The results framework has, to some extent, been a straitjacket.
- While efforts are being made to have draft laws and regulations, these are not being nurtured by DocuSign Envelope ID: D4FD6979-1BEA-4C02-996F-EE4526EAEAAF 14 on-the-ground experience. They are pushing for a 'sustainable tourism model' when actually, in each pilot state, they are promoting models adapted to their realities and conditions. Likewise, the business plans of micro-enterprises are being considered as an important element that contributes to the replicability of the model through the strengthening of capacities, nevertheless, the evaluation team consider that in reality the focus, according to the logic of the project, should be on achieving financial mechanisms to guarantee the sustainability of the ZDTS or equivalent.

Efficiency

- The financial analysis of the CDRs and financial reports of the three implementing partners on the ground shows a low execution for the MTR. They have executed 41.07% of the GEF resources as of December 2023.
- By component, component 3, which has the largest budget, has the highest implementation with 46.69%, followed by component 1 with 41.10%, component 2 with 27.13% and finally component 4 with 19.86%. To some extent, this also demonstrates the low achievement of results. In terms of management costs, 64.55% of the total has been reached. This indicates that, if they continue with this expenditure, they will not have sufficient resources to finish the project
- At the level of implementing partners on the ground, the analysis indicates that ASK has executed 58.74% of its budget, followed by WWF with 43.04%, ISLA with 36.35% and finally SECTUR with 27.87%.

- As far as co-financing is concerned, there are shortcomings. It is noted that in the inception report the participants already indicated that certain programmes foreseen as co-financiers no longer exists or had been terminated. This is related to the length of time between the formulation and the start of implementation. The level of co-financing as of December 2023 is 18.3%, which is low at this stage. Noticeable the fact that donor agencies have almost doubled the expected cofunding and project reporting private sector cofunding, not foreseen at project design.
- Related to efficiency, is the work planning. From the interviews, it is clear that this is carried out according to the results framework, which does not allows for much adaptation to the reality of the actions carried out in the field. Also, there is no joint planning between all actors, which leads to missed opportunities for synergies.

Sustainability

- Sustainability is assessed as likely, as there is a high tendency for the implementing partners to carry out independent activities on the issue long before the project started, and they have plans for the future and other associated funding. The implementing partners themselves promote the work of local and regional governments, as well as work with cooperatives, communities, and other tourism service providers, who also have leadership and independent initiatives on the issue.

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From the Core Indicator worksheet (4.1)

-Huatulco ZDTS: 29,659

-Zonal Rual Comunitaria con Potencial turistica in QRoo: 909,644

-Study of Acceptable Change Limit and Local Capacity: 195,956

-Total: 1,135,259

B. Stakeholder Engagement

When we talk about stakeholder involvement, what the evaluation team asks themselves is the following:

- In relation to Project Management: Has the project developed and forged the right partnerships, both with direct stakeholders and with other tangential actors?
- Regarding Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national governments support the project's objectives? Do they still have an active role in decision-making regarding the project that contributes to an efficient and effective implementation of the project?
- Finally, on public participation and awareness: To what extent has public involvement and awareness contributed to progress in achieving the project's objectives?

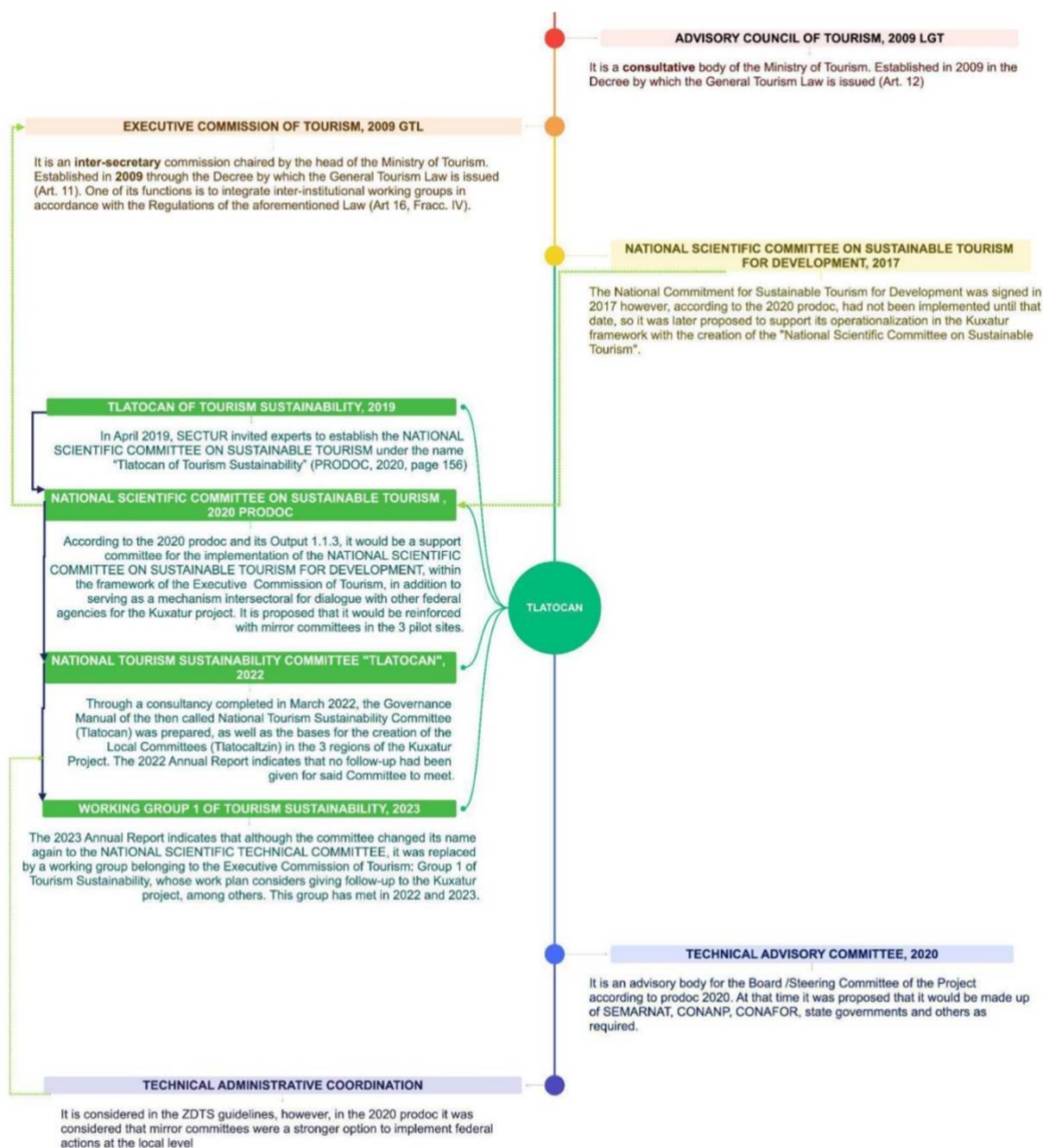
The level of coordination, as mentioned throughout the report, has great potential for improvement. From the coordination between the central actors (PMU-UNDP/SECTUR/ISLA/ASK/WWF), to the relationship with external actors from other secretariats or agencies at the federal level. The relationships that remain active and give fluidity and legality to the project are those of the implementing partners (ISLA/ASK/WWF) towards local governments, regional academia, the private and social sector of the pilot sites as well as in some cases,

towards federal agencies, but with influence on the site of the partner that establishes the coordination. At the project level, these relationships need to be raised (without this implying the loss of decisive capacity of the implementers in this regard).

For example, as of the date of this evaluation, the Technical Advisory Committee has not met or been formally constituted. It should have been composed of SEMARNAT, CONABIO and CONAFOR, among others. There is no evidence of formal meetings on this issue, but there are indications that there were discrepancies with the committee's decision-making role. On the other hand, it must be considered whether the creation of such a body is still relevant to the project and whether its participation will be crucial for the implementation and sustainability of the project. The creation of multiple bodies that are not essential for the execution, transversality or efficient monitoring of a project are just one more bureaucratic burden.

The most relevant case is the development of the Tlatocan. As can be appreciated in Figure 17. It was taken over from other committees prior to Kuxatur and since the project began it has gone through a series of modifications in the name.

Figure 17. Committees and Consultative Councils related to KUXATUR



Source: Own elaboration with data from the 2020 prodoc, the Annual Reports and the GTL.

The following evidence was received for the mentioned committee:

1st session in 2021 of Tlatocan: ● Minutes of 1 meeting of Nov 20, 2021, as Tlatocan, with the participation of SECTUR; PMU (Coordinator); the consulting firm that produced the Governance Manual; and Natoure, DocuSign Envelope ID: D4FD6979-1BEA-4C02-996F-EE4526EAEAAF 96 which indicates that this committee could be integrated into Working Group 1 of the Executive Commission on Tourism.

In March 2022, the preparation of its Governance Manual was completed. Which was not used since there were no more meetings like Tlatocan. The 2023 Annual Report considered that the meetings that had been held by the Tourism Sustainability Group 1 during that year could be considered as the followup to the Tlatocan, so they reported their 2 sessions with the following evidence, although in the PIR of the same 2023 (June) it was reported that the Tlatocan was not operating: • Minutes of 1 ordinary meeting of May 18, 2023 of Group 1 Tourism Sustainability with the participation of representatives of SECTUR, MARINA, ECONOMÍA, CONUEE, CONAFOR, SCT, CONANP, INAH, CENAPRED and the Agrarian Prosecutor's Office. • Presentation of 1 extraordinary session in November 2023 of Group 1 Tourism Sustainability.

With the above, it is identified that there is a lack of synergy in the operability and effectiveness of this mechanism. It is recommended to maintain a clear line on this Committee, avoiding name changes; substitutions (as they invalidate previous work such as the Governance Manual and duplicate efforts as with the intended new operating rules for Group 1 reported in the 2023 Annual Report); and maintaining the objective of PRODOC to be an intersectoral mechanism for dialogue.

Regarding the mirror committees, 2 can be considered in which ASK participated in their installation independently of the construct of the Tlatocaltzin: one is the Tourism Advisory Council at the state level whose legality is stipulated in the Tourism Law of the State of Quintana Roo and the other, the Tourism Advisory Council of the Municipality of Felipe Carrillo Puerto.

National coordination, at the project level, with external partners has been precarious. With ICTUR, which should have served as a consultative actor for the design of incentive mechanisms for Component 2; demonstration models for Component 3; and for the awareness campaign on the sustainable use of natural resources in Component 4; There is no evidence of involvement during the first half of the project's implementation. With the INPI, which was identified as an actor that could support community participation mechanisms in the interventions of the ZDTS, there is also no evidence of participation to date. And with FONATUR, which was related to the definition and implementation of the demonstration model in Huatulco (it has been in an attempt to disappear/restructure during the current presidential sixyear term 2018-2024), there is evidence of participation as an assistant to the presentation of the draft of the technical file of the ZDTS in Huatulco. FONATUR also developed the Maya Ka'an Tourism Development Program in coordination with SEDETUR, ASK and other local actors.

It should be noted that at the local level there is coordination of the implementing partners with external collaborators independently of each pilot, for example, ASK has involved federal agencies such as: CONANP and CONABIO, state agencies: SEDETUR, CPTQ, SEDE, SEMA, Regional Center of Popular Cultures in the project. As well as the Academy: Mayan Intercultural University of Quintana Roo, and the National Technological Institute of Mexico at Felipe Carrillo Puerto campus. For its side, ISLA managed the federal participation of CONABIO for the realization of ECUSBE, worked with SETUE, the state and municipal governments and academia, among others. For its part, WWF also worked with local offices, CONANP and the municipal government. However, the communications that federal agencies have about the project are cut off to what each department has worked with a specific implementing partner, and they do not know if other areas of their agency are involved, nor do they have the general knowledge about what Kuxatur does as a single project. DocuSign Envelope ID: D4FD6979-1BEA-4C02-996F-EE4526EAEAAF 97 The prodoc established other interested parties from its institutional work such as: the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), the Ministry of Economy (SE), the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO), the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI), the Ministry of Agrarian Development, Territorial and Urban Council (SEDATU), the Secretariat of Welfare (BIENESTAR), the municipal governments of the pilot areas, the Advisory Councils of the regional protected areas in which the pilots are being developed, as well as the tourism service providers and members of the participating communities in the same areas. Of the above, only the municipal governments of the pilot areas and some tourism service providers and community members have been integrated into the project to date.

In terms of public awareness, most of the relationships are between the social and private sector that participates as a tour operator in the project, however, there is still a long way to go in promoting the project both nationally, regionally, and locally towards the end consumer, the tourist.

C. Gender Equality

The project document presents, in section V of expected results, a subsection on equity and women's empowerment (page 47). This subsection highlights the importance of gender for the project and in the tourism sector, presents examples of Q.ROO and BCS, and indicates that gender has been taken into account during the design phase. An analysis of section IV of the project strategy indicates that the Gender Analysis and its Strategy identified various opportunities to involve women's cooperatives (Annex G of the prodoc). Annex G effectively discusses the international and national legal framework and how gender is applied in the various laws and strategies related to the project. More importantly, it proposes a strategy to be used by the project, whose objective is to 'promote the empowerment of women through the strategic use of their experiences in biodiversity conservation in critical ecosystems to achieve the incorporation of BD conservation safeguards in the ZDTS'. It also proposes the following lines of action:

1. Promote effective participation in the decision-making process in their communities and integration into the tourism value chain;
2. Generation of data and information with a gender focus, through the establishment of baselines on the inequalities associated with the use, access and benefit of natural resources in the context of sustainable tourism development using innovation technologies such as big data, and
3. To share the experiences of women and men on the management of biodiversity in marine and coastal ecosystems affected by tourism activity in the places

Similarly, the project's strategy presents a product directly related to gender, Output 3.2.2 'Women and youth livelihoods promoted'.

Through interviews with actors in the field, the evaluators have been able to verify, especially at the level of the three pilots, that the implementing partners are working with groups of women and youth through environmental education, monitoring, training of guides in the different standards, ecotourism ventures, forums and workshops such as:

- the workshop 'Strengthening the tourism value chain with emphasis on women entrepreneurs' in relation to point 1,
- and the Forum 'The Role of Women in Community Tourism and Biodiversity Conservation' related to point 3, both carried out by ASK in Quintana Roo.

However, both partners and UNDP are failing to collect/report progress. To date, there is no clear record of how all the interventions carried out in this area contribute to the three strategic lines presented in Annex G of the prodoc, in addition to the fact that disaggregated data are not being reported at the level of indicators that serve for monitoring.

On the other hand, the implementing partners have presented, in their reports (PIR), institutional and independent documents as proof of compliance on the gender perspective that are not directly linked to the Kuxatur project, such as: • UNDP Gender Plan (n.d.) - [includes prodoc Gender Action Plan] • UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (Jul-2023) • SECTUR Equality Policy (Feb-2021) • ASK Gender Policy (n.d.)

Finally, two implementing partners of the pilots presented relative studies that are done ad hoc for the project. However, they do not yet constitute robust training in gender-sensitive policy frameworks or institutional frameworks for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources:

- Annex 1. Action Plan for the Integration of Women and Youth in Tourism in the Huatulco-Chacahua Corridor. In: Baseline Evaluation: Boosting the Livelihoods of Women and Youth in Tourism in the Huatulco-Chacahua Corridor, Oaxaca. 2022 (at diagnostic level)
- Study of Gender, Tourism and Biodiversity: An Alternative to Promote Local Economic Development in the Santiago Basin, B.C.S. 2022. (at diagnostic level)
- The gender section of the 'Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity with Emphasis on Tourism' (ECUSBE, by its acronym in spanish) for BCS as part of Mexico's National Biodiversity Strategy (ENBioMex).

In addition to the above, these documents have been at the diagnostic level since 2022. Formal implementation and mainstreaming in products and activities is still lacking. This may be related to the fact that there is no gender specialist from the project coordination to guide, lead and supervise the mainstreaming of the gender perspective. Therefore, it is recommended to hire the gender specialist and review the Strategy and Action Plan of Annex G to ground it and ensure that concrete, measurable activities are designed that can be included in the following AWP. On the other hand, it is recommended, as will be seen below, to review the results framework and disaggregate some of the indicators by gender with their respective targets. This will improve the way in which the information is reported by the implementing partners and the PMU, in turn, will be able to better convey to UNDP and GEF the achievements in terms of gender.

D. Knowledge Management

In this section, a brief analysis of both the internal and external communication of the project is made. Internally, communication from the PMU needs to be more flexible or use other means (face-to-face visits) to understand the complexity and richness of the work in the field that does not seem to be fitting into the measurement of achievements.

External communication, for the beneficiaries and partners from the social and private sector participating as tour operators in the project, is carried out by the three implementing partners on the ground. The vast majority of the actors consulted were familiar with the Kuxatur project. This is due to their day-to-day interaction with the three CSOs. The evaluation team has had no evidence of formal communication about the project. Linked to the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, also related to the communication of the project, in most cases, the 'beneficiaries' of the project have not been able to know the work carried out by their peers nor do they have an overview of the Kuxatur project, they are practically left with the work that they do, and the support provided by the partners. In the case of the Q. ROO pilot, it is different, since it is the same members of the communities or cooperatives who lead the connections between them and, therefore, know and even promote the work of their local peers.

It is suggested to socialize the knowledge and lessons learned during the implementation of the activities among the implementing partners, as well as among the communities and/or tourism service providers, etc., with face-to-face or virtual experience exchange meetings.

III. Core Indicators

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)
0	3966548.06	1135259	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)
	3,966,548.06	1,135,259.00	

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)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	113,967.83	0.00	

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
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Indicator 5.3 Marine 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)
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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		2,225	1,169	
Male		3,766	1,229	
Total	0	5,991	2,398	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
Recipient Country Government	SECTUR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		1002753
Recipient Country Government	SECTUR	Grant	Investment mobilized		1085106
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized		75000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		4000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized		22000
Donor Agency	Australian Embassy	Grant	Investment mobilized		17278
Other	Biodiversity Fund	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		12685
Civil Society Organization	Coral Reef Alliance	Grant	Investment mobilized		4639
Civil Society Organization	Gonzalo Rio Arronte Foundation	Grant	Investment mobilized		261111

Civil Society Organization	MARFund	Grant	Investment mobilized		35500
Civil Society Organization	North American Wetland Conservation Act	Grant	Investment mobilized		370167
Civil Society Organization	Plant for the Planet	Grant	Investment mobilized		23333
Civil Society Organization	The Nature Conservancy	Grant	Investment mobilized		68889
Civil Society Organization	GeoSphere Austria	Grant	Investment mobilized		22222
Private Sector	Coca Cola Foundation	Grant	Investment mobilized		16667
Civil Society Organization	Mayan Community Tourism Network	Grant	Investment mobilized		55556
Private Sector	HSBC	Grant	Investment mobilized		138889
Private Sector	IBEROSTAR	Grant	Investment mobilized		24444
Private Sector	SACTUN	Grant	Investment mobilized		255556
Private Sector	ADO Foundation	Grant	Investment mobilized		47222
Donor Agency	USA Consulate in Merida	Grant	Investment mobilized		9444
Civil Society Organization	WWF	Grant	Investment mobilized		64222
Recipient Country Government	CONABIO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		13389
Civil Society Organization	Ocean Conservancy	Grant	Investment mobilized		14333
Private Sector	Velas Group	Grant	Investment mobilized		12222
Private Sector	Seven Eleven	Grant	Investment mobilized		2000

Civil Society Organization	IUCN	Grant	Investment mobilized		1111111
Recipient Country Government	Secretariat of Social Development of Quintana Roo (SEDES)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		1166667
Recipient Country Government	Quintana Roo Tourism Secretariat (SEDETUR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		277778
Recipient Country Government	Secretariat of Tourism and Economy of the Government of Baja California Sur (SETUE);	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		1500000
Recipient Country Government	SEPUIM Baja California Sur	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		500000
Civil Society Organization	UABCS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		800000
Recipient Country Government	Los Cabos Municipal Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		50000
Recipient Country Government	Los Cabos Municipal Planning Institute (IMPLAN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		30000
Recipient Country Government	CONABIO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		65000
Recipient Country Government	CONANP	Other	Investment mobilized		100000
Private Sector	Elijo Santiago	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		30000
Civil Society Organization	ISLA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		300000
Civil Society Organization	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		29198
Civil Society Organization	Oaxacan Fund for Nature Conservation ("Fondo Oaxaqueño")	In-kind	Investment mobilized		30064
Recipient Country Government	Secretariat of Economic Development Oaxaca (SEDECO)	In-kind	Investment mobilized		11025
Recipient Country Government	Huatulco Municipal Government	In-kind	Investment mobilized		565

Recipient Country Government	Chacahua Lagoons National Park	In-kind	Investment mobilized		11293
Total Co-financing				0.00	9,671,328.00

Comments

From the table above it can be seen that, at government level, co-financing of 12.5% of the planned amount has been achieved, both in-kind and recurrent expenditure. Co-financing is low at the government level. CSOs are reporting more than 50% of what was planned, which is considered adequate at the midterm of the project. It is worth noting that co-financing from the private sector was not foreseen and in the MTR, more than half a million dollars are being reported from different companies in the territories. This is undoubtedly a very good sign. As for UNDP and other international donor agencies, the project is reporting 160% over what was originally planned. The numbers presented indicate that the project has a problem with co-financing. Overall, the project has achieved 18.16% of the total planned. According to the documentation reviewed, and the interviews conducted, there is a very clear explanation as shown in table 19 presented by the PMU. This table shows the new co-financiers achieved by the project actors. This is due to the time elapsed from project design to the actual start-up of the project. It is therefore recommended to develop a realistic co-financing strategy, to include clear dates when all partners (SECTUR, ASK, ISLA and WWF) should provide information. The PMU should generate a clear, specific format showing the amounts to be reported per year per stakeholder.

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Medium/Moderate	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

It can be verified in the PIRs that the project is monitoring the risks. In both PIRs, in the 'I. Risk Management' section, the risks to be paid attention to are listed. These are not linked to the table above. Rather, they are more operational risks of the project, such as the non-renewal of the Coordinator, the need to increase control over the implementing partners due to UNDP's doubts about its management capacity (PIR 2023, p. 64); strengthening the capacity of implementing partners, implementation of adaptation measures, etc. From the analysis of the minutes of the 6 Project Board meetings carried out since the beginning of the project, it can be seen that the implementing partners have been asked on 3 occasions for an update on the subject of risks. Likewise, the prodoc also includes the possibility of having some kind of impact on potential Docusign Envelope ID: D4FD6979-1BEA-4C02-996F-EE4526EAEAAF 52 macro-projects (which are now already a reality) that could affect the pilot areas, for example, the Mayan Train in Q.ROO or the Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec ('Trans-Isthmus Railway') in OAX. This possibility was ruled out both in the project start-up report and in the Project Board. However, although the project does not have any capacity to influence, either positive or negative, these macro-projects, they must

be monitored to collect information that may be useful in the event of a violation of biodiversity and its conservation in these areas.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category

M and E Document

Title

MTR Mexico (GEF 9613 / UNDP 5766)
