



## **Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

10674

#### **Project Type**

FSP

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT/NGI**

**CBIT No**

**NGI No**

#### **Project Title**

Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve

#### **Countries**

Nicaragua

#### **Agency(ies)**

FAO

#### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)

#### **Executing Partner Type**

Government

#### **GEF Focal Area**

Biodiversity

#### **Taxonomy**

Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Mainstreaming, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Tourism, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Tropical Rain Forests, Biomes, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing

models, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Private Sector, Stakeholders, Public Campaigns, Communications, Community Based Organization, Civil Society, Academia, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Capacity Development, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Innovation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation

**Sector**

Mixed & Others

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 0

**Submission Date**

9/28/2020

**Expected Implementation Start**

4/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

3/31/2027

**Duration**

60In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

282,874.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

| <b>Objectives/Programs</b>    | <b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>  | <b>Trust Fund</b> | <b>GEF Amount(\$)</b> | <b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b> |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| BD-1-1                        | Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors   | GET               | 1,000,000.00          | 4,865,992.00             |
| BD-2-7                        | Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate | GET               | 1,977,626.00          | 9,623,113.00             |
| <b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b> |   |                   | <b>2,977,626.00</b>   | <b>14,489,105.00</b>     |

## B. Project description summary

### Project Objective

To conserve globally important biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (RBIM) in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities

| <b>Project Component</b> | <b>Financing Type</b> | <b>Expected Outcomes</b> | <b>Expected Outputs</b> | <b>Trust Fund</b> | <b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b> | <b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| Project Component  | Financing Type       | Expected Outcomes   | Expected Outputs   | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--|----------------------|---|--|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Strengthening the enabling environment to improve the governance and management of the Indio Maiz Biological Reserve (RBIM) | Technical Assistance | 1.1 Existing legal, regulatory and institutional instruments and mechanisms are applied with support from national, regional, municipal and Indigenous territorial authorities, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, for the purpose of facilitating integrated landscape planning, management and governance in RBIM conservation, protection and environmental / natural resources restoration areas. | 1.1.1 Five-year Management Plan and Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) for the RBIM developed and underway with MARENA guidance, jointly with central and regional government institutions (GRACCS), Rama and Kriol ITG authorities, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities.<br><br>1.1.2 Provisions whereby a landscape approach to the RBIM buffer zone is used, including landscape restoration, forest conservation, protection of ecosystemic goods and services and support to climate-resilient production systems in the surrounding area. | GET        | 468,700.00                | 3,835,448.00               |
|  |                      | 1.2 <i>Indicator:</i> Ha under the RBIM Management Plan, leading to the conservation and sustainable use of the high-value  |  |            |                           |                            |

| Project Component   | Financing Type       | Expected Outcomes   | Expected Outputs  | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|---|----------------------|---|---|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. Capacity-strengthening among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity. | Technical Assistance | <p>2.1 Personnel capacity-strengthening at MARENA, government institutions, regional authorities, Rama and Kriol territorial authorities, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities, for the purposes of RBIM management and conserving biodiversity.</p> <p><i>Indicator: An increase in institutional capacity to manage the RBIM, measured using the METT indicators found in the national methodology approved in Ministerial Resolution 38/2008.</i></p> <p><b>Target:</b><br/>Acceptable; 90-100% satisfactory.</p> <p><i>Indicator:</i></p> | <p>2.1.1 Integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation Capacity-strengthening Plan, designed and implemented with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in support of the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan.</p> <p>2.1.2 Promotion and strengthening of scientific research, including Indigenous knowledge, intended to generate and transfer knowledge and undertake the research programmes described in the RBIM Management Plan.</p> | GET        | 400,000.00                | 2,363,482.00               |

| Project Component  | Financing Type       | Expected Outcomes   | Expected Outputs   | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--|----------------------|---|--|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3. Participatory management of the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (RBIM). | Technical Assistance | <p>3.1 Increased restoration and improved conservation of natural resources, ecosystem functions and resilience in the RBIM.</p> <p><i>Indicator:</i><br/>Number of forest ha undergoing assisted natural regeneration processes.</p> <p><b>Target:</b><br/>108,674 ha (100% of Rama and Kriol Indigenous women participate in women-headed forest protection and restoration activities.</p> <p><i>Indicator:</i><br/>tCo2eq avoided / eliminated over the five-year period.</p> <p><b>Target:</b><br/>3,300,000 tCo2eq (CORE indicator 6)</p> | <p>3.1.1 Implementation of environmental restoration activities with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, as per the Management Plan and APOs.</p> <p>3.1.2 Improvement of livelihood opportunities and diversified sources of income, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women involved in the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan and the APOs.</p> <p>3.1.3. Capacity-strengthening in local communities, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in support of the</p> | GET        | 1,497,111.00              | 6,325,790.00               |

| Project Component                                  | Financing Type       | Expected Outcomes  | Expected Outputs   | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--|----------------------|--|--|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4. Knowledge management, follow-up and evaluation. | Technical Assistance | <p>4.1 Improved information and knowledge management in RBIM, including the status of biological diversity and the ecosystem, and benefits to communities by using technological tools and participatory, inclusive monitoring by Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women.</p> <p><i>Indicator: An entirely functional and operational landscape information and knowledge management system that informs decision-making processes.</i></p> <p><b>Target: 1</b></p> <p>Indicator: Results of monitoring the status of biodiversity and ecosystemic goods and services, training and</p> | <p>4.1.1 The National Environmental Information System (SINIA) is strengthened through its information node, knowledge management and monitors (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystemic goods and services in the RBIM, including access to dissemination and communications materials.</p> <p>4.1.2 Implementation of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system, informed by a gender-based approach and social inclusion of the young and Indigenous and Afrodescendant people, subject to compliance with social and environmental safeguards.</p> <p>4.1.3 Project results and lessons learnt are shared among</p> | GET        | 470,115.00                | 1,274,426.00               |



| Project Component                    | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund          | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Sub Total (\$)</b>                |                |                   |                  |                     | <b>2,835,926.00</b>       | <b>13,799,146.00</b>       |
| <b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b> |                |                   |                  |                     |                           |                            |
|                                      |                | GET               |                  | 141,700.00          |                           | 689,959.00                 |
| <b>Sub Total(\$)</b>                 |                |                   |                  | <b>141,700.00</b>   |                           | <b>689,959.00</b>          |
| <b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>        |                |                   |                  | <b>2,977,626.00</b> |                           | <b>14,489,105.00</b>       |

Please provide justification

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

| <b>Sources of Co-financing</b> | <b>Name of Co-financier</b>   | <b>Type of Co-financing</b> | <b>Investment Mobilized</b> | <b>Amount(\$)</b>    |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Recipient Country Government   | Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)                  | Public Investment           | Investment mobilized        | 12,528,108.00        |
| Recipient Country Government   | Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)                  | In-kind                     | Recurrent expenditures      | 1,500,000.00         |
| Recipient Country Government   | Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA) | In-kind                     | Recurrent expenditures      | 54,000.00            |
| Recipient Country Government   | Nicaraguan Tourism Institute (INTUR)  | In-kind                     | Recurrent expenditures      | 306,997.00           |
| GEF Agency                     | FAO   | In-kind                     | Recurrent expenditures      | 100,000.00           |
| <b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>  |   |                             |                             | <b>14,489,105.00</b> |

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

The investment mobilized by MARENA reflects a combination of public investment expenditures related to projects that will be implemented in the geographic area of interest. The government of Nicaragua (GON) will mobilize resources in support of GEF through the project titled "Integrated climate action for reduced deforestation and strengthened resilience in the Bosawas and Rio San Juan Biospheres" (Bio-CLIMA). It was approved during the 27th Meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board (9-12 November 2020). The Bio-CLIMA project implementing agency is the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). This project and Bio-CLIMA will finance activities that contribute to the implementation of the Nicaraguan ENDE-REDD+ strategy on the Caribbean Coast, using the programmatic approach detailed in Part II. The co-financing for Bio-CLIMA combines a donation and a loan, and involves multiple activities. The project will support the planning and management of landscape restoration, forest conservation and climate-resistant production. Landscape restoration will take place by means of silvopastoral and diversified cacao agroforestry systems on land outside the protected areas (PAs). It also includes financing for community forest management and community forest restoration projects in Indigenous territories. The amount provided by the GCF project represents an estimate based on currently available information. This estimate will be validated during the first year of project implementation, as it is part of a larger fund for Nicaragua.

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

| <b>Agency</b>                    | <b>Trust Fund</b> | <b>Country</b> | <b>Focal Area</b> | <b>Programming of Funds</b> | <b>Amount(\$)</b>   | <b>Fee(\$)</b>    | <b>Total(\$)</b>    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| FAO                              | GET               | Nicaragua      | Biodiversity      | BD STAR Allocation          | 2,977,626           | 282,874           | 3,260,500.00        |
| <b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b> |                   |                |                   |                             | <b>2,977,626.00</b> | <b>282,874.00</b> | <b>3,260,500.00</b> |

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

100,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

9,500

| <b>Agency</b>                  | <b>Trust Fund</b> | <b>Country</b> | <b>Focal Area</b> | <b>Programming of Funds</b> | <b>Amount(\$)</b> | <b>Fee(\$)</b>  | <b>Total(\$)</b>  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| FAO                            | GET               | Nicaragua      | Biodiversity      | BD STAR Allocation          | 100,000           | 9,500           | <b>109,500.00</b> |
| <b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b> |                   |                |                   |                             | <b>100,000.00</b> | <b>9,500.00</b> | <b>109,500.00</b> |

## Core Indicators

**Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 316,720.62           | 316,720.00                       | 0.00                 | 0.00                |

**Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0.00                 | 0.00                             | 0.00                       | 0.00                      |

| 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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 316,720.62           | 316,720.20                       | 0.00                       | 0.00                      |

| 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) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Akula National Park<br>Indio-Maiz | 12568930628 | SelectOther   | 316,720.62           | 316,720.20                       | 0.00                       | 0.00                      | 56.00                                    |                              |                             |

**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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 0.00                 | 0.00                             | 0.00                 | 0.00                |

**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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                      |                                  |                      |                     |

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)**

| 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 Forest (HCVF) loss avoided**

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

**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

| Title | Submitted |
|-------|-----------|
|       |           |

**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 <sub>2</sub> e (direct)   | 3300000  | 3300000              | 0                 | 0                |
| Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect) | 0        | 0                    | 0                 | 0                |

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

| Total Target Benefit                                 | (At PIF)  | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|--|-----------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)   | 3,300,000 | 3,300,000            |                   |                  |
| Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect) |           |                      |                   |                  |
| Anticipated start year of accounting                 | 2022      | 2022                 |                   |                  |

| Total Target Benefit   | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Duration of accounting | 5        | 5                    |                   |                  |

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 <sub>2</sub> e (direct)   |          |                      |                   |                  |
| Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect) |          |                      |                   |                  |
| Anticipated start year of accounting                 |          |                      |                   |                  |
| Duration of accounting                               |          |                      |                   |                  |

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

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

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

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

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

|        | Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (Achieved at MTR) | Number (Achieved at TE) |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Female | 2,000                    | 2,000                                |                          |                         |
| Male   | 3,000                    | 3,000                                |                          |                         |
| Total  | 5000                     | 5000                                 | 0                        | 0                       |

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided



## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### 1.a Project Description

- 1) Environmental problems and / or global adoption difficulties, fundamental causes and barriers to be addressed (systems description)

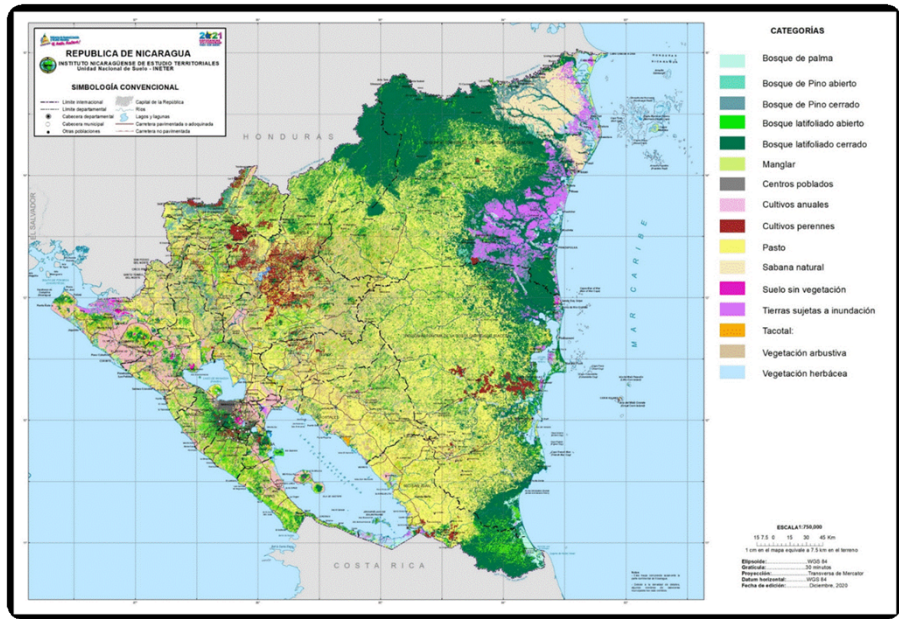
#### 1.1 Deforestation, forest degradation and soil use changes in Nicaragua

##### Context

1. Nicaragua boasts the second largest tropical forest area on the American continent. It is extremely rich in ecosystems and biological diversity. Figure 1 is a map of soil use cut at 2018 and published by the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER) in August 2021.[1]<sup>1</sup> As can be seen, the most common types of coverage are (i) pastureland; (ii) closed and open forests; (iii) brushland; and (iv) seasonal and perennial crops. Taken together, these make up 72.1% of soil use nationwide.

2. It was found that in 2018 the country's forest cover was of 4,540,467.07 ha., distributed in four types of forest: broadleaf, coniferous, palm and mangrove. There are 3,045,040.66 ha of closed broadleaf forests and 1,102,346.16 ha of open broadleaf forest, located mainly in the Caribbean macro-region (most in the two biosphere reserves). Together they make up 32.02 % of the country's landmass. Most of the forest conservation area is in Indigenous territories and protected areas, including the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve.

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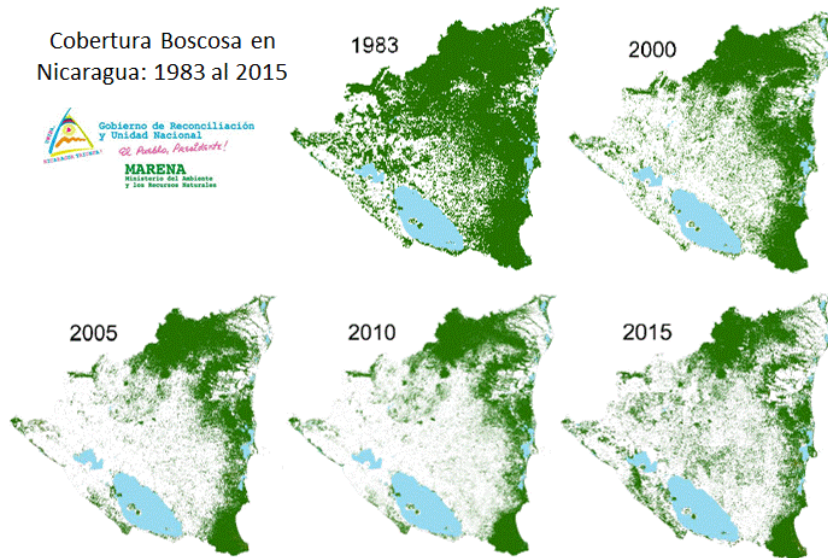


**Figure 1.** Nationwide soil use map, INETER 2018 (the RBIM is located in the south-eastern corner)

3. In 2020, Nicaragua presented its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and absorptions baseline generated by deforestation and forest degradation for the 2005-2015 period to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The most recent report on nationwide soil use change (MARENA, 2018), shows that during the period from 2000 to 2015 the country lost 100,815 ha of primary forest annually. Still, the deforestation rate fell by 52% as compared to the years from 1983 to 2000, when it was 208,303 ha annually. According to a diagnostic of the forest sector (IADB 2018[2]<sup>2</sup>), in 1969 there was some type of forest covering 76% of the country, (98,982 km<sup>2</sup>), while the agriculture and cattle-raising surface did not surpass 8.6% (11,148 km<sup>2</sup>). In the year 2000 forest cover had dropped to 42%, with 36% of the land surface being used for agriculture and cattle-raising. By 2010, forest cover had been reduced to 31%, and land use for agriculture and cattle-raising was beyond the 50% mark. Another percentage point was lost in the five-year period from 2010 to 2015, as forest cover fell to 39,078 km<sup>2</sup>, or 30% of the country's landmass (Figure 2). During that same time, however, the net percentage of deforestation was significantly reduced to 14,021 ha per annum, due to the recovery of forest cover in parts of the country other than those which were deforested (MARENA, 2019). Gross deforestation for the period was 528,844 ha or 105,769 ha annually, mainly due to the loss of broadleaf and coniferous forests to agriculture and cattle-raising use and *tacotales* (brushland) (IADB, 2018).

4. As can be seen, the loss of natural forests continues to be a challenge for Nicaragua. The South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS) and the province of R<sup>o</sup> San Juan (project areas of influence) have one of the highest deforestation rates, as shown by the soil use changes recorded

between 1969 and 2015, which was also included in Nicaragua's first report to the UNFCCC in 2019.[3]<sup>3</sup>

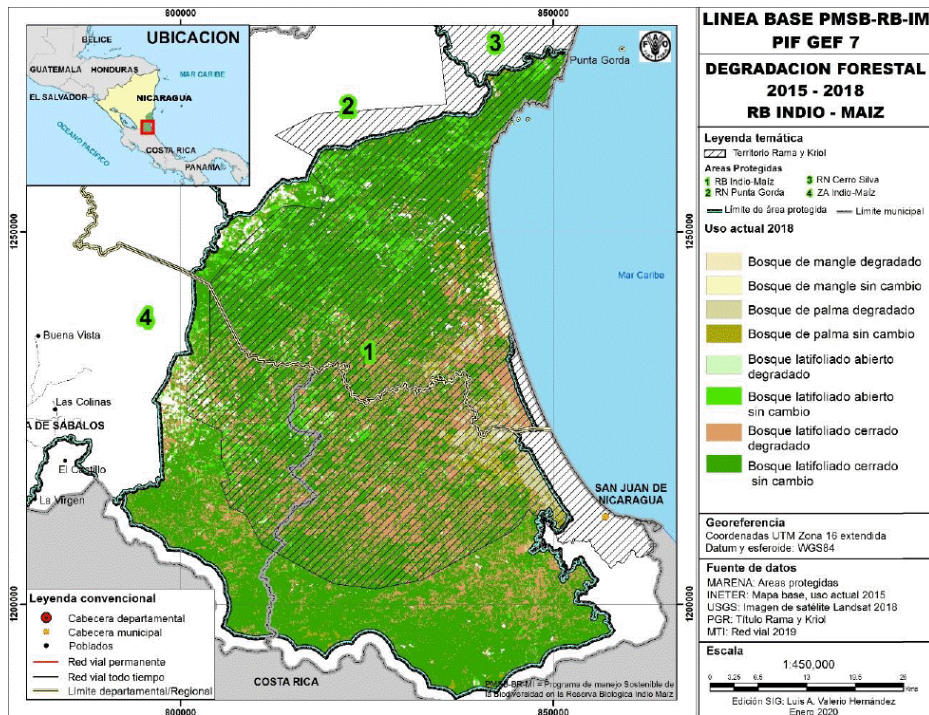


**Figure 2.** Dynamics of forest cover in Nicaragua between 1983 and 2015 (the RBIM is located in the south-eastern corner)

### The Indio-Maʼz Biological Reserve

5. This project will concentrate on the Indio-Maʼz Biological Reserve (RBIM), which is part of the Five Great Mesoamerican Forests Alliance, a Central American environmental initiative launched at COP25 by SICA-CCAD[4]<sup>4</sup> and the AFOLU 2040 initiatives, the aims of which are to restore and conserve 10 million ha of degraded land and ecosystems by the year 2030 and to reach carbon-neutrality in the AFOLU sector by 2040[5]<sup>5</sup>.

6. According to the soil use baseline study prepared by FAO during the project preparation process (see appendix 1), the results of the current soil use map (2018) indicate that the RBIM protected area has a total surface of 316,720.62 ha. Its core zone has 94.5% forest coverage, consisting of three types of forest, namely broadleaf, palm and mangrove. Closed broadleaf forest coverage is of 218,304.70 ha (68.9%), followed by open broadleaf (29,212.70 ha, or 9.2%) and regenerating broadleaf forest (29,687.10 ha, or 9.4%). When compared to the year 2015, total forest coverage was reduced by 15.9%, and it is assumed this is linked to two extreme external events: Hurricane Otto in November 2016 and a forest fire in 2018, begun by the burning of an agricultural parcel that affected some a 5,800 ha, of which 2,965 ha are located in the RBIM.



**Figure 3:** Estimate of forest degradation in the RBIM (2018). Current soil use study, FAO-2020.

7. As mentioned, degradation of the RBIM between 2015 and 2018 was of 15.9%, presumably caused by Hurricane Otto. Closed broadleaf forest was reduced from 84.9% in 2015 to 68.9% in 2018, while open broadleaf forest increased slightly (1.2%). It is estimated that 12.6% of the Reserve's surface is in the process of recovery and has been classified as regenerating forest.

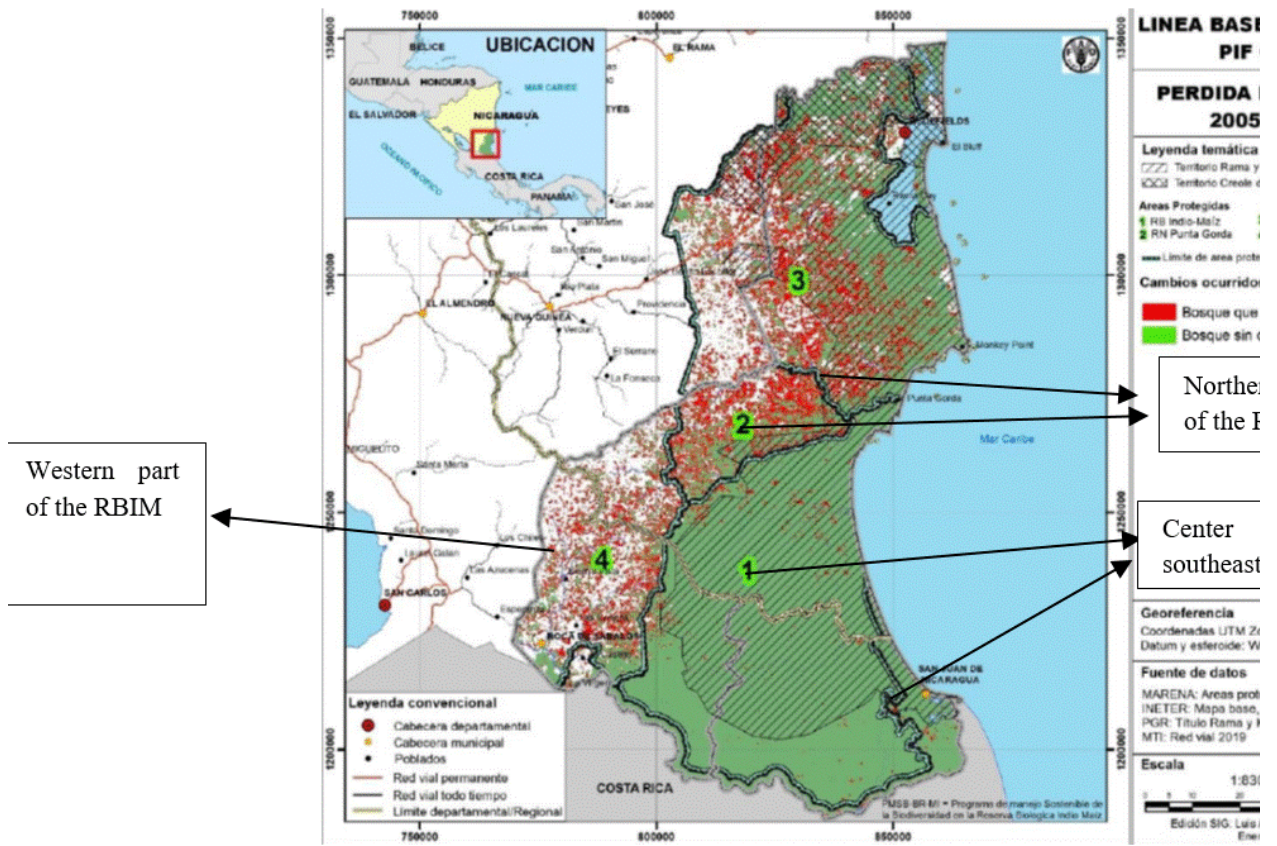
### 1.2 Direct causes of forest degradation and deforestation in the RBIM

8. The study of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation made by MARENA in 2019<sup>[6]</sup> and the document on Forest Emissions Reference Levels (FERL) for the 2005-2015 decade,<sup>[7]</sup> indicate that the direct causes of forest loss are related to the expansion of the agricultural frontier and extensive cattle-ranching. Inside the RBIM there are three different processes underway that threaten its conservation. These are described by location in the Reserve:

- ? **Centre and southeast.** This area is in the Reserve's core zone and is threatened by the occurrence of emergencies or natural environmental disasters such as Hurricane Otto. There is also a small area that was affected by a fire which originated in the burning of an agricultural

parcel in the municipality of San Juan. These two phenomena are the main contributors to forest degradation.

- ? **North.** The most significant threats in this area are the two natural reserves adjacent to the RBIM's northern border in the municipality of Bluefields. In these adjacent areas a considerable amount of forest has been lost to changes in soil use, leading to production systems characterized by low technological capacity, as local populations have limited access to capital, credit and technical assistance.
  
- ? **West.** This area borders on the RBIM in the municipality of El Castillo, where the expansion of the agricultural frontier has been the main cause of deforestation. Landless persons and poor farmers have settled in the area next to the Reserve, where they produce crops, beef and milk at a low cost but at the expense of deforestation.



Western part of the RBIM

Northern part of the RBIM

Center southeast

Western part of the RBIM

Northern part of the RBIM

**Figure 4.** Main threats to natural resources in the RBIM

9. In the northern and western part of the Reserve (buffer zone) it was found that the landscapes in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS) and the province of Río San Juan (project areas of influence) have been deforested and consist of mosaics of fragmented forests, cropland and pastures. The causes for the loss of natural forests are changes in soil use to cattle-raising systems, especially in the two natural reserves on its northern border in Bluefields municipality and in the municipality of El Castillo, where a considerable amount of forest has been lost.

10. While the establishment of cattle-raising systems, oil palm and cacao plantations are very important for the Nicaraguan economy and its foreign trade, there are degradation processes underway in these two parts of the Reserve to which a halt must be put. The GFE-FAO financed FOLUR Nicaragua project (GEFID 10599) has found that deforested land management practices in agricultural and cattle-raising systems are not sustainable. From the point of view of farmers and local technicians,<sup>[8]</sup> degradation takes place through a process that begins with deforestation, mainly for the purpose of introducing cattle, followed by poor or non-existent pastureland management, including slashing-and-burning, which is done for economic and cultural reasons. The failure to implement good agricultural practices leads to the loss of soil fertility, and as it produces less, more agrochemicals are used. The direct impact is soil loss, a reduction in biodiversity, less water sources and the sedimentation of rivers and lagoons.

11. To the deforestation generated by the establishment of cattle-raising systems must be added poor pasturing practices, such as planting grass on fragile land (slopes); poorly adapted pastures; overpasturing during the rainy season; uncontrolled and frequent burning of pastures; and the exhaustion of nutrients (Spain and Gualdrón, 1991). Taken together, these make it so the agricultural and cattle-raising practices, in particular those followed small farmers, become almost unproductive, as yields drop and costs increase, while opportunities to diversify livelihoods and ecosystemic services diminish.

12. Among the indirect or underlying causes of deforestation in the project's area of influence are: (i) limited access to credit as a result of complex value chains that weaken integration and the forging of alliances among financial institutions; (ii) local and international markets with little emphasis on quality or method of production; (iii) low prices of land and forest goods and services; (iv) inefficient and low-yield productive chains, such as that of timber, to which not much value is added; (v) environmental services for which there is no demand on the local market, while in international markets demand is there is shrinking; (vi) poverty and migration; and (vii) other matters related to limited technical know-how and technological capacity, scant associative culture, and farm management methods based on empirical knowledge and transmitted over generations that make innovation practically impossible.

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13. The Nicaraguan legal and policy framework for natural resources and forestry management is solid, but enforcement or use is inconsistent and partial. This generates gaps in coverage, bureaucratic procedures and individualized interpretations. The availability, quality and exchange of information regarding soils and natural resources nationwide but specifically on the Caribbean side is often dispersed among the various institutions. This makes strategic planning, timely decision-making and daily natural resources management more difficult. The lack of updated or real-time information at both regional and local levels also makes it more challenging to find timely solutions to deforestation and possible conflicts over land tenancy and more difficult to take decisions regarding long-term management and planning based on reliable information.

### 1.3 Opportunities for forest restoration in the RBIM buffer zone

14. **Link between forest restoration and the Nicaragua Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).**<sup>[9]</sup> Nicaragua joined the 20x20 initiative in 2015 with the aim of restoring some 2.8 million ha in a context of watershed management, improving the resilience of rural livelihoods vis-à-vis climate change and conserving biodiversity. These hectares are distributed among a number of actions related to forest conservation, restoration, management and protection; by taking these measures, the country is taking actions to recover land degraded due to changes in soil use.

15. The restoration measures set forth in the country's programmes and projects are keyed toward the establishment of sustainable productive systems that articulate biological corridors and restore landscapes and ecosystems by increasing biodiversity and other ecosystemic services. To meet this objective, Nicaragua has, through its National Production, Consumption and Commerce System (SNPCC), designed productive strategies for cattle-raising and cacao plantations,<sup>[10]</sup><sup>10</sup> with emphasis on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, while promoting best crop management practices and incorporating low-emission production initiatives that simultaneously contribute to environmental restoration.

16. Considering the foregoing and a project portfolio under negotiation, including Bio-CLIMA, FOLUR Nicaragua, the project titled "Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the Municipalities of El Castillo and the Río San Juan Biosphere Reserve", and this project, it is proposed in the NDC for the forest, soil use and soil use changes sectors to achieve a 20%

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reduction in emissions by 2030 in relation to the baseline, by means of actions taken to restore, manage and conserve forests.

#### 1.4 Barriers to be overcome by the project

17. In order to develop sustainable and integrated biodiversity management in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve the following key barriers have been identified that must be tackled by project (see Table 1):

**Table 1: Restrictions and barriers**

| <b>National requirements for the sustainable integrated management of biodiversity in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve</b>                      | <b>Current restrictions and barriers</b>  |
|--|---|
| ? <b>Barrier 1:</b> The RBIM lacks a management planning instrument.   | ? There is no plan for effective management of the protected area (PA).<br>? Existing territorial and communal development plans are outdated.<br>? The Rama?Kriol ITG norms are outdated.  |
| ? <b>Barrier 2:</b> Strengthening interinstitutional capacity at communal, municipal, regional and national levels for RBIM management purposes. | ? Weak interinstitutional coordination and technical capacity at communal, municipal, regional and national levels for the management, protection, conservation and restoration of the RBIM.<br>? Institutional presence is limited (travel costs are high, means of transportation are scarce and distances are long), all of which restrict action on the ground. |
| ? <b>Barrier 3:</b> Restore degraded land in the buffer and core zones, and avoid deforestation in the latter.                                   | ? Weak implementation of sustainable and climate-smart practices that prevent and mitigate degradation (e.g. silvopastoral systems).<br>? There is a gap between deforestation-free commitments and the scale of actions needed in production processes and the necessity for broad-based adoption of sustainable land management practices at landscape level.     |



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| <p>? <b>Barrier 4:</b> Integrated territorial and sectoral approaches to tourism, agriculture, cattle-raising and forestry, as per the Caribbean Coast Development Plan.</p>  | <p>There is a gap between the government's programmes, private financing and producers / farmers / households that administrate the production systems which affect landscapes in areas adjacent to the RBIM.</p> <p>Weak intersectoral planning. The same is true as regards planning with actors in the aforementioned areas.</p>  |
| <p>? <b>Barrier 5:</b> Financial sustainability</p>   | <p>? Insufficient availability of financial resources to cover RBIM management and monitoring activities.</p> <p>? There are no investment plans or financial resources for RBIM conservation activities.</p> <p>? Low entrepreneurial capacity, limited access to credit and technical assistance for the development of conservation-based livelihood alternatives (ecotourism).</p> |
| <p>? <b>Barrier 6:</b> Develop effective monitoring demanding to a reduction in vulnerabilities and biodiversity conservation.</p>  | <p>? Weak information and monitoring system with indicators that serve to evaluate threats, vulnerabilities and the state of biodiversity conservation in the RBIM.</p>  |
| <p>Analysis derived from several sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of the main obstacles faced by REDD+ and the Emissions Reduction Programme Document (ERDP) of 31-07-19: <a href="http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ERDP_ESPA%C3%91OL_310719_VF.pdf">http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ERDP_ESPA%C3%91OL_310719_VF.pdf</a></li> <li>- Sectoral Analysis Study of Cattle-Raising (milk/beef) and Cacao Chain, FOLUR Project PPG, by FAO and MARENA, November 2020.</li> <li>- Rapid Evaluation of Land Degradation, in Five Municipalities of RACCS and the Province of R?o San Juan, January, 2021.</li> <li>- Current RBIM Soil Use Baseline Study, FAO 2021. FOLUR Project PPG.</li> </ul> |  |

Source: FAO, 2021

**Barrier 1:** Create a planning instrument for sustainable RBIM management

18. There exists no protected area management plan for the RBIM. A proposal for such a plan was drafted in 2015, but was ultimately not approved. The Rama-Kriol Indigenous Territorial Government has an Autonomous Territorial Development and Administration Plan (ATDAP, 2009), but it is not updated, nor are the ITG statutes and governance norms. During this project's consultation process it

was noted that it is in fact necessary to prepare an RBIM Management Plan and to update the ATDAP as well as the ITG governance statutes.

**Barrier 2:** Strengthen institutional barriers to RBIM management

19. At the project preparation workshops, local actors consulted said that the scarce institutional presence in the territory is one of the main barriers to the implementation of conservation, restoration and sustainable management practices. Given that national, regional and municipal government institutions have only scarce availability of human, material, technical, logistical and financial resources by which to ensure a presence in the RBIM, it is extremely difficult for state or private entities to take permanent ownership of a long-term vision in support of RBIM management.

**Barrier 3:** Restore degraded land in the core and buffer zones, and avoid deforestation entirely in the core zone

20. The RBIM core zone is endangered by the lack of access to financing and incentives, so the Rama and Kriol Indigenous people diversify their livelihoods and accompany the planting of tree and brush species that are key to the dispersion of seeds and pollination, offer food year-round and catalyse the natural regeneration of the forest damaged by Hurricane Otto.

21. In the areas adjacent to the RBIM there are constraints regarding capacities, mainly among small and medium farmers, as concerns the implementation of more sustainable, deforestation-free, climate-smart production systems. Most of the Rama and Kriol people live north of the Reserve, near their main village on Rama Cay. Other Rama communities live along the banks and at the mouth of the Kukra River, where they face pressure from Mestizo colonizers, who have already occupied land in the Punta Gorda and Cerro Silva reserves, and are pressuring to continue due south into the RBIM. Little training is offered as concerns more sustainable, deforestation-free, climate-smart production systems, nor are any greenhouse gas emission reduction mechanisms in place along the value chains. In the case of cattle-ranching, there are weaknesses in the production system, ranging from few silvopastoral systems to little value being added to products such as milk (e.g. cheeses).

**Barrier 4:** Territorial and sectoral approaches are integrated

22. In general, the Mestizo agriculture and cattle-based economy predominates in the project's direct area of influence (RBIM buffer zone), not only due to the size of the population involved in these activities, but due to the value they generate. The main activity in this economy is raising cattle for beef, milk, cheese, followed by pig farming and the growing of maize, beans, cacao, oil palm and forest products. More recently there is growing investment in Robusta coffee plantations and a significant increase in items heretofore

unusual in the area, such as fruit, musaceans, vegetables and medicinal plants. This is related to the increase in the local population and consequent demand for more diversified foodstuffs.

23. In the municipality of El Castillo there are private investments by companies in monocultures such as oil palm, teak and acacia trees (for timber), coffee, cacao and citrus fruits. Cacao production is reported mainly in El Castillo, where there are four agricultural cooperatives producing some 610 ha of cacao and a cacao company (Agroindustrial del Río S.A.), which invested in 1,500 ha of cacao and has become an important source of employment in the municipality. Also significant are the 12,000 ha of oil palm that have been planted. The private investment in oil palm is located mainly in the western part of the municipality, relatively far away from the RBIM, but has activated a land market in which the company buys up land from farmers.

24. In south-western San Juan there is a small cattle-based development pole on the banks of the eponymous river. A report by the mayor's office states: "The communities of Jobo and Zapotal are known for raising cattle. The herds are small, but allow for a local beef and milk market in very reduced quantities" these are Mestizo families living on the banks of the river. They also grow crops for self-consumption, and may seasonally work in Costa Rica harvesting coffee" (San Juan mayor's office, 2020). San Juan also produces a large amount of coconuts, which are an important source of jobs in the community of Siempre Viva, in the north-eastern part of the municipality.

25. Bluefields is the RACCS regional headquarters, with a rapidly growing population currently estimated at 60,000. It is the main administrative centre in the region, hosting four levels of government: central, regional, municipal and Indigenous. The main seafood collection and processing companies are in Bluefields. Due to its urban development, cultural identity and history it also receives a large segment of tourists coming to the region.

26. Tourism in the project's area of influence has been growing in importance regarding employment and value generation. To grow the sector is one of the key pillars in Nicaragua's development strategy. Tourism in the area is closely related to access and any services the towns can offer tourists. Ecotourism may potentially prove to be a significant source of private investment in support of the conservation of the RBIM, but is thus far only incipient and operates at a relatively small scale (MARENA 2019).

27. In view of the situation described in the foregoing it can be said that planning is weak between sectors and with or between public and private actors in the area adjacent to the Reserve.

#### **Barrier 5: Financial sustainability**

28. The human, technical and financial resources assigned to cover follow-up, control, monitoring and reporting on the situation regarding biodiversity are too scarce to effectively undertake activities that overcome the threats, barriers and limitations existing in the RBIM. To achieve financial sustainability, a comprehensive and holistic approach is needed that takes into account the RBIM's economic contribution to local, sectoral and national development, while implementing strategies that increase income for activities such as tourism, payments for emission reductions (ENDE REDD + initiative) and other economic alternatives to improve the livelihoods of Indigenous and local populations.

#### **Barrier 6: Effective monitoring**

29. In the project area of intervention there is no information and monitoring system that uses indicators to evaluate threats, vulnerabilities and the state of biodiversity conservation in the Reserve.

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline project

### **2.1 Policy and institutional framework**

#### ***2.1.1 Relevant policies and strategies***

30. At international level, in addition to the country's commitments with several international environmental instruments (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar, among others), the government has committed itself over the past few years to ecologically restore 2.8 million ha of forest by 2020 (Bonn Challenge) and joined the "Restoration Declaration" (UNFCCC COP25). It also introduced, together with the other Central American countries, the "Five Great Mesoamerican Forests"<sup>[11]</sup> initiative, in which these work according to a joint agenda of nature-based solutions, including biodiversity and humans, intended to achieve real climate change mitigation. Participating regional governments ratified their commitment to implement the Caribbean Coast Development Plan, and the private sector has joined forest restoration efforts.

31. Nicaragua also has its National Human Development Plan (2018-2021) and a National Plan to Combat Poverty (2022-2026), which establishes priorities in the struggle against hunger and poverty. These two plans have for one of their pillars the sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change. The country's policy framework has recently been updated, including its

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Nationally Determined Contribution, sent to the UNFCCC in December 2020. In January 2019, Nicaragua presented its Forest Emissions Reference Levels for the 2005-2015 period, and in June 2021 created the National Climate Change Management System and established the principles and guidelines for the National Climate Change Policy by means of Presidential Decree 15-2021, which passed on 25 June 2021.[12]<sup>12</sup>

32. Nicaragua prepared a National Avoided Deforestation Program (ENDE-REDD+), a National Biodiversity Plan and an Action Plan for 2015-2020, and already has a national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy. The ENDE-REDD+ has six strategic lines and 37 lines of action, projected over a 22-year horizon (2018 to 2040). These are interrelated with public policy instruments, national and/or regional plans and programmes that seek to reduce forest degradation and deforestation rates. Among these are reforestation campaigns, a declaration of care and stewardship of private forest reserves and the updating of the country's protected areas management plans. In order to implement the national ENDE-REDD+ strategy, it is planned to take staggered actions, taking into account economic resources, the direct and indirect causes of forest degradation and deforestation, and the current stock of natural forests. It is for this reason that the Caribbean Coast has been selected as the top priority zone.

33. The Caribbean Coast and the Upper Wangki and Bocay Special Development Zone updated their Development Strategy and Plan, aligning it to ENDE-REDD+ and the Emission Reductions Strategy.

### *2.1.2 Investments baseline: programmes and projects*

34. For the purpose of complying with the National Human Development Programme 2018-2021 on matters related to environmental policy and natural resources protection, MARENA has a twenty-project portfolio with several multilateral and bilateral funds, for a total of USD 482.051.500, to be executed from 2020 to 2028.[13]<sup>13</sup> The GON expects to mobilize around US\$ 20.8 million in co-financing for the RBIM project.

35. **Bio-CLIMA Project** (US\$ 110 million, financed by GCF / CABEI), in support of (i) governance efforts to reduce deforestation in the RBIM buffer zone; (ii) restoration of productive land (including the establishment of cacao agroforestry systems in RBIM border areas; (iii) sustainable intensification of cattle-raising outside the PAs; and (iv) local capacity-strengthening leading to sustainable forest management through sustainable community enterprises; commercial Communal Forest Management (CFM) sub-projects; and Communal Forest Restoration (CFR) in Indigenous territories outside the PAs.

36. The Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve project will begin its implementation in year 1, just like the Bioclima project, and this represents a good opportunity to establish the expected synergies and complementarities as follows:

| <b>Component of Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (GEF Funding)</b>   | <b>Activities of Bio-CLIMA Project (GCF)</b>   | <b>Articulation with Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (GEF)</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Component 1.</b><br/>Strengthen an environment conducive to ensuring better governance and management of the Reserve.</p> <p>(Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2)</p> | <p><b>Activity 1.1.1.1</b> Assist small producers to formulate Land Use-Management Plans (LUMPs) with business plans (BPs).</p> <p><b>Activity 1.1.1.2</b> Assist indigenous communities to formulate Territorial Development Plans (TDPs) including business plans (BPs).</p> <p><b>Activity 1.1.1.3</b> Assist middle sized producers to formulate Land Use-Management Plans (LUMPs) with business plans (BPs)</p> | <p>GCF activities will complement the efforts of the GEF funding, by providing support to small producers and indigenous communities to formulate business and territorial plans.</p> <p>The plans developed under the GCF project will align with the Management Plan (MP) and the Autonomous Territorial Administration and Development Plan (PADA) as proposed under Output 1.1.1 and will take into account the forest protection norms as determined by Output 1.1.2 of the GEF project.</p> <p>The result of this synergy between the two project will be the development of small-scale business and landscape management plans (from small and middle size producers and indigenous peoples) that align with the broader management framework as developed by the GEF funding.</p> |

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| <p><b>Component 1.</b><br/>Strengthen an environment conducive to ensuring better governance and management of the Reserve.</p> <p>(Output 1.1.3)</p> | <p><b>Activity 1.1.1.4</b> of Bioclima, which focuses on facilitating the celebration and formalization of landscape and forest restoration conservation agreements. These dialogue and agreement processes within the framework of the Bioclima project will be facilitated by independent and specialized entities in charge of this process that will be selected and supervised by MARENA as the Executing Entity. To this end, coordinated action and collaboration will be sought with the Property Institute of the Attorney General's Office (Attorney General's Office) and its Second Land Management Project (PRODEPII); as well as with the Directorate for Alternative Conflict Resolution of the Supreme Court of Justice (DIRAC of the Supreme Court of Justice) that has worked in mediation in land tenure conflicts in the Caribbean Coast and are recognized by indigenous organizations.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.3</b> Public-private dialogue and cooperation strengthened. Activities will include support to the Ministry of Family and Rural Economy (MEFCCA), to MARENA and partner institutions to convene relevant public, private and community actors to improve the climate for sustainable investment opportunities between the private sector and indigenous communities and farmer cooperatives.</p> | <p>The series of dialogues under activities 1.1.1.4 and Output 2.1.3 of the bio-CLIMA project will serve as baseline to support the Outcome of the GEF Funded project 1.1.3 by promoting conservation agreements and delivering public-private dialogues that will serve as inputs to the interinstitutional and multi-sectorial dialogues to improve the governance in the RBIM.</p> |
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| <p><b>Component 2.</b></p> <p>Capacity-strengthening among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity.</p> <p>(Output 2.1.1)</p> | <p><b>Output 3.1.1</b> Technical personnel, extension workers and promoters trained. Technical personnel, extension workers and promoters from environmental authorities and public extension services present at the regional and local level will be trained in the use and implementation of the new land and territory climate responsive planning instruments (LUMP-b and the TDP-s), legal and normative framework and Productive Landscape Restoration Models that will be introduced by the Project.</p> | <p>The series of training proposed under the bio-CLIMA output 3.1.1 will complement the efforts of the GEF funded project to build capacities on landscape-management under the output 2.1.1:</p> <p>Integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation Capacity-strengthening Plan, designed and implemented with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in support of the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan.</p>  |
| <p><b>Component 2.</b></p> <p>Capacity-strengthening among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity.</p> <p>(Output 2.1.2)</p> | <p><b>Activity 3.2.1.5</b> Monitor biodiversity indicator species. The monitoring of biodiversity indicator species on the Caribbean Coast will be supported, for which experts, training and methodological assistance and operating expenses will be supported.</p>  | <p>This activity, under the subcomponent of Bio-CLIMA's project related to the development of tools and instruments will set up a basis of knowledge that may be promoted and strengthened through the following output of the GEF funded project:</p> <p>2.1.2 Promotion and strengthening of scientific research, including Indigenous knowledge, intended to generate and transfer knowledge and undertake the research programmes described in the RBIM Management Plan.</p> |



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| <p><b>Component 3.</b><br/>Participatory management of the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (RBIM).</p> <p>(Outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3)</p> | <p><b>Activity 1.2.2.1</b> Finance Sustainable Community Enterprises (SCEs) in indigenous territories. This activity will be located within the core and buffer zone of the Indio Ma?z protected area where the forest cover is conserved. In accordance with the Management Plan of the protected area and in accordance with the TDP, indigenous communities will be helped to prepare and present subprojects, called "Sustainable Community Enterprises (SCEs)" that will be co-financed by the Bio-CLIMA project through donations or through donations. through loan concessions, depending on the nature of the SCE and its social, environmental and financial return on investment.</p> | <p>The Sustainable Community Enterprises (SCEs) supported by activity 1.2.2.1 of Bio-CLIMA?s project will work together with outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 of the GEF funded project that aim to diversify the sources of income of local communities and strengthen their capacities. SCE will be developed in accordance with the management plan promoted under the component 1 of the GEF funded project.</p> <p>To be considered for support SCEs will have to include a business and investment plan (?+bin?) to assure their technical, social, environmental and financial and market feasibility. SCE+bin?s will need to promote the wellbeing and livelihood resilience of the communities through forest and biodiversity conservation. Each SCE and ?+bin? will need to have a gender action plan (GAP) that conforms with the overall Project GAP.</p> <p>On these basis and the assumption that each SCE supports the protection of at least 3,000 ha of natural forests, it is estimated that Bio-CLIMA will be able to co-finance 95 SCEs benefitting 9,487 people of the indigenous territories of Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum, Kipla Sait Tasbaika Kum, Mayagna Sauni Bu, Mayagna Sauni As, Li Lamni Tasbaika Kum within BOSAWAS, and Rama and Kriol in Indio Ma?z.</p> <p>The overall result of this synergy will be to improve the livelihoods and strengthen the capacities of local communities.</p> |
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37. The project titled **“Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate-Change in the Municipality of El Castillo and the Río San Juan Biosphere Reserve”** is financed through the EU’s GDF in the SICA region. The investments in El Castillo made by this project will be used for the following purposes:

- Establish 300 ha of agroforestry systems with best environmental restoration practices
- Establish 1700 ha of silvopastoral systems with best environmental restoration practices
- Reach collaboration agreements with farmers and introduce the cash-for-work model
- Establish 350 ha of cacao agroforestry systems in aquifer recharge areas, using best water restoration practices
- Establish 100 ha of protection in aquifer recharge areas
- Establish 50 ha of natural regeneration in degraded parts of the aquifer recharge areas

38. Biodiversity programme: Linking Central American Landscapes, to be implemented by IUCN and financed by the German Ministry of Foreign Cooperation (BMZ) through the German Development Bank (KfW).<sup>[14]</sup><sup>14</sup>

39. The project baseline is based on the results of the following projects carried out by institutions belonging to the National Production, Consumption and Commerce System (SPCC):

40. **NICADAPTA programme** (US\$ 37 million, financed by DFID / CABEI). MEFCCA has undertaken agricultural activities in El Castillo, in particular in the buffer zone next to the RBIM. These include investment plans, nurseries, strengthening of cacao-farmer organizations and improved resilience among local cacao farmers. MEFCCA also implemented a project to establish 243 ha of cacao in a diversified agricultural system, with gender equity and adaptation to climate change, for the purpose increasing production and improving the living conditions of families in eight communities in the Rama and Kriol territory in the municipality of Bluefields.

41. **PAIPSAN programme** (US\$ 33.9 million, financed by GAFSP / WB). MEFCCA has implemented Innovative Development Plans (IDP) and Good Agricultural Practices in Indigenous territories. A project was implemented through this programme to boost artisanal fishery and strengthen food and nutritional security in seven communities with 180 protagonists in the Rama and Kriol territory in the municipality of Bluefields (Punta Gorda, Haulover, Rama Cay, San Juan, Bang Kuk, Monkey Point and Río Maíz).

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42. **ENDE-REDD + / FCPF/ TF 099264 / Project No. P120657 / WB.** Nicaragua has participated in the international REDD+ mechanism since 2008. It was designed by the UNFCCC for the purpose of reducing carbon dioxide emissions due to forest degradation and deforestation. As an effective response to these commitments, MARENA has prepared a 'National Avoided Deforestation Programme' (ENDE-REDD+). By means of this process MARENA has available the aide-memoirs of the dialogues that took place regarding forest degradation, deforestation and biodiversity with local, territorial and regional Indigenous actors. There prevails a positive attitude toward intervention in the RBIM. Likewise, MARENA has a geospatial database of forest coverage, the 2005-2015 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions baseline and an analytical study of the causes of deforestation that encompasses the RBIM.

43. **MARENA public investment programme.** Through MARENA, the GON carried out a public investment programme in the R<sup>o</sup> San Juan Biosphere Reserve (2018-2020) that improved the infrastructure for Reserve control and surveillance, scientific research, and tourist installations, as follows: i) new MARENA headquarters in Nueva Guinea; ii) new MARENA headquarters in San Carlos; iii) new control post (checkpoint) in Bartola, El Castillo; iv) new control post in Las Maravillas, El Castillo; v) new MARENA building in Boca de S<sup>o</sup>balos, El Castillo; vi) construction of a MARENA building in San Juan; vii) new control post in Aguas Zarcas, El Castillo; viii) new control post in El Delta, San Juan; and ix) new control post in Boca de San Carlos, El Castillo.

44. The National Forestry Institute (INAFOR) is working with the companies PALCASA, Maderas Cultivadas, Agroindustriales del R<sup>o</sup> and some citrus fruit enterprises in the RBIM buffer zone by carrying out inspections, registering plantations and working on a forest fire prevention plan. It also coordinates activities intended to promote the national reforestation crusade with three cacao-growing cooperatives (COOPROCAFUC, COOSEMUCRIM and ASIERCA).

45. The Institute of Animal and Plant Protection and Health (IPSA) works on matters related to animal and plant health as well as epidemiological surveillance, the implementation of good agricultural practices and food safety inspections. Through the PAISAN programme, 102 production units registered for the implementation of the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) system in the Rama and Kriol territory in Bluefields. Work took place also with the NICADAPTA programme, related to the process of certification and sale of propagating material from the 1.6 ha cacao clonal garden at the COODEPROSA cooperative and twenty reference farms used for cacao phytosanitary surveillance in El Castillo.

46. The Nicaraguan Tourism Institute (INTUR) has worked to design a Bluefields 'Rama Cay' Kukra River tourist circuit, which is part of the Caribbean Coast Route. The main requirements for the development of touristic activities have been identified, and the foundation for the tour are the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Rama and Kriol people. As part of the joint programme titled 'Cultural Revitalization and Creative Productive Development of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast', a socio-cultural diagnostic of the Rama and Kriol people was carried out. Community Centres were created to promote culture, a dictionary and cultural textbooks for the preservation and promotion of the Rama language. The programme also supported implementation of the National Human Development Plan, Component II: Water Route, by contributing to the construction of the San Juan de Nicaragua airfield, the construction of ten piers (three in San Juan, two in El Castillo and five in San Carlos), and the construction of two Tourist Information Centres (El Castillo and San Carlos).

47. In Section 6.b (*Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives*) there is a list of relevant stakeholders, their mandates and function during project preparation and implementation.

48. These stakeholders include government institutions (MARENA-MEFCCA-INTA-INAFOR-IPSA-INTUR), the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government (GRACCS), the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices, the Rama y Kriol Indigenous Territorial Government and the private sector working in RBIM border areas. Section 4 (*Private Sector Engagement*) details alliances to be forged with the private sector.

### **2.1.3 Regulatory framework for RBIM management**

49. Article 60 of the Nicaraguan Constitution establishes the fundamental right of all Nicaraguans to live in a healthy environment and the obligation to preserve and conserve it. Over the past few years, Nicaragua has generated public policies that define the state's position regarding environmental matters. Nicaragua was the first country to sign the Universal Declaration for the Common Good of Humanity.

50. The legal framework governing the project in the RBIM is regulated by specific, general and sectoral laws that exercise an impact on the environment and sustainable biodiversity management. Articles 60 and 102 of the Nicaraguan Constitution lay the foundation for the main environmental principles, rights and policies. Below is a review of the legislation enacted from 1988 to date that is specific to the forest, environment and agriculture/livestock sectors. It includes the following instruments:<sup>[15]</sup><sup>15</sup>

- ? *General Environment and Natural Resources Law (Law 217, 1996)*
  - ? *Enabling regulations of the General Environment and Natural Resources Law (Decree 9, 1996)*
  - ? *Law 647 (2008) to modify the General Environment and Natural Resources (Law 217)*
  - ? *Regulation of Protected Areas in Nicaragua (Decree 01, 2007)*
  - ? *Updating and Definition of Types and Borders of Protected Areas Located in South-eastern Nicaragua. (Decree 66-99, May 1999)*
  - ? *Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Law (Law 807, 2012)*
  - ? *Enabling regulations of the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Law (2019)*
  - ? *National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System (Law 337, 2000)*
  - ? *Caribbean Coast Autonomy Law and its enabling regulations (Law 28, 1987; Decree 3584, 2003)*
  - ? *Law of Municipalities (Laws 40 and 216, 1988)*
  - ? *Communal Property of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Communities of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regions and the Bocay, Coco, Indio and Maíz Rivers (Law 445, 2003)*
-

- ? *Forest Sector Conservation, Promotion and Sustainable Development Law (Law 462, 2003)*
- ? *National Forest Sector Sustainable Development Policy (Executive Decree 69,2008)*
- ? *Ancestral Medicine Law (Law 759, 2011)*
- ? *Good and Equitable Treatment of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples Law (Law 757, 2011)*
- ? *Agroecological and Organic Production Promotion Law (Law 765, 2011)*
- ? *Environmental Evaluation of Permits and Authorization for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (Decree 20, 2017)*
- ? *Nicaragua Phytosanitary Protection Law (Law 1020, 2020)*

51. Nicaraguan legislation includes important juridical instruments, the main goal of which is to organise the development of tourism, including any touristic activity that may take place in the RBIM and its area of influence. Among these, the following stand out:

- General Tourism Law and its enabling regulations, reforms and additions (Law 495). Intended to regulate the tourism industry by setting norms that ensure it is functioning, with public and private sector participation. It describes and classifies touristic activities; establishes sanctions for tourism services providers who fail to comply; creates procedures for obtaining a concession in the field; and describes INTUR assets and sources of income.
- Tourism Industry Incentives Law (Law 306). Its objective is to offer incentives and benefits to natural or juridical persons, whether Nicaraguan or foreign, who are active in the tourism industry. It establishes requirements investors must comply with to apply for these. It also regulates the main functions of the Tourism Incentives Board, which is charged with approving touristic projects.
- Sustainable Rural Tourism Law (Law 835): The purpose of this law is to promote the formulation and implementation of guidelines and actions that contribute to the development of tourism in the country's rural area, with a sustainable development approach.

52. The Caribbean Coast Autonomy Law and its enabling regulations (Law 28) and the Communal Property of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Communities of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regions and the Bocay, Coco, Indio and Ma'z Rivers (Law 445) are both highly pertinent to the project's geographic area of influence.

53. As regards international law, the Nicaraguan state is signatory to ILO Convention 169, which safeguards the rights of originary people. The Convention is pertinent to this project, as it is the main instrument for dialogue between the state and originary and Afrodescendant peoples and contains the principles that facilitate participation and compliance with the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Further, Nicaragua adheres to the principles set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### **2.1.4 Institutional and governance in the RBIM**

54. According to the study undertaken during project preparation, the government institutions with a presence in its area of influence are:

- ? MARENA: The ministry has the following structure in the project area: in RACCS there is a Regional Office in Bluefields and a Technical Territorial Office in Nueva Guinea. In the province of R?o San Juan it has a Territorial Branch in San Carlos, and offices at the El Castillo and San Juan mayor?s offices. There are also nine control posts (checkpoints) with forest rangers who patrol along the banks of the San Juan River.
- ? MEFCCA: In RACCS there is a Regional Office in Nueva Guinea with technical staff. In the province of R?o San Juan it has a Territorial Branch in San Carlos.

55. INTA: In RACCS there is a Regional Office in El Rama, a Transfer Office and Technological Development Centre (TDC) in Nueva Guinea, and another TDC in Kukra Hill. In the province of R?o San Juan there is a territorial branch in San Carlos. In the municipality of El Castillo there are four Innovation and Technology Transfer Farms, six Community Seed Banks and ten Field Schools

- ? INAFOR: In RACCS there is a Regional Office in Bluefields and a Territorial Technical Office in Nueva Guinea. In the province of R?o San Juan it has a territorial delegation in San Carlos.
- ? IPSA: In RACCS there is a Regional Office in Nueva Guinea. There are human resources and field work teams (veterinarians, agronomists and other experts), equipped to undertake epidemiological, phytosanitary, seed and safety surveillance. In the province of R?o San Juan there is a Territorial Branch in San Carlos.
- ? INTUR: In RACCS there is a Regional Office in Bluefields, while in the province of R?o San Juan it has a Territorial Branch in San Carlos.

#### **56. Regional Institutions and Indigenous Territorial Governments**

- ? The **South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government (GRACCS)** has its headquarters in Bluefields. The Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast is the only part of the country that has a governance system consisting of four levels of government, each under a legal scheme that describes a level of political and administrative autonomy:

- **COMMUNITY AND TERRITORY:** Legally recognised by the Constitution, the Autonomy Statute (Law 28) and the Territorial Demarcation and Titling Law (Law 445).
- **MUNICIPAL:** Legally recognised and regulated by the Municipal Autonomy Law (Law 40), which establishes that the municipalities in the autonomous regions are governed both by Law 40 and the Regional Autonomy Law.
- **REGIONAL:** Established in the Regional Autonomy Law (Law 28).
- **NATIONAL:** The Law on the Organization and Competencies of the Executive Branch (Law 290) allows ministries and autonomous entities to organise and extend their presence nationwide?. Notwithstanding, it should be noted that the Administrative Divisions Law makes reference to the exceptionality of the autonomous regions.

? **Rama and Kriol Indigenous Territorial Government.** The Rama and Kriol Territorial Government (RK-ITG) is a coordination and governance body in the territory that functions as a public institution. It is the highest executive body in the territory, as set forth in article 5 of Law 445: "The territorial authorities are administrative bodies of the territorial unit which they legally represent". It is made up of six Rama communities, an originary people unique to the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (Rama Cay, Monkey Point, Sumu Kaat, Tiktik Kaanu, Wiring Cay and Bangkukuk) and three Kriol communities (Corn River, Indian River and Greytown). The Kriols go back to the mid-nineteenth century, but as of the year 2003, with the passage of Law 445, they entered into a strategic alliance with the Ramas, aimed at struggling for and defending their territory in the face of demarcation and titling. The Nicaraguan state has recognized these Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples, and extended communal property title 010-18-12-2009 to the Rama and Kriol Indigenous territory. The government has an 18-member board in representation of the nine communities that govern their territory and communities according to their own Territorial Statutes and Autonomous Administration and Development Plan.

57. **The municipal institutions are the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices.** In the municipalities in which the Indio-Mai's Biological Reserve is located there are participatory structures known as *Municipal Tourism Cabinet*. These are spaces for dialogue and concertation that are made up of public and private sector representatives. Their main function is to promote, coordinate and

articulate tourism activities aimed at energizing the local economy by promoting the involvement of local protagonists and the development of new enterprises.

## **2.2 Consultations held during the project preparation phase to establish an environmental and socioeconomic baseline**

58. As part of project formulation, studies and consultations took place with a wide range of stakeholders, including government bodies, local communities and private entities. This allowed for collecting updated, first-hand information, establish a baseline and have available the elements needed to plan project activities. The studies undertaken are:

- ? **Soil use baseline study (Appendix 1).** This study took place in order to prepare a Diagnostic of Current Soil Use in the RBIM and its area of influence in the municipalities of Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan. In addition to gathering secondary information, there were workshops (11-15 January and 4-6 May 2021) with four focal groups in Bluefields and San Carlos, made up of representatives from the institutions that are members of the Production, Consumption and Commerce System (SPCC), the GRACCS Secretariat for Natural Resources, representatives of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government, technicians from the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local actors linked to the cacao and cattle-raising / dairy farming value chains whose activities take place in areas adjacent to the RBIM. The results of these studies were used to describe the soil use baseline in section 2.4.
  
- ? **Biodiversity study (Appendix 2).** This study took place in order to prepare a Diagnostic of the Current Status of Biodiversity in the RBIM. It was found there are 972 species of wildlife, as follows: insects, 340; birds, 303; mammals, 112; reptiles, 91; amphibians, 48; molluscs, 43; and continental fish, 32. Over a quarter of the vertebrates are of high interest for purposes of conservation and/or research, either because they are on global or national endangered species lists (critical danger, danger or vulnerable), or are protected by the Nicaraguan state through regulations such as closed or international conventions that regulate trade in wildlife (see CITES appendixes). Among these are bird species (85); mammals (35); reptiles (20) and amphibians (18). Sixteen of the species are endangered globally (birds, five; mammals, four; reptiles, five; and amphibians, two). In Nicaragua, 91 are on the red list. Three of the species are endemic to Nicaragua and one exists only in the Reserve, namely the Nicaraguan rainfrog (*Craugastor chingopetaca*).
  
- ? **Socio-economic analysis (Appendix 3)** This study was carried out to have available a Socio-economic Diagnostic of the RBIM core zone and its area of influence (adjacent land or buffer zones). In addition to gathering secondary information, there were workshops (4-6 May 2021) with four focal groups in Bluefields and San Carlos, made up of representatives from the institutions that are members of the Production, Consumption and Commerce System (SPCC), the GRACCS Secretariat for Natural Resources, representatives of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government, technicians from the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local actors. Also used was the socio-



economic and gender diagnostic prepared by the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (URACCAN) for the FOLUR Nicaragua project and delivered in March 2021, since the study includes the municipalities of Bluefields and El Castillo.

? **Gender analysis (Appendix 4)** This study was done to prepare a gender gap diagnostic in the RBIM core zone and its area of influence (adjacent land, buffer zones). Secondary information was collected and workshops were held as part of the aforementioned URACCAN diagnostic. Furthermore, a Gender Action Plan was formulated (**Annex K**).

? **Multicriteria analysis to prioritise areas of intervention (Appendix 5)**. An evaluation was made of the processes, causes and types of land degradation in the core zone and the RBIM area of influence, inspired by the LADA-WOCAT methodology.[16]<sup>16</sup>

? **Free, Prior and Informed Consent from Indigenous Peoples and Afrodescendants (FPIC)**. As the project was being prepared, a process of free, prior, informed consent was conducted by GRACCS with the Rama and Kriol ITGs. In addition, an Indigenous Peoples Action Plan was formulated (**Annex L**).

### 2.3. Key characteristics of the project area of intervention

59. The project area encompasses the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (RBIM), with its 316,720.62 ha, as established in 1999, and its immediately adjacent area of influence, with another 128,262.34 ha. The entire zone is an integral part of the R?o San Juan Biosphere Reserve (1,392,900 ha), declared as such by UNESCO in 2003 (Figure 5).

60. The RBIM is the second largest lowland tropical forest in Nicaragua and is rich in biodiversity. It is particularly important for birds (IBA NI032 with a registered area of 321,256 ha), recognized for its population of great green macaws (*Ara ambiguus*), estimated at only 500 - 1000 individuals (O. Chassot); jaguars (*Panthera onca*), and Baird tapirs (*Tapirus bairdii*), also endangered.

61. Currently it is considered that management conditions in the RBIM are intermediate (51-75% compliance), according to the Management Effectiveness Evaluation reported by MARENA in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Work Programme on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nicaragua (2012).[17]<sup>17</sup>

62. The project's geographic area of influence encompasses the municipalities of San Juan and El Castillo in the province of R?o San Juan, as well as Bluefields in the South Caribbean Coast

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Autonomous Region (RACCS). The municipality of Bluefields accounts for 40%, El Castillo for 20% and San Juan for 40% of the RBIM core zone (see Figure 5, below).

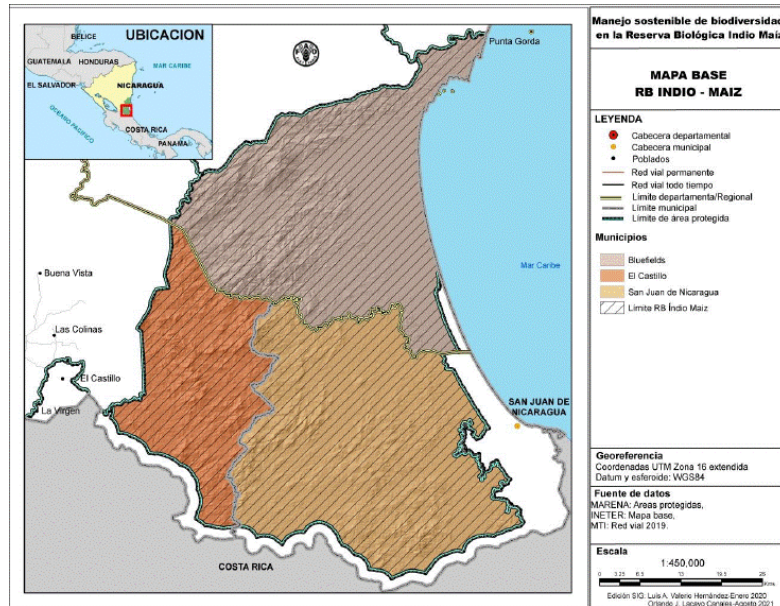


Figure 5: Map showing participation by municipality in the RBIM core zone.

63. The area of intervention is of exuberant natural and cultural wealth, with conservation areas and zones of ecological connectivity that are of regional importance, such as the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and Five Great Mesoamerican Forests Alliance. Likewise, the area exhibits a high degree of biodiversity and harbours the largest remnants of the country's broadleaf forest ecosystems. It is the habitat of endemic species of fauna and flora, some of which are endangered, according to databases presented in the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (see Figure 6).

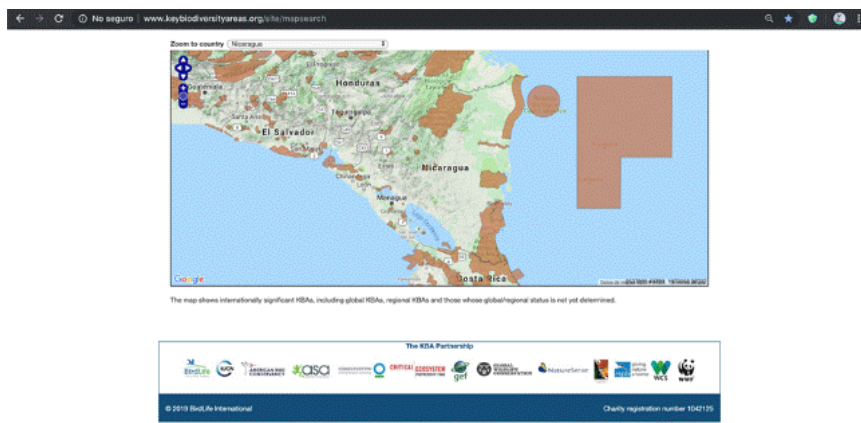


Figure 6: Map of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)

## Multicriteria analysis by which to prioritize areas for intervention

64. An evaluation of processes, causes and types of land degradation in the core zone took place, using criteria related to the current soil use map (2018) and showing administrative borders, the main drainage basins and communities. Recharge areas were delimited, as were areas influenced by human activities, productive land and the parts damaged by Hurricane Otto. The multicriteria evaluation serves to define the places in which actions should be prioritised. Sub-basins were used as management units, and a number of these were selected to form a prioritised corridor, based on the multicriteria map and expert knowledge. The result is shown in figure 7, below.

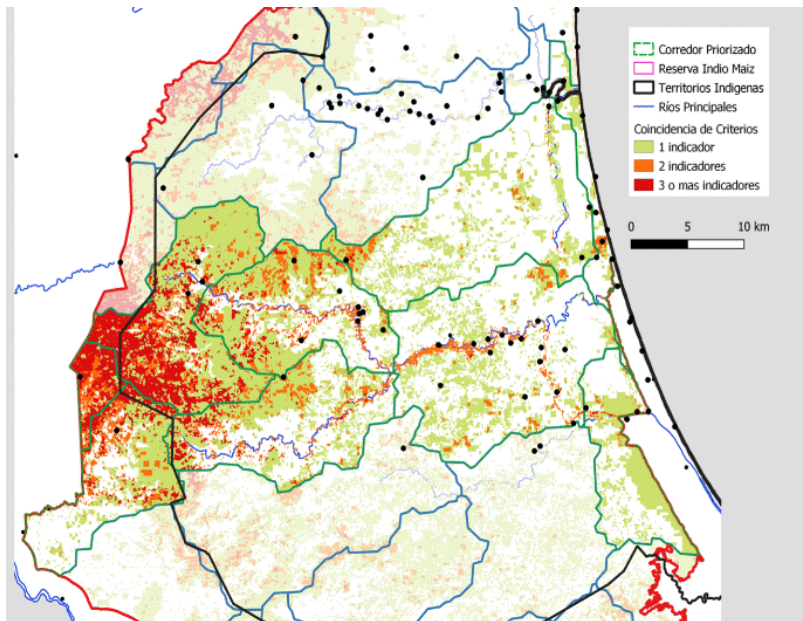


Figure 7: Restoration and conservation corridor in the RBIM core area.

65. A corridor was identified jointly by personnel from MARENA and the South Caribbean Coast Regional Government, with FAO accompaniment. The criteria used was as follows:

Criterion 1. *Water recharge area of influence*. Objective: To delimit areas that are key to the ecosystemic services that regulate the hydrological cycle (71,263 ha). These recharge zones regulate the water flow during periods of intense rainfall or droughts. They are of vital importance to the mitigation of extreme events and adaptation to climate change. Those changes that cause degradation or pollution in these areas lead to downstream effects that are deleterious to the quality of the ecosystem in general.

Criterion 2. *Human activities area of influence*. Objective: To delimit areas adjacent to places where a human presence involves soil use (18,136 ha). These human activities take place in areas people use in

different ways. Given this is a biodiversity reserve, it is important the soil be used in an environmentally sustainable and well-planned manner. If soil use causes degradation or pollution, this negatively affects both farmers, since the land eventually becomes unproductive, and the environment, as any species or ecosystemic services lost cannot be recovered.

Criterion 3. *Deforested areas* (as of 2018). Objective: Delimit those areas in which forests and their associated biodiversity was lost (13,037 ha). In these there has been soil use change as a consequence of deforestation. Most of the deforested areas (hot spots) can be linked to human activities (agricultural frontiers) that seriously modify the natural environment. Degraded areas can be restored through natural or assisted regeneration (sustainable production methods that transform deforested places into agroecological silvopastoral or agroforestry systems), through which it is possible to recover species and ecosystemic services.

Criterion 4. *Effects of Hurricane Otto*. Objective: Delimit those areas in which the forest was damaged by Hurricane Otto (47,774 ha). In these areas there has been no soil use change, but rather an environmental change caused by a natural phenomenon. Its use continues to be as forestland, but the damage caused by the hurricane means the canopy cover is now lost. Historically, the environment has co-evolved with these phenomena, there being processes in nature for the succession of species and natural regeneration. Degraded closed forest areas are transformed into open forest and can regenerate if no productive activities intervene.

Criterion 5. *Effects of phenological dynamics* (37,148 ha). Objective: Delimit areas with a negative tendency as concerns plant productivity. This indicator refers to changes which may be caused by human but also by natural influences that lead to a loss in plant productivity indexes. The index measures both positive and negative changes, and when there is a reduction, it is associated to the degradation of ecosystemic functions.

65. Please use this link to see the pertinent maps online:

<https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/rbim-nicaragua>

67. The strategy is to work with the communities in the various actions it may be necessary to take, according to problems found or arising, according to indicators, taking into account the various activities the project seeks to promote (sustainable management, ecotourism, value chains based on community products, etc.). Spatially, the strategy focuses on starting at the centre of the Reserve, so as to build resilience and sustainability from the inside out, while simultaneously beginning work with support from the Bio-CLIMA and FOLUR projects to halt the advance of the agricultural frontier, which exerts pressure from the outside on the borders of the areas adjacent to the RBIM.

## 2.4 Baseline: Soil use

68. According to the baseline soil use study prepared by FAO as the office prepared the project (see Appendix 1). The results of the Soil Use Map made in 2018 indicate that the RBIM protected area has a total area of 316,720.62 ha and that its core zone has 94.5% forest cover, distributed in three types of biological makeup: broadleaf, mangrove and palm.

Table 2. Soil Use Map in the RBIM (2018)

|                              | Types of soil use             | Area (ha)         | %          |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Forests                      | Palm                          | 11,741.10         | 3.7        |
|                              | Regenerating palm forest      | 10,235.00         | 3.2        |
|                              | Open broadleaf forest         | 29,212.70         | 9.2        |
|                              | Closed broadleaf forest       | 218,304.70        | 68.9       |
|                              | Regenerating broadleaf forest | 29,687.10         | 9.4        |
|                              | Mangrove                      | 222.7             | 0.1        |
| Agriculture / cattle-raising | Yearly crops                  | 574.8             | 0.2        |
|                              | Pasture                       | 2,734.90          | 0.9        |
|                              | Cacao                         | 8.8               | 0          |
| Other uses                   | Soil with no vegetation       | 2,172.40          | 0.7        |
|                              | Land subject to flooding      | 755.8             | 0.2        |
|                              | Brushland                     | 9,561.40          | 3          |
|                              | Herbaceous vegetation         | 1,141.42          | 0.4        |
|                              | Water                         | 367.8             | 0.1        |
|                              | <b>Total</b>                  | <b>316,720.62</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: FAO Soil Use Study, 2021

69. In the RBIM there are 218,304.70 ha (68.9%) of closed broadleaf forest, 29,212.70 ha (9.2%) of open broadleaf forest and 29,687.10 ha of regenerating broadleaf forest (9.4%).

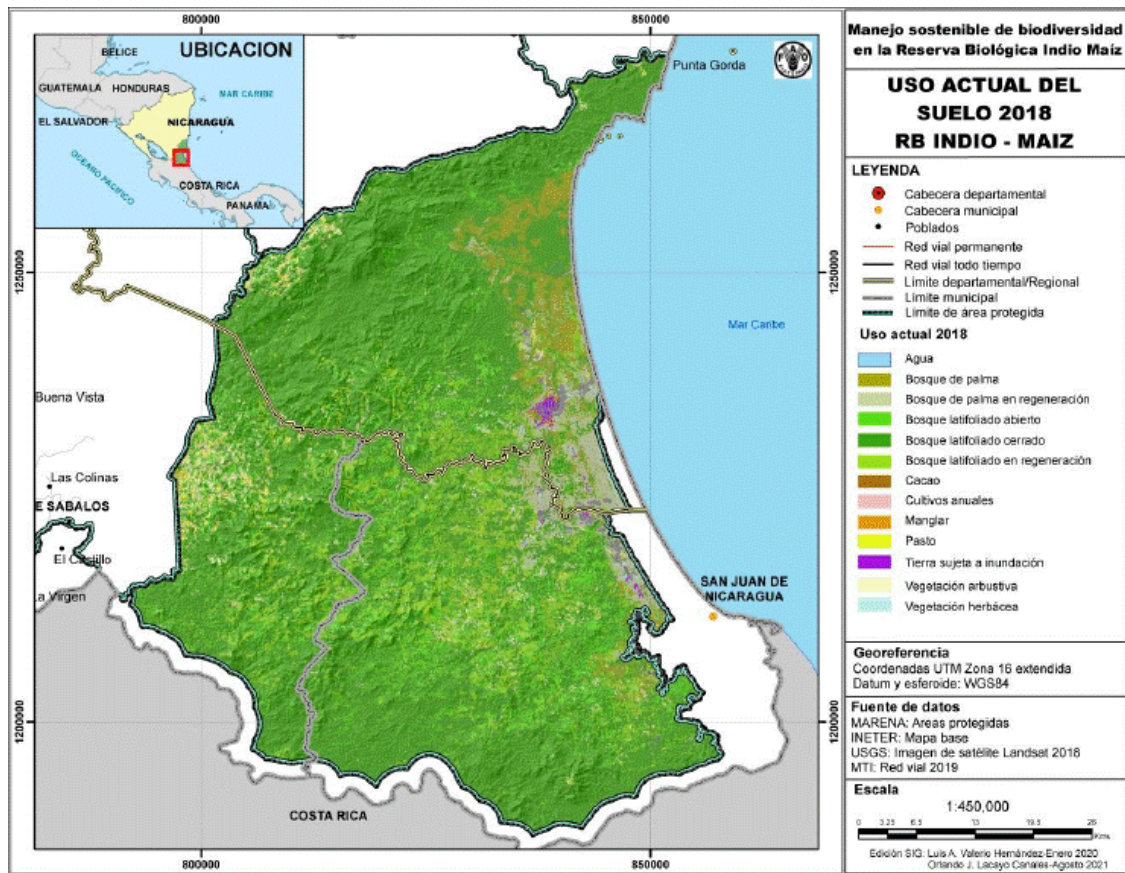


Figure 8: RBIM soil use map, 2018. FAO study, 2021

70. In 2015, potential soil use in the RBIM core zone was that of its 316,720.62 ha, 74.71% is suitable for natural resources protection and conservation in the perhumid area, while 5.27% is suitable for forestry purposes. This was confirmed by the potential soil use map presented by INETER in 2020<sup>[18]</sup> (figures 9 and 10).

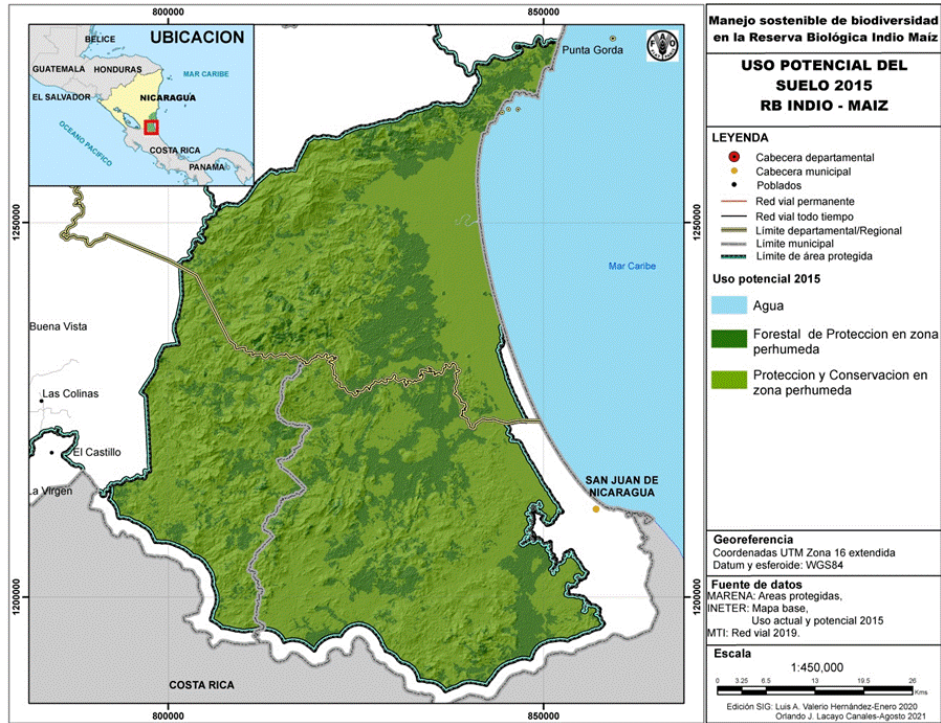
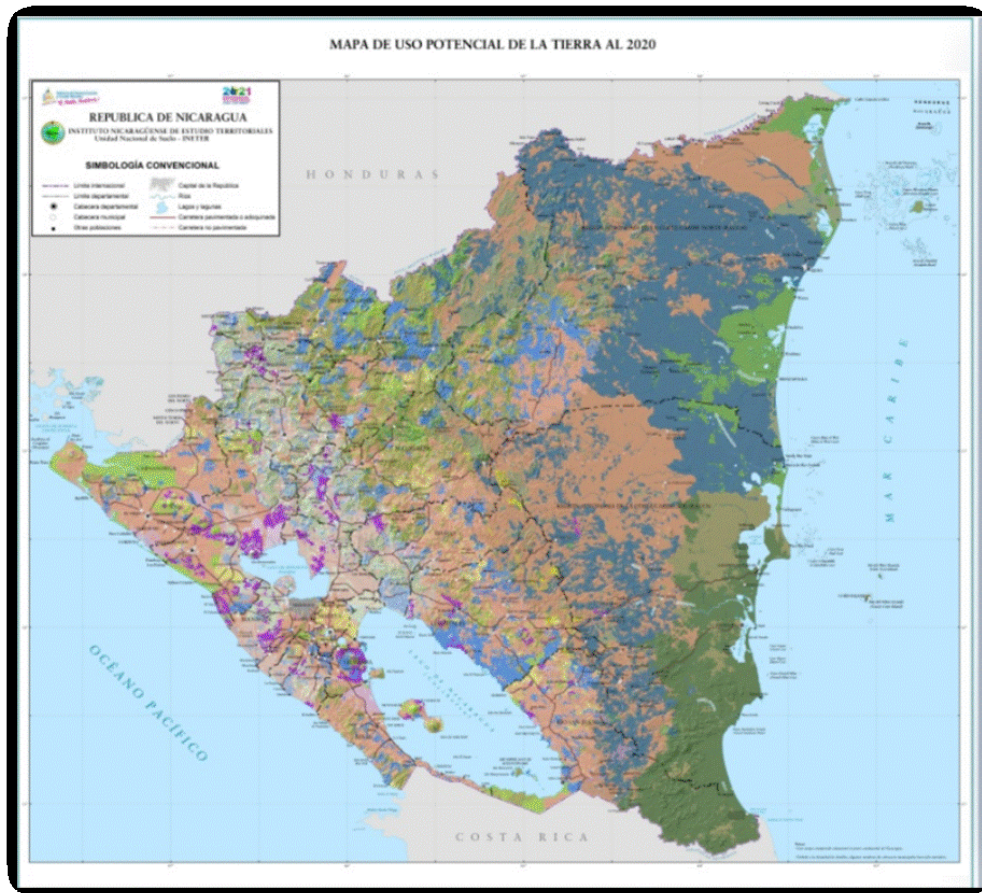


Figure 9: Potential Soil Use Map in the RBIM 2015. FAO study, 2021.



**Figure 10.** Potential Soil Use Map of Nicaragua, INETER, 2020 (the RBIM located in the south-eastern corner)

## 2.5 Baseline: Biodiversity

71. According to the biodiversity baseline study prepared by the FAO Nicaragua office as it worked to ready this project (see Appendix 2), the RBIM has a rainy tropical climate, with a rainy period that stretches from May to January, and a variable dry season some three to four months long between January and May. It rains least in March. Rainfall ranges from over 6,000 mm/year in the municipality of San Juan, which defines the area's climate (CCT, 1988). Relative humidity in the rainiest months varies between 90-95 %, and is still higher than 60% in the least rainy months. Average temperature is hot (between 24 and 27°C, with monthly variations of less than 3° C (Friends of the Earth, 1996).

72. The Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve consists of two main types of vegetation: tropical rainforest and very humid tropical rainforest. Broadly speaking, the former occupies undulating terrain of Tertiary origin that is never flooded, while the latter takes up most of the of the Quaternary flatlands,



which are occasionally to almost permanently flooded. That said, the gradient makes it so there are local variations and combinations in the composition of the vegetation that make of the Indio-Maíz reserve forests a structural mosaic rather than an area with uniform vegetative plant cover.

73. Although changes in the composition of the vegetation are not very obvious, some species of flora are markedly different in distribution. The behaviour has led to some unique clusters of flora, such as for instance that of the palm *Raphia taedigera* which forms large groupings in the rainforest, where it grows in the permanently flooded lowlands found by the sea (Henderson *et al.*, 1995). This type of coverage is the first stage in the successive sequence toward firm land forest. According to Taylor (1961) these coverages are classified as seasonal riverine and swampland formations, with different combinations of predominant plant species. These frequently or permanently flooded areas are wetlands related to a non-ocean palustrine flooded forest system, with evergreen broadleaf trees growing on land saturated with fresh water (Bravo & Windevoxhel, 1997). Riverine systems include all aquatic environments contained in drainages that periodically or temporarily keep water moving, and are characterized by consolidated bottoms made up of fragmented rocks and gravel which are permanently flooded with fresh water (these wetlands are typical of most water courses that drain toward the sea from the upper portions of the basins).

74. **Plants.** MARENA reported 369 plant species, with new flora being reported for Nicaragua, among them five palm species, including one entirely new to science (MARENA-FUNDAR, 2005). At least 22 known genera of South American lowland flora have their northernmost limits in the rainforests of the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve (Stevens, 2001). For his part, Díaz-Santos (2006) reports 101 species of orchids in forest management areas in the province of Río San Juan, near the Reserve. However, it should be noted that to date the only floristic identification efforts carried out in the RBIM are the botanical collections made by the León Herbarium and the Nicaragua National Herbarium, to date the most knowledgeable sources regarding gymnosperms, parasites, creeper and saprophyte plant species found in the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve (Flores, 2000).

75. The plant formations in the Reserve are located in high forests; riparian forests; periodically flooded forests; seasonally flooded forests; the *Pterocarpus*, *Carapa-Campnosperma* and *Calophyllum* to *Symphonia* sequences; mangrove forests; and coastal vegetation.

76. To sum up, the vegetative formations in the Reserve are distributed according to the prevailing climate conditions of high rainfall and temperatures. The Reserve's ecosystems map indicates the existence of evergreen forests, palm forests, lagoons, estuaries, savannah, beaches, fresh water vegetation and grassland (Figure 11), (MARENA-TNC, 2006).

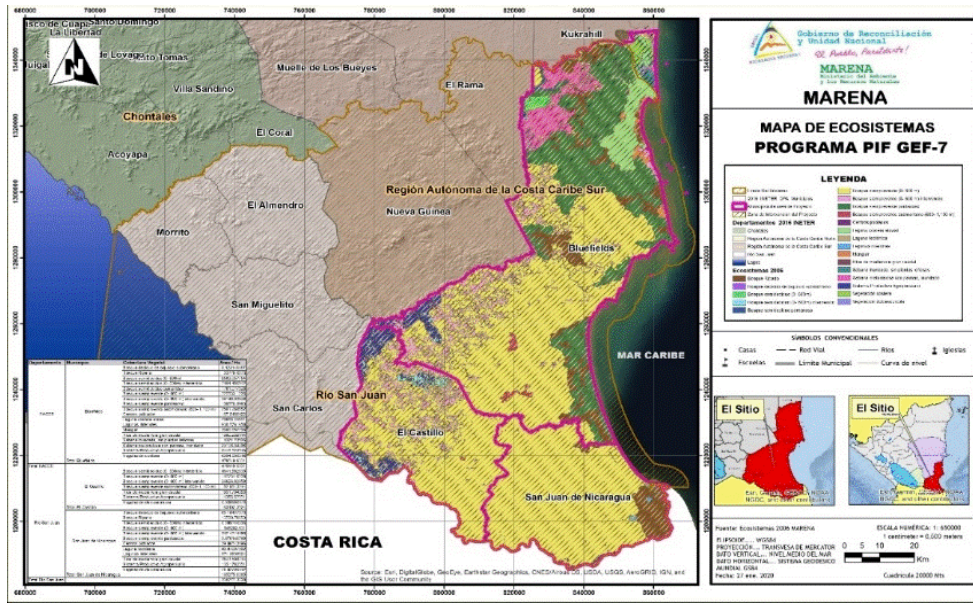


Figure 11. Map of RBIM ecosystems (MARENA-TNC, 2006)

77. **Water sources.** The RBIM is a system made up of four hydrographic units (basins): R?o Punta Gorda, R?o Ma?z, R?o Indio and R?o San Juan. The area?s most important hydrological characteristic is the lower portion of the R?o San Juan basin, which originates in the extreme southeast of Lake Nicaragua and flows into the Caribbean Sea, where it forms an itinerant delta. Another series of wetlands run parallel to the R?o Indio?s riverbed and joins the R?o San Juan delta with the yolilla (*Raphia taegidera*) palm stands at the R?o Colorado in Costa Rica. Also noteworthy is the system of water bodies made up of the S?lico, Ebo, La Barca and some smaller lagoons (Friends of the Earth, 1996).

78. **Fauna.** Based on exhaustive research an analysis of existing historical and contemporary research was carried out. The evidence shows there is a high level of biological diversity in the Indio-Ma?z ? R?o San Juan (San Juan del Norte and El Castillo municipalities). Indeed, this may well be the area of the country with the greatest wealth in terrestrial vertebrate fauna. The region has 972 species of fauna, of which 340 are insects; 43 are molluscs and 589 are vertebrate, the most numerous of these being birds, at 306 species, followed by mammals (112), reptiles (91), amphibians (48) and fish (32) (see Table 3).

79. More than one quarter of the non-ichtyological vertebrate fauna (26.8% of the total), equivalent to 158 species, are of high interest for purposes of conservation and/or research, given that they are globally (IUCN red list) or nationally (local red lists) endangered; their traffic is regulated at world level by CITES; or they are protected by regulations regarding nationwide closed seasons (MARENA, 2019). Of these, 85 are bird species, 35 are mammals, 20 are reptiles and 18 are amphibians.

**Table 3. Number of species registered in the RBIM by taxonomic group of importance to conservation**

| Taxon             | Global RL        | National RL |    |    | CITES |       |        | National Closed Season |         |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|----|----|-------|-------|--------|------------------------|---------|
|                   | IUCN             | CD          | EN | VU | Ap I  | Ap II | Ap III | Indefinite             | Partial |
| <b>Birds</b>      | 2VU, 1EN,<br>1CD | 3           | 6  | 22 | 5     | 46    | 4      | 43                     | 10      |
| <b>Mammals</b>    | 2VU, 2EN,<br>2ID | 10          | -  | 9  | 8     | 7     | -      | 21                     | 6       |
| <b>Reptiles</b>   | 2VU, 1EN,<br>2CR | 1           | 8  | 13 | 4     | 6     | -      | 6                      | 7       |
| <b>Amphibians</b> | 2EN              | 5           | 3  | 11 | -     | 3     | -      | -                      | 3       |
| <b>Total</b>      | 17               | 19          | 17 | 55 | 17    | 62    | 4      | 70                     | 26      |

**Source:** FAO Study, July 2021

Key: RL= Global Red List (IUCN, 2021) and National Red List (CICFA, 2018); PC/CD: Critical Danger; EN: Endangered; VU: Vulnerable; ID: insufficient data to be evaluated. Ap= Appendixes CITES (CCAD, 2010). National Closed Season (MARENA, 2019).

80. The Reserve is rich in biodiversity, a product of the meeting of migratory currents of fauna from the northern continental or American mass and the Southern continental or Amazonian mass. Many of these species live in areas that are ecologically sensitive and critical, in some places constituting fauna endemism and habitats of endangered species (MARENA-FNDAR, 2005). The biological diversity found in the Reserve proves how crucial this mosaic of ecosystems is, not only for the fauna, but also for the survival of human communities and their environment, due to the number of environmental services these species provide, as they keep up pollination, disperse seeds, exercise biological control and are a source of animal protein.

81. However, it is necessary to develop a monitoring plan with indicators that serve to determine changes in ecosystems and populations of key species. A two-year monitoring and research programme is being considered, to be carried out in tandem with the communities and environmental organizations (governmental and territorial), with systematic quarterly samples to be taken at the main types of coverage and in both climate seasons, in order to obtain a minimum of information, to be complemented with earlier monitoring efforts.

82. Although the priority is the RBIM core zone, it is also necessary to explore options for managing landscapes in its adjacent areas, setting both productive and conservation objectives in places where in addition to producing, rural areas still conserve coverage with diverse communities of fauna which are essential for the balance of natural and agricultural ecosystems. This work is intended to complement

the biodiversity monitoring activities at the Bio-CLIMA and FOLUR Nicaragua projects in these areas adjacent to the RBIM.

## 2.6 Baseline socioeconomic analysis

83. **Population.** According to FAO's socioeconomic study, complemented with the CPLI developed by the regional government during the project preparation period (**see Annex L and Appendix 3**), the government of Nicaragua has demarcated and titled all 23 territories belonging to originary and afrodescendant peoples. Taken together, these take up 37,252.91 km<sup>2</sup> or 31.4% of the country, with 205,315 protagonists living in 301 communities. In 2009 communal property title 010-18-12-2009 was extended to the Rama and Kriol Indigenous territory, located in the municipalities of El Rama and Bluefields in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region and in the municipalities of El Castillo and San Juan in the province of R?o San Juan.[19]<sup>19</sup>

84. The Indigenous territory harbours nine communities and 23 cays, with an estimated population of 2,927 inhabitants and 488 families living on 406,849.3 ha of land and using another 441,308 ha of water in the Caribbean Sea. The nine communities are as follows: i. Rama Cay, ii. Tiktik Kaanu, iii. Sumu Kaat, iv. Wiring Cay, v. Bang Kukuk, vi. Monkey Point, vii. Indian River, viii. Corn River and ix. Greytown. There is also a Rama and Kriol population that lives on the 23 cays which are part of the territory: Buby Kay, Bank Kuku Kay, Big & Small Parment, French Man Kay, Pegeon Kay, Guana Kay, Scualup Kay, Coco Kay, Phillis Kay, Round Kay, Shagaring Kay, Duk Creek Kay, Baboon Kay, Bilchy Kay, Silgrass Kay, Three Sister Kay, Soap Kay, Walker Kay, Mission Kay, Whyro Kay, John Crow Kay, Rama Kay and Bryan Kay.

85. With the recognition and restitution of the historical rights of the Rama and Kriol peoples, almost 70% (221,201.43 ha) of the RBIM is part of their communal property. There are three Indigenous communities that live in the Reserve's core zone: **i. Indian River**, with 203 ethnic Ramas; **ii. Corn River**, with 82 ethnic Kriols and **iii. Greytown**, with 116 inhabitants, also Kriol. While all communities are in Rama-Kriol territory, strictly speaking it is only the communities located at the mouth of the Ma?z Rivers and its upstream banks that actually live in the core zone.

Table 10: Rama-Kriol firm land population by municipality and relation to the RBIM

| Community             | Municipalities | Ethnic Group | Pop. 2020 | Location as regards RBIM |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rama Kay (capital) | Bluefields     | Rama         | 785       | Outside                  |

| Community       | Municipalities        | Ethnic Group | Pop. 2020 | Location as regards RBIM |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Wiring Kay   | Bluefields            | Rama         | 71        | Outside                  |
| 2. Monkey Point | Bluefields            | Kriol        | 325       | Outside                  |
| 3. Tiktik Kaanu | Bluefields            | Rama         | 106       | Outside                  |
| 4. Sumo Kaat    | Bluefields            | Rama         | 108       | Outside                  |
| 5. Bang Kukuk   | Bluefields            | Rama         | 140       | Outside                  |
| 6. Corn River   | Bluefields            | Rama         | 82        | Inside                   |
| 7. Indian River | San Juan de Nicaragua | Kriol        | 203       | Inside                   |
| 8. Greytown     | San Juan de Nicaragua | Kriol        | 116       | Inside                   |
| Total           |                       |              | 1,936     |                          |

**Source:** FAO socioeconomic diagnostic 2020-2021. Population estimates made by members of the Rama and Kriol

communities at the workshops held on 18 February 2020 and 4-6 May 2021.

86. For the project it is essential to understand the settlement patterns of rural families in the area of influence or adjacent to the Reserve, their location in relation to it and their ethnic identity. To describe settlement patterns and the cultural identity of the rural population located in the project area of influence, data from censuses taken by the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices were used, as were estimates made by members of Rama and Kriol communities and South Caribbean Coast regional government staff.

87. For the purpose of describing the location of the rural population in the RBIM area of influence, two areas and their proximity to the RBIM core zone were identified: buffer zone I ? the communities located at more than 20 km from the RBIM border track; and buffer zone II: ? the communities located at less than 20 km from the border track.

88. By analysing the data found in Table 5, the first thing noticeable is that from a demographic perspective the pressure being placed on the RBIM is very high on both the Bluefields and El Castillo borders, but considerably less so in San Juan, which is still only sparsely populated. Second, if only the rural population that lives in the area closest to the RBIM is taken into account, said pressure is most intense on the Bluefields side, which explains the colonization of the Punta Gorda and Cerro Silva natural reserves by people coming mainly from the municipality of Nueva Guinea.

Table 5: Rural population in the municipalities of El Castillo, Bluefields and San Juan and their relation to the RBIM

| Location  | Municipality/<br>Zone | #<br>Communities | Population | %<br>Afrodesc. ? Indigen. pop. |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Communities at more than 20 km. from the RBIM core zone | Zone 1                | 96               | 46,896     | 0                              |
|   | Bluefields            | 65               | 21,528     | nd                             |
|   | El Castillo           | 31               | 25,368     | nd                             |
|   | SJN                   | 0                | 0          | 0                              |
| Communities at less than 20 km. from the RBIM core zone | Zone 2                | 83               | 37,949     | 7%                             |
|   | Bluefields            | 65               | 27734      | 7%                             |
|   | El Castillo           | 12               | 9,423      | 100%                           |
|   | San Juan              | 6                | 792        | 55%                            |

**Source:** FAO study based on data made available by the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices.

89. **Economic activities** in the areas adjacent to the RBIM and in the project's area of influence are based on two major drivers, namely the Mestizo agriculture-cattle-raising economy that prevails in the entire municipality of El Castillo and rural Bluefields, which has almost completely colonised the Cerro Silva and Punta Gorda natural reserves; and fishery, which is the main activity along the Caribbean Coast and includes fishing in rivers, lagoons, the estuary and the sea. A third but lesser force is the urban economy based in the municipalities of Bluefields and San Juan, which is closely linked to fishery, the existence of government institutions, tourism and commerce.

90. **Cattle-raising.** The main activity in this economy is raising cattle for beef, milk, cheese, followed by pig farming and the growing of maize, beans, cacao, oil palm and forest products. More recently there is growing investment in Robusta coffee plantations and a significant increase in items heretofore unusual in the area, such as fruit, musaceans, vegetables and medicinal plants. The latter are a consequence of the growing local population and thus the demand for more diversified foodstuffs.

91. The **Socioeconomic and Gender Study** undertaken by URACCAN University for the FOLUR Project indicates that the municipalities in El Castillo and Bluefields are in the cattle-raising area known as the 'new agricultural frontier'. Cattle-raising is extensive, its growth based mainly on the expansion of both natural and cultivated pastureland. The level of technification for processing is relatively low, as is the gender parity index. There are at least seven milk collection companies that make cheese and curd for export and sale to internal markets in the municipality of El Castillo. These are local actors with which an incentive mechanism can be devised by which to intensify cattle

production and promote silvopastoral systems, in coordination with Bio-CLIMA (GCF-CABEI), the Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the Municipality of El Castillo Project (EU-CIAT) and the FOLUR Nicaragua Project (GEF-FAO).

Table 6: Milk collection and processing companies in El Castillo

| Establishment    | Location        | Activity                   |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Donaldo Guzmán   | Nueva Quezada   | Collect milk, make cheese  |
| Reynaldo Rocha   | Marcelo         | Collect milk, make cheese  |
| Martín Martínez  | La Joca         | Collect milk, make cheese  |
| Denis Ríos       | Boca de Sabalos | Dairy products distributor |
| Rolando Bustillo | La Juana        | Collect milk, make cheese  |
| Joaquín Gómez    | La Juana        | Collect milk, make cheese  |
| Miguel Cabrera   | El Castillo     | Collect milk, make cheese  |

**Fuente:** FAO study based on data provided by the El Castillo mayor's office

92. **Cacao** plantations are reported mainly in the municipality of El Castillo, where four agricultural and cattle-raising cooperatives have some 610 ha of cacao planted. Several studies show that most of these plantations are forested, with combinations of cacao with timber species, fruit, citrus and musaceans. Management is capital and labour-intensive (cleaning, pruning of shade trees and tissue management), with very little use made of fertilizers and agrochemicals. This type of management has many advantages, as the low level of inputs means there is little pollution of soil and water sources, and agro-forestry systems are associated to production.

Table 7: Cacao cooperatives and membership by sex in El Castillo

| Cooperative | Members |     |  |     |     | Total* |
|-------------|---------|-----|--|-----|-----|--------|
|             | Women   | %   |  | Men | %   |        |
| COODEPROSA  | 12      | 32% |  | 26  | 68% | 38     |
| COSEMUCRIM  | 18      | 12% |  | 128 | 88% | 146    |
| COOPROCAFUC | 27      | 30% |  | 63  | 70% | 90     |
| ASHIERCA    | 13      | 30% |  | 30  | 70% | 43     |
| Total       | 70      | 22% |  | 247 | 78% | 317    |

93. **Coconut production.** In San Juan de Nicaragua a large amount of coconuts is grown, making it one of the main sources of employment in the north-eastern community of Siempre Viva. This community is made up of Mestizo and Kriol families that grow coconuts, musaceans, roots and tubers; very few raise cattle. It is worth noting that coconuts are an essential part of the local diet. The plant is

also used as raw material for making artisanal cooking oil for self-consumption and cosmetic purposes. Coconuts have also been used with relative success as food in small aquaculture endeavours.

94. **Entrepreneurial economy in the project's area of influence or adjacent to the RBIM.** There are four large enterprises that are major sources of employment, but also have a strong impact on ecosystems.

Table 8: Agriculture and forestry-related businesses in El Castillo

| Company                      | Location           | Plantation            | Activity                           |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Palmares del Castillo S.A.   | El Vivero          | Oil palm              | Production, collection, processing |
| Maderas Cultivadas de CA S.A | El Puente          | White teak and Acacia | Production                         |
| Agroindustrial del Río S.A   | Nueva Libertad     | Cacao                 | Production, collection             |
| Pura Sana                    | Mauricio Gutiérrez | Citrus                | Production                         |

**Source:** FAO study, based on data provided by the El Castillo mayor's office

95. **Oil palm.** In El Castillo there is a significant investment in oil palm plantations, estimated at some 12,000 ha. The company hires mainly males, although seasonally and for certain activities women find work as well. These plantations are found in the eastern part of the municipality, relatively far away from the RBIM, but has activated a land market in which the company buys up land from farmers.

96. **Cacao.** There is also a company (Agroindustrial del Río S.A.) that has planted 1,500 ha of cacao and is a major source of employment. Unlike in campesino production systems, entrepreneurial cacao production is based on monoculture.

97. **Forestry.** Approximately 1,000 ha of white teak and acacia are grown. These are exotic to the area and have replaced other timber species.

98. **Fishery.** According to staff at the San Juan mayor's office, there are 72 registered fishermen, of which fifty have outboard motor boats. There are two large fish collection centres, one of which markets the catch in Bluefields, the other in San Carlos. According to community members from Rama Kay, south of Bluefields Bay, where a considerable portion of the Rama and Kriol population lives, most of the 220 families on the island are fisherfolk, and all are connected to the collection centre in Bluefields, either through traders or local fish collectors. There are more than 150 boats of varying sizes, and no less than eighty outboard motor boats.



99. **Tourism.** Tourism in the project area of influence has been gaining importance both as a source of employment and in terms of value generation. Indeed, growing the sector is one of the key pillars of Nicaragua's development strategy. In this part of the country, tourism is closely linked to services offered in the town of Bluefields and accessible touristic establishments in El Castillo and San Juan.

100. According to the register of tourist-related businesses kept by INTUR (2019), in Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan there are 254 enterprises, of which 64 offer lodging, 34 food and beverages, 71 recreation and evening entertainment, 38 water transport companies, 45 local tourist guides and two tour operators.

Table 9. Tourist companies by activity in Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan (2015-2019)

| ACTIVITIES                                  | 2019       | 2018       | 2017       | 2016       | 2015       |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Lodging</b>                              | 64         | 66         | 68         | 65         | 63         |
| <b>Food and beverages</b>                   | 34         | 36         | 36         | 34         | 29         |
| <b>Recreation and evening entertainment</b> | 71         | 69         | 69         | 63         | 63         |
| <b>Tour operators</b>                       | 2          | 2          | 1          | 1          | 0          |
| <b>Tourist water transport companies</b>    | 38         | 38         | 35         | 31         | 0          |
| <b>Local guides</b>                         | 45         | 45         | 45         | 41         | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>254</b> | <b>256</b> | <b>254</b> | <b>235</b> | <b>155</b> |

Source: FAO study, based on INTUR data

101. As part of the dialogue-alliances-consensus model established by the government of Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Tourism Institute (INTUR), has taken a number of actions in the RBIM area of influence that are designed to improve the supply of goods and services aimed at tourists. The Water Route Programme includes municipal tourism development plans in El Castillo and San Juan, although these must be updated. For its part, Bluefields had a Municipal Tourism Development Plan for the 2014-2018 period, which was updated in 2017, when a Plan of Action was formulated for the years 2017-2019.

102. Through the joint programme titled 'Cultural Revitalization and Creative Productive Development on the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast', a sociocultural diagnostic of the Rama and Kriol peoples was carried out. Likewise, community centres were created with the aim of promoting culture, gathering a dictionary and writing texts intended to help preserve the Rama culture and language.

## 2.7 Baseline: gender analysis

103. The FAO gender gap study undertaken in preparation for this project (see Appendix 4) began in the Rama and Kriol territory, taking into account distribution by sex in its nine communities (see Table 10).

Table 10: Rama-Kriol Population by sex

| Community             | Ethnic group | Pop. 2020 | Men | Women |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----|-------|
| 1. Rama Kay (capital) | Rama         | 785       | 396 | 389   |
| 2. Wiring Kay         | Rama         | 71        | 37  | 34    |
| 3. Monkey Point       | Kriol        | 325       | 164 | 161   |
| 4. Tiktik Kaanu       | Rama         | 106       | 44  | 62    |
| 5. Sumo Kaat          | Rama         | 108       | 59  | 49    |
| 6. Bang Kukuk         | Rama         | 140       | 68  | 72    |
| 7. Corn River         | Rama         | 82        | 47  | 35    |
| 8. Indian River       | Kriol        | 203       | 107 | 96    |
| 9. Greytown           | Kriol        | 116       | 63  | 53    |
| Total                 |              | 1,936     | 985 | 951   |

**Source:** FAO Socioeconomic diagnostic 2020-2021. Estimates offered by Rama-Kriol community

members at the workshops held on 18 February 2020 and 4-6 May 2021.

104. Rama and Kriol women make up 49% of the total population of the nine communities in their territory. Historically, Indigenous women have performed a triple role, determined by their participation in reproductive, productive and, more recently, political representation within and outside their communities (for instance in the establishment of cooperatives, women's groups organized around gender issues, and, more traditionally, church activities).

105. Recent studies show that in the Rama Cay communities women have historically been assigned the role of conserving and transmitting customs and traditions; in addition, Indigenous women contribute significantly to community organization, which in recent years has translated into more participation and leadership. As concerns the dynamics of family economics, women harvest and market surplus products in both agriculture and fishery.

106. Specifically, women participate in one of the main economic activities of Rama families, the capture and collection of oysters, scallops, cockles and (almost exclusively) breams, as well as their marketing. Prices depend upon the point of sale. The highest are obtained in Bluefields, although once the cost of transport is included the business may not be profitable. The products offered are seasonal: from February to April dwarf crayfish (*Cambarellus*) are captured, dried and sold within and outside the communities; from July to September and again in November, shrimp are harvested (*Caridea*). Scallops and clams are available year-round. The marketing of these products is done mainly by women, who in this way contribute to the family and community economy practically all year long.

107. **In project areas of influence or adjacent to the RBIM.** The URACCAN University Socioeconomic and Gender Study undertaken for the FOLUR Project found that women participate in the cacao and cattle-raising value chains. The results are found in Table 11:

Table 11. Participation by women in the cacao value chain (acc. to surveys and focal groups)

| Links                             | Activities                                      | Number of Mestizo women |        | Number of Kriol women |        |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
|                                   |   |                         |        |                       |        |
| Primary link ?<br>production      | <b>Average</b>                                  | 8.50                    | 53.13% | 1.5                   | 12.50% |
|                                   | Establishment of nurseries                      | 10                      | 62.50% | 2                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Plant care                                      | 6                       | 37.50% | 1                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Cacao harvesting                                | 11                      | 68.75% | 2                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Cacao collection                                | 7                       | 43.75% | 1                     | 12.50% |
| Primary<br>Transformation<br>Link | <b>Average</b>                                  | 2.60                    | 16.25% | 1                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Transport to seed extraction sites              | 4                       | 25.00% | 1                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Seed extraction and selection                   | 3                       | 18.75% | 1                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Transfer to fermentation sites                  | 2                       | 12.50% | 1                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Cacao fermentation                              | 1                       | 6.25%  | 1                     | 12.50% |
|                                   | Cacao drying                                    | 3                       | 18.75% | 1                     | 12.50% |
| Collection Link                   | Cacao packaging and transport                   | 3                       | 18.75% | 0.0                   | 0.0    |
| Secondary Transformation Link     | Transformation of cacao into a finished product | 1                       | 6.25%  | 1                     | 6.25%  |
| Sales Link                        | Market  | 6                       | 37.50% | 2                     | 12.50% |

**Source:** Socioeconomic study of the FOLUR Project area by URACCAN-FAO, 2021

108. Women are most active in the primary link, where they establish nurseries, hoe the plantations and prune branches for shaping and maintenance purposes). The links with least female participation are cacao collection and marketing. As concerns the transformation process, very little activity was reported.

109. The aforementioned study included an interesting analysis of women's participation in the cattle-raising chain, the results of which are shown in Table 12:

Table 12. Participation of women in the cattle-raising value chain, according to focal groups

| Link              | Activities   | W | M | Both |
|-------------------|--|---|---|------|
| <b>Inputs</b>     | Cattle registry  |   | x |      |
|                   | Technical assistance by female veterinarians (IPSA, PRODESA) | x |   |      |
|                   | Purchase of medicines (dewormers, vitamins, salt, molasses)  |   |   | x    |
|                   | Buckets, milk cans, ropes                                    | x |   |      |
|                   | Purchase of cattle for breeding purposes                     |   | x |      |
| <b>Production</b> | Establishment, sowing and division of pastures               |   | x |      |
|                   | Fencing and cleaning of pastureland                          |   | x |      |
|                   | Cattle care (application of medications ? dewormer)          |   | x |      |
|                   | Complementary cattle feed                                    |   |   | x    |
|                   | Care during calving  |   | x |      |
|                   | Stabling   |   |   | x    |
|                   | Milking  |   |   | x    |
|                   | Washing milk cans /other implements used for milking         | x |   |      |
|                   | Washing cattle   |   | x |      |
|                   | Branding cattle  | x | x |      |
|                   | Security: daily cattle count                                 | x | x | x    |
| <b>Transport</b>  | Carrying milk from field to home or buyer                    |   | x |      |
|                   | Transport  |   | x |      |
| <b>Processing</b> | Curdle, break and squeeze the milk to make curd              | x |   |      |

|                          |   |   |   |  |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|
|                          | Make cheese   |   | x |  |
|                          | Remove cream  | x |   |  |
|                          | Making of candies, cornflour drinks, rice pudding, ice cream, confections, yogurt, bakery | x |   |  |
| <b>Sales / marketing</b> | Sale of curd, ice cream, bakery (in the community)  | x |   |  |
|                          | Sale of milk and cheese, cattle-on-the-hoof (municipal)                                   |   | x |  |
|                          | Sale of cheese and cattle-on-the-hoof (in the communities and to collection centres)      | x |   |  |

Source: URACCAN-FAO Study, 2021

110. The five most significant constraints for women to increase their participation in both productive chains are: i) limited access to information, knowledge and training; ii) limited access to financial services; iii) limited access to inputs and technologies; iv) workload and lack of time; and v) unequal participation, leadership and decision-making.

111. As shown by the socioeconomic dynamics in the territory, in agricultural activities such as fishery and tourism, there are noteworthy gender gaps, measured as the participation of women in the economy and owners of properties and assets (land or businesses). Given this situation, the public sector has implemented a process to define strategies and policies that ensure women's economic initiatives in the different sectors are identified and they actively participate in the various projects being implemented.

112. The gender approach is promoted by the government's Gender Equality and Equity Approach, which has demonstrated positive advances in gender gap reduction. This policy is mainstreamed in all government institution communications strategy and is cross-cutting in all projects and actions being implemented in the communities of the municipalities in the project area of influence and the Rama-Kriol territory.

113. It is worth pointing out that Nicaragua has made progress regarding women's empowerment and protagonism in a number of sectors. The outcome of this policy is that in 2017 Nicaragua was ranked sixth in the world in terms of gender equality and first in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report. In 2018, Nicaragua continued to strengthen gender equality and reached the fifth position among the countries evaluated worldwide.

114. The Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve, both in its core zone and adjacent area of influence, constitute a new space where women will play an important role in the sustainable management of

natural resources and local economic development. Women are relevant actors that contribute to conservation, generate income and improve living conditions among their families and communities.

115. As state institutions, MEFCCA, INTUR, IPSA, INAFOR and MARENA have undertaken actions at two levels:

- Institutional: Strengthening the institutionalization of policies and strategies by including the gender perspective to all institutional planning processes and monitoring systems; defining gender indicators in the institution's information systems, which are expected to contribute to measuring how the participation of women contributes in each sector to reduce gender inequality; formulating and implementing a Plan of Action keyed toward the promotion of gender equality; and preventing of sexual exploitation of girls, boys and adolescents in the travel and tourism sector. For instance, in 2012, INTUR formulated a Gender Equality Strategy (2013-2018), for the purpose of furthering real transformations in gender relations, based on values and the restitution of rights. As part of this instrument's lines of action the inclusion of the gender perspective was fostered in the institution's management, stressing the visibility and relevance of having women play a primordial role in the tourism sector, thus promoting their empowerment.
  
- Protagonists: Promoting the economic empowerment of women in the various sectors (tourism, agriculture, forestry) by applying gender criteria to the formulation of plans of action that contribute to more equitable access to financial and technological resources, as well as technical assistance to women owners or managers of economic enterprises. In some cases, these include training elements related to self-esteem, leadership and awareness of their rights, among others.

3) Alternative scenario proposed, with a brief description of expected results, project components and its theory of change

## **ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO**

### **3.1 General approach to project intervention and its theory of change**

116. The project strategy to conserve this globally important biodiversity and improve the ecosystemic services in the RBIM is based on a comprehensive landscape management approach that takes into account governance structure strengthening systems by providing a Reserve Management Plan as a means of planning actions. Second, institutional and territorial capacities to administrate the

Management Plan will be strengthened. Third, an instrument will be defined by which to actually implement said plan. In this regard, scientific research will play an important role, as will actions that favour the economy of the Rama and Kriol peoples. Finally, there will be knowledge management activities intended to collect, systematize, communicate and disseminate the results of the RBIM project. In each of these components, Indigenous women will have ample space for participation.

117. The RBIM management model, and in particular that of its core zone, has three strategic functions that complement project activities: (1) conservation of genetic diversity, species, ecosystems and landscapes; (2) sustainable human and economic development; (3) logistical support encompassing demonstrative subprojects, environmental education, training, research and monitoring.<sup>[20]</sup><sup>20</sup>

118. While the project is to concentrate on the RBIM, there will be close collaboration with other initiatives taking place in its area of influence or adjacent to it, in particular (i) the Bio-CLIMA Project financed by GCF-CABEI; (ii) the FOLUR Project financed by GEF-FAO, which will seek to reduce emissions in food production systems in the Indio-Maíz buffer zone; (iii) the project titled 'Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the Municipalities of El Castillo, Río San Juan Biosphere Reserve', implemented by the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), financed by the European Union, which seeks to restore natural resources in the municipality of El Castillo by introducing biota protection and conservation systems; and (iii) the Biodiversity Programme 'Linking Central American Landscapes' (KfW-IUCN), financed by the German Ministry of Foreign Cooperation (BMZ) through the German Development Bank (KfW).

119. For the purpose of reducing forest degradation, adapting to climate change and mitigating underlying institutional barriers, the project will tackle the fundamental causes of deforestation and the loss of biological diversity in a comprehensive and multisectoral manner that incorporates relevant actors and uses a landscape approach to the areas adjacent to the RBIM. Therefore, RBIM management will be planned and administered in the adjacent buffer zone and neighbouring natural reserves, instead of isolating them. The landscape approach also offers the opportunity to deal with more complex scenarios in which, for instance, the Indigenous and Afrodescendant communities actually reside inside protected areas. Comprehensive landscape management means that traditional productive systems and natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner in an area sufficiently large so it provides vital ecosystemic resources, but small enough to be administered by the people who use the land.

120. **Theory of change.** The theory of change takes for a point of departure problem identification, obstacles and existing constraints to ensuring the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystemic services in the RBIM, in tandem with the knowledge and practices of the Rama and Kriol peoples.

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121. The project will support more comprehensive planning schemes as it formulates an RBIM Management Plan in a setting that includes adjacent areas in the landscape restoration plans for the purpose of improving soil use using an integrated landscape management approach that lead to better governance and capacities to improve productivity through settings that are sustainable, free of deforestation and degradation. There will be coordination with the Bio-CLIMA and FOLUR Nicaragua projects to promote value chains for basic export products (beef and cacao), through interventions that contribute to reduce the loss of tropical forests generated by these productive activities, as well as to improve their resilience and productivity.

122. The project will strengthen governance and dialogue between the public sector at its national, regional, municipal and territorial levels and with the private sector by working with actors that carry out productive activities in areas adjacent to the RBIM (cattle-raising, cacao, forestry, fishery and tourism) as concerns planning, capacity-strengthening and the creation of incentives that contribute to RBIM management in the context of its extended landscape, which is the R?o San Juan Biosphere Reserve. Likewise, special attention will be afforded the participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples, in keeping with the consultations and plan formulated during the PPG by the South Caribbean Coast Regional Government and the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government.

123. Simultaneously, there exists the need to restore degraded areas until they recover productive conditions or can once again be considered natural ecosystems. This is to be done in parts of the core zone that are currently in the process of natural regeneration following the passage of Hurricane Otto and in coordination with the Rama and Kriol ITG and GRACCS. In adjacent areas, more efficient productive systems will be established based on the incorporation of sustainable, deforestation-free practices in the cattle and cacao value chains that increase efficiency and tree cover in biological corridors.

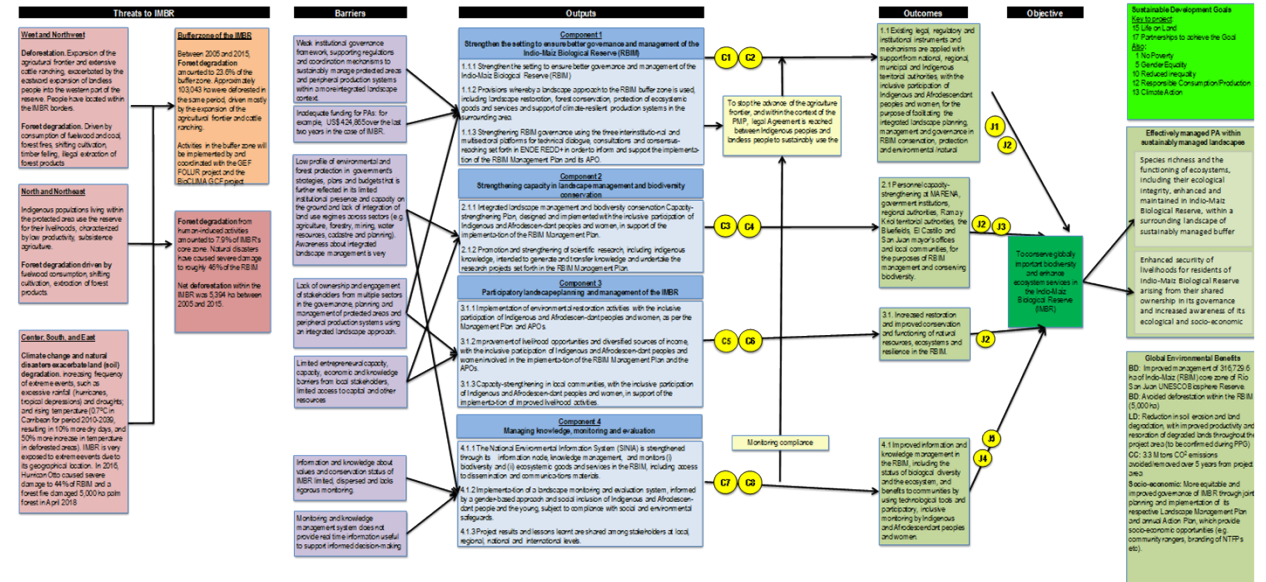
124. Also a priority is the establishment of a biodiversity monitoring system intended to counter threats related to forest degradation and climate change, as well as monitoring endangered species of fauna and flora based on sites at landscape and specific habitat levels.

125. Based on the foregoing, an intervention logic has been proposed that illustrates the project?s theory of change (Figure 12).

**Figure 12:** Theory of Change



THEORY OF CHANGE, FROM THREATS AND BARRIERS TO OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS. Assumptions are identified.



### 3.2 Project objective, components, expected results, outputs and activities

126. The project **objective** is ?to conserve this world-class biodiversity environment and improve ecosystem services in the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve by working in association with Indigenous peoples and local communities?.

127. To achieve this objective, the project has been structured under four components:

- Component 1. Strengthen the setting by ensuring better governance and management of the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM).
- Component 2. Strengthen capacities among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity and manage the RBIM.
- Component 3. Participatory management of the RBIM.
- Component 4. Knowledge management, follow-up and evaluation.

#### 128. Component 1: Strengthen the setting by ensuring better governance and management of the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM)

129. **Result 1.1:** Existing legal, regulatory and institutional instruments and mechanisms are applied with support

from national, regional, municipal and Indigenous territorial authorities, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, for the purpose of facilitating the

comprehensive landscape planning, management and governance in RBIM conservation, protection and environmental / natural resources restoration areas.

Component 1 includes support to the preparation of the following instruments for RBIM management: (i) the formulation and adoption of a Management Plan (MP) for a five-year period and its Annual Plan of Operations (APO); ii) update the Autonomous Territorial Development and Administration Plan (PADA, 2009), including statutes and regulations for Rama and Kriol territorial governance.

Parallel to the formulation of an RBIM management plan, work will be done to coordinate with the Bio-CLIMA and FOLUR projects and apply a landscape-based approach in the areas adjacent to the RBIM, considering the productive systems in the municipalities of Bluefields and El Castillo, landscape restoration, forest conservation, protection of ecosystemic goods and services and climate-resilient cattle-raising and cacao production systems.

The strengthening of the institutional mechanisms required to support comprehensive and sustainable biodiversity management in the RBIM will take place using three interinstitutional and multisectoral technical dialogue platforms; the consultations and consensuses set forth in ENDE REDD+ to inform and support the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan; and Annual Plans of Operation (APO).

130. **Output 1.1.1** RBIM five-year Management Plan and APO prepared and under implementation with guidance from MARENA working together with other national institutions, the regional authorities, the Rama and Kriol ITGs, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities.

This output is of vital importance in order to reach the expected project results, given that the RBIM Management Plan is an administrative instrument originating from a participatory, multisectoral and interinstitutional planning process. It has a territorial, systemic, generic and participatory approach that will involve GRACCS, Rama and Kriol ITGs, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices, the private sector, civil society and Caribbean Coast universities (URACCAN, BICU and UNI).

This process is led by MARENA, in coordination with the South Caribbean Coast authorities, as established in the **Nicaragua Protected Areas Regulations** (Executive Decree 01-2007). In the case of regulations for PAs on the South Caribbean Coast, its Article 10 states: "MARENA will coordinate with authorities in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region and the Rama and Kriol Indigenous peoples as concerns activities to prepare and approve management plans, in accordance with that which is set forth in articles 26, 27 and 28 of the law on Communal Property of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Communities of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regions and the Bocay, Coco, Indio and Ma'z Rivers (Law 445) and the Caribbean Coast Autonomy Law (Law 28) and other regulations applicable to the matter that are in now force or enter into force at some future time."

This regulation establishes that the Management Plan is a scientific instrument required for the administration and management of the National Protected Areas System (SINAP) and their buffer zones, and needs an Annual Plan of Operations (APOs). The Management Plan originates from a multisectoral planning process and contains a set of norms and technical provisions that regulate the activity to be developed in the PA and its buffer zone.

This is a participatory process to be followed as described in MARENA's official *Methodological Guide for the Formulation of Protected Areas Management Plans*, approved by means of Ministerial Resolution 014.11.10, passed by the National Assembly (parliament) on 18 November 2010, and published in *La Gaceta*, Official Congressional Record No. 107 on 10 June 2011.<sup>[21]</sup><sup>21</sup> However, the Guide will be applied according to local realities. The process begins with descriptive diagnostic studies in the area of intervention inside the RBIM; a socioeconomic diagnostic specific to the area of

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intervention within the RBIM; an analysis of the setting, including an assessment and evaluation of the impact of the interventions proposed; and a determination on the potential use of non-timber resources.

Support will be provided to engage a technical team of experts to formulate the Management Plan, which is to include ecological, social and geospatial studies, as well as their possible buffer zones and participatory processes that involve all stakeholders, both men and women, inside and around the RBIM, especially in the Rama and Kriol Indigenous communities and their ITGs, while fostering a process of intercultural gender equality and the empowerment of women. This Management Plan will be approved by MARENA, upon consultation with the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices, GRACCS, the Rama and Kriol ITG and local communities located in the proposed buffer zone (see articles 33 to 42 of Executive Decree 01-2007).

A crucial aspect in the process of formulating the Management Plan is the proposal for an RBIM buffer zone, in accordance with article 24 of the General Environmental and Natural Resources Law (Law 217) and its enabling regulations,<sup>[22]</sup> which states that "When already declared protected areas lack a buffer zone, that which is set forth in the approved Management Plan, or is approved in accordance with art. 8 of Law 217 applies, in order to ensure an effective control, monitoring and follow-up that ensures sustainable development in the buffer zones. Those instruments deemed necessary shall be created with the participation of and in coordination with those institutions or actors that exercise an influence in the area."

The Management Plan and its APO carry implicit institutional strengthening through the development of human capacities, the full and effective participation of regional autonomous authorities on the South Caribbean Coast, (GRACCS and Rama and Kriol ITGs). An effort must be made to strengthen autonomous institutionality, while building up social capital and the fabric of institutional relations, all for the purpose of conserving biodiversity in the RBIM.

At the outset of each year, the project will support the formulation of the Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for the RBIM, which is a tool regulated by the Protected Areas Law, articles 46 to 50, and is the document that contains operational processes, a guide to short-term project implementation, and quantifiable targets and responsibilities, in accordance with the financial and human resources available. It also allows for evaluating management in the short to medium-term.<sup>[23]</sup>

It is on this output that the updating of the Autonomous Territorial Development and Administration Plan (PADA, 2009) will be based, including its statutes and the regulations for governance by the Rama and Kriol territorial government and the formulation of communal development plans for each of the nine (9) communities.

The formulation of the Management Plan and PADA update will be done by a team of intersectoral experts, with support from the Executing Unit and in coordination with GRACCS and co-financing from the Bio-CLIMA Project, as per its component 2 "Good Governance", specifically activity 2.1.2.3.

The **activities** geared toward the actions needed to achieve output 1.1.1 are:

1.1.1.1 Formulate a Management Plan for the RBIM

1.1.1.2 Update Autonomous Territorial Development and Administration Plan (PADA).

131. **Output 1.1.2** Provisions whereby a landscape approach to the RBIM buffer zone is used, including landscape restoration, forest conservation, protection of ecosystemic goods and services and support to climate-resilient production systems in the surrounding area.

This output will strengthen the application of the provisions aimed at achieving a landscape-based approach inside and surrounding the RBIM, taking into account its strategic location as the core zone of the Río San Juan Biosphere Reserve.

**The first thing** will be to support the formulation of **forest protection and regeneration norms** for the most important plant species in the RBIM's core zone, as follows: **high forest:** oil bean tree (*Pentaclethra maculosa*); sapodilla (*Manilkara chicle*); an undetermined genus of *Alchornea* sp.; cespedesia (*Cespedesia spathulata*); luehea (*Luehea speciosa*); almendro (*Dipteryx panamensis*) (a species that serves as indicator of a potential habitat for the great green macaw); crabwood *Carapa guianensis*); bitter ash (*Simarouba amara*); bully tree (*Hyeronima laxiflora*) and coco (*lecynthis ampla*).

**Riparian forest:** Tamarind (*Pithecellobium latifolium*), ice cream bean, (*Inga vera*), weeping fig (*Ficus* sp.), luehea (*Luehea seemanii*), white yemeri (*Vochysia guatemalensis*) and almendro (*Dipteryx panamensis*), among others that function as an ecotone in which are found many associated species of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

**Mangrove forest:** High tides on the Caribbean littoral overflow the river mouths and make the water briny in the estuaries. This is an ideal environment for the mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), which tends to mitigate the impact of water on shores and riverbanks. This ecosystem is found mainly at the mouths of the Maíz, Punta Gorda and Indio rivers.

**Norms will also be established to protect groundwater recharge zones in the high part of hydrographic basins.** To be prioritized are those of the San Juan, Indio and Maíz rivers. There will also be norms to protect the wetlands that run parallel to the lower bed of the Indio River to the San Juan river delta and the yolilla palm stands in the Colorado River area (Costa Rica), as well as the Sólido, Ebo, La Barca and other smaller lagoons.

Support will also be provided to the formulation of **biodiversity protection norms** for species, organised by taxonomic group (fish, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and molluscs). Endangered species will be prioritised according to the CITES Convention, as follows: **birds** : great green macaw (*Ara ambiguus*), the yellow-naped parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*), the great curassow (*Crax rubra*) and the keel-billed motmot (*Electron carinatum*); **mammals**: Baird tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) and the jaguar (*Panthera onca*); **amphibians**: two globally endangered species, the Nicaraguan rainfrog (*Craugastor laevisimus*) and the Indio River salamander (*Bolitoglossa indio*). Five species of reptiles are also globally at risk, one of which in critical danger, the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), while leatherback turtles (*Dermodochelys coriacea*) and green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are listed as endangered.

**Secondly**, work will take place in coordination with Bio-CLIMA, the Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the Municipality of El Castillo Project and the FOLUR Project, for the purpose of using a landscape-based approach in the areas adjacent to the RBIM that takes into account local production systems (cattle-raising, cacao plantations, forestry, tourism) in the municipalities of Bluefields and El Castillo.

Jointly with Bio-CLIMA and FOLUR, the project will facilitate a participatory comprehensive soil use planning process in the municipalities of Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan. Support will be offered to small farmers and cattle-ranching or cacao-growing cooperatives, as well as to Rama and Kriol ITGs (outside the protected areas) in order to design plans for landscape restoration through silvopastoral and cacao agroforestry systems, forest restoration, protection, reforestation and the sustainable management of native forestland.

Existing soil use evaluation and comprehensive territorial planning tools developed by FAO and other organizations and countries will be employed, once adapted to the local situation.

Once restoration plans are concluded, there will be support for the formalization of multi-actor and multi-level agreements to implement on-farm investments leading to technological conversions to sustainable cattle-raising systems that are resilient, low in carbon emissions and deforestation-free, as well as sustainable cacao agroforestry systems that are diversified, resilient, low in carbon emissions and deforestation-free.

These multi-actor and multi-level agreements will be coordinated with the Bio-CLIMA Project, under its Component 1 (Conserving and Producing for Life), specifically activities 1.1.1.1; 1.2.1.3 and 1.2.1.4. Together with the Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the Municipality of El Castillo, there will be support for the implementation of collaborative agreements with producers using the cash-for-work model, cacao agroforestry systems in water recharge zones, best water restoration practices and natural regeneration measures in degraded areas in water recharge zones.

For its part, FOLUR Nicaragua will provide support through its output 3.1.1, with detailed investment plans developed by project protagonists with the aim of restoring natural and productive habitats in RACCS biological corridors in the municipalities of Bluefields and El Castillo in the province of Río San Juan.

The **activities** geared toward achieving output 1.1.2 are:

1.1.2.1 Facilitate the formulation of norms for forest protection and restoration, the protection of water recharge zones, and the protection of biodiversity, as per the RBIM Management Plan.

1.1.2.2 Promote the formalization of multi-actor, multi-level agreements to implement investments in more productive practices more favourable to biodiversity in the primary economic activities (cattle-raising, cacao plantations, forestry and tourism) taking place in Río San Juan Biosphere Reserve.

132. **Output 1.1.3.** Strengthening RBIM governance using the three interinstitutional and multisectoral platforms for technical dialogue, consultations and consensus-reaching set forth in ENDE REDD+, in order to inform and support the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan and APOs.

Given its development management and shared responsibility approach, and by promoting public-private alliances, the project's institutional structure is based on strengthening organizational processes and mechanisms already in place and that described in the Caribbean Coast and Upper Wangki and Bocay Development Strategy (2019 - 2029).

This output has for its foundation the following criteria: (i) dialogue, consensus and alliances; (ii) respect for the world view of original and afrodescendant peoples; (iii) free, prior, informed consent processes with all sectors and population groups; and (iv) the leadership of authorities and staff of the regional government.

Based on these criteria, work will take place at three organizational levels as regards consultations and decision-making: Group 1, community level; Group 2, institutional-technical level; and Group 3, territorial and central governments level.

The functioning of these three levels has a precedent in the ENDE-REDD+ readiness phase, which took place from 2014 to 2020, in which there was broad-based participation and consensus among the parties involved.<sup>[24]</sup><sup>24</sup> A number of governmental institutions accompanied the process, among them

the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), which presided; the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG); the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA); the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP); the National Forestry Institute (INAFOR); the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER); the National Public Policy Secretariat (SPPN), the Caribbean Coast Development Secretariat (CCDS), the autonomous regional governments (RACCS and GRACCS) and the Indigenous Territorial Government (ITG).

**Group 1** is made up of the Rama-Kriol Territorial government (RK-ITG), with differentiated legal personalities and jurisdiction over the entire interethnic territory; and b) the governments of the Indigenous and Afrodescendant communities living in the RBIM. The role of the community assemblies as highest authorities in decision-making is crucial to promoting social cohesion through planning-by-results, based on physical planning and a follow-up and evaluation system that contributes to the transparent administration of property and natural resources, in coordination with the municipalities, the regional government, sectoral entities and the private sector.

This group is an entity for dialogue, consultation and consensus that allows for the full and effective participation of protagonists in the territory and Rama-Kriol communities. The group informs, consults and proposes contributions to the different project components.

**Group 2** contributes to the coordination between strategic policy, implementation and dialogue with RBIM protagonists. This group provides technical assistance and points to needs and concerns regarding the Management Plan. It is made up of specialists from institutions that work on biodiversity, forests, environment, climate change, research, technological innovation and information systems. Group 2 members are MARENA, INAFOR, INETER, MAG, MEFCCA, INTA, IPSA, INTUR, GRAACS, the Nicaraguan Army, the National Police, representatives of the ITGs and the regional universities BICU and URACCAN.

**Group 3** has a strategic role in decision-making processes at the highest level, where the strategic lines are drawn based upon which the project is planned and implemented. The relevant actors at this level are the members of the Production, Consumption and Commerce System (SDCC), on which are representatives of the following institutions: MARENA, MAG, INAFOR, MEFCCA, MHCP, INTER, SPPN, SDCC and the Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (MIFIC), the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), the Animal and Plant Health Protection Institute (IPSA), the Nicaraguan Fishery and Aquaculture Institute (INPESCA), the Army and the Police.

The project will provide financial resources for periodic work meetings.

The **activities** aimed at actions to achieve output 1.1.3 are:

1.1.3.1 Strengthen the three interinstitutional and multisectoral platforms for technical dialogue, consultation and consensus, in support of RBIM management.

1.1.3.2 Hold APO follow-up and evaluation sessions with the three platforms.

133. **Component 2.** Capacity-strengthening among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity.

134. **Result 2.1** Personnel capacity-strengthening at MARENA, government institutions, regional authorities, Rama y Kriol territorial authorities, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities, for the purposes of RBIM management and conserving biodiversity.

As part of component 2, a **Capacity Strengthening Programme** will be drawn up early on for Comprehensive Landscape Development Purposes, under intercultural considerations, for the purpose

of facilitating the conservation of biodiversity and Indigenous livelihoods in the RBIM. Project design will be based on the needs diagnostic found in the RBIM Management Plan and the target groups, who will define contents and means. Different existing formal and non-formal training modalities will be discussed with URACCAN, BICU and UNI, (online / face-to-face or a combination, daily or weekends only, workshops, undergraduate or post graduate courses, master's degree options, etc.).

Capacity-strengthening also implies improving the ability to undertake research. This must be regulated and accompanied by the central and regional governments, in support of RBIM Management Plan activities. Likewise, there is to be education, training and equipping of institutional and RK-ITG community forest rangers.

135. **Output 2.1.1** Integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation, a Capacity-strengthening Plan, designed and implemented with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in support of the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan.

This output involves the design and implementation of training aimed at the Rama-Kriol Indigenous population and technical staff of the institutions participating in RBIM management, as well as training and knowledge exchanges among local actors.

The topics linked to comprehensive landscape management will focus on the provisions in the RBIM Management Plan, including biodiversity conservation, protection, and restoration, scientific tourism, low-impact tourism, and the traditional sustainable livelihoods of the Rama and Kriol peoples that reside inside the RBIM.

This capacity-strengthening programme will be designed and implemented with the inclusive participation of the Rama-Kriol ITGs, women, MARENA, GRACCS, mayor's offices, SPCC member organisations and private actors in the area of influence, with the aim to improve soil use and management at landscape level. Likewise, specific modules will take place on methodologies by which to incorporate gender equality and traditional Indigenous knowledge. The goal is that in the three municipalities 30% of Indigenous Rama-Kriol and Mestizo women and 20% of women in the public sector are trained in participatory planning to restore landscapes and conserve biodiversity.

The project will provide financial resources for technical assistance to devise a capacity-strengthening plan, hold work sessions to detect needs, according to the Management Plan and in order to implement training at community level and of technical staff at participating institutions.

The **activities** to achieve output 2.1.1 are:

2.1.1.1 Prepare a training programme to improve sustainable biodiversity management in the RBIM.

2.1.1.2 Implement the training plan.

136. **Output 2.1.2.** Promotion and strengthening of scientific research, including Indigenous knowledge, intended to generate and transfer knowledge and undertake the research programmes set forth in the RBIM Management Plan.

Scientific research in the RBIM will receive project support for the purpose of determining what changes have occurred in the ecosystems, including among the populations of key species. The goal is

to guide the managers to take the best possible decisions, focusing on the long-term protection, conservation and restoration of the different landscape units.

This output will be designed based on studies to be undertaken once the RBIM Management Plan has been formulated. Support and collaboration among researchers, public sector managers, universities and the Rama-Kriol communities will be coordinated, with the aim of promoting scientific tourism and other types of alternative and special interest tourism, all of which are of the low-impact variety.<sup>[25]<sup>25</sup></sup>

The project will support research into the historical writing, beginning with the opening of the free port at Greytown in 1847, after which several explorers travelled the San Juan River. Thus the latter half of the nineteenth century is a period pertinent to the knowledge of Nicaraguan zoology. There are collections of writing, such as that by L.F. Birt in Greytown and Río San Juan, which was deposited in the United States National Museum in Washington DC in 1889; an important listing of birds and mammals in the Greytown area was made in 1892 by ornithologist Charles W. Richmond and deposited in the American Museum of Natural History in New York (Allen, 1910; Miller, 1896). These efforts continued with contributions being made by the German herpetologist Günther Köhler, of the Senckenberg Museum, who explored the country between 1966 and 2001, and whose book *Amphibians and Reptiles of Nicaragua* makes substantial contributions to the Indio-Maíz herpetofauna (Köhler, 2001). Herpetological research resumed with works by the Spaniard Javier Sunyer, who analysed the state of conservation of reptiles and amphibians and drew up an updated list of existing species, including five taxa new to science, most on the Caribbean Coast (Sunyer 2009, 2014; Sunyer and Köhler, 2010). As a result of this research, HerpetoNica published an *Illustrated Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Nicaragua* (2015), which counts an updated wealth of 249 species (175 reptiles, 74 amphibians). Recent ornithological evaluations on the Caribbean Coast made by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the United Kingdom Darwin Initiative, which have contributed to the knowledge and conservation of biodiversity in the northern region by generating a baseline of the birdlife in Indigenous territories between 2016 and 2019 (Herrera-Rosales *et al.*, 2019).

The proposed research will gather data, analyse these and present the results, which will be disseminated by means to be agreed upon by project participants.

The project will provide financial resources with which to carry out the research, as per the Management Plan and participation of the Rama and Kriol peoples in the investigations.

The **activities** geared toward reaching output 2.1.2 are:

2.1.2.1 Design of a scientific research programme intended to carry out studies that identify potential for natural resources and biodiversity conservation.

2.1.2.2 Implementation of a scientific research programme.

137. **Component 3.** Participatory management of the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve (RBIM).

138. **Output 3.1:** Increased restoration and improved conservation of natural resources, ecosystems functions and resilience in the RBIM.

A central biological corridor of 108,674 ha will be restored as a means of promoting the integration of biodiversity, reducing land degradation and maintaining the carbon sinks, thus contributing to Nicaragua's compliance with its international commitments.

The biological corridor selected is located in the central and south-eastern parts of the RBIM, where support will be provided to activities keyed toward the regeneration of forestland damaged by Hurricane Otto, forest restoration in small areas in the northern and western parts of the Reserve, and sustainable biodiversity conservation.



The ecosystemic perspective and its relation to sustainable livelihoods of the Rama and Kriol peoples will be fostered through a sub-projects mechanism, in combination with the Bio-CLIMA Project, that will finance sustainable community enterprises in their territory.

Finally, the project will support the implementation of activities made possible by capacity-strengthening (see output 2.1.1) for Indigenous and Afrodescendant communities (prioritizing women and the young), including: (i) the administration of enterprises from the communities; and (ii) the acquisition of leadership skills.

139. **Output 3.1.1** Implementation of environmental restoration activities with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, as per the Management Plan and APOs.

Spatially, the strategy will be rolled out from the centre of the Reserve, in order to build resilience and sustainability from the inside out, while simultaneously slowing down the advance of the agricultural frontier that exerts pressure from the adjacent land outside the borders.

To formulate forest restoration actions, the most adequate and viable restoration systems will be used (e.g. assisted restoration, enrichment, natural regeneration, sustainable protection and management of native forests) in each prioritized area of intervention in the biological corridor (108,674 ha), and in accordance with the RBIM Management Plan agreed upon in a participatory manner.

The project will provide the Rama and Kriol ITGs with financial support, so they can implement actions that ensure natural regeneration, forest protection and sustainable management, including patrols, monitoring, and making firebreaks in the core and buffer zones. There will also be support to prepare specific plans, according to forest typology, aimed at protecting and/or assisting its natural regeneration.

The **activities** to achieve output 3.1.1 are:

3.1.1.1 Assist the Rama and Kriol ITGs and local communities to formulate investment plans to restore natural habitats in the RBIM core zone.

3.1.1.2 Implement actions leading to natural regeneration, native forest protection and sustainable management, and landscape restoration in the prioritized biological corridor in the RBIM.

140. **Output 3.1.2** Improvement of livelihood opportunities and diversified sources of income, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women involved in the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan and APOs.

This output will boost business initiatives that strengthen the livelihoods of the Rama and Kriol peoples living inside the RBIM. These small enterprises will be created with the support of the Implementation Unit and in coordination with GRACCS and co-financing from the Bio-CLIMA Project (Component 1 'Producing for Life', specifically Activity 1.2.2.1.)

The project will support the Rama and Kriol ITGs as they develop a business and investment plan (business plan) for each community in the territory, while ensuring its technical, social environmental, financial and market viability, as well as the inclusion of women and the young. The design and implementation of small enterprises will be coordinated with MEFCCA and INTUR, who are to accompany the initiatives in accordance with the categories approved in the RBIM Management Plan.

These enterprises could include ecotourism and ethnic tourism activities, handicrafts, Indigenous artisanal metalwork, woodwork and jewellery-making, non-timber forest products, resins and medicines, and/or other community-based productive enterprises approved in the Management Plan. These will be supported with an estimated average financial contribution of USD 54,000.00 each, to help protect at least 3,000 ha of natural forest.

The *criteria* for the establishment of small enterprises are as follows:

- ? Formulation of proposal by the Rama and Kriol ITG, prioritising communities and families living within the RBIM.
- ? Significant contribution to the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods within the community.
- ? Inclusion of participation mechanisms to ensure that the knowledge, needs and individual as well as collective rights of young adults of both genders, as well as those of adult women, are taken into account in their design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- ? Contribution to intercultural gender equality and economic empowerment of women by providing access to financial and other resources while generating tangible and measurable benefits.
- ? Contribution to ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, in accordance with the RBIM Management Plan.
- ? Contribution to strengthening capacities, the spirit of entrepreneurship and above all, the collective spirit in the communities.

Output 3.1.2. will be achieved through the following activities:

- 3.1.2.1 Design of business and investment plans for each enterprise
- 3.1.2.2 Support for the implementation of enterprises

141. **Output 3.1.3** Capacity-strengthening in local communities, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in support of the implementation of improved livelihoods activities.

On the basis of the business and investment plans for each approved enterprise, this output will help design and implement a training programme to facilitate inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in order to improve livelihoods.

The training programme will focus on activities that help overcome gender constraints, so women reach a higher level of participation in the creation of small enterprises:

- ? Organization of sessions and demonstrations to be held directly on women's lots, or near these. In many cases, community-based or peer-to-peer approaches have proven to be more effective when rural women are involved.
- ? Inclusion of workload-reducing technologies which are also adequate for women, e.g. lighter or smaller farming tools, or cheaper commercial solutions (e.g. smaller packages of inputs), to offset women's limited access to rural financing.
- ? Provision or creation of spaces where women who do not own electronic devices can use ICTs effectively (e.g. adequate and culturally sensitive local public access points for women).
- ? Improvement of rural women's education and financial knowledge.
- ? Strengthening relations with suppliers by supporting agribusinesses owned or managed by women.
- ? Introduction of appropriate technologies and related services and practices with the potential of reducing women's workload.

The project will financially support technical assistance to draft the capacity-strengthening plan, hold work sessions to detect needs according to the Management Plan, and train both community and technical personnel from participating institutions.

Output 3.1.3 will be achieved through the following activities:

3.1.3.1 Design of a training programme to strengthen capacities for the implementation of livelihood-improving activities

3.1.3.2 Implementation of a training plan which includes Indigenous youth and women.

142. **Component 4:** Knowledge management, follow-up and evaluation.

143. **Outcome 4.1:** Improved information and knowledge management in the RBIM, including the status of biological diversity and the ecosystem, and benefits to communities by using technological tools and participatory, inclusive monitoring by Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women.

The RBIM project will research, promote and strengthen traditional knowledge related to livelihoods, as the key tool to contribute to the design of resource conservation, restoration and use in the RBIM. Considering that Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples are bearers of ancestral cultural heritage and their territories include a high-quality landscape biodiversity, the project will analyse and preserve these, not only in order to guarantee their material conservation, but also to use them responsibly for development purposes. This will facilitate a higher level of sociocultural, economic and environmental cohesion in the RBIM and is therefore an element of sustainability.

Project implementation and informed decision making will be backed by setting up the intercultural monitoring and evaluation system, which is to include a gender perspective, social inclusion (e.g. youth, Rama and Kriol peoples, and compliance with social policies and environmental safeguards).

A web-based Landscape Information and Knowledge Management System will be set up in order to monitor: (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystem goods and services benefiting Indigenous and Afrodescendant communities. For information purposes, it will allow access to training modules and information materials.

Finally, the project outcomes and lessons learnt will be shared among stakeholders and, on a broader scale, with the National Protected Areas System (SINAP), as well as with neighbouring countries whose forests are in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

144. **Output 4.1.1** The National Environmental Information System (SINIA) is strengthened through its information node, knowledge management and monitors (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystemic goods and services in the RBIM, including access to dissemination and communications materials.

The project will financially help to strengthen SINIA's regional node in terms of equipment and capacities for the monitoring and follow-up on environmental indicators in the RBIM, RACCs and R?o San Juan province. It will also support the operational functioning of a community-based environmental observer network with the Rama and Kriol ITGs and communities located in areas adjacent to the RBIM in the municipalities of Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan.

An important activity is the support for monitoring and control, including wildfire brigades and patrols by institutional and community-based forest rangers sent by the Rama and Kriol ITGs.

Output 4.1.1. will be achieved through the following activities:

4.1.1.1 Support for the development and functioning of the SINIA information node in RACCs and R?o San Juan province.

4.1.1.2 Organisation of a community-based observer network together with the Rama and Kriol ITGs and communities located in areas adjacent to the RBIM.

4.1.1.3 Implementation of a monitoring and control system including wildfire brigades and patrols by RBIM forest rangers.

145. **Output 4.1.2.** Implementation of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system, informed by a gender approach and social inclusion of young and Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples, subject to compliance with social and environmental safeguards.

The project will support the design of a monitoring programme focusing on two levels of biological organization: landscape and species, which are key to evaluating the impact of biodiversity fragmentation. In the first case, various types of habitats will be compared; in the second case, indicator species will be monitored at community level, with emphasis placed on species important for hunting, or vulnerable species that offer timely information on the state of the ecosystem (Noss, 1990).

The project will financially support a monitoring programme consisting of two years of research, organized by MARENA together with the GRACCs, Rama and Kriol ITGs and communities. It is to consist of a systematic quarterly taking of samples in the main types of cover, and in both seasons, in order to obtain minimum information intended to complement previous monitoring results.

The project will also financially support the design and implementation of the monitoring system, focusing on RBIM landscape monitoring and evaluation.

Output 4.1.2 will be achieved through the following activities:

4.1.2.1 Design of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system with qualitative and quantitative result and impact indicators, based on the RBIM Management Plan.

4.1.2.2 Implementation of the RBIM landscape monitoring and evaluation system.

146. **Output 4.1.3.** Project results and lessons learnt are shared among stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels.

The project will financially support the design and implementation of a knowledge management programme through case studies, technical assistance and local consultation workshops, with the objective of systematising ancestral knowledge, best practices, experiences and lessons learnt in sustainable biodiversity management in the RBIM.

The activities for output 4.1.3 are:

4.1.3.1 Implementation of plan for systematisation and exchange of experiences, including exchange visits of the Rama and Kriol territorial government to Indigenous peoples living in other biosphere reserves.

4.1.3.2 Design and implementation of a knowledge management programme through case studies and the systematisation of ancestral knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt in sustainable biodiversity management in the RBIM, with the participation of women and young Ramas and Kriols.

4.1.3.3 Conducting and facilitating project evaluations (independent mid-term and terminal evaluations).

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Programme strategies

147. **Alignment with GEF priorities.** The project is aligned with the GEF-7 biodiversity focal area, specifically with **Objective 1:** Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscape and seascape/approaches: i) Improved and more biodiversity-friendly practices in priority sectors (agriculture, forestry, tourism); ii) Inclusive conservation: Conservation and sustainable use, based on Indigenous peoples and local communities. **Objective 2:** Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species/approaches: i) Protected Area; ii) Sufficient and predictable financial resources available to support PA management costs; iii) Strengthening of individual and institutional capacities for PA management.

148. With the Land Degradation (LD) focal area in its Objective 1: Support on the ground implementation of neutrality targets in Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Approach: Investment in restoration of degraded lands.

149. The RBIM project will address direct causes of degradation and deforestation to protect habitats and species. In particular, the project will improve RBIM management by strengthening its governance (Component 1) as well as individual and institutional capacities to manage the target protected area

(Component 2). Under the PM in Component 1, the project will make efforts to ensure that the RBIM has sufficient and predictable financial resources to support management costs.

150. Coordinated participation of government ministries and, even more important, of the agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors will also be sought.

5) Rationale for additional costs and expected contributions from the baseline, GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and co-financing

**Component 1:** Strengthen the setting by ensuring better governance and management of the Ma?z Biological Reserve (RBIM)

151. **Baseline and co-financing:** The baseline is the budget available to MARENA, INTUR, MEFCCA Indio-, INAFOR, GRACCS, and of the municipal governments of Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan, amounting to US\$788,215. Co-financing consists of available funds for public investments and in-kind contributions by these actors, in addition to donations and loans by CABEI and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), whose objective is the formulation of land use and management plans, and the development of restoration/conservation agreements with farmers in the target landscape. The total contributions expected by all project partners are US\$ 5,517,505.

152. **GEF support and financing:** This GEF Project will support the promotion of a comprehensive landscape strategy and action plan for landscape management in the R?o San Juan Biological Reserve through the three Work Groups. The GEF donation for this component is US\$474,700.

**Component 2:** Awareness-raising and strengthening of landscape management capacities for the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve, in the R?o San Juan Biosphere Reserve.

153. **Baseline and co-financing:** The baseline is the total in-kind contribution by MARENA, the Government of the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, municipal governments, MEFCCA, INAFOR, INTUR and other institutions or organizations that contribute to local capacity-strengthening and support RBIM outreach services. Co-financing by CABEI and GCF consists of donations and loans for environmental education in schools and communities. All partner programmes will contribute US\$ 3,400,000 in total.

154. **GEF support and financing:** GEF will help to develop and implement capacity-strengthening for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable farming and comprehensive landscape management. In addition, it will cooperate with MARENA and local governments to strengthen outreach services in support of the delivery of activities defined in the PM. The GEF donation for this component is US\$ 400,000.

**Component 3:** Management of the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve

155. **Baseline and co-financing:** The baseline is the budget available to MARENA, INTUR, INAFOR, MEFCCA, GRACCS, and the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor?s offices, amounting to US\$ 424,865 in total. This includes contributions in personnel, operational costs and contributions to other programmes implemented in the geographical area of influence of the RBIM Project, for example: the PAISAN and NICADAPTA programmes, which will invest in activities to improve family livelihoods, as well as food and nutrition security, as can be seen in Table 2. The co-financing consists of the contribution by the Bio-CLIMA Project for investments in support of the Rama and Kriol ITG through community-based enterprises in the Reserve?s core and buffer zones, to promote agroforestry and silvopastoral systems that transform farming systems; and public and in-kind investments made available to the municipalities by MARENA, INAFOR and GRACCS.

156. **GEF Support and financing:** The RBIM Project will offer support to implement the RBIM participatory management plan, strengthen productivity and improve community livelihoods that

depend on the forests in the Reserve. The project will also support capacity-strengthening, and complement and expand the coverage of sustainable community-based enterprises, as a contribution to the design of financing mechanisms for RBIM management. The GEF donation for this component consists of US\$ 1,562.999.

**Component 4:** Knowledge management, follow-up and evaluation

157. **Baseline and co-financing:** The baseline is the budget available at MARENA, INAFOR, MEFCCA and INTUR, for a total of US\$ 60.000,00. It includes personnel for their monitoring and communications units. The co-financing is the in-kind contribution made by these institutions, in addition to the donation and loan from CABEI and GCF for the support of biodiversity monitoring, knowledge management and communication activities. The total amount of expected contributions from all programme partners is US\$ 1.733.333.

158. **GEF support and financing:** The RBIM Project will support the formulation and implementation of a biodiversity monitoring system, as well as research to design and establish a biological station in the Reserve, and subsequent knowledge and communications management. The programme will also equip the SINIA node for the purpose of systematising experiences and lessons learnt in sustainable biodiversity management. It will support a rapid assessment of ecosystem goods and services at the onset, and a comprehensive communication strategy for the Work Group to encourage regional and local public-private sector dialogues on RBIM landscape management. The GEF donation for this component consists of US\$ 398,135.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF / SCCF)

159. The global environmental benefits representing key expected project outcomes are as follows:

? Improved biodiversity habitats through the conservation of 316,720.62 ha. in the RBIM (core indicator 1).

? A reduction by 3,300.000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-e (avoided and eliminated greenhouse gas emissions over a period of five years).

? Direct beneficiaries: 5,000 persons in total, 1,936 of them Ramas and Krioles (49% women), distributed in 9 communities and considered direct beneficiaries. The project will also work with the Mestizo population living with the Rama and Kriol peoples (an estimated 3,064 persons inhabiting areas adjacent to the RBIM).

? The project will directly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG-15 (life in terrestrial ecosystems: sustainably managed forests; combating desertification; halting and reversing land degradation and loss of biodiversity); SDG-13 (climate action: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts); and SDG-5 (achieve gender equality and empower women and girls).

7) Innovation, sustainability, potential for expansion and capacity-strengthening

160. **Innovation.** The project includes various innovative aspects that contribute to its sustainability and scalability. The first innovative aspect is the integration of biodiversity conservation in the planning processes led by the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government. Sustainable use of biodiversity inside the RBIM will lead to improved livelihoods, and thus to better levels of food security and nutrition. Secondly, the programme is innovative, as it will improve the setting and governance to halt the advance of the agricultural frontier adjacent to the protected areas (PA). The RBIM project will empower the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government and its communities, and support negotiation processes (together with a strengthened monitoring of the PA). Thirdly, the project will establish strong links with sustainable value chains in the cattle-ranching and cacao-producing chains in the areas adjacent to the RBIM (in collaboration with FOLUR Nicaragua).

161. **Sustainability.** The RBIM project is designed to complement and strengthen ongoing public policies and programmes investing in sustainable forestry and agroforestry, as well as to work with the private sector. It also includes considerations on how to ensure a lasting achievement of the project's objectives and outcomes, even long after its direct implementation is completed.

162. Environmental sustainability: The project's environmental sustainability will be achieved by implementing protection activities in the RBIM. To this aim, there will be collaboration with the Bio-CLIMA project (GCF-CABEI) and the GEF-financed FOLUR Nicaragua, in order to protect tropical forests remaining in the buffer zone landscapes, and thus reduce pressure on the RBIM.

163. Social sustainability: Social sustainability will be achieved by inclusion and equality processes through the direct participation of various actors, such as the Rama and Kriol peoples, GRACCS, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices, government institutions, organizations and universities.

164. Institutional sustainability: Institutional sustainability is based on capacity-strengthening among stakeholder personnel: Rama and Kriol ITGs; Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices; GRACCS and national government institutions, with the aim of improving the sustainable management biodiversity in the RBIM.

165. Financial sustainability: Financial sustainability will be achieved by means of a strategy that ensures the RBIM itself is financially sustainable. This implies an increase of public and private expenses, leveraged by stakeholders and enterprises created by the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government that generate alternative livelihoods leading to economic and social development.

166. **Scalability.** The good practices and lessons derived from strengthening sustainable biodiversity management in the project intervention area will facilitate its replication in other protected areas in Nicaragua. The proposed programme will use the MARENA baseline (i.e. ENDE REDD+), MEFCCA-INTA-IPSA (NICADAPTA, PAIPSAN) and INTUR with its tourism programmes in the RACCS and the R'o San Juan province, in order to improve validated practices, methods and tools in the Caribbean Coast region. Developing sustainable community-based enterprises on the basis of initiatives with Indigenous peoples living in the core zone of a protected area is an experience worth analysing, in order to understand the opportunities for replication in the core zone of the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve. This will allow exchanges between Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples living in the reserves or relying on them for their ways of life. Finally, restoration of land in the areas surrounding the RBIM through agroforestry and silvopastoral systems is a historical chance to replicate its outcomes along the entire agricultural frontier in the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast region, which contains 70% of the country's forests and is part of the ENDE REDD+ priority area.

8) Summary of changes in alignment between project design and the original PIF

167. **Table 13: Changes in relation to the PIF**



| Outcomes/Outputs approved in the PIF that were changed   | Change Proposal (PPG)  | Supporting arguments   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Component 1. Strengthen the setting by ensuring better governance and management of the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM)</b>  |  |  |
| 1.1 Legal, regulatory and institutional instruments and mechanisms established with support from national, regional, municipal and territorial authorities, in association with local communities, for the purpose of facilitating comprehensive landscape planning, management and governance in various RBIM conservation and farming areas. | 1.1 Existing legal, regulatory and institutional instruments and mechanisms are applied with support from national, regional, municipal and Indigenous territorial authorities, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, for the purpose of facilitating the comprehensive landscape planning, management and governance in RBIM conservation, protection and environmental / natural resources restoration areas. | Clearer definition and higher specificity of the expected outcome.   |
| 1.1.1 Five-year Participatory Management Plan (PMP) and actions for the RBIM developed jointly with MARENA and territorial authorities, in consultation with local communities, approved and executed by partners, in accordance with the Annual Plan of Operations (APO).   | 1.1.1 Five-year Management Plan and Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for RBIM developed and underway with MARENA guidance, jointly with central and regional government institutions (GRACCS), Rama and Kriol ITG authorities, the mayor's offices of Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan, and local communities.  | Clearer definition and higher specificity of participants in the expected output and better alignment with RBIM management stakeholders. |

| Outcomes/Outputs approved in the PIF that were changed  | Change Proposal (PPG)  | Supporting arguments  |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1.1.2 Provisions by which to use a landscape approach to the RBIM</p> <p>and surrounding farming systems is incorporated into relevant land use legislation and policies, particularly for the farming, cattle-raising, tourism and forestry sectors, in coordination with the GEF FOLUR project in Nicaragua (GEFID 10559).</p> | <p>1.1.2 Provisions by which to use a landscape approach to the RBIM buffer zone, including landscape restoration, forest conservation, protection of ecosystemic goods and services and support to climate-resistant production systems in the surrounding area.</p>  | <p>Clearer definition of expected output.</p>   |
| <p>1.1.3 RBIM Landscape Forum and Working Group, including regional, territorial and municipal governments, CSOs, communities and private sector representatives, established for the purpose of informing and supporting the RBIM Management Plan and its APOs.</p>  | <p>1.1.3 Strengthening RBIM governance using the three interinstitutional and multisectoral platforms for technical dialogue, consultations and consensus-reaching set forth in ENDE REDD+, in order to inform and support implementation of the RBIM Management Plan and its APOs.</p>                      | <p>The governance mechanism to be strengthened is specified in accordance with ENDE REDD+.</p>                              |
| <p><b>Component 2. Capacity-strengthening among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity.</b></p>   |  |   |
| <p>2.1 Personnel capacity-strengthening of territorial government and local communities for holistic and comprehensive landscape management by safeguarding biodiversity in the protected areas and sustainably managing farm lands.</p>  | <p>2.1 Personnel capacity-strengthening at MARENA, other government institutions, GRACCS, Rama and Kriol Indigenous territorial government authorities, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities, for the purposes of RBIM management and conserving biodiversity.</p> | <p>Clearer definition and specification of participants in the expected outcome, based on RBIM management stakeholders.</p> |

| <b>Outcomes/Outputs approved in the PIF that were changed</b>  | <b>Change Proposal (PPG)</b>   | <b>Supporting arguments</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| 2.1.2 Strengthen central and territorial government outreach services to support the implementation of practices and activities as jointly established in the PMP for the RBIM (output 1.1.1). | 2.1.2 Promotion and strengthening of scientific research, including Indigenous knowledge, intended to generate and transfer knowledge and undertake the research programmes set forth in the RBIM Management Plan. | The output is changed to scientific research due to the importance of generating information about indicator species populations at community level, with a focus on species frequently hunted or vulnerable species that provide timely information on the state of the ecosystem. |
| <b>Component 3. Participatory management of the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (RBIM)</b>   |  |   |
| 3.1. The pressure of agricultural activities is reduced and resilience increased, leading to restoration and improved conservation of natural resources and ecosystem functions.               | 3.1 Increased restoration and improved conservation of natural resources and ecosystem functions and resilience in the RBIM.   | Clearer definition and specificity of expected outcome.   |
| 3.1.1 Implementation of Participatory Management Plan (Output 1.1.1) to address drivers of degradation and preserve ecosystemic services   | 3.1.1 Implementation of environmental restoration activities with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, as per the Management Plan and APOs.                             | Clearer definition and specificity of expected outcome.   |
| <b>Component 4. Knowledge management, follow-up and evaluation</b>   |  |   |

| Outcomes/Outputs approved in the PIF that were changed   | Change Proposal (PPG)  | Supporting arguments  |
|--|--|---|
| <p>4.1.1 Web-based Landscape Information and Knowledge Management System (LIKMS) designed, operational and accessible, for the monitoring of: (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystemic goods and services benefiting Indigenous, Afrodescendant and local non-Indigenous communities. Useful also for information purposes, including access to training modules and dissemination materials.</p> | <p>4.1.1 The National Environmental Information System (SINIA) is strengthened through its information node, knowledge management and monitors (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystemic goods and services in the RBIM, including access to dissemination and communications materials.</p> | <p>The scope of the output is defined regarding the strengthening of the National Environmental Information System (SINIA), as this is the environmental management tool approved in the General Environment and Natural Resources Law (Law 217), used for information and knowledge management at SINAP.</p> |

FAO Country Office, with support from the GON interinstitutional technical team

[1] INETER web page: <https://www.ineter.gob.ni/flipatlassuelo/AtlasNacionalDeSuelo.html>

[2] Diagnostic of the Forest Sector in Nicaragua ? Mobilizing the Forest Sector and Attracting Investments. Ronnie de Camino Velozo. Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Department of Central American Countries, Haiti, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic. TECHNICAL NOTE N? IDB-TN-01610. March 2018.

[3] [https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref\\_nacional\\_vf\\_170119.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_nacional_vf_170119.pdf)

[4] [https://www.sica.int/noticias/alianza-cinco-grandes-bosques-de-mesoamerica-iniciativa-ambiental-centroamericana-lanzada-en-la-cop25\\_1\\_120718.html](https://www.sica.int/noticias/alianza-cinco-grandes-bosques-de-mesoamerica-iniciativa-ambiental-centroamericana-lanzada-en-la-cop25_1_120718.html)

[5] <https://www.cac.int/node/2414>

[6] MARENA (2019). *Causas de la deforestaci?n en Nicaragua* [Causes of Deforestation in Nicaragua]

[7] FREL document sent to the UNFCCC in January 2019:  
[https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref\\_nacional\\_vf\\_170119.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_nacional_vf_170119.pdf)

[8] Rapid evaluation of land degradation as part of the PPG, in five municipalities of RACCS and the province of Río San Juan, January 2021.

[9]

[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Nicaragua%20First/Contribuciones\\_Nacionales\\_Determinadas\\_Nicaragua.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Nicaragua%20First/Contribuciones_Nacionales_Determinadas_Nicaragua.pdf)

[10] <https://www.economiafamiliar.gob.ni/estrategias-nacionales/>

[11] The five great forests are: the Maya Forest in Mexico, Guatemala and Belice; the Moskitia in Nicaragua and Honduras; the Indio-Maíz-Tortuguero in Nicaragua and Costa Rica; the Talamanca region in Costa Rica and Panama; and the Darién in Panama and Colombia. Link:

<https://www.sica.int/busqueda/Noticias.aspx?IDItem=120718&IDCat=3&IdEnt=2&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1>

[12]

<http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/b92aaea87dac762406257265005d21f7/f0e9cc51d3075639062587060060104e?OpenDocument>

[13] The funds are made available by the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Green Development Fund and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), among others.

[14] <https://www.iucn.org/fr/node/34912>

[15] Food and Nutrition Security Platform, Nicaragua. FAO, ALADI, CEPAL

<https://plataformacelac.org/pais/nic#:~:text=Se%20B1ala%20que%20es%20derecho%20de,alimento%20y%20su%20distribuci%C3%B3n%20equitativa.>

[16] The rapid land degradation methodology was developed and selection of areas made for this project by FAO experts (Soledad Bastidas, César Luis García and Denis Fuentes).

[17] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ni/ni-nbsap-powpa-es.pdf>

[18] INETER web page: <https://www.ineter.gob.ni/flipatlassuelo/AtlasNacionalDeSuelo.html>

[19] <http://www.pgr.gob.ni/PDF/2011/PRODEP/TITULO%20RAMA%20Y%20KRIOL.pdf>

[20] UNESCO, 1996. Biosphere Reserves: The Sevilla Strategy and Statutory Framework of the World Network. UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. Paris, 18 pgs.

[21]

<http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/3133c0d121ea3897062568a1005e0f89/5abb9e353181d71a06257919005ef758?OpenDocument>

[22]

[http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/SILEG/Gacetan.nsf/15a7e7ceb5efa9c6062576eb0060b321/fc2f67348416ae2306257c74005c504e/\\$FILE/2014-01-17-%20Texto%20de%20Ley%20No%20217,%20Ley%20general%20del%20medio%20ambiente%20con%20reformas%20incorporadas.pdf](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/SILEG/Gacetan.nsf/15a7e7ceb5efa9c6062576eb0060b321/fc2f67348416ae2306257c74005c504e/$FILE/2014-01-17-%20Texto%20de%20Ley%20No%20217,%20Ley%20general%20del%20medio%20ambiente%20con%20reformas%20incorporadas.pdf)

[23]

[http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/\(\\$All\)/33CA55EBEAEC13C6062572A0006C725A?OpenDocument](http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/($All)/33CA55EBEAEC13C6062572A0006C725A?OpenDocument)

[24] <http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/componentes/dialogos-y-consultas-para-la-preparacion/>

[25] By special interest tourism is meant community, cultural, nature, ecological and adventure tourism, among other types.

### 1b. Project Map and Coordinates

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

168. Please refer to map in **Annex E**.

### 1c. Child Project?

**If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

Non applicable

### 2. Stakeholders

**Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:**

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** Yes

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

N/A

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

Please refer to Annex J (Stakeholder Engagement Plan) and Annex L (Indigenous People's Plan) of the Agency project document. The summary tables for each of these plans are pasted below.

### A) Stakeholder's engagement matrix

#### 1) Consultations with interested parties during Project design

| Stakeholder | Role | Type | Methodology of consultation | Consultation Recommendations | Date of consultation | Comments |
|-------------|------|------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
|-------------|------|------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------|

| <b>Stakeholder</b>                               | <b>Role</b>  | <b>Type</b>                                  | <b>Methodology of consultation</b>                      | <b>Consultation Recommendations</b>   | <b>Date of consultation</b>   | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>MARENA, MEFCCA, INAFOR, INTA, IPSA, INTUR</b> | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency</b> | <i>National government institution</i>       | <i>Workshops, meetings, Interviews and field visits</i> | <i>PPG Inception Workshop</i><br><br><i>Working sessions with Interinstitutional Technical Team</i><br><br><i>Workshops with focal groups in the RACCS and Rio San Juan regions</i><br><br><i>Final consultation workshop for PRODOC</i>                              | <i>12 March 2021</i><br><br><i>11 to 14 January 2021</i><br><br><i>4 to 6 May 2021</i><br><br><i>October 2021</i>                                       | <i>Contributed to baseline assessments and proposed activities/ interventions for the PRODOC</i> |
| <b>GRACCS</b>                                    | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency</b> | <i>Autonomous Regional Government entity</i> | <i>Workshops, meetings, Interviews and field visits</i> | <i>PPG Inception Workshop</i><br><br><i>Working sessions with Interinstitutional Technical Team</i><br><br><i>Workshops with focal groups in the RACCS and Rio San Juan regions</i><br><br><i>Final consultation workshop for PRODOC</i><br><br><i>FPIC Workshops</i> | <i>12 March 2021</i><br><br><i>11 to 14 January 2021</i><br><br><i>4 to 6 May 2021</i><br><br><i>October 2021</i><br><br><i>October - November 2021</i> | <i>Contributed to baseline assessments and proposed activities/ interventions for the PRODOC</i> |

| Stakeholder   | Role                | Type                              | Methodology of consultation   | Consultation Recommendations   | Date of consultation   | Comments   |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Alcaldías de Bluefields por RACCS y El Castillo y San Juan de Nicaragua por el departamento de Río San Juan | Co-executing agency | Local Government                  | Workshops, meetings, Interviews and field visits                      | PPG Inception Workshop<br><br>Working sessions with Interinstitutional Technical Team<br><br>Workshops with focal groups in the RACCS and Río San Juan regions<br><br>Final consultation workshop for PRODOC                       | 12 March 2021<br><br>11 to 14 January 2021<br><br>4 to 6 May 2021<br><br>October 2021                                | Contributed to baseline assessments and proposed activities/interventions for the PRODOC                           |
| Pueblo Indígena Rama y Kriol  | Co-executing agency | Territorial Indigenous Government | Field visits and meetings with IP representatives during FPIC process | PPG Inception Workshop<br><br>Working sessions with Interinstitutional Technical Team<br><br>Workshops with focal groups in the RACCS and Río San Juan regions<br><br>Final consultation workshop for PRODOC<br><br>FPIC Workshops | 12 March 2021<br><br>11 to 14 January 2021<br><br>4 to 6 May 2021<br><br>October 2021<br><br>October - November 2021 | Contributed to baseline assessments and proposed activities/interventions for the PRODOC in Indigenous territories |



| <b>Stakeholder</b>  | <b>Role</b>                  | <b>Type</b>            | <b>Methodology of consultation</b>   | <b>Consultation Recommendations</b>  | <b>Date of consultation</b>                           | <b>Comments</b>  |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Indigenous and local Women</b>   | <b>Coexecuting party</b>     | <i>Local Community</i> | <i>Consulted about their perception and proposals to close gender gaps</i> | <i>Workshops and focal groups during field visits to Bluefields y El Castillo</i>  | <i>10-11 March 2021<br/><br/>26 al 30 April 2021</i>  | <i>Opinions and proposals (as registered in workshop memoirs)</i>                                |
| <b>Universities (URACCAN y BICU)</b>  | <b>Project partner</b>       | <i>CSO (academia)</i>  | <i>Field visits, surveys, interviews and consultations</i>                 | <i>Workshops with focal groups in the RACCS and Rio San Juan regions studying value chains, rapid land degradation assessments, household surveys and gender workshops</i> | <i>11 to 14 January 2021<br/><br/>4 to 6 May 2021</i> | <i>Contributed to baseline assessments and proposed activities/ interventions for the PRODOC</i> |
| <b>Livestock and Cocoa Cooperatives in neighboring areas to the Reserve</b> | <b>Co-executing agencies</b> | <i>CSO</i>             | <i>Field visits, surveys, interviews and consultations</i>                 | <i>Workshops with focal groups in the RACCS and Rio San Juan regions studying value chains, rapid land degradation assessments, household surveys and gender workshops</i> | <i>11 to 14 January 2021<br/><br/>4 to 6 May 2021</i> | <i>Contributed to baseline assessments and proposed activities/ interventions for the PRODOC</i> |
| <b>Private companies in neighboring areas to the Reserve</b>                | <b>Partners</b>              | <i>Private Sector</i>  | <i>Field visits, surveys, interviews and consultations</i>                 | <i>Workshops with focal groups in the RACCS and Rio San Juan regions studying value chains, rapid land degradation assessments, household surveys and gender workshops</i> | <i>11 to 14 January 2021<br/><br/>4 to 6 May 2021</i> | <i>Contributed to baseline assessments and proposed activities/ interventions for the PRODOC</i> |

## 2) Consultations with interested parties during Project implementation

### Consulta a las partes interesadas en la implementaci?n del proyecto

| Stakeholder | Role  | Type                                   | Methodology of consultation  | When will the stakeholder be consulted?   | Comments   |
|-------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| MARENA      | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency)</b> | <i>National government institution</i> | <i>Will coordinate the Project Steering committee</i><br><br><i>Will lead project execution, (Operational Partner Agreement will be signed between FAO and MARENA)</i> | <i>During the lifetime of the project</i> | <i>Project executing agency, direct beneficiaries, project co-financier</i>  |
| MEFCCA      | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency</b>  | <i>National government institution</i> | <i>Member of the PSC</i>   | <i>During the lifetime of the project</i> | <i>Competent authority regarding markets, associations, value added in the development of community ventures with Rama y Kriol territorial governments</i>               |
| IPSA        | <b>Support during execution</b>                               | <i>National government institution</i> | <i>Member of the PSC</i>   | <i>During the lifetime of the project</i> | <i>Competent authority regarding the health as well as the traceability and surveillance of cocoa and livestock value chains in the neighboring areas to the Reserve</i> |

| <b>Stakeholder</b>  | <b>Role</b>  | <b>Type</b>                            | <b>Methodology of consultation</b>               | <b>When will the stakeholder be consulted?</b>              | <b>Comments</b>  |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| INTA  | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency</b> | <i>National government institution</i> | <i>Member of the PSC</i>                         | <i>During specific point in the lifetime of the project</i> | <i>Competent authority on issues related to feed, pastures, and silvopastoral systems within the cocoa and livestock value chains in the neighboring areas to the Reserve</i>  |
| INAFOR  | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency</b> | <i>National government institution</i> | <i>Member of the PSC</i>                         | <i>During the lifetime of the project</i>                   | <i>Competent authority on forestry issues in the neighboring areas to the</i>  |
| GRACCS  | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency</b> | <i>Regional government institution</i> | <i>Member of the PSC</i>                         | <i>During the lifetime of the project</i>                   | <i>Will facilitate initial contacts with stakeholders and later will participate in the implementation of the investment plans for local communities under component 3</i>   |
| <b>Alcald?as</b><br>Bluefields y<br>R?o San Juan<br>(El Castillo y<br>San Juan de<br>Nicaragua) | <b>Co-executing agency</b><br><br><b>Co-financing agency</b> | <i>Local government institution</i>    | <i>Periodic sessions with executing agencies</i> | <i>During the lifetime of the project</i>                   | <i>Will coordinate municipal plans for the sustainabl management of the target landscape (Component 1) and will facilitate contact with stakeholders and participate in the implementation of the investment plans for local communities under component 3</i> |

| Stakeholder  | Role                  | Type                  | Methodology of consultation  | When will the stakeholder be consulted?              | Comments  |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Universidades (URACCAN y BICU)                                       | Aliados / Socios      | CSO                   | Will carry out specific studies and to monitor field activities as well as to train project beneficiaries in the livestock and cocoa value chains          | During specific point in the lifetime of the project | Will depend on the Project needs. A request will be made to project leadership to see if they can participate in the local and RACCS Technical Committees |
| Livestock and Cocoa Cooperatives in neighboring areas to the Reserve | Co-executing agencies | CSO/local communities | Prior and periodic consultations as direct Project beneficiaries. Will participate through investment plan implementation and capacity building activities | During the lifetime of the project                   | Will participate in the implementation of the investment plans for local communities under component 3 (direct beneficiaries)                             |
| Private companies in neighboring areas to the Reserve                | Partners              | Private Sector        | Prior and periodic consultations as direct Project beneficiaries. Will participate through investment plan implementation and capacity building activities | During the lifetime of the project                   | Will participate in the implementation of the investment plans for local communities under component 3 (direct beneficiaries)                             |

B) Summary of FPIC Process

| Event | Participants | Execution period | Objective |
|-------|--------------|------------------|-----------|
|-------|--------------|------------------|-----------|

| Event   | Participants  | Execution period   | Objective  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Inception Workshop  | Rama and Kriol Territorial Government (GTRK) authorities and representatives of the 9 Community Boards of Directors that make up the territory; Authorities of the Autonomous Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast (GRACCS) | 2022   | Presentation of the project in the RBIM and define dates for the stage of signing the consent of the CPLI and obtain inputs for the formulation of the POA for the first year..  |
| FPIC Signature Stage  | GTRK authorities and representatives of the 9 Community Boards of Directors that make up the territory; Authorities of the Autonomous Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast.   | Within three months of the Project Inception Workshop 2022 | Develop the stage of signing the consent of the FPIC process.  |
| Component 1. Strengthen an environment conducive to ensuring better governance and management of the Reserve.   | GTRK authorities and representatives of the 9 Community Boards of Directors that make up the territory; Authorities of the Autonomous Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast.   | 2022   | <p>Participation in the preparation and approval process of the RBIM Management Plan and Annual Operational Plans.</p> <p>Provide indigenous and traditional knowledge to implement protection and restoration activities in the areas adjacent to the RBIM.</p> <p>Participation in the RBR SJ Governance mechanism</p> |
| Componente 2. Capacity-strengthening among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity | GTRK authorities and representatives of the 9 Community Boards of Directors that make up the territory; Authorities of the Autonomous Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast.   | 2022 a 2026  | <p>Participation in activities of the capacity development program for the management of the RBIM;</p> <p>Community park rangers Participate in scientific research implemented at the RBIM.</p>   |

| Event   | Participants  | Execution period | Objective  |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| Componente 3: Manejo participativo de la Reserva Biol?gica Indio-Ma?z (RBIM). | GTRK authorities and representatives of the 9 Community Boards of Directors that make up the territory; Authorities of the Autonomous Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast. | 2022 a 2026      | Executors of forest protection and restoration activities in the RBIM.<br><br>Participation in the formulation and execution of community entrepreneurship projects.<br><br>Participation in actions of the training program for the strengthening of livelihoods. |
| Componente 4: Gesti?n, seguimiento y evaluaci?n del conocimiento              | GTRK authorities and representatives of the 9 Community Boards of Directors that make up the territory; Authorities of the Autonomous Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast. | 2022 a 2026      | Participation with community park rangers in the biodiversity monitoring program.<br><br>Participation in the exchange of knowledge and practices with other indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.  |

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

169. During the PRODOC formulation process, broad consultations were made with various institutional actors, among them the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA), the National Forestry Institute (INAFOR), the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), the Nicaraguan Tourism Institute (INTUR), the Institute of Plant and Animal Protection and Health (IPSA), the Caribbean Coast Development Secretariat (CCDS), the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor?s offices, the government of the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (GRACCS); and the Caribbean Coast universities BICU and URACCAN.

170. **Annex J** (please refer to agency project document) on the participation of stakeholders presents the consultation mechanisms, recommendations and dates for the implementation process set forth in the project formulation, as well as the proposals for the project implementation phase: interinstitutional work sessions to be held in April and July 2021; Initial Workshop on 12 March 2021 at MARENA headquarters in Managua; 4 and 6 May 2021, project formulation workshop in Boca de S?balos and Bluefields, respectively; and a final validation workshop scheduled for November 2021.

171. During the PRODOC formulation process, baseline information was gathered on actions carried out with Rama and Kriol Indigenous peoples in the project?s geographic area over the last seven years by MARENA, MEFCCA, IPSA, INTUR, INAFOR, GRACCS and the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor?s offices.

There follows the plan for stakeholder participation in project implementation (to be updated at project onset).

**Table 14. Stakeholders**

| Stakeholder name/type/profile   | Role or mandate   | Participation in project   | Consultation mechanisms during project implementation   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA); government institution/direct beneficiary,    | Lead and regulatory organization on environmental matters and natural resources.  | Coordinates the project and other entities involved in its participatory management.<br><br>Also coordinates the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)<br><br>and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) | Coordinator of consultation and project implementation-   |
| Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy (MEFCCA); government institution.      | Institution in charge of rural development through collaborative actions aimed at families and communities (cooperatives, associations) | Co-implementing and co-financing agency, member of the PSC.  | ? Kick-off workshop<br><br>? Formulation of project APO   |
| Nicaraguan Tourism Institute (INTUR); government institution  | ? Lead and regulatory institution in the tourism sector.  | Co-implementing and co-financing agency, member of the PSC.  | ? Kick-off workshop<br>? Formulation of project APO   |
| Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices /Nicaraguan Municipal Development Institute (INIFOM) | ? Local authorities, in charge of local development processes   | Co-implementing and co-financing agency within its jurisdiction  | ? Kick-off workshop<br>? Territorial consultation workshop<br>? Formulation of project APO<br>? Specific sessions |
| Secretariat for the Development of the Caribbean Coast  | ? Facilitates coordination and communication with GRACCS and the Rama and Kriol ITG   | Member of the PSC  | ? Kick-off workshop<br>? Territorial consultation workshop<br>? Formulation of project APO<br>? Specific sessions |

| Stakeholder name/type/profile                                   | Role or mandate   | Participation in project   | Consultation mechanisms during project implementation   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Regional Government of the South Caribbean Coast Region (RACCS) | <p>Manages regulatory issues in connection with the Law on the Autonomy of the Caribbean Coast (Law 28).</p> <p>Regional system for environmental evaluation (decree 20_2017)</p>   | <p>Co-executing and co-financing agency in specific activities</p> <p>Member of the PSC</p> <p>Leads consultation processes in the Autonomous Region</p> | <p>? Kick-off workshop</p> <p>? Territorial consultation workshops</p> <p>? Formulation of project APO</p> <p>? Specific sessions</p>     |
| INAFOR  | <p>Formulates policies and regulations, and supervises the use of national forest ecosystems, with the participation and protagonism of the farming sector, families and communities.</p> <p>It also ensures the sustainability of forest resources through climate change adaptation strategies and the protection of Mother Earth</p> | <p>Co-executing and co-financing agency in specific activities</p> <p>Member of the PSC</p>  | <p>? Kick-off workshop</p> <p>? Territorial consultation workshops</p> <p>? Formulation of the project APO</p> <p>? Specific sessions</p> |
| Rama and Kriol Territorial Government                           | Manages titled Indigenous lands   | <p>Consultations</p> <p>Co-executing agency in specific activities</p> <p>Member of the PSC</p>  | <p>? Territorial consultation processes</p> <p>? Formulation of project APOs</p> <p>? Specific sessions</p>                               |
| Universities  | Specific research studies, education  | <p>Consultations</p> <p>Co-implementation of specific activities (biodiversity studies)</p>  | <p>? Kick-off workshop</p> <p>? Specific activities</p>   |



| Stakeholder name/type/profile  | Role or mandate   | Participation in project           | Consultation mechanisms during project implementation                           |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Associations, cacao-producer and cattle-rancher cooperatives, forestry companies, tourist establishments and farmers (m/w) in the areas surrounding the RBIM | Participation in the restoration and protection of forests and biodiversity | Co-implementation and co-financing | ? Territorial consultation<br>? Co-management committees<br>? Specific sessions |

Source: FAO country office with support from the GON interinstitutional technical team.

172. Additionally, workshops on the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) were held with the Rama and Kriol Indigenous Territorial Government in the period from November to December 2021. See [Annex L](#), Action Plan with Indigenous Peoples.

173. In the detailed design process, **the first three phases of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** have been accomplished with the Rama and Kriol Indigenous Territorial Government, i.e. induction, pre-consultation and consultation. A Preliminary Plan for Indigenous and Afrodescendant Peoples participation has been drawn up and will be implemented as the project advances. The final phase (consent and signing) will take place in the first three months after the initial workshop, since the cost of the first three phases amounted to US\$45,000, representing 45% of the available budget for project formulation. The FPIC process is conducted directly by the government of the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region through the mechanism developed in the Regional Council's resolution No. 1282-29-10-2020.

174. The process up until the consultation included the broad participation of the inhabitants of the nine communities in the Rama and Kriol Indigenous Territory. Full participation was achieved through community and territorial assemblies based on prior agreement, and activities involving various social sectors (churches, schools, sports groups) active in the nine communities.

175. The Rama and Kriol share territorial spaces with other inhabitants, mainly Mestizos, who are familiar with and are largely acculturated to traditional Rama customs and practices, whose exponents they call the 'living elders'. In accordance with the Third Party Policy (Guide for Economic and Social Communal Living), the 'living elders' are not only elderly residents, but people in general with whom there are and have been good neighbourly relations over generations. These Mestizos accept and practice customs that are compatible with those of the Rama people and Kriol communities and have never caused serious social damage, nor have they unilaterally and without consultation sold land that was passed on to them by earlier generations of Ramas and Krioles.

176. Based on this modus operandi, the project will support good neighbourly relations with Mestizo populations living in the area surrounding the RBIM, as long as these accept and practice customs that are compatible with those of the Rama and Kriol communities.

177. There follows a preliminary plan for participation by the Rama and Kriol peoples (to be updated at project onset).

**Table 15. Preliminary participation plan for Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples**

| Event   | Participants   | Implementation period   | Objective  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Initial workshop  | Authorities of the Rama and Kriol Territorial government and representatives of the nine community boards of directors in the territory; RACCS government authorities  | 2022  | Presentation of the project in the RBIM and definition of dates for the FPIC signing phase and delivery of inputs for the formulation of the year 1 APO.   |
| FPIC signing phase  | Authorities of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government and representatives of the nine community boards of directors in the territory; RACCS government authorities  | First three months after the initial project workshop in 2022 | Carry out FPIC signing phase.  |
| Component 1: Strengthen the setting by ensuring better governance and management of the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve (RBIM)  | Authorities of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government and representatives of the nine community boards of directors in the territory; RACCS government authorities  | 2022  | <p>Participation in the preparations and approval process of the RBIM Management Plan and Annual Plans of Operation.</p> <p>Contribution of Indigenous and traditional knowledge to implement protection and restoration activities in areas adjacent to the RBIM.</p> <p>Participation in the RBRSJ governance mechanism.</p> |
| Component 2: Capacity-strengthening among Indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity. | Authorities of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government and representatives of the nine community boards of directors in the territory; RACCS government authorities. | 2022 to 2026  | <p>Participation in actions of the capacity-development programme for the management of the RBIM.</p> <p>Participation in the scientific investigations to be developed in the RBIM with community-based forest rangers.</p>   |

| Event   | Participants  | Implementation period | Objective   |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| Component 3: Participatory management of the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM) | Authorities of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government and representatives of the representatives of the nine community boards of directors in the territory; RACCS government authorities. | 2022 to 2026          | <p>Implementation of forest protection and restoration activities in the RBIM</p> <p>Participation in the formulation and implementation of community-based small enterprise projects.</p> <p>Participation in actions of the training programme to improve livelihoods</p> |
| Component 4: Knowledge management, follow-up and evaluation.                      | Authorities of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government and representatives of the representatives of the nine community boards of directors in the territory; RACCS government authorities. | 2022 to 2026          | <p>Participation with community-based forest rangers in the biodiversity monitoring programme</p> <p>Participation in the exchange of knowledge and practices with other Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples</p>  |

Source: FAO Country Office with support from the GON interinstitutional technical team.

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only; Yes**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier;**

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

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain)**

N/A

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

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

178. The project will adopt the necessary measures to ensure women's participation in all its activities, as stipulated in the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan, the FAO gender equality strategy and policy, the Gender Action Plan 2015-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and the Equal Rights and Opportunities Law (Law 648). The project will ensure the specific needs of women are met and that they enjoy equal access to all activities.

179. The RBIM project takes place in a country whose government enacted Constitutional reform in 2014 that which established a 50:50 ratio for men and women in all institutional posts. The result is that Nicaragua ranks among the first countries in the world as to equal participation of men and women at the executive branch, in Parliament and in municipal governments, as well as regards progress made in closing the economic gender gap. According to UN reports, these results are to a large extent attributable to a clear political commitment by the Nicaraguan Government at the highest decision-making level, and a genuinely gender-sensitive policy?

180. During the PRODOC formulation process, an analysis of baseline information about gender equality actions by MARENA, MEFCCA, INAFOR, INTUR, GRACCS and by the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and their work plans for the next years was made. Gender analysis and focal group workshops took place in the municipalities of Bluefields and El Castillo, in order to identify women's roles and their expectations concerning project activities.

181. **RBIM gender gaps.** The communities in the project territory are represented by a Rama-Kriol Territorial Government, whose responsibility is to ensure the effective exercise of the rights of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples living in its territory, to foster their welfare through investment projects for sustainable economic and social development, and to seek the protection and preservation of their environment and good cultural practices.

182. The Indigenous territory harbours nine communities and 23 cays, with an estimated population of 2,927 inhabitants and 488 families living on 406,849.3 ha of land and using another 441,308 ha of water in the Caribbean Sea. The nine communities are as follows: i. Rama Cay, ii. Tiktik Kaanu, iii. Sumu Kaat, iv. Wiring Cay, v. Bang Kukuk, vi. Monkey Point, vii. Indian River, viii. Corn River and ix. Greytown. There is also a Rama and Kriol population that lives on the 23 cays which are part of the territory: Buby Kay, Bank Kuku Kay, Big & Small Parment, French Man Kay, Pegeon Kay, Guana Kay, Scualup Kay, Coco Kay, Phillis Kay, Round Kay, Shagaring Kay, Duk Creek Kay, Baboon Kay, Bilchy Kay, Silgrass Kay, Three Sister Kay, Soap Kay, Walker Kay, Mission Kay, Whyro Kay, John Crow Kay, Rama Kay and Bryan Kay.

183. The territorial control of the Rama and Kriol Government has its roots in the following internal norms, which are supported by autonomy laws: co-management with their communities, taking adequate actions for the use, management and conservation of the existing wealth and the 2009 Autonomous Territorial Development and Administration Plan (PADA). Communal regulations will be duly coordinated with the Caribbean Coast Autonomy Statutes.

184. Rama and Kriol women make up 49% of the total population of the nine communities in their territory. Historically, Indigenous women have performed a triple role, determined by their participation in reproductive, productive and, more recently, political representation within and outside their communities (for instance in the establishment of cooperatives, women's groups organized around gender issues, and, more traditionally, church activities).

185. Recent studies show that in the Rama Cay communities, women have historically been assigned the role of conserving and transmitting customs and traditions; in addition, Indigenous women contribute significantly to community organization, which in recent years has translated into more participation and leadership. As concerns the dynamics of family economics, women harvest and market surplus products in both agriculture and fishery.

186. **Gender gaps in areas adjacent to the RBIM.** According to the socioeconomic and gender study made by the URACCAN for FOLUR, the results of which are summarized in section 2.7. (see **Annex 4**), the main gender equality restraints or gaps for indigenous, Afrodescendant and Mestizo women in areas adjacent to the RBIM are the following: i) scarce recognition of women's contributions in the cattle-ranching and cacao-production chains; ii) inequalities in women's participation and decision-making in the family and community organization of the aforementioned production chains; iii) limited technical capacities for product transformation, communication and markets; and iv) restricted access to inputs and financial resources for investment in lands, crops and cattle.

187. Finally, a **Gender Action Plan** (see **Annex K**) was drafted, based on three priorities in gender action: (a) increased participation of women in decision-making at all levels; (ii) selection of women as beneficiaries; and (iii) investment in capacity-development among women. In order to address the identified constraints against gender equality, the RBIM project considers the implementation of specific activities to include gender equality in the four project components:

188. **Component 1:** Rama and Kriol women, young and old, will participate in the formulation of the Reserve's Management Plan. They are the bearers of knowledge on resources, management and processing of local elements that constitute the basis of their livelihoods. Women will be part of the planning and governance mechanism, once the Management Plan is used as a governance tool. Rama and Kriol Indigenous women will also take part in the dialogue platforms.

189. Through the activities for the design of the RBIM Management Plan: Activity 1.1.1.2 Update Autonomous Territorial Development and Administration Plan of the Rama and Kriol Territory (PADA). **Target:** 100% of Rama and Kriol Indigenous women and 20% of Mestizo women in the RBIM buffer zone participate in the design of the RBIM and Rama and Kriol Territorial Government management plans.

190. Activity 1.1.2.1 Facilitate the formulation of norms for forest protection and restoration, the protection of water recharge zones, and the protection of biodiversity, as per the RBIM Management Plan. **Target:** Norms and regulations/resolutions incorporating gender equality and the inclusion of Rama and Kriol Indigenous peoples have been issued.

191. Activity 1.1.3.1 Strengthen the three interinstitutional and multisectoral platforms for technical dialogue, consultation and consensus, in support of RBIM management, and Activity 1.1.3.2 Hold APO follow-up and evaluation sessions with the three platforms. **Target:** At least 40% of platform members are Rama and Kriol Indigenous and Mestizo women living in the RBIM buffer zone.

192. **Component 2:** Women will be relevant protagonists in the acquisition of capacities and skills needed to follow up on APO activities. From their communities, they will be able to monitor scientific research on biodiversity.

193. Activity 2.1.1.1 Prepare a training programme to improve sustainable biodiversity management in the RBIM, and Activity 2.1.1.2 Implement the training plan. **Target:** 100% of Rama and Kriol Indigenous women participate in the formulation and implementation of the training programme.

194. Activity 2.1.2.1 Design of a scientific research programme intended to carry out studies that identify potential for natural resources and biodiversity conservation, and Activity 2.1.2.2 Implementation of a scientific research programme.

**Target:** 100% of Rama and Kriol Indigenous women participate in the formulation of the scientific research programme.

195. **Component 3:** The cultural heritage of the Indigenous communities in the RBIM, including their knowledge about medicine, plant properties, seeds and herbs, animal products, oral traditions, tales and songs, designs of visual arts, pottery and textiles, including ancient symbols ? all these have

been preserved thanks to the efforts of Rama and Kriol women. These women will get access to financial resources to strengthen their livelihoods and have more sustainable options. The Rama and Kriol Territorial Government will be empowered as an Indigenous community organization with gender approach, to be able to effectively manage the project while promoting women's participation.

196. Activity 3.1.1.1 Assist the Rama and Kriol ITGs and local communities to formulate investment plans to restore natural habitats in the RBIM core zone, and Activity 3.1.1.2 Implement actions leading to natural regeneration, native forest protection and sustainable management, and landscape restoration in the prioritized biological corridor in the RBIM. **Target:** 100% of Indigenous Rama and Kriol women participate in forest protection and restoration activities directed by women.

197. Activity 3.1.2.1: Design of business and investment plans for each enterprise and Activity 3.1.2.2 Support for the implementation of enterprises **Target:** 100% of Indigenous Rama and Kriol women participate in the identification and implementation of activities to develop women-headed enterprises.

198. Activity 3.1.3.1 Design of a training programme to strengthen capacities needed to implement activities leading to improved livelihoods. **Target:** 100% of Indigenous Rama and Kriol women participate in the formulation of the training programme.

199. Activity 3.1.3.2 Implementation of a training plan which also includes Indigenous youth and women.

**Target:** 100% of Indigenous Rama and Kriol women benefit from training activities.

200. **Component 4:** Indigenous women are active protagonists participating in the exchange of knowledge and practices. They will collectively participate in work sessions to gather knowledge and practices, and document these. The foregoing is to take place in a setting of respect for the right to free, prior and informed consent.

201. Output 4.1.2 Implementation of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system, informed by a gender approach and social inclusion of the young, Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples, subject to compliance with social and environmental safeguards.

202. Activity 4.1.2.2: Implement the training plan for monitoring biodiversity and ecosystemic goods and services. **Target:** At least 50% of participants in the monitoring groups are Indigenous and Mestizo women.

203. Activity 4.1.3.2 Design and implement a knowledge management programme through case studies and the systematisation of ancestral knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt in sustainable biodiversity management in the RBIM, with the participation of Rama and Kriol women and young adults.

**Target:** At least 40% of participating in case studies and/or exchanges are Indigenous and Mestizo women.

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;**

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women**

**Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

#### 4. Private sector engagement

##### Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

204. During the PRODOC formulation process, meetings, interviews and surveys were held among members of cattle-rancher and cacao-producer cooperatives located in areas adjacent to the RBIM. They demonstrated willingness to participate in project activities that enhance the comprehensive and sustainable management of the RBIM.

**Table 16: Consultations with the private sector as stakeholders in project formulation**

| Name of stakeholder  | Type of stakeholder | Stakeholder profile   | Consultation methodology                          | Consultation Recommendations   | Main dates  | Comments  |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Private enterprise</b></p> <p>(Cattle-raising, cacao, forestry, oil palm, tourism and fisheries)</p> | <b>Partner</b>      | <i>Private sector</i> | <i>Field visits, interviews and consultancies</i> | <p><i>Focal group workshops in the RACCs and department of R?o San Juan on chain studies, rapid assessment of land degradation, household surveys and gender workshops</i></p> <p><i>Final workshop on PRODOC consultation</i></p> | <p><i>11 to 14 January 2021</i></p> <p><i>4 to 6 May 2021</i></p> <p><i>November 2021</i></p> | <i>Contributions to studies and PRODOC action proposals</i> |

Source: FAO

205. The RBIM project will also intervene in the Reserve's buffer zone, where significant private sector farming activities take place. This is to be done in close coordination with FOLUR Nicaragua, Bio-CLIMA (GCF-CABEI) and the EU-CIAT project titled "Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the municipality of El Castillo", in an effort to boost the efficiency and effectiveness of soil and water use, reducing the pressure on the RBIM core zone.

206. **Cattle-raising:** At least seven milk collecting companies have been identified that also process cheese and curd in the municipality of El Castillo for export and domestic markets. These are local actors, with whose help an incentive mechanism can be developed to intensify cattle-raising and promotion of silvopastoral systems, in coordination with the Bio-CLIMA project (GCF-CABEI), the EU-CIAT project titled "Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the municipality of El Castillo".

207. **Cacao and coconut:** These are reported mainly in the municipality of El Castillo, where four agricultural cooperatives cacao on some 610 ha. In north-eastern San Juan, an important

production of coconut has been reported in the Siempre Viva community; this activity is one of the main sources of employment in the municipality.

208. COODEPROSA: This cooperative has a high scalability due to its contribution to the development of and innovation in cacao production with high added value. Its contribution will be the restoration of plant coverage in the project intervention area by planting cacao to establish agroforestry systems. In a recent study by Biodiversity International, COODEPROSA was identified as a commercial plant nursery in the area that has a clone garden.

209. COSEMUCRIM: Offers support services along the cacao production value chain in areas adjacent to the Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve, and contributes to sustainable technologies worldwide. Its offices are located in Boca de Sbalos and Buena Vista.

210. ASHIERCA: The El Castillo Association of Twin Cities Initiatives contributes to the cacao production chain by cultivating 9266 ha. Its offices are in Boca de Sbalos.

211. COOPROCAFUC RL. The El Castillo Cooperative of United Cacao Producing Families participates in each link of the value chain: production, primary transformation, collection and national / international cacao sales. The cooperative has 147 members, 37 of which are women, and is active in 11 communities of Castillo.

212. **Business economics in the RBIM area of influence or adjacent area.** There are four major business investments with considerable impact on employment as well as ecosystems in the municipality of El Castillo, as follows: Palmares de Castillo S.A., with an estimated investment in palm oil production of 12,000 ha; the Agroindustrial del Río S.A. cacao company, with an investment of 1,500 ha; Maderas Cultivadas de CA S.A., with an investment in 1000 ha of white teak and acacia species; and Pura Sana S.A., which has a citrus fruit plantation.

213. **Nica Forest is** an entity working on the restoration of degraded areas by planting trees for timber and carbon sequestration. They will collaborate with the project as high-quality native forest tree sellers, as providers of services for the verification of restoration areas, and to explore additional economic incentives for restoration with beneficiaries.

214. **Ritter Sport Nicaragua S.A.:** The company has 20.6 ha of plant material on the El Cacao Farm in the municipality of Kukra Hill. It mainly has varieties of ICS, UF and EET, and works with cacao cooperatives in the area adjacent to the RBIM in the municipality of El Castillo.

215. **The tourism sector.** Tourism has become increasingly important for employment and value generation in the project area of influence. This sector's development is one of the key pillars in the development strategy Nicaragua is implementing. According to data found in the 2019 INTUR registry of tourism businesses, in total there are 254 enterprises in the municipalities of Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan; 64 offer lodging, 34 food and beverages, 71 recreation and night entertainment, 38 offer water transport, 45 are local tourist guides and two are tour operators.

216. According to PA regulations, participation and investment by the private sector must be gradual and can be significant, as long as it contributes to the improvement of the socio-economic and environmental conditions of families and communities, provides jobs/incomes and strengthens capacities, under the green economic development model. Additionally, and in a broader context, relations between the private sector and environmental aspects are in conformity with Article 232 of the General Environment and Natural Resources Law.

**Table 17: Private sector participation plan as stakeholders in project implementation**



| Name of stakeholder  | Type of stakeholder          | Stakeholder profile   | Consultation methodology   | Expected duration   | Comments   |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Private enterprise</b><br><br>(Cattle-ranching, cacao, forestry, oil palm, tourism and fisheries) | <b>Co-financing entities</b> | <i>Private Sector</i> | <i>Previous and regular consultation as co-financing entities, through investment and training plans</i> | <i>Project life</i> | <i>Initial contacts during early meetings and later during implementation of investment plans in RBIM adjacent areas</i> |

Source: FAO

### 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):**

217. Table 18 contains a project risk assessment.

**Table 18. Project risks**

| Risk description   | Impact     | Probability of occurrence | Mitigation strategies   | Responsible entity |
|--|------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. Insufficient availability of information for decision-making.<br><br>It is necessary to create interinstitutional platforms for technical and ancestral knowledge related to biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. | <b>Low</b> | <b>100%</b>               | The project will reduce this risk by taking the following measures:<br><br>Supporting interinstitutional coordination and collaboration, with the aim of strengthening knowledge on biodiversity, sustainable forest management and landscape restoration in buffer zones and interconnection corridors, by using ITC technology and working through competent institutions and organizations (MARENA, MEFCCA, INTUR; SDCC; municipal governments and INIFOM; Rama and Kriol territorial government; GRACCS; and URACCAN, BICO and UNI universities (research). | GON - MARENA       |

| Risk description  | Impact               | Probability of occurrence | Mitigation strategies  | Responsible entity  |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| <p><b>2. Institutional</b><br/> implementation capacity: at present, institutions only have limited personnel and other necessary resources to provide a sufficiently effective management in the PAs, safeguard sustainability and establish and support biological corridor management.</p> | <p><b>Medium</b></p> | <p><b>100%</b></p>        | <p>In order to reduce this risk, the following measures will be taken:</p> <p>Support to institutions requiring technical assistance (TA) so they contribute to PA management.</p> <p>Support to capacity-strengthening, with TA for GRACCS, municipal governments and Rama and Kriol ITGs.</p> <p>Fostering collaboration between protagonists through specific contributions, and identifying profitable conservation activities that contribute to sustainable management at local level.</p> | <p>MARENA, supported by FAO</p>   |
| <p><b>3. Technical:</b><br/> The restoration of forest lands and the biological connectivity requires multisectoral institutional coordination, policies that are sensitive to protected areas and biodiversity, and long-lasting behavioural changes among farmers and forest owners.</p>    | <p><b>Medium</b></p> | <p><b>100%</b></p>        | <p>Participatory coordination according to progress made in capacity strengthening and organization of management groups, entities and mechanisms making significant contributions to forest restoration, important habitats and sustainable management.</p>   | <p>MARENA and technical divisions, supported by FAO, universities and other institutions.</p> |

| Risk description   | Impact               | Probability of occurrence | Mitigation strategies   | Responsible entity   |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| <p>4. <b>Stakeholders:</b><br/>The success of the programme will depend to a great extent on the commitment and ownership of those protagonists who are interested in the use and conservation of natural resources.</p>   | <p><b>Medium</b></p> | <p><b>100%</b></p>        | <p>Increase ownership and reduce risks on the basis of the capacities, entities and mechanisms developed with members of different institutions, organizations and the Rama and Kriol Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>(a) Support to planning and sector coordination to increase sustainable RBIM management;</p> <p>(b) Definition of mechanisms to increase sustainability of programme investments; and</p> <p>(c) Agreements with local actors on their participation in the design and implementation of community business initiatives.</p> | <p>MARENA, coordinating activities with GRACCS, Rama and Kriol ITG, municipal governments, organizations, entrepreneurs and farmers.</p> |
| <p>6. <b>Climate change:</b> Forest restoration and conservation activities can be seriously affected by the adverse consequences of climate change, e.g. droughts and high temperatures that could cause wildfires or lead to the extinction of threatened species.</p> | <p><b>Medium</b></p> | <p><b>90%</b></p>         | <p>The programme is implemented precisely to strengthen resilience by restoring forests, habitats and livelihoods, reducing GHG emissions and strengthening capacities to respond to extreme events.</p>  | <p>MARENA, in coordination with other institutions and organizations.</p>  |

| Risk description   | Impact | Probability of occurrence | Mitigation strategies   | Responsible entity   |
|--|--------|---------------------------|---|--|
| 7. Natural hazards, including weather phenomena and epidemiological risks (e.g. COVID-19) that could delay programme activities. | Medium | 90%                       | <p>Identification of alternatives to in-person meetings and consultations, awareness-raising on the situation in the field between interest groups, and identification of green recovery measures. The evolution of the COVID-19 epidemic will be monitored closely, to allow sufficient time for mitigation plans to be prepared</p> <p>As concerns COVID-19, during project preparation a series of on-the-ground assessments were made with local actors. Given current conditions, it is clear that costs have risen, particularly for travel and in-person meetings. The project will ensure that meetings follow national guidelines to avoid contagion, and will supervise any impact that could delay implementation.</p> | MARENA, in coordination with other institutions and organizations. |

Source: FAO Country Office with support from the GON interinstitutional technical team

## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

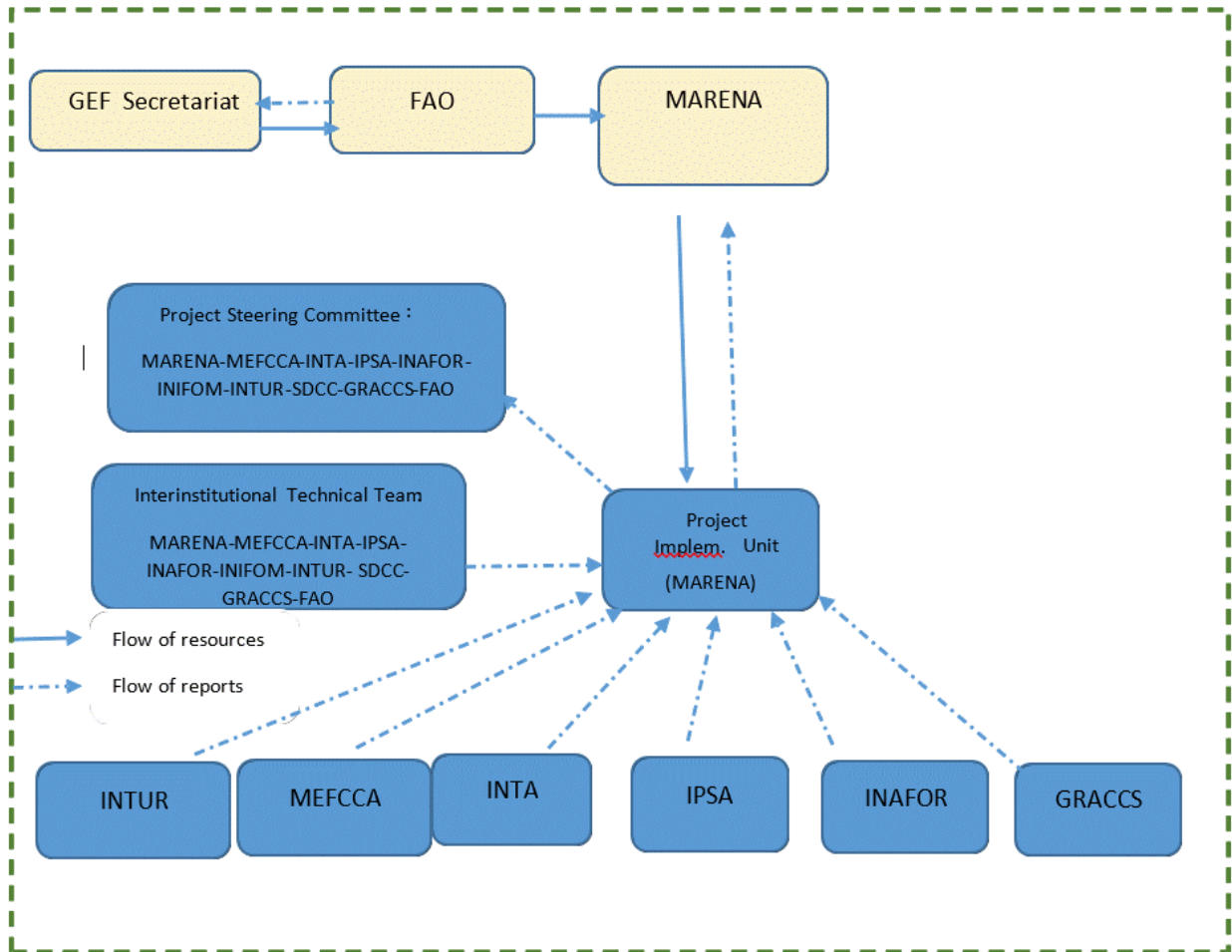
**Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

### 6.a Institutional arrangements and coordination

221. The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) will be in charge of project implementation, for which it has technical responsibility. FAO as GEF agency is in charge of supervision.

222. The project's organizational structure is as follows:

**Figure 13:** Project flowchart



FAO

GEF

Secretariat

MARENA

Project

Implem.

Unit

(MARENA)

Project Steering Committee

:

MARENA

-

MEFCCA

-

INTA

-

IPSA

-

INAFOR

-

INIFOM

-

INTUR

-

SDCC

-

GRACCS

-

FAO

Interinstitutional Technical Team

:

MARENA

-

MEFCCA

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INTA

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IPSA

-

INAFOR

-

INFOM

-

INTUR

-

SDCC

-

GRACCS

-

FAO

INTUR

INTA

IPSA

INAFOR

Flow of resources

Flow of reports

GRACCS

MEFCCA

223. MARENA will chair the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will be the project's main regulatory body. The PSC will approve the annual plans of operation (APO) and annual budgets, and will provide strategic orientation from MARENA, MEFCCA, INTA, IPSA, INAFOR, INIFOM, INTUR, GRAACCS and FAO representatives. PCS members will ensure there is a project focal point at their respective institutions. The Focal Points, who are PSC members, will: (i) supervise activities at their own institutions from a technical point of view; (ii) guarantee a fluid exchange of information and communication between the institutions and the programme; (iii) facilitate coordination and linkages between the project and the respective institutional work plan; and (iv) facilitate co-financing resources for the project according to the selected modality.

224. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is the entity supporting decision-making; it will meet at least twice a year to: i) supervise and ensure the technical quality of the outputs; ii) approve the annual work plan and the budget, as well as the semesterly progress and project reports; iii) forge linkages between the project and other projects/programmes in the area with similar aims; iv) learn and report on co-financing from any of the parties; v) ensure the achievement of key project outcomes, including their sustainability, expansion and replication; and v) effectively coordinate the work of governmental project partners.

225. Interinstitutional Technical Team (ITT). MARENA will chair the ITT, which is to prepare APOs, budgets and support the operational management of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and all implementation partners. The ITT is made up of MARENA, MEFCCA, INTA, IPSA, INAFOR, INIFOM, INTUR, GRACCS, Rama and Kriol territorial government and FAO representatives.

226. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be co-financed by the GEF and established at MARENA; it is to report directly to the MARENA Executive Management. According to the PSC Manual, the PIU's main functions are: ensuring efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project in general, by effectively implementing the RBIM management plan, APOs and annual budgets. The PIU will be headed by the MARENA General Division of Natural Heritage, which will work jointly with a National Project Coordinator (NPC), to be engaged on a full-time basis for project duration. In addition, the PIU will also offer support through experts in the fields of finance, M&E, gender and Indigenous people; their salaries will be paid with RBIM Project funds (see ToRs in **Annex 6**).

227. The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will be in charge of daily project implementation, administration and technical supervision, on behalf of the OP and within the framework outlined by the PSC.

Among other things, he/she is expected to:



- i) coordinate with other relevant initiatives;
- ii) ensure a high level of cooperation with participating institutions and protagonist organizations on the ground, such as the Rama and Kriol territorial government and its communities;
- iii) ensure compliance with all MARENA provisions during project implementation, including financial management and delivery of timely reports;
- iv) coordinate and closely follow-up on the implementation of project activities;
- v) follow up on the progress of the RBIM project and ensure the timely delivery of incomes and expenses;
- vi) provide technical support and evaluate the outcomes of the national project experts engaged with GEF funds, as well as outputs generated by RBIM project implementation;
- vii) approve and manage fund requests, using the MARENA format;
- viii) monitor funds and accountancy to ensure financial reports are exactness and reliable;
- ix) ensure timely formulation and presentation of fund requests, financial reports and progress reports to FAO, in accordance with MARENA reporting requirements;
- x) keep documentation and evidence describing the adequate and circumspect use of project funds according to MARENA provisions, including those made available to FAO and the designated auditors, when requested;
- xi) implement and manage project monitoring and communication plans;
- xii) organize RBIM project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and prepare annual budgets and APOs;
- xiii) present six-monthly project progress reports (PPR) with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO;
- xiv) prepare the first draft of the RBIM Project Review;
- xv) support the organization of mid-term and terminal evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Independent Evaluation Office (OED);
- xvi) present semesterly MARENA and FAO technical and financial reports and facilitate exchanges of information between MARENA and FAO, if required; and
- xvii) inform the PSC, the Rama and Kriol territorial government and FAO of any delay or difficulty arising during implementation, in order to ensure timely corrective measures and support.

228. The project's financial execution will be carried out according to the approved management instruments (Project Document, APO, Budget, Procurement and Purchases Plan, and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan), and use the execution modality for FAO operational partners, known as OPIM.<sup>[1]</sup> As operational partner (OP), MARENA will lead project implementation and assumes technical responsibility for the project, under FAO supervision as GEF agency. In line with the results of the capacity assessment made in January 2020, MARENA is currently developing and implementing a capacity-strengthening plan for sub-partner management (among them, MEFCCA and INTUR), to develop certain activities whose nature requires these entities' knowledge and experience. The sub-partners in project implementation will

report to MARENA (as the OP) and to FAO (as implementing agency) regarding the adequate administration and execution of financial resources, through the Letters of Agreement modality signed by FAO with its sub-partners (including MEFCCA, INTUR and specialized entities).

229. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will have the following responsibilities:

- (i) manage GEF funds according to FAO norms and procedures;
- (ii) supervise project implementation according to the Project Document (PRODOC), Global and Annual Operations Plan, budgets, the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, the Purchase and Procurement Plan, agreements with co-financing entities, agreements with OPs and other FAO norms and procedures;
- (iii) prepare and sign Letters of Agreement (LOA) with partners regarding the transfer of funds for annual execution as approved in the Annual Plan of Operations.
- (iv) prepare and sign Letters of Agreement (LOAs) with sub-partners whereby funds are transferred to these  
for the annual implementation of actions and funds as approved in the APOs for this purpose.
- (v) supervise implementation, providing guidelines and technical assistance to implementing partners to ensure that the funds provided are disbursed for the established purposes and achieve the expected outcomes.
- (vi) provide procurement and financial management services for GEF funds as per agreements reached with MARENA in the PRODOC budget;
- (vii) provide technical orientation to ensure the adequate technical quality is applied to all activities;
- (viii) organise at least one supervision mission per year; and
- (ix) deliver reports to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through annual project implementation review, the Mid-term and Terminal Evaluations and the Project Completion Reports; and
- (x) be the sole entity responsible for accountability and financial reports to the GEF trustee.

#### 6.b Coordination with other GEF initiatives

230. During the formulation of the PRODOC, the need was identified to coordinate actions with the various initiatives described in Table 20 of this document.

**Table 20. Other projects with which to work in close coordination**

| Project | Description | Relevant outputs for the Indio-Ma'z Project |
|---------|-------------|---|
|---------|-------------|---|

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Bio-CLIMA Project</b></p> <p>Integrated Climate Action to Reduce Deforestation and Strengthen Resilience in the Bosaw?s and R?o San Juan Biosphere Reserves.</p> | <p>Objective: Transformation of extensive cattle-ranching, agriculture and forest exploitation (the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation) in buffer zones of the BOSAWAS and R?o San Juan Biosphere Reserves, into more sustainable forms of production that integrate ecosystem conservation and ecosystemic services with the production of goods and services.</p> <p>Duration: 2021-2028</p> <p>Source of financing: GCF / CABEI as entity accredited to the GCF.</p> <p>Executing agency: MARENA-MHCP</p> <p>Amount of funding: US\$ 110 million</p> | <p>Bio-CLIMA is a broad-based project, while the RBIM Project is a complementary piece to the national efforts for the conservation of biodiversity and emissions reduction. Bio-CLIMA will accompany the improvement of farming systems in the buffer zone, and will work with Rama and Kriol Indigenous people to establish small enterprises.</p> <p>The main activities are:</p> <p>Output 1.2.1 Degraded rangelands and secondary forest restored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Agroforestry systems with cacao</li> <li>? Sustainable silvopastoral systems</li> <li>? Multifunctional planted forests</li> </ul> <p>Output 1.2.2 Natural forest ecosystems and preserved, restored and sustainably used forest lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Sustainable community-based enterprises</li> <li>? Commercial Community-based Forestry (CBF) Management and Community-based Forest Restoration (CBFR) subprojects in Indigenous territories outside of protected areas, including the Rama and Kriol territory.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>FDV SICA-CCAD</b></p> <p>Landscape Restoration and Ecosystems Resilient to Climate Change in the Municipality of El Castillo.</p> | <p>Objective: To promote landscape restoration and resilient ecosystems located in buffer zones of the R?o San Juan Biosphere Reserve in the municipality of El Castillo.</p> <p>Duration: 2021-2025</p> <p>Source of financing: European Union</p> <p>Executing agency: MARENA-CIAT</p> <p>Amount of financing: US\$1.5 million</p> | <p>This project complements the implementation of RBIM activities of the municipality of El Castillo (components 1 and 3).</p> <p>Its main activities are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperation agreements with farmers for the implementation of on-farm environmental restoration plans.</li> <li>Establishment of 300 ha of agroforestry systems with better practices for environmental restoration.</li> <li>Establishment of 1700 ha of silvopastoral systems with best practices for environmental restoration.</li> <li>Cooperation agreements with farmers to implement the cash-for-work model.</li> <li>Implementation of 350 ha of agroforestry systems with cacao in water recharge areas with best practices for water source restoration.</li> <li>Establishment of 100 ha of protected water recharge areas.</li> <li>Establishment of 50 ha with management of natural regeneration of degraded zones in water recharge areas.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

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|---|--|---|
| <p><b>GEF FOLUR</b><br/>Project</p> <p>Transforming food systems and reducing deforestation in protected area landscapes and biological corridors of the RACCS and R?o San Juan province.</p> | <p>Objective: Promotion of sustainable and integrated landscapes and efficient food systems (cacao, beef/dairy cattle) for key value chains in protected areas and biological corridors of the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regions and landscapes surrounding the San Juan River.</p> <p>Duration: 2022-2026</p> <p>Source of Financing: GEF</p> <p>Executing agency: MARENA</p> <p>Implementing Agency: FAO</p> <p>Amount of funding: US\$ 5.3 million</p> | <p>This project complements the implementation of activities under its components 1 and 3 in the municipality of El Castillo and Bluefields in the areas surrounding the RBIM.</p> <p>The main activities are:</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Support smallholders, farmers, cooperatives and the Indigenous and Afrodescendant territorial government in designing municipal landscape restoration plans which are to include silvopastoral, cacao agroforestry, forest restoration, reforestation and sustainable management of native forests, in Bluefields and El Castillo.</p> <p>Output 1.2.1</p> <p>Support provided to dialogue platforms between the public and private sectors to define both on and off-farm strategies at landscape level, for the purpose of restoring biodiversity and safeguarding protected areas.</p> <p>Output 2.1.1 Programme for technology development, validation and dissemination, as well as capacity-strengthening, with an ethnic, intercultural and gender-sensitive approach to support technological conversion into (i) a cattle-raising system under technologically intensive, low-emission silvopastoral systems; and (ii) intensive and diversified cacao systems, which contribute to the restoration of landscapes and biological corridors.</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2 a Formulation and implementation of investment plans to support smallholders, cooperatives and the Indigenous and Afrodescendant territorial government in their technological reconversion to sustainable, resilient, deforestation-free cattle-raising systems low in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2.b Formulation of investment plans to support smallholders, cooperatives and Indigenous and Afrodescendant territorial governments in their technological reconversion to sustainable, resilient, deforestation-free cacao agroforestry systems low in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Output 3.1.1 Detailed investment plans (based on outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2) developed by project protagonists to restore natural habitats and productive landscapes in the biological corridors of the RACCS and the R?o San Juan province.</p> |
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| <p><b>Biodiversity Programme: Linking Central American Landscapes</b></p> | <p>Objective: The programme pursues the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of large landscapes with ecosystems of high economic, ecological and cultural value for the region. In the first phase, the programme is implemented in five cross-border landscapes in the seven countries of Central America: Landscape 1: Guatemala ? Belize ? Honduras (Caribbean sector); Landscape 2: Guatemala ? El Salvador (Pacific sector); Landscape 3: Honduras ? Nicaragua (Honduran and Nicaraguan Mosquitia); Landscape 4: Nicaragua ? Costa Rica (Caribbean sector); and Landscape 5: Costa Rica ? Panama (Amistad Biosphere Reserve)</p> <p>Duration: 2021-2024</p> <p>Executing agency and source of financing: this programme will be implemented by the IUCN and is financed by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation through the German Development Bank (KfW).</p> | <p>This project complements the implementation of its components 1 and 3 in the municipalities of El Castillo, San Juan and Bluefields, through the Rama and Kriol ITGs.</p> <p>These will be the expected complementary outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>?Strengthened capacities for effective protected area management and biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>?More sustainable economic alternatives favouring landscape connectivity and restoration.</li> <li>?Improved institutional technical and strategic capacities of national and regional actors.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>BOVINOS</b></p> <p>Support programme for the cattle value chain in Nicaragua</p> | <p>Objective: To contribute to the development of a more productive cattle-raising sector, with a better and more ecological use of resources, in a manner that is competitive, sustainable and inclusive. This will allow for higher incomes, food and nutrition security and well-being of small and medium cattle-ranchers in 11 municipalities in the provinces of Chontales (Santo Domingo, La Libertad, Santo Tom's, El Coral, Acoyapa and Villa Sandino), R?o San Juan (El Almendro) and the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (El Ayote, Muelle de los Bueyes, Nueva Guinea and El Rama).</p> <p>Duration: 2015-2021</p> <p>Source of financing: European Union</p> <p>Executing Agency: Delegated cooperation in AECID, coordinating with MEFCCA, INTA and IPSA.</p> <p>Amount of financing: 20 million Euros</p> | <p>This project contributes to the establishment of a baseline for components 1 and 3 in the areas adjacent to the RBIM.</p> <p>Complementary to the Bio-CLIMA initiatives in the buffer zone, the BOVINOS project will work with cattle-ranchers for the purpose of intensifying production, thus making more efficient use of existing resources and reducing pressure on the RBIM.</p> |
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|--|---|--|
| <p><b>NICADAPTA</b></p> <p>Support for climate change adaptation of smallholder coffee and cacao production in regions appropriate to the prevailing agro-climate.</p> | <p>Objective: To sustainably improve living conditions of rural coffee and cacao growing families, including them in markets and reducing their vulnerability to climate change.</p> <p>Duration: 2014-2020</p> <p>Source of financing: IFAD / CABEI</p> <p>Executing agency: MEFCCA</p> <p>Source of financing: US\$ 37.05 million</p> | <p>This project contributes to the establishment of the baseline of project components 1 and 3 in areas adjacent to the RBIM.</p> <p>In the R?o San Juan province, five investment plans will be developed for collective or community-based coffee and cacao plant nurseries to be established in priority areas.</p> <p>Four cacao-grower organizations established in the municipality of El Castillo: ASIHERCA and COOPROCAFUC in the community of Buena Vista, COOSEMUCRIM in Boca de S?balos and COODEPROSA in El Castillo. The cacao-growing families are diversifying their farms and establishing new cacao plantations, motivated by various programmes/projects and international prices.</p> <p>Four investment plans were also implemented in the RACCS.</p> <p>Establishment of a diversified agricultural system with gender equity and climate change adaptation to improve production and living conditions of families in nine communities of the Rama and Kriol Territory in the municipality of Bluefields and the RACCS.</p> <p>This project contributes to the establishment of a baseline for project components 1 and 3.</p> |
|--|---|--|



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|---|--|---|
| <p><b>PAIPSAN</b></p> <p>Support project to increase productivity, as well as food and nutrition security in the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast region.</p> | <p>Objective: To improve food and nutrition security in selected communities of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast Region.</p> <p>Duration: November 2015 - December 2019</p> <p>Source of financing: Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme- Canada</p> <p>Source of financing: US\$ 33,900,000.00</p> <p>Institutions involved MEFCCA, IPSA, MAG, INTA, INPESCA and Regional Governments</p> <p>Executing Agency: MEFCCA</p> | <p>This project contributed to the establishment of a baseline for project components 1 and 3 in areas adjacent to the RBIM.</p> <p>Innovation Development Plans (IDP) included investment plans to support agricultural production and improve food security, availability and consumption through the capitalisation with goods, materials and supplies for the Caribbean Coast communities.</p> <p>Support in this respect consisted of an intervention in three subprojects or IDPs executed in Rama and Kriol Indigenous communities.</p> <p>A total of 102 productive units were registered for the implementation of the System of Good Farming Practices by protagonists in the Bluefields, Rama and Kriol territories, 62 belonging to men and 40 to women.</p> <p>Through the PAIPSAN project, IPSA executed phytosanitary and epidemiological surveillance, implemented Good Farming Practices and conducted safety inspections of fishery products.</p> |
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| <p><b>INTUR</b></p> <p>Joint Programme: Cultural Revitalization and Productive and Creative Development in the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast Region</p> | <p>Objective: To contribute to the reduction of equity gaps in the human, cultural, social, economic development of Caribbean Coast Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples through cultural revitalization, productive development and increased knowledge about and exercise of rights related to their material and immaterial heritage.</p> <p>Duration: 2008 - 2012</p> <p>Source of Financing: FODM ? United Nation</p> <p>United Nations MDG-F</p> <p>Nicaraguan Tourism Institute (INTUR)</p> <p>Nicaraguan Institute of Culture (INC)</p> <p>Amount of funding: US\$ 430,268.84 (tourism component)</p> | <p>This project contributed to the establishment of the baseline for components 1 and 3 in areas adjacent to the RBIM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Design and promotion of the Caribbean Coast Tourist Route and seven tourist circuits, including 30 tourist attractions and 259 tourist enterprises.</li> <li>*Formulation of a Regional Tourism Development Plan for the development of tourism and culture.</li> <li>* Two historically and culturally relevant public spaces identified and revitalized.</li> <li>*Entrepreneurs in the tourism sector were trained in responsible cultural tourism, cultural heritage, tourism marketing, responsible tourism routes, and tourist service quality.</li> <li>*Management capacities of local tourist guides strengthened.</li> <li>* Improved conditions for at least six tourism enterprises.</li> <li>*Tour operator organized and functioning in networks.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>INTUR</b></p> <p>Project: Support for the implementation of the National Development Plan/Component II: Water Route</p> | <p>Objective: Increased employment, income and foreign exchange through tourism, by consolidating and diversifying touristic supply and demand, improving the Nicaragua's competitiveness in regional and international tourism markets.</p> <p>Duration: 2005 - 2012</p> <p>Source of Financing: BID</p> <p>Executing agency: MHCP / INTUR</p> <p>Amount of Funding: US\$ 21, 331,239.20</p> | <p>This project supported the establishment of a baseline for project components 1 and 3 in areas adjacent to the RBIM</p> <p>The most relevant outcomes achieved by the Water Route Project were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>?Improvement of the San Carlos aerodrome</li> <li>?Improvement of the San Carlos waterfront</li> <li>?Improvement of 28 house fa?ades in San Carlos</li> <li>?Construction of aerodrome in San Juan de Nicaragua</li> <li>?Construction of ten piers (three in San Juan, two in El Castillo and five in San Carlos)</li> <li>?Construction of a waiting lounge in the Port Company</li> <li>?Construction of two Tourist Information Centres (El Castillo and San Carlos)</li> <li>?Construction of five border posts</li> <li>? A total of 134 businesspersons trained and with personalised assistance to improve the quality of their services.</li> <li>? Ninety tourism companies benefited from loans granted by the municipalities of San Carlos, El Castillo, San Juan and San Miguelito.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|

Source: FAO Country Office with support from the GON interinstitutional technical team

[1] The operational partners (OP), the outcomes they achieve, the OPs and the budgets transferred to them are not binding and can change due to the association procedures and FAO internal agreements that have yet to be applied or concluded at the moment of presentation.

#### 7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

231. **Alignment with national priorities.** This project contributes directly to Nicaragua's fulfilment of its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The project objective and its outcomes also directly support various national priorities and initiatives. These include:

232. ***National Plan to Combat Poverty (2022-2026)***. This plan contributes to the environmental policy and the protection of natural resources in vis-?-vis climate change. [1]
233. ***Development Strategy for the Caribbean Coast and the Upper Wangki and Bocay (2019-2029)***. This plan represents the vision, life aspirations and heritage of future generations, persons, families, communities, municipalities, territories, regions, institutions and organizations. It is based on the world view of Indigenous peoples, but imbued with modern approaches, especially sustainable development, inclusion and social justice, gender equality, environmental conservation and low-carbon development. The strategy also seeks incorporate ERP, and is designed to fight the main causes of forest degradation and deforestation. It will promote a protection model for more intensive, equitable and environmentally sustainable farming. In addition, it has the firm intention to mobilise different public and private sectors.
234. ***Creation of the National Climate Change Management System and establishment of Principles and Guidelines for the National Climate Change Policy***. Presidential Decree N?. 15-2021, approved on 25 June 2021, published in *La Gaceta*, Official Congressional Record N? 120, 30 June 2021.[2] This decree creates the National System for Climate Change Response, created by Presidential Decree 07-2019, a political-strategic entity for consultation, drafting of and follow-up on policies, norms, instruments and strategies to promote compliance with national climate goals. The system will be able to interact and articulate with other governmental and social institutions and instances, especially with the Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System (SINAPRED) and the Production, Consumption and Commerce System (SPCC).
235. ***National Avoided Deforestation Programme (ENDE-REDD+) 2018-2040.***[3]The RBIM Project is in line with the National Avoided Deforestation Strategy, also known as ENDE-REDD+, based on national constitutional principles. It has roots in a development model based on inclusion, dialogue, alliance and consensus with Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and is consistent with ENDE REDD+, as it seeks to strengthen the *National Environmental and Climate Change Strategy* and the *Biodiversity Strategy*, as well as to consolidate national investment and attract international investment, with the aim of diminishing risks from natural disasters, protecting and/or recovering water sources and degraded ecosystems, restoring landscapes, protecting biodiversity, sequestering carbon and generating an alternative and complementary economic source of family income related to the protection of Nicaraguan natural forests.
236. ***Nationally determined contribution (NDC)***, presented to the UNFCCC in August 2018. The linkage between the NDC and the RBIM is based on the assumption that the rural communities and Indigenous peoples living in the Caribbean Coast forests, Bosaw?s and Indio-Ma?z will diminish forest degradation and deforestation by reducing emissions by approximately 11 million tons of carbon dioxide. In exchange, positive incentives for an amount of 55 million USD will be received over five years. This target only represents 50% of the emissions reduction potential of the Caribbean Coast region, through MARENA?s ENDE-REDD+ programme, which with the assistance of the World Bank Emissions Reduction Programme is scheduled to begin in 2021.
237. ***The National Biodiversity Strategy and its Nicaragua Action Plan (2015-2020), delivered to the CBD in 2016***. In its core guidelines, the National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan (2015-2020) defines the objective of promoting biodiversity conservation and restoration, prioritising threatened and vulnerable ecosystems, such as wetlands, coral reefs, pine forests and wildlife corridors, fostering complementarity, shared responsibility and alliances for prosperity with national, local and regional institutions, farmers, families and private initiatives, as part of the effort to improve living conditions among the Nicaraguan people.
238. ***National Land Degradation Neutrality Strategy***. The National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Strategy is based on the implementation of the main farming policies and targets in the model of alliances, dialogue and consensus with the support of SPCC institutions. In order to contribute to the fulfilment of the proposed LDN targets, national institutions will articulate according to the following work lines: by 2030, the national forest cover will have increased by 21.47%; this target implies promoting

Payments for Environmental Services (PSA) for the sustainable protection and conservation of plant ecosystems; by 2030, 1,166,362 ha in areas degraded due to decreasing land productivity will have improved. Restoration measures will consist of increasing agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, thus facilitating the functionality of the biological connectivity between forest ecosystems.

239. *Nicaragua's targets to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030, presented to the UNCCD in 2018.*

For the period 2018-2030, Nicaragua reaffirms its interest in working on a green development model by launching the National Reforestation Crusade in areas of key national interest, on at least 30 000 ha per year; the National Avoided Deforestation Strategy, especially in the Caribbean Coast region and central-northern Pacific region; the Programme to Combat Climate Change and Poverty (ERPD- Emission Reduction Programme), whose goals are to reduce land use change sector emissions by 11 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (TCO<sub>2</sub>e) in five years, and achieve social and environmental collateral benefits such as biodiversity, watersheds and food security; and continuing the effort of restoring 2.8 million ha of degraded land by 2020, in the framework of the Bonn Challenge initiative, with the involvement of the public and private sector.

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[1] <https://www.el19digital.com/app/webroot/tinymce/source/2018/00Enero/Del22al28Enero/Viernes26Enero/EJES%20DEL%20PROGRAMA%20NACIONAL%20DE%20DESARROLLO%20HUMANO.pdf>.

[2] Government of Reconciliation and National Unity. 2021.  
<http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/b92aaea87dac762406257265005d21f7/f0e9cc51d3075639062587060060104e?OpenDocument>

[3] <http://www.marena.gob.ni/Enderedd/wp-content/uploads/Fases/13.%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20ENDE.pdf>

## 8. Knowledge Management

### **Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

240. Knowledge management is a permanent process throughout the entire project cycle. It starts from previous experiences and based on these develops activities that are analysed and improved. Knowledge management takes place through participatory processes by which men and women in institutions, organizations and the Indigenous as well as non-Indigenous populations share their knowledge and lessons generated over time through the implementation of different project activities. Thus, the project will collect, visibilise and incorporate data, information, tacit, implicit and explicit knowledge (scientific as well as traditional and ancestral), and also new lessons learnt. To this end, the project will create spaces and moments for participation, so that persons can share/socialise knowledge and develop generalisations. Knowledge management will be a process based on the following research pillars: (a) relationship between humans and biodiversity; (b) protected area management; (c) useful experiences to incorporate biodiversity in the agricultural/cattle-raising sector, forestry and tourism sector in buffer zones of protected areas and/or in Biosphere Reserves. In the context of an exchange and learning process, good practices will be identified (successful and promising practices) as well as others.

241. Knowledge management will be based on the reality of local and institutional (scientific as well as traditional) knowledge. It will identify, collect and organize the existing knowledge to facilitate learning. The latter is fundamental in the process and has to be taken into account in all activities; however,

it will not start with searching for a problem or identifying a knowledge gap, but with a concrete experience, which has to be socialised, expressed and used to reflect on what was lived through and done, and thus will generate lessons or knowledge. In this learning process, young adults will be responsible of designing an intercultural communication strategy that helps to improve successful experiences or positive results, while identifying those practices which instead hampered the achievement of expected outcomes. This will generate lessons on what should or should not be done to achieve objectives adequately or in an optimal manner. The collected knowledge will be explained, adapted and organised in generalisations, that can be incorporated to the project's knowledge repository, to be shared later with different actors or interested parties (dissemination or communication).

**Table 21. Knowledge Management Plan**

| Output  | Activities  | Budget US\$      |
|---|---|------------------|
| <p>Output 4.1.1 The National Environmental Information System (SINIA) is strengthened through its information node, knowledge management and monitors (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystemic goods and services in the RBIM, including access to dissemination and communications materials.</p> | <p>4.1.1.1 Support for the development and functioning of the SINIA information node in the RACCS and R?o San Juan province.</p>  | <p>\$ 50,000</p> |
| <p>Output 4.1.2. Implementation of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system, informed by a gender approach and social inclusion of the young, and Indigenous and Afrodescendant people, subject to compliance with social and environmental safeguards.</p>                                 | <p>4.1.2.1 Design and implementation of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system with quantitative and qualitative result and impact indicators, based on the RBIM Management Plan.</p> | <p>\$100,000</p> |

| Output  | Activities   | Budget US\$ |
|---|--|-------------|
| Output 4.1.3. Project results and lessons learnt are shared among stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels. | 4.1.3.1 Implementation of plan for systematisation and exchange of experiences, including exchange visits of the Rama and Kriol Territorial Government to Indigenous peoples living in other biosphere reserves.   | \$ 50,000   |
|   | 4.1.3.2 Design and implementation of a knowledge management project through case studies and the systematisation of ancestral knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt in sustainable biodiversity management in the RBIM, with the participation of women and youth of the Rama and Kriol Indigenous peoples. | \$ 70,000   |
| <b>Total Budget</b>   |  | \$ 270,000  |

Source: FAO 2021

242. The knowledge management project will also include a communication plan to inform on project progress and share project experiences, its general strategy, advances made in cattle-raising and cacao chains, and regarding restoration of degraded landscapes. Thus, the knowledge management programme will help to take decisions and strengthen policies and the governance system in order to foster the processes undertaken and long-term lessons learnt.

243. The knowledge management system will be linked to the Project Monitoring and Evaluation System and thereby contribute to the construction of monitoring mechanisms for the National Protected Area System (SINAP).

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

244. Project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the FAO person in charge of budget. Project performance will be monitored using the project outcome matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets), work plans and annual budgets. Initially, the outcome matrix will be reviewed for the purpose of finishing identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing information and baseline objectives. During project inception an M&E expert will provide support in developing a detailed M&E plan based on the outcome matrix and defining each indicator's specific requirements (data gathering methods, timing and frequency, data gathering and analysis responsibilities, etc.), aspects that will be presented in the Inception Report.

245. **Project Launch Phase.** The Inception Workshop will be conducted during the first quarter of Year I, at the latest, with personnel from all stakeholders involved, such as MARENA headquarters and its local offices, co-participating government institutions, Indigenous People authorities, and FAO and FAO-GEF officials. This workshop's main purpose consists of contributing to create ownership of project objectives and targets, in order to develop the first Annual Plan of Operations (APO). To this end, the Results Framework (indicators, means of verification, assumptions) will be reviewed to make the required relevant adjustments by adding accurate and measurable performance indicators to APOs, as they relate to project deliverables. Meetings between the implementing organisation and its counterparts or partners will

also be scheduled, as shall meetings of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and other bodies deemed important for good project performance.

246. The Inception Workshop enables all members of different teams to gain an in-depth understanding of roles, functions and responsibilities of each party in the decision-making and relationship structure. Members of the different teams will get to know each other and become aware of each team's capabilities and contributions to project development and satisfactory performance, in addition to requirements for requesting support, time, operations and reporting.

247. **Monitoring.** Once the Year 1 APO has been developed, the PIU is responsible for monitoring it and submitting regular reports to enable implementation process feedback. In achieving satisfactory operations, the APO will be broken down into monthly and then weekly plans. The PIU will submit monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual reports aimed at monitoring project implementation and facilitating feedback. In addition to feeding the project's M&E system, assessments made in these periods will contribute to knowledge management through identification of constraints and best implementation practices. Regular reports will be prepared by the Project Coordinator, who will work together with MARENA's local offices (LO) through its headquarters to obtain information on progress made in their regions. Analyses of contributions to knowledge management will be the responsibility of a methodology expert, who will also be in charge of gender and Indigenous peoples' issues to ensure required approaches are built into the reports, learnings and the new planning. The methodology expert will also provide support in biannual LO and/or PIU meetings with Indigenous peoples in order to follow up on plans agreed upon with them.

248. The Tripartite Committee (GEF/FAO/MARENA) will hold annual meetings to learn about the progress and activities to be developed in the following year, with an eye on anticipating needs and taking actions in support of implementation (technical advice, other support). The PSC will meet biannually to hear about advances, identify constraints and provide guidance on adjustments or measures (interinstitutional coordination, mutual support) contributing to a satisfactory performance of planned activities. In both cases, the Project Coordinator will prepare a report based on results achieved during implementation of the APO, which is, in turn, based on the adjusted Results Framework.

249. **Regular Monitoring.** Concerning PIU's project monitoring and follow-up, in addition to receiving reports from MARENA's local offices, PIU members will visit them every quarter on a rotational basis to carry out in situ verification of complaints, sub-project implementation, progress made in the field and to take note of and record evidences. These monitoring visits will also be useful to identify constraints and find alternatives to support regional implementation. Some of these visits will coincide with meetings of the Commission for Communication with Indigenous Peoples, and PIU members will participate in order to gain an understanding of progress made and to contribute as needed. For each monitoring visit a report containing documented findings will be developed; it is to provide feedback to the M&E system, and particular to identify qualitative implementation aspects not recorded in the system.

250. **Annual Monitoring.** The FAO Country Office will make joint monitoring visits with MARENA at least once a year to obtain on-site knowledge and verify advances regarding project implementation, for the purpose of contributing with actions that ensure its success and a learning process among participating parties. Aiming at resource optimisation, these joint monitoring visits will overlap with one of PIU rotating visits to LOs and to a sample of sub-projects. To the extent possible, they will also hold meetings with Rama and Kriol Indigenous people and their authorities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous women and other local actors to hear their perceptions of project implementation and gather feedback useful to decision-making. The best time for these monitoring visits would be the third quarter of each year, prior to beginning the next year's planning process, thus facilitating the use of any helpful feedback.

251. **Regular Reports.** The PIU will prepare different kinds of reports, according to their periodicity. The Project Coordinator is the person in charge of all these reports, including:

252. **Biannual Report.** To be developed at mid-year, taking into account implementation in the two previous quarters, and meant to inform the PSC about implementation progress and receive its guidelines.



253. **Annual Report.** This report will be prepared by gathering and systematising information on activities performed throughout the year; previous regular reports, regular monitoring records and the joint monitoring aide-m?moire will be taken into account. After the joint monitoring process, a first interim Annual Report will be drafted to start the planning process for the upcoming year; subsequently, in the last month of the year, the Annual Report will be adjusted according to fourth quarter actions. The Annual Report should contain an analysis of each component?s progress, a gender-based analysis of activities carried out, engagement with Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders, and the inclusion of topics in their work agendas and development plans. This annual report will be shared with the parties to get their feedback, and will serve as the foundation for meetings of both the TC and the PSC early the next year.

254. **Terminal Report.** At the end of five years, the Project Coordinator will prepare a Terminal Report (TR), based on implementation outcomes. This report will be drafted at least one quarter before closing operations and be submitted to the parties for comment. The report will be based on the Results Framework; it will identify levels of compliance of outcomes with the project?s objective and their contribution to fulfilling overall objectives; it will explain compliances and non-compliances, constraints and strengths, achieved sustainability and replicability; pending steps to reach higher levels and the main lessons learnt.

255. **Specific Thematic Reports.** Annual or regular reports may be accompanied by specific thematic reports when these are useful in scoping project implementation, facilitate learning processes or are requested by the PSC and the TC. A portion of these reports should be included in biannual and annual reports. Thematic reports include biodiversity monitoring, which should have at least two reports linked to technical consultancies and monitoring implementation, forest, habitat and degraded area restoration.

256. Two external project evaluations, a Mid-Term Review (MTR) ? managed by the Budget Holder - in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of project year 3 and a Terminal Evaluation (TE) ? launched at least six months prior to the project end date, will be carried out. The BH will arrange an independent MTR in consultation with the PSC, the PMU, the LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit. The MTR will be conducted to review progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objective, outcomes and outputs. The **MTR** will allow mid-course corrective actions, if needed. The MTR will provide a systematic analysis of the information on project progress in the achievement of expected results against budget expenditures. It will refer to the Project Budget (see Annex A2) and the approved AWP/Bs. It will highlight replicable good practices and key issues faced during project implementation and will suggest mitigation actions to be discussed by the PSC, the LTO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

257. The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and large size projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

258. The BH will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the ?GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects?. FAO O?ce of Evaluation (OED) will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralized Evaluation Support team ? in particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, Terms of Reference of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings. After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within 4 weeks and share it with national partners, GEF OFP, OED and the FAO-GEF CU.

259. **Publications.** The project shall publish information targeted at the different stakeholders throughout its duration, although it will also disclose outcomes and experiences; in some cases, it may

develop and issue technical summaries to be shared with other institutions. Publications reporting on joint progress made will be periodically issued, according to proposals made in the Communication and Disclosure Committee in coordination with Indigenous Peoples. For the purpose of drawing attention to work done with women and performing a gender-based analysis of project implementation, short publications will be issued identifying women's experiences in biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration roles. In order to defray the costs of these publications, annual budgeted amounts have been included in the Knowledge Management Plan described in the foregoing.

260. **Audits.** The project will be audited in line with FAO administrative and financial rules and procedures.

**Table 22. Work Plan and budget for M&E activities**

| <i>M&amp;E Activity Type</i>   | <i>Performed by</i>  | <i>Budget US\$*</i>   | <i>Timing</i>   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Inception Workshop   | ? Project Coordinator<br>? FAO Country Office<br>? FAO-GEF | GEF: USD 3,000  | During the first three months after project start-up  |
| Inception Report   | ? Project work team<br>? FAO Country Office                | PIU time  | Immediately after the workshop  |
| Results monitoring ?in the field?                                    | ? M&E Specialist   | USD 66,000  | Continuous  |
| Annual Plan of Operations (APO) and budget based on outcomes (AWP/B) | ? PIU in consultation with the LTO                         | PIU time  | Within one month of project inception and then annually, covering the reporting period (January to December). |
| Updated baseline information   | ? PIU in consultation with the LTO                         | PIU time  | Beginning and end of each project year  |
| Joint monitoring visits  | ? PIU, LTO, FLO  | FAO field visits under GEF Agency's fees (others from the project travel budget, as required) | Annual  |
| Project Progress Reports (PPR)                                       | ? PIU, LTO, BH   | PIU time  | One month after each biannual reporting period (January-June and July-December) at the latest                 |

| <i>M&amp;E Activity Type</i>  | <i>Performed by</i>   | <i>Budget US\$*</i>                                   | <i>Timing</i>                                    |
|---|---|---|--|
| Quarterly supervisions  | ? PIU, LOs, MARENA  | PIU and MARENA time. Project operating expenses.      | Every quarter                                    |
| Biannual meetings with IPs (Commission for Communication with IPs). | ? PIU, LOs, MARENA, IPs   | PIU, MARENA and IP's time. Project operating expenses | Every semester                                   |
| Regular Project Progress Reports                                    | ? PIU, LOs, MARENA  | PIU, LO and MARENA's time                             | Monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual          |
| Project Implementation Review (PIR)                                 | ? Drafted by the NPD, under supervision by the LTO and the BH. Approved and submitted to GEF by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit | GEF Agency fees                                       | August 1 of each reference year.                 |
| Co-financing reports  | ? PIU   | PIU time  | Annual, together with PIR                        |
| GEF Tracking Tools  | ? LTO   | GEF Agency fees                                       | Project's mid- and terminal points.              |
| Mid-term Review   | ? Project General Coordinator and work team<br>? FAO NI<br>? FAO-GEF<br>? External Consultants (evaluation team)              | GEF: USD30,000  | Mid-Year 3 of project implementation             |
| Terminal Independent Evaluation ( Including Terminal Report)        | ? Project General Coordinator and work team<br>? FAO NI<br>? FAO-GEF<br>? External Consultants (evaluation team)              | GEF: USD 45,000                                       | At least five months prior to project completion |
| Terminal Workshop   | ? Project General Coordinator<br>? FAO Country Office<br>? FAO-GEF  | GEF: USD 3,000  | Two months prior to project completion           |
| Total M&E Budget  |   | GEF   | <b>USD147,000</b>                                |

## 10. Benefits

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?**

261. The proposed project aims to contribute a number of social and economic benefits from integrated management of the Indio-Ma?z Biological Reserve. Current improved or transformed practices will yield direct and indirect benefits as a result of better management of the PA and its buffer zones, increasing knowledge regarding biodiversity and its dissemination, strengthening livelihoods and enhancing skills among the Indigenous population.

262. Direct beneficiaries: A total of 5,000 people, including 1,936 members of Rama and Kriol ethnic groups (49% women). All Rama and Kriol ethnic group members inhabiting nine communities are seen as direct beneficiaries. The Mestizo population, estimated at 3,064 inhabitants who coexist with the Rama and Kriol people in zones adjacent to the RBIM will also be engaged.

263. In brief, RBIM project benefits related to environmental services are centred on four areas: (i) savings and avoided deforestation and emissions, which contribute to institutional performance and fulfilment of global goals; (ii) assurance of existing carbon stock; (iii) creation of microclimates and biological corridors for species transit meant to facilitate their repopulating project intervention zones; and (iv) increased resilience and local livelihood sustainability.

**11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks**

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

**Overall Project/Program Risk Classification\***

| PIF             | CEO<br>Endorsement/Approva<br>I | MTR | TE |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----|----|
| Medium/Moderate | Medium/Moderate                 |     |    |

**Measures to address identified risks and impacts**

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

**Identification of environmental and social risks: verification and detection.** The project's environmental and social risks are moderate. The intervention will take place in a protected area, the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve, which mainly consists of forests inhabited by the Rama and Kriol Indigenous peoples, whose livelihood is based on subsistence agriculture in areas located in the RBIM buffer zone. The project's positive impacts will surpass its negative impacts, as the project will put considerable emphasis on the protection of natural resources and biodiversity, precisely in the area the Rama and Kriol Indigenous communities depend on. The project will reduce deforestation and biodiversity loss, while strengthening ecosystemic services in order to promote access to more resilient livelihood options.

The following table summarizes these risks and mitigation measures:

**Table 19. Project risks and mitigation measures**

| <b>Identified risk</b>                            | <b>Risk classification</b>  | <b>Potential impact</b>   | <b>Mitigation actions</b>  | <b>Follow-up indicators</b>   | <b>Progress in mitigation actions</b>  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| ESS 2:<br>Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Habitats   | The project will be implemented in an area legally designated as a protected area or its buffer zone. | The natural stability of flora and fauna and various ecosystems and habitats could be affected. | Planning and implementation of actions in strict adherence to existing regulations approved in the RBIM management plan.   | Reports on implementation of APO derived from the RBIM Management Plan as approved by all stakeholders  | To be monitored and evaluated in the semesterly and annual progress reports.<br><br>In charge: a monitoring and evaluation expert. |
| ESS 9:<br>Indigenous people and cultural heritage | The programme is carried out in an area where Indigenous people live                                  | The programme could lead to changes in the traditional livelihoods of Indigenous peoples.       | Plans and actions adhere strictly to the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, developed with the Rama and Kriol ITG and in coordination with the GRACCS. | FPIC for project implementation signed and agreed upon with the Rama and Kriol ITG.<br><br>Reports of local communities in the Rama and Kriol territory participating in the planning and implementation of project actions, according to indications for each component in the Indigenous Peoples Action Plan. | To be monitored and evaluated in the semesterly and annual progress reports.<br><br>In charge: a monitoring and evaluation expert. |

The following instruments and measures have been identified for the mitigation of environmental and social risks: (1) regulation and control provisions stipulated in the Environment and Natural Resources Law (Law 217) and the Forestry Law (Law 462); (2) redefine the biological corridor and its zoning, according to prioritization of the RBIM core zone; (3) map by types of forest (either for conservation or regeneration), intended to facilitate the management of forest layers; (4) strengthen territorial, regional and national mechanisms for the control and surveillance of illegal wildlife trade; and (5) include the

management of endemic species in the RBIM management plan, along with other protective measures for endangered species through regulations to be drafted and applied by the project.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

| Title   | Module                             | Submitted |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>CEO<br/>Endorsement__ESS_Checklist_Nicaragua_IndioMaiz_10674</b> | <b>CEO<br/>Endorsement<br/>ESS</b> |           |
| <b>FAO ES Checklist- Nicaragua Indio Maiz</b>                       | <b>Project PIF<br/>ESS</b>         |           |
| <b>RiskCertification_IndioMai?z</b>                                 | <b>Project PIF<br/>ESS</b>         |           |

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).**

| Results chain  | Indicators   | Baseline  | Mid-term target   | Final target   | Means of verification  | Assumptions  | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Objective:</b><br>Conserving globally important biodiversity and improving ecosystemic services in the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM) in association with Indigenous peoples and local communities. | <b>Objective-level Indicator 1:</b><br><br>Areas under improved conservation management and sustainable use (in ha). | 0   | 50% of final target   | 316,720.62 ha (total RBIM core zone)   | - Updated Scorecard (national follow-up tool)<br><br>Project Evaluation Reports: mid-term and terminal evaluations | There is ongoing interest on the part of national, regional, territorial and local governments in improving RBIM sustainable management. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
|  | <b>Objective-level Indicator 2:</b><br><br>Avoided emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e) over a five-year period           | Annual reference level at 528,000 TonCO <sub>2</sub> -e * | Reduced emissions from avoided deforestation and increased reservoirs 1,320,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e | 3.3 million tCO <sub>2</sub> eq (avoided / eliminated over a five-year period) | Reports from the National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (SNMRV) carbon module                      | This measurement is based on Nicaragua's ERPDP framework   | MARENA through the Climate Change Unit / PIU                        |
| <b>Component 1: Strengthen the setting to ensure better governance and management of the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM)</b>  |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |



| Results chain  | Indicators   | Baseline | Mid-term target   | Final target  | Means of verification   | Assumptions  | Responsible for data collection                                |
|--|--|----------|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Result 1.1</b><br/>Existing legal, regulatory and institutional instruments and mechanisms are applied with support from national, regional, municipal and Indigenous territorial authorities, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, for the purpose of facilitating the integrated landscape planning,</p> | <p><b>Indicator 2.</b><br/>Number of persons, including Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, participating in the planning and implementation of integrated management and governance in the RBIM.</p> | 0        | <p>2,500</p> <p>(100% of Rama and Kriol Indigenous women and at least 20% of Mestizo women in the Indigenous population in the RBIM buffer zone participate in the design of the RBIM Management Plan and GTRK's Development Plan, including their communities.</p> | <p>5,000</p> <p>(100% of Rama and Kriol Indigenous women and at least 20% of Mestizo women in the Indigenous population in the RBIM buffer zone participate in the design of the RBIM Management Plan and GTRK's Development Plan, including their communities.</p> | Project Evaluation Reports: mid-term and terminal evaluations | Mechanisms and instruments are provided for active involvement by Rama and Kriol Indigenous and Mestizo women. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Directorate's Office / PIU |

| Results chain  | Indicators   | Baseline | Mid-term target                                | Final target                                   | Means of verification                                       | Assumptions  | Responsible for data collection                                      |
|--|--|----------|--|--|---|--|--|
| management and governance in RBIM conservation, protection and environmental / natural resources restoration areas.                        | <b>Indicator 3.</b><br>Number of landscapes in the RBIM buffer zone implementing forest restoration practices, protection of ecosystemic goods and services and climate-resilient production systems, through the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, using municipal plans that promote sustainable food systems. | 0        | 1  | 3  | Maps made.<br><br>Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports. | Public and private stakeholders confirm their willingness to collaborate in RBIM management. | MARENA, through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| 1.1.1 Five-year Management Plan and Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for the RBIM developed and underway with MARENA guidance, jointly with | <b>Indicator 4.</b><br>RBIM Management Plan approved with inclusive participation of Indigenous peoples, women and the young.  | 0        | Management Plan approved at the end of Year 1. | Management Plan approved at the end of Year 1. | Management Plan approval minutes.                           | Public and private stakeholders confirm their willingness to collaborate in RBIM management. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU  |

| Results chain  | Indicators   | Baseline | Mid-term target | Final target                         | Means of verification                                  | Assumptions   | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|--|--|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| central and regional government institutions (GRACCS), Rama and Kriol ITG authorities, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities.   | <b>Indicator 5:</b><br>Updated Autonomous Rama and Kriol Territory Development and Administration Plan (PADA)  | 1        | Updated PADA    | PADA approved by Rama and Kriol ITG. | PADA approval minutes signed by Rama and Kriol ITG.    | Public and private stakeholders support PADA implementation.                                  | MARENA-GRACCS-Rama and Kriol ITG                                    |
|  | <b>Indicator 6:</b><br>Number of APOs undertake at least 80% of proposed activities.   | 0        | 2               | 4                                    | Steering Committee meeting reports approving the APOs. | Public and private stakeholders support RBIM management.                                      | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| 1.1.2 Provisions whereby a landscape approach to the RBIM buffer zone is used, including landscape restoration, forest conservation, protection of ecosystemic goods and services and support of climate-resilient production systems in the surrounding | <b>Indicator 7:</b><br>Number of agreements to implement commitments in the Management Plan signed by MARENA, national institutions, GRACCS-Rama and Kriol ITG, Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities . | 0        | 3               | 6                                    | Agreements signed                                      | Public and private stakeholders confirm their willingness to collaborate in RBIM management . | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |

| Results chain  | Indicators   | Baseline | Mid-term target  | Final target   | Means of verification  | Assumptions   | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|--|--|----------|--|--|--|---|---|
| area.  | <b>Indicator 8.</b><br>Number of standards developed supporting RBIM Management Plan implementation.                               | 0        | 3<br>(Forest protection and restoration standards, groundwater recharge zone protection standards, biodiversity protection standards). | --   | Approval minutes   | Support provided in strengthening capacities and governance to implement standards. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| 1.1.3<br>Strengthening RBIM governance using the three interinstitutional and multisectoral platforms for technical dialogue, consultations and consensus-reaching set forth in ENDE REDD+ in order to inform and support the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan and APOs. | <b>Indicator 9.</b><br>Number of regional multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms operating effectively for integrated PA management. | 0        | Three reactivated work teams.  | Three operating work teams.<br><br>At least 40% of platform members are Rama and Kriol Indigenous and Mestizo women from the RBIM buffer zone. | Agreement signed by the parties to the Statute that establishes working teams. | MARENA's participation. The Regional Council and GTRK issue governance provisions.  | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| <b>Component 2:</b> Capacity-strengthening among indigenous communities as well as national, regional and municipal authorities regarding landscape management to conserve biodiversity.   |  |          |  |  |  |   |   |

| Results chain  | Indicators  | Baseline                            | Mid-term target              | Final target                       | Means of verification  | Assumptions  | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Result 2.1</b><br>Personnel capacity-strengthening at MARENA, government institutions, regional authorities, Rama y Kriol territorial authorities, the Bluefields, El Castillo and San Juan mayor's offices and local communities, for the purposes of RBIM management and conserving biodiversity. | <b>Indicator 10.</b> An increase in institutional capacity to manage the RBIM, measured using the METT indicators found in the national methodology approved in Ministerial Resolution 38?2008. | Not acceptable (51-75% compliance). | Somewhat acceptable (76-89%) | Acceptable (90-100% satisfactory). | Updated Scorecards (national follow-up tools)<br><br>Project Evaluation Reports: mid-term and terminal evaluations | Ongoing interest by national and local governments, civil society and the private sector in improving RBIM management. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
|  | <b>Indicator 11.</b> Number of project beneficiaries at several levels of government involved in training and/or local communities practising improved landscape management in the RBIM.        | 0                                   | 2,500 (at least 30% women)   | 5,000 (at least 30% women)         | Reports on field supervision visits made by the project implementation team.                                       | Active participation and means of implementation available to protagonists.  | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |

| Results chain  | Indicators   | Baseline | Mid-term target  | Final target   | Means of verification  | Assumptions   | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|--|--|----------|--|--|--|---|---|
| 2.1.1 Integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation Capacity-strengthening Plan, designed and implemented with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in support of the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan. | <b>Indicator 12.</b> Capacity-strengthening project designed and approved.                       | 0        | Capacity-strengthening project approved at the end of Year 1 | Capacity-strengthening project approved                    | Minutes of capacity-strengthening project approval   | Active participation and means of implementation available to technicians from national, regional and municipal institutions, and from the Indigenous territory | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
|  | <b>Indicator 13:</b> Number of people trained through the designed modular training project      | 0        | 50% of final target  | 5,000  | Participant lists<br><br>Methodological contents and training module ToRs.<br><br>Photographs<br><br>Reports on conducted events | Active participation and means of implementation available to technicians from national, regional and municipal institutions, and the Indigenous territory      | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| 2.1.2 Promotion and strengthening of scientific research, including indigenous knowledge, intended to  | <b>Indicator 14:</b> Scientific research project benefitting the RBIM developed and agreed upon. | 0        | Project designed   | Project implementation agreement signed with local partner | Signing of research project implementation minutes   | Collaboration agreements reached with local universities and researchers.   | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |

| Results chain   | Indicators   | Baseline | Mid-term target  | Final target  | Means of verification                                      | Assumptions   | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|---|--|----------|--|---|--|---|---|
| generate and transfer knowledge and undertake the research projects set forth in the RBIM Management Plan.  | <b>Indicator 15.</b> Number of scientific research projects carried out.   | 0        | 2  | 4   | Research published on SINIA website or other media         | Collaboration agreements reached with local universities and researchers.                   | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| <b>Component 3: Participatory management of the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM)</b>  |  |          |  |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Result 3.1</b><br>Increased restoration and improved conservation and functioning of natural resources, ecosystems and resilience in the RBIM.               | <b>Indicator 16:</b> Number of forest ha affected by natural disasters undergoing assisted natural regeneration processes.                         | 0        | 30% progress made towards final target.                    | 108,674 ha<br><br>100% of Rama and Kriol Indigenous women participate in women-headed forest protection and restoration activities. | Maps made<br><br>Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports. | Public and private stakeholders confirm their willingness to collaborate in RBIM management | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| 3.1.1<br>Implementation of environmental restoration activities with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, as per the | <b>Indicator 17:</b> Number of ha covered by investment plans developed with Rama and Kriol ITG to restore natural habitats in the RBIM core zone. | 0        | Investment plans agreed upon with ITG, covering 95,782 ha. | Investment plans agreed upon with ITG   | Investment plan approval minutes                           | Active participation and means of implementation available to Rama and Kriol ITG.           | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |

| Results chain   | Indicators  | Baseline | Mid-term target                         | Final target   | Means of verification   | Assumptions  | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|---|---|----------|---|--|---|--|---|
| Management Plan and APOs.   | <b>Indicator 18:</b> Number of ha under natural regeneration processes in the core zone and in the Rama and Kriol Indigenous territory. | 0        | 30% progress made towards final target. | 95,782 ha<br><br>100% de las Rama and Kriol Indigenous women participate in women-headed activities aimed at forest protection and restoration | Maps made<br><br>Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports.  | Active participation and means of implementation available to Rama and Kriol ITG.                    | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
| 3.1.2 Improvement of livelihood opportunities and diversified sources of income, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women involved in the implementation of the RBIM Management Plan and the APOs. | <b>Indicator 19:</b> Number of ha covered by investment plans focusing on livelihood improvement .                                      | 0        | 50% of final target                     | 30,000   | Approval minutes  | Active participation and means of implementation available to Rama and Kriol ITG.                    | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
|   | <b>Indicator 20.</b> Number of sustainable community enterprises.   | 0        | 50% of final target                     | 10   | Participant or activist lists/ records.<br><br>Photographic report.<br><br>Statements made by protagonists. | Community member interest in developing activities to use natural resources in a sustainable manner. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |



| Results chain  | Indicators   | Baseline | Mid-term target  | Final target                            | Means of verification  | Assumptions   | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|--|--|----------|--|---|--|---|---|
| 3.1.3. Capacity-strengthening in local communities, with the inclusive participation of Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women, in support of the implementation of improved livelihood activities. | <b>Indicator 21:</b> Business-focused capacity strengthening project approved.                           | 0        | Capacity-strengthening project approved at the end of Year 1 | Capacity-strengthening project approved | Capacity-strengthening project approval minutes.   | Active participation and means of implementation available to technicians from national, regional and municipal institutions, and the Indigenous territory. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
|  | <b>Indicator 22:</b> Number of people trained through the livelihood improvement implementation project. | 0        | 50% of final target  | 2,000                                   | Participant lists<br><br>Methodological contents and training module ToRs.<br><br>Photographs<br><br>Reports on events held. | The project will assess capacity requirements during the first year.  | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |

**Component 4: Knowledge Management, Follow-Up and Evaluation**

| Results chain   | Indicators  | Baseline | Mid-term target                                   | Final target  | Means of verification                 | Assumptions   | Responsible for data collection                                     |
|---|---|----------|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 4.1 Improved information and knowledge management in the RBIM, including the status of biological diversity and the ecosystem, and benefits to communities by using technological tools and participatory, inclusive monitoring by Indigenous and Afrodescendant peoples and women. | <b>Indicator 23:</b> An entirely functional and operational landscape information and knowledge management system that informs decision-making processes.   | 0        | Knowledge management information system designed. | Operating information and knowledge management system | Annual report                         | The project will assess capacity requirements during the first year to establish the monitoring system. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |
|   | <b>Indicator 24:</b> Results of monitoring the status of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services, training and dissemination materials, best practices and lessons learnt are disseminated via platforms and a series of regional, national and Mesoamerican events during years 3-5. | 0        | Monitoring of results at project mid-point.       | Monitoring of results at project mid-point.           | Mid-term and terminal project reports | The project will assess capacity requirements during the first year to establish the monitoring system. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage Director-General's Office / PIU |

| Results chain   | Indicators  | Baseline | Mid-term target  | Final target   | Means of verification  | Assumptions  | Responsible for data collection  |
|---|---|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4.1.1 The National Environmental Information System (SINIA) is strengthened through its information node, knowledge management and monitors (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystemic goods and services in the RBIM, including access to dissemination and communications materials. | <b>Indicator 25:</b> Amount of Landscape Knowledge and Information systems implemented through the RBIM Management Plan.  | 0        | 1  | 2  | SINIA reports on monitoring of goods, services and biodiversity. | There is a good acceptance, and the system is working smoothly.                    | MARENA through the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Director-General's Office / PIU |
|   | <b>Indicator 26:</b> Community environmental observer network in operation with Rama and Kriol ITG.   | 0        | Observers are selected and trained                             | Observer network provides information to SINIA   | SINIA reports  | Active participation by Rama and Kriol ITG community environmental observers.      |  |
|   | <b>Indicator 27.</b> Percentage of communities implementing the M&E plan regarding the status of (i) biodiversity and (ii) ecosystemic goods and services, broken down by participating Indigenous men and women. | 0        | Forty per cent (40%) of communities implementing the M&E plan. | At least 50% of monitoring group participants are women.<br><br>100% of communities, state institutions and regional governments implement the M&E plan. | Agreements signed<br><br>Field reports                           | Widespread interest in assessing the status of the ecosystem and related services. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Director-General's Office / PIU |

| Results chain  | Indicators  | Baseline | Mid-term target                            | Final target  | Means of verification   | Assumptions   | Responsible for data collection  |
|--|---|----------|--|---|---|---|--|
| 4.1.2 Implementation of a landscape monitoring and evaluation system, informed by a gender-based approach and social inclusion of the young, and Indigenous and Afrodescendant people, subject to compliance with social and environmental safeguards. | <b>Indicator 28:</b> Project monitoring system is defined and in operation            | 0        | Monitoring system is defined during Year 1 | Monitoring system is in operation providing information to PIRs | System field reports<br><br>Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports. | Widespread interest in project monitoring and evaluation.       | MARENA through the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Director-General's Office / PIU |
|  | <b>Indicator 29:</b> Number of Project Implementation Reports (PIR) submitted to GEF  | 0        | 2  | 4   | PIR submitted to GEF  | Widespread interest in project monitoring and evaluation.       | MARENA through the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Director-General's Office / PIU |
|  | <b>Indicator 30:</b> Mid-term and terminal evaluations are implemented                | 0        | Mid-term review takes place.               | Terminal evaluation takes place.                                | MTR and TE  | Widespread interest in project monitoring and evaluation.       | MARENA through the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Director-General's Office / PIU |
| 4.1.3 Project results and lessons learnt are shared among stakeholders at local, regional, national and international  | <b>Indicator 31:</b> Knowledge management strategy approved by the Steering Committee | 0        | Strategy approved at the end of Year 1     | Knowledge management strategy approved                          | Steering Committee reports  | Widespread interest in developing project knowledge management. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Director-General's Office / PIU |

| Results chain | Indicators  | Baseline | Mid-term target | Final target | Means of verification                      | Assumptions  | Responsible for data collection  |
|---------------|---|----------|-----------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| levels.       | <b>Indicator 32:</b> Number of GTRK beneficiaries participating in knowledge exchange tours.          | 0        | 50              | 100          | Travel report                              | Active participation by Rama and Kriol ITG community members   | Active participation by Rama and Kriol ITG community environmental observers         |
|               | <b>Indicator 33.</b> Number of case studies developed to systematise lessons learnt from the project. | 0        | 2               | 5            | Documents prepared and approved by MARENA. | There is a history of systematising practices, experiences and lessons learnt in RBIM biodiversity sustainable management. | MARENA through the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Director-General's Office / PIU |

**ANNEX B: 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).**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Comment |  |
|---------|--|

**Comment by Jennifer Novotney, U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), Office of Environmental Quality (ENV), Council, United States made on 1/11/2021  
Comment:**

The United States has serious concerns about the potential for successful, credible and effective implementation of this project. We are additionally concerned that project does not propose partnership with key organizations, including CANATUR, Nicaragua's Chamber of Tourism, and Grupo Cocibolca. We have further concerns about the capacity of the main implementation partner, MARENA.

FAO carried out an independent capacity/fiduciary assessment of MARENA, and the institution is regarded as low risk for project execution. Regarding their capacity, the project will finance a Project Management Unit, and will cover the costs of (i) a National Project coordinator, (ii) a financial specialist, (iii) an M&E specialist, (iv) a gender specialist, and (v) an indigenous peoples specialist. This team will be in charge of executing the day-to-day activities. FAO will provide technical backstopping and is expected to carry out bi-annual supervision missions.

Regarding partners, FAO will work with the National Tourism Institute (INTUR) who have designed tourism circuits in the Caribbean Coast Route and River San Juan with Water Route with the support of the InterAmerican Development Bank. The project team will work with the Local Tourism Chamber where private sector tourism institutions participates.

Regarding indigenous peoples, the entry point is the territorial indigenous government and the Autonomous Regional Government of the Southern Caribbean Coast (GRACCS in Spanish). Nonetheless, the designed tourism circuits were identified for coordination between tour operators and the territorial indigenous government including opportunities throughout the San Juan River.

**Comment by Hannah Boyne, Senior Policy Advisor and Programme Manager, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Council, United Kingdom made on 1/7/2021**

Comment:

For the United Kingdom comments below, an initial agency response has been provided and can be found in the list of documents specific to the project in the GEF Portal.

? As flagged in the GEF Council, we are aware that a related project FP146 in the GCF board was approved with conditions (particularly in relation to the programmes governance mechanisms), some of these resources are being used to co-finance this project. To ensure consistency and coherence between funding mechanisms we would like to ensure there are sufficient strong and robust assurances on safeguards ? fiduciary, social, environmental in place in the project before it is endorsed by the CEO, so would like to see again before it is approved.

? The UK, like many of our international partners, has concerns regarding the potential misappropriation of programmes funding. Avoiding this is important. As a result, the UK puts great emphasis on ensuring programme spending is transparent, accountable and regularly audited. We would welcome further clarity on the programme?s governance mechanisms covering how the GEF plans to: 1) implement robust financial monitoring/oversight, 2) ensure a clear and transparent funding stream, and 3) whether there will be a mechanism to ?turn off? funding if needed. If the UK are satisfied that the appropriate structures are in place, we would support the project.

? The projects must ensure that the inclusion of indigenous groups is genuine and sustainable. A number NGOs and representatives from indigenous communities have questioned the engagement process to date (link here <https://redd-monitor.org/2020/01/12/nicaraguan-alliance-of-indigenous-and-afro-descendant-peoples-statement-of-concern-about-world-bank-redd-deal/>). Seeking reassurances that the process has been fair, open and under continual review is important.

? We would appreciate further clarification on how the GEF will ensure the ?partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities? is genuine.

Please refer to paragraphs ? regarding the explanation articulation of the cofinancing being provided by GCF. While the project are articulated at a management level, the Territorial Indigenous Government and the GRACCS was contracted by FAO to carry out the FPIC process

(project teams are coordinating regarding project activities)

FAO carried out a capacity assessment of MARENA which classified the institution as low risk regarding project management. Every year, an internationally recognized provider (i.e. either Deloitte or BDO) will carry out (i) a Spot Check to assess the accuracy of financial records and whether there have been any significant changes to applicable internal controls; and (ii) an Audit in accordance with International Auditing Standards.

FAO will release funds to MARENA based on the approved annual work plan approved by the project steering committee (FAO is a member of the steering Committee). FAO will release funding in tranches (every trimester) subject to satisfactory reporting of project expenses and clearance from FAO?s Budget Holder. In addition, FAO will carry out supervision missions at least once a year.

FAO invested almost half of the budget available for preparation to carry out the FPIC process. The FPIC process is carried out by the Regional Autonomous Government for the South Caribbean Coast (GRACCS, in Spanish). The indigenous communities were visited three times during the preparation process, and they provided their consent to advance with project implementation. An Indigenous Peoples Participation Plan was developed and foresees participation of IP in the decision making of the project. Specifically, under component 1, IP are expected to participate in the design and approval of the Reserve?s Management Plan, Annual Operational Plans and update the Autonomous Territorial Administration and Development Plan (BADA), including statutes

**Comment by Liesl Karen Inglis, Senior Advisor,  
Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate  
(GDK), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark,  
Council, Norway made on 1/11/2021**

Comment:

General comments:

? The objective of the project is to conserve the biodiversity and enhance the ecosystem services in the Indio-Maiz Biological Reserve (tropical forests). Different indigenous peoples groups live in this reserve. The right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples is recognized in the project proposal.

? It is positive that the GEF funding will complement the funding of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and possible funding from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). This GEF-7 and the project approved by the GCF will finance activities that implement the National REDD+ Strategy of Nicaragua. There is overlap between this project and the project approved by the GCF. Therefore, GEF may consider approving this project with similar conditions as the ones adopted in the GCF project.

? Currently, there are seven projects taking place in the Indio-Maiz reserve. These projects are financed by different organizations.

Specific comments:

? Overlap in the implementation area: The project approved by GCF will also be implemented, among others, in the Indio Mais Biological Reserve. There is overlap between different components of the GEF and the GCF projects. There is risk of double dipping/double funding. Overlap:

- o components 2 and 3 of the GCF project and outcome 1.1 of the GEF project;
- o component 2 of GCF and outcome 2.1 of GEF;
- o activity 1.1.1.4 of GCF and outcome 3.1 of GEF;
- o component 3 of GCF and component 3 of GEF;
- o output 3.3.1 of GCF and component 4 of GEF.

? Overlap in results and reporting: This GEF-7 project will generate: (i) more than 316,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; and (ii) a reduction by 3.3 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e (GHG emissions avoided and removed between 2021-2025). The Bio-CLIMA project approved by the GCF will generate: (i) 541,826 ha of conserved natural forestland through sustainable forest management, and (ii) a reduction of 12.8 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e over seven years of project (2021-2027).

? One activity within the first component of the GCF project is to facilitate the celebration of forest conservation agreements between IPs and non-indigenous settlers. Several advisors questioned the appropriateness of this activity. If IPs are the owners of the territory, shouldn't the project enhance the capacity of IPs to claim their lands back instead of suggesting arrangements with non-indigenous settlers (activity 1.1.1.4 of the results framework)? The GCF project was adopted with this activity, but some conditions were drafted to ensure the proper consultation of IPs. The proposal submitted to the

Regarding overlap of GCF and both GEF-7 projects (GEFID 10674 and GEFID 10599), FAO and partners are carrying out significant efforts to ensure that projects complement each other in a meaningful way, including avoiding double-counting benefits.

The project developed a GIS Application (link) to ensure that there is no double counting of benefits

The Rama and Kriol Territorial Government (GTRK), sheltered by legally recognized Law 445, and with the culmination of the demarcation and titling of the lands for communal use, considers that it has recovered some of the previous territorial control and proposes a different economic model for the future



**Comment by Kordula Mehlhart, GEF Council Member, Head of Division on Climate Finance, BMZ, Council, Germany made on 1/7/2021**

Comment:

Germany requests that the Secretariat sends draft final project documents for Council review four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Germany welcomes the proposal to address the need of strengthened governance and landscape management to conserve biodiversity in the Indio-Ma'z Biological Reserve (RBIM) in Nicaragua. We especially welcome the detailed Theory of Change. However, we also note that some of the project's activities and processes, such as the consultations of indigenous and afro-descendant communities and their independent and legitimate participation in the project governance and decision making process, are of a very delicate nature. Ensuring adequate oversight, transparency, inclusivity, financial management and governance of the project is therefore of crucial importance. We urge the GEF Secretariat in developing this project to closely coordinate with the GCF Secretariat to ensure compliance and coherence with the conditions the GCF Board adopted for the approval of its funding to this programmatic approach at its 27th Meeting. Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

? Coordination with the GCF Secretariat and compliance and coherence with the GCF Board conditions adopted for the associated GCF Bio-CLIMA project.

? Germany welcomes the drafting of a detailed action plan on stakeholder management. Given the critical feedback by civil society organizations to the associated GCF Bio-CLIMA project, we request that this action plan includes:

- i. lessons learned from results of former consultation workshops with Rama and Kriol Indigenous Peoples, as well as REDD+ strategies,
- ii. a targeted strategy to promote participation of indigenous and afro-descendant communities of all genders in the project's planning process, including dealing with project activities in religious sites.
- iii. an outreach plan addressed at settler communities and private enterprises benefitting from encroachment into the buffer zone, as to limit the probability of sociopolitical conflicts. This should also be included in risk assessment and analysis (Section 5 of the PIF).
- iv. Given the concerning human rights situation in Nicaragua, the action plan should also include a detailed, separate section on ensuring the effectiveness and transparency of the "free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)" -process for indigenous/afro-descendent peoples.

Point taken. Significant efforts have been invested to ensure the alignment of both GEF-7 projects (GEFID 10674 and GEFID 10599) with the GCF grant.

Point taken. Please refer to the IPP uploaded in the portal.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Comment by Stéphanie BOUZIGES-ESCHMANN, Secretary general, Secrétariat du Fonds Français pour l'environnement mondial, Agence Française de Développement, Council, France made on 1/19/2021</b></p> <p>Comment:<br/>Specific attention:<br/>? Regarding the project in Nicaragua, while recognizing the specific criteria and procedure of the GEF, coherence of the conditions of this project is needed with comments provided by members to the cofinancing project submitted to the GCF.</p>  | <p>Point taken. Significant efforts have gone to ensure the coherence between these projects, with principal work with the indigenous people.</p>  |
| <p><b>STAP comments</b></p> <p>There are a few areas where STAP would like to see more detail ? perhaps following the PPG phase. For example, irregular enforcement of forestry and natural resource laws is mentioned as a problem (p. 30) but nowhere else is it addressed in the project design. Perhaps the assumption is that this will be incorporated into the management plan; however, it would be helpful to make this explicit since laws and regulations are not helpful if they are not enforced.</p> <p>The same is true for the list of potential activities listed in Component 3 regarding implementation of the management plan ? particularly the details of ?identification and development of community-based tourism products that reflect local culture.? How will these and other activities be financed and sustained ? particularly during a period of reduced international tourism due to COVID? One of the problems mentioned was lack of access to finance ? in this case, how will these activities be supported and sustained? Similarly, financial sustainability seems unlikely in the absence of a plan beyond ?increase in public and private spending, leveraged by participating actors.? (46).</p> <p>These are important details that need to be worked out to ensure that the management plan will be implemented successfully to avoid rapid deforestation including in the RBIM.</p> | <p>Points taken. Please refer to the PRODOC which provides details on community based tourism activities and their coordination with national programmes to ensure their sustainability. COVID has indeed brought significant stress to the sector, but it is expected to recover as vaccination rates increase and international travel resumes.</p> <p>Regarding finance, please refer to the articulation of the project with other initiatives such as BioClima, Nicadapta and Paipsan.</p> <p>Regarding management plans, please refer to component 1 for detail on the five-year management plan and the annual operational plans.</p> |

[1] <http://caminic.com/estudios/>

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).**  
**(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status**  
**in the table below:**

| PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD 100,000            |                                   |                             |                         |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i> | <i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i> |                             |                         |
|   | <i>Budgeted Amount</i>            | <i>Amount Spent to date</i> | <i>Amount Committed</i> |
| <i>5013 Consultants</i>                           | <i>33,500</i>                     | <i>32,727</i>               | <i>12,124</i>           |
| <i>5014 Contracts</i>                             | <i>45,453</i>                     | <i>45,660</i>               | <i>0</i>                |
| <i>5021 Travel</i>                                | <i>7,722</i>                      | <i>4,419</i>                | <i>0</i>                |
| <i>5023 Training</i>                              | <i>6,325</i>                      | <i>3,178</i>                | <i>0</i>                |
| <i>5024 Expendable Procurement</i>                | <i>2,000</i>                      | <i>929</i>                  | <i>0</i>                |
| <i>5028 General Operating Expenses</i>            | <i>5,000</i>                      | <i>963</i>                  | <i>0</i>                |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>100,000</b>                    | <b>87,876</b>               | <b>12,124</b>           |

**ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

**Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.**



|  |        |        |        |   |  |        |  |        |  |  |
|--|--------|--------|--------|---|--|--------|--|--------|--|--|
| Indigenous Peoples Specialist  | 0      | 0      | 66,000 | 0 |  | 66,000 |  | 66,000 |  |  |
| Biodiversity Specialist to undertake the IMBR management plan (A.1.1.1.1)  | 18,000 | 0      | 0      | 0 |  | 18,000 |  | 18,000 |  |  |
| Forestry Specialist to undertake the IMBR management plan (A.1.1.1.1)  | 18,000 | 0      | 0      | 0 |  | 18,000 |  | 18,000 |  |  |
| Water Resources Specialist to undertake the IMBR management plan (A.1.1.1.1)   | 18,000 | 0      | 0      | 0 |  | 18,000 |  | 18,000 |  |  |
| Social Specialist to undertake the IMBR management plan (A.1.1.1.1)  | 18,000 | 0      | 0      | 0 |  | 18,000 |  | 18,000 |  |  |
| GIS Specialist to undertake the IMBR management plan (A.1.1.1.1)   | 18,000 | 0      | 0      | 0 |  | 18,000 |  | 18,000 |  |  |
| Design of the training plan for the sustainable management of biodiversity in the IMBR (A.2.1.1.1)   | 0      | 10,000 | 0      | 0 |  | 10,000 |  | 10,000 |  |  |
| Design of a scientific research program (A.2.1.2.1)  | 0      | 10,000 | 0      | 0 |  | 10,000 |  | 10,000 |  |  |
| Assist the Indigenous Territorial Governments Rama and Kriol and local communities to formulate investment plans to restore natural habitats (A.3.1.1.1) | 0      | 0      | 12,000 | 0 |  | 12,000 |  | 12,000 |  |  |

|   |                |               |                |               |               |                |               |                |          |          |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Design business and investment plans for each business activity (A.3.1.2.1)   | 0              | 0             | 24,000         | 0             |               | 24,000         |               | 24,000         |          |          |
| Design a training program for capacity building in the implementation of improved livelihood activities (A.3.1.3.1)   | 0              | 0             | 12,000         | 0             |               | 12,000         |               | 12,000         |          |          |
| Design a knowledge management program (A.4.1.3.1 y 4.1.3.2)   | 0              | 0             | 0              | 12,000        |               | 12,000         |               | 12,000         |          |          |
| <b>Sub-total national Consultants</b>   | <b>108,000</b> | <b>38,000</b> | <b>245,300</b> | <b>96,000</b> | <b>66,700</b> | <b>554,000</b> | <b>66,000</b> | <b>554,000</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| <b>5650 Contracts</b>   |                |               |                |               |               |                |               |                |          |          |
| Training program implementation (SERVICE CONTRACT) (A.2.1.1.1)  | 0              | 120,000       | 0              | 0             |               | 120,000        |               | 120,000        |          |          |
| Scientific research program implementation (SERVICE CONTRACT) (A.2.1.2.1)   | 0              | 120,000       | 0              | 0             |               | 120,000        |               | 120,000        |          |          |
| Implement actions that favor the natural regeneration, protection and sustainable management of the native Forest and restoration of landscapes in the Biological Corridor prioritized in the IMBR (SERVICE CONTRACT) (A.3.1.1.2) | 0              | 0             | 542,999        | 0             |               | 542,999        |               | 542,999        |          |          |



|  |        |        |   |         |  |         |  |         |  |  |
|--|--------|--------|---|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|--|
| Preparation of the management plan and annual operating plans of the IMBR (A.1.1.1.1)  | 50,000 | 0      | 0 | 0       |  | 50,000  |  | 50,000  |  |  |
| Updating of the Autonomous Plan for the Development and Administration of the Rama and Kriol Territory (PADA) (A.1.1.1.2)  | 10,000 | 0      | 0 | 0       |  | 10,000  |  | 10,000  |  |  |
| Signing of the Consent of the CPLI with the Rama and kriol Indigenous Territorial Government(A.1.1.1.2)  | 5,000  | 0      | 0 | 0       |  | 5,000   |  | 5,000   |  |  |
| Development of standards for forest protection and restoration, protection of water recharge areas and protection of biodiversity according to the IMBR Management Plan(A.1.1.2.1) | 10,000 | 0      | 0 | 0       |  | 10,000  |  | 10,000  |  |  |
| Implementation of the scientific research program (A.2.1.2.1)  | 0      | 50,000 | 0 | 0       |  | 50,000  |  | 50,000  |  |  |
| Support to a network of community environmental observers, fire brigades and control patrols of park rangers in the IMBR (A.4.1.1.2 y A.4.1.1.3)                                   | 0      | 0      | 0 | 128,115 |  | 128,115 |  | 128,115 |  |  |



|   |               |               |          |                |          |                |  |                |          |          |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|--|----------------|----------|----------|
| Implement a knowledge management program (A.4.1.3.1 y 4.1.3.2)  | 0             | 0             | 0        | 0              |          | 0              |  | 0              |          |          |
| <b>Sub total Travel</b>   | <b>75,000</b> | <b>50,000</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>128,115</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>253,115</b> |  | <b>253,115</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| <b>5020 Training and workshops</b>  |               |               |          |                |          |                |  |                |          |          |
| Workshops for the elaboration of the IMBR management plan and annual operational plans(A.1.1.1.1)   | 56,000        | 0             | 0        | 0              |          | 56,000         |  | 56,000         |          |          |
| Workshops to update the Autonomous Development and Administration Plan of the Rama and Kriol Territory (PADA) (A.1.1.1.2)   | 30,000        | 0             | 0        | 0              |          | 30,000         |  | 30,000         |          |          |
| Workshops for the signing of the CPLI Consent with the Rama and kriol Indigenous Territorial Government (A.1.1.1.2)   | 14,000        | 0             | 0        | 0              |          | 14,000         |  | 14,000         |          |          |
| Workshops to facilitate the development of standards for forest protection and restoration, protection of water recharge zones and protection of biodiversity according to the IMBR Management Plan (A.1.1.2.1) | 14,000        | 0             | 0        | 0              |          | 14,000         |  | 14,000         |          |          |

|   |                |          |               |               |          |                |              |                |          |              |
|---|----------------|----------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------|--------------|
| Sessions of the three inter-institutional and multisectoral platforms for technical dialogue, consultation and consensus in support of the management of the IMBR (A.1.1.3.2) | 46,500         | 0        | 0             | 0             |          | 46,500         |              | 46,500         |          |              |
| Workshops to design business and investment plans for each business activity (A.3.1.2.1)  | 0              | 0        | 30,000        | 0             |          | 30,000         |              | 30,000         |          |              |
| Workshops to implement a knowledge management program (A.4.1.3.1 y 4.1.3.2)   | 0              | 0        | 0             | 30,000        |          | 30,000         |              | 30,000         |          |              |
| Inception Workshop  |                |          |               | 3,000         |          | 3,000          | 3,000        | 3,000          |          |              |
| Terminal Workshop   |                |          |               | 3,000         |          | 3,000          | 3,000        |                |          | 3,000        |
| <b>5020 Sub-total training</b>  | <b>160,500</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>30,000</b> | <b>36,000</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>226,500</b> | <b>6,000</b> | <b>223,500</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>3,000</b> |
| <b>6000 Expendable procurement</b>  |                |          |               |               |          |                |              |                |          |              |
| Materials for the preparation of the management plan and annual operational plans of the IMBR (A.1.1.1.1)   | 6,000          | 0        | 0             | 0             |          | 6,000          |              | 6,000          |          |              |
| Materials to design business and investment plans for each venture (A.3.1.2.1)  | 0              | 0        | 18,812        | 0             |          | 18,812         |              | 18,812         |          |              |

|   |                |                |                  |                |                |                  |                |                  |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Community Ranger Equipment (Backpack, boots, shirt, pants and cap) (A.4.1.1.2)  | 0              | 0              | 0                | 15,000         |                | 15,000           |                | 15,000           |                |                |
| Equipment for the implementation of the scientific research program (A.2.1.2.1) | 0              | 47,000         | 0                | 0              |                | 47,000           |                | 47,000           |                |                |
| <b>6000 Sub-total expendable procurement</b>                                    | <b>6,000</b>   | <b>47,000</b>  | <b>18,812</b>    | <b>15,000</b>  | <b>0</b>       | <b>86,812</b>    |                | <b>86,812</b>    | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>6100 Non-expendable procurement</b>  |                |                |                  |                |                |                  |                |                  |                |                |
| Pickup truck (1 RACCS y 1 R?o San Juan) (A.1.1.1.1)                             | 66,400         | 0              | 0                | 0              |                | 66,400           |                | 66,400           |                |                |
| Mountain motorcycles ( 2 per municipality) (A.1.1.1.1)                          | 24,000         | 0              | 0                | 0              |                | 24,000           |                | 24,000           |                |                |
| Motorcycle tires (A.1.1.1.1)  | 12,000         | 0              | 0                | 0              |                | 12,000           |                | 12,000           |                |                |
| Laptop ( 2 per municipality) (A.1.1.1.1)  | 16,800         | 0              | 0                | 0              |                | 16,800           |                | 16,800           |                |                |
| Computer equipment for the NODES (A.4.1.1.3)                                    | 0              | 0              | 0                | 30,000         |                | 30,000           |                | 30,000           |                |                |
| <b>6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement</b>                                | <b>119,200</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>         | <b>30,000</b>  | <b>0</b>       | <b>149,200</b>   |                | <b>149,200</b>   | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>6300 GOE budget</b>  |                |                |                  |                |                |                  |                |                  |                |                |
| GOE   | 0              | 25,000         | 0                | 0              | 0              | 25,000           |                | 25,000           |                |                |
| <b>6300 Sub-total GOE budget</b>  | <b>0</b>       | <b>25,000</b>  | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>25,000</b>    |                | <b>25,000</b>    | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>468,700</b> | <b>400,000</b> | <b>1,497,111</b> | <b>470,115</b> | <b>141,700</b> | <b>2,977,626</b> | <b>147,000</b> | <b>2,164,626</b> | <b>660,000</b> | <b>153,000</b> |

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit a finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

N/A

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

N/A

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

N/A