Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10540

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
From bait to plate: strengthening sustainable fisheries to safeguard marine biodiversity and food security

Countries
Mexico

Agency(ies)
FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)
World Wildlife Fund Mexico (WWF Mexico)

Executing Partner Type
Others

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy
Fisheries, Mainstreaming, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Threatened Species, Species, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas,

Sea Grasses, Biomes, Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approache, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Local Communities, Stakeholders, Community Based Organization, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Strategic Communications, Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Capital providers, Private Sector, Large corporations, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Beneficiaries, Participation, Type of Engagement, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Enabling Activities, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Significant Objective 1

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

3/30/2022

Expected Implementation Start

9/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

9/1/2028

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)

855,533.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	6,000,000.00	13,629,438.00
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	3,005,609.00	28,050,812.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**9,005,609.00**	**41,680,250.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To ensure the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and secure the sustainable livelihoods of fishing communities through innovative fisheries co-management approaches in three priority seascapes

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1. Enabling institutional and regulatory conditions to strengthen sustainable fisheries in Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) and Other Area-based Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)	Technical Assistance	1.1 Institutional capacities and processes have been strengthened for effective fisheries co-management in three seascapes encompassing Natural Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) *<u>GEF Core Indicators 1 & 2:</u> 807,823 ha of terrestrial PA (1) + 1,610,537 ha of marine PAs (2) under improved management effectiveness, as demonstrated through increased METT scores for target NPAs:* o *Sian Ka?an:*	1.1.1 Planning and management tools for marine conservation and fisheries co-management have been developed and are guiding decision-making in three target seascapes 1.1.2 Effective ecosystem-based fisheries management capacities and processes have been generated in key government institutions and among other stakeholders 1.1.3 Government institutions with strengthened institutional arrangements and capacities to facilitate effective	GET	1,601,415.00	6,048,628.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		Baseline 81; Target 88 o *Banco Chin.: Baseline 81; Target 85* o *Caribe Mex.: Baseline 51; Target 73* o *Islas Marietas: Baseline 74; Target 83* o *Islas Mar?as: Baseline 41; Target 65* o *Isla Isabel: Baseline 77; Target: 87* o *Esp?ritu Santo: Baseline 80; Target: 91* o *Islas del Golfo de California: Baseline 79; target: 97* o *Arrecifes de Xcalac: Baseline 75; target: 86*	fisheries co-management approaches 1.1.4 Comprehensive, transparent, and open fisheries information system in place to support participatory decision-making and learning at project target sites 1.1.5 Inspection and surveillance activities are reinforced to ensure compliance with fisheries management policies and regulations			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		<u>GEF Core Indicator 5:</u> 925,116 ha of marine habitat under improved practices through improved management of 793,830 ha in the CPI seascape and 110,766 ha in the BCS seascape providing functional ecological connectivity between NPAs	*<u>Project indicator 1</u>: # of fisheries managed using biodiversity-friendly indicators (i.e. at least objective and limit reference points for catch levels). Target: 3* o *Finfish (NTZs in Baja California Sur)*			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		o *Lobster and Queen Conch (Banco Chinchorro & Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserves and adjacent NTZs)* o *Finfish (Islas Marietas National Park)*				
			Project indicator 2: # of management plans for 2 NPAs, updated information related with the creation of 6 new fishing refuge zones (No Take Zones), and strengthen the regulations of 22 NTZ with environmental indicators.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2. Community participation in fisheries management	Technical Assistance	2.1 Local fishing communities play an active role in collectively managing and monitoring their fisheries through an ecosystem-based approach and participatory, collective decision-making. *GEF Core Indicator 8: 21,717 metric tons of lobster and fish (Mullet, snapper, grouper, sierra mackerel, snook, ocean whitefish, patzcuaro whitefish, horse mackerel, sea bass, grouper) managed sustainably in the three project seascapes*	2.1.1 Mechanisms are in place for collective community decision-making, co-regulation, monitoring, compliance, and conflict resolution related to fisheries 2.1.2 Local communities strengthen their capacities to participate in fisheries co-management and to adopt new technologies and practices 2.1.3 Local communities benefitting from improved access to fisheries information 2.1.4 Incentives are in place to promote the participation	GET	3,761,763.00	20,027,899.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		Project Indicator 3: # of fisheries co-management agreements formalized and operational: Target: One in each of the 3 project seascapes	of coastal communities in implementing sustainable fisheries co-management and adopting practices and technologies that promote and preserve marine ecosystem services:			
		Project Indicator 4: % of fishing community members and fisher organizations trained in fisheries co-management and surveillance practices. Target: At least 80% of members	2.1.5 Inspection and surveillance systems in place to enhance fisheries governance schemes			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3. Supporting sustainable alternative livelihoods	Technical Assistance	3.1 Fishing communities and fisher folk are benefitting from increased incomes deriving from value added activities, sustainable local post-capture practices, and access to differentiated market prices for sustainable products GEF *Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment. Target: 4,320 persons (1,234 women; 3,086 men)* *Project indicator 5: Percentage of women*	3.1.1 Community driven productive alternatives, including those that benefit women, have been identified, planned, and implemented 3.1.2 Infrastructure established to enable local fishing communities to add value to fisheries products 3.1.3 Technical, organizational, and entrepreneurial capacities of fishing organizations related to community-driven productive alternatives and strategies to add value have been strengthened	GET	2,476,626.00	11,534,746.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		among paid participants in fisheries production coming from fisheries targeted by the project	3.1.4 Financing opportunities for sustainable fisheries enhanced			
		Project Indicator 6: # of additional Fishery Improvement Project formalized and operational in the Central Pacific Islands seascape: Target: At least 1	3.1.5 Programs for participatory certification, differentiated markets, and information campaigns to support sustainable fisheries products are under implementation			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
4. Project Coordination, Collaboration, and Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	4.1 Project implementation is supported by an M&E strategy based on measurable and verifiable outcomes and adaptive management principles	4.1.1. Gender sensitive M&E strategy developed with relevant stakeholders, clearly defining the expected outcomes, expected implementation timeframe, and confirmation through objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification. 4.1.2. Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation carried out 4.1.3. Best practices and lessons learned systematized and disseminated to a variety of audiences and stakeholders.	GET	417,106.00	2,084,203.00
M&E	Technical Assistance			GET	319,861.00	

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**8,576,771.00**	**39,695,476.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	428,838.00	1,984,774.00
				Sub Total($)	**428,838.00**	**1,984,774.00**
				Total Project Cost($)	**9,005,609.00**	**41,680,250.00**

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7,052,571.00
Recipient Country Government	National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INAPESCA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,121,828.00
Donor Agency	GIZ	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,014,575.00
Donor Agency	KfW Development Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	23,991,276.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**41,680,250.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment mobilized will be provided by GIZ through the "Conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the Mexican Caribbean" project, which strengthens the management of the Mexican Caribbean Biosphere Reserve and neighbouring protected areas, and by the KFW project "Sustainable financing in new PNAs". These projects will share information with the "From the bait to plate project" related to their work with communities on strengthening integrated management of coastal and marine resources.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	9,005,609	855,533	9,861,142.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**9,005,609.00**	**855,533.00**	**9,861,142.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	200,000	19,000	**219,000.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
399,114.00	807,823.00	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)
399,114.00	807,823.00	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)
Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve	103171	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		586.00			81.00		
Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve	555624306	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		28,589.00			51.00		
Isla Isabel National Park	2583	National Park	194.00	194.00			77.00		
Islas del Golfo de California Flora and Fauna Protection Area	306810	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	374,554.00	374,554.00			79.00		

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)
Islas Maria Biosphere Reserve	306809	Strict Nature Reserve	24,295.00	24,295.00			41.00		
National Park Islas Marietas	902296	National Park	71.00	71.00			74.00		
Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve	1850	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		375,012.00			82.00		
Xcalak Reefs National Park	n/a	Others		4,522.00			76.00		

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,597,751.00	1,610,537.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total 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 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,597,751.00	1,610,537.00	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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Biosphere Reserve Banco Chinchorro	103171	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	144,360.00	143,774.00			81.00		

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Biosphere Reserve Sian Ka?an	1850	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	153,192.00	153,136.00			82.00		
Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve	555624306	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	633,243.00	633,243.00			51.00		
Esp?ritu Santo Archipelago National Park (marine area)	108125	Habitat/ Species Management Area	48,655.00	48,655.00			80.00		
Islas Maria Biosphere Reserve	306809	Strict Nature Reserve	616,989.00	616,989.00			41.00		

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
National Park Islas Marietas	902296	National Park	1,312.00	1,312.00			74.00		
Xcalak Reefs National Park	N/A	Others		13,428.00			13,428.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
925,031.00	925,116.00		

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
3	3		

Type/name of the third-party certification

CEO Endorsement: Third party certification(s): As of today, there are no certified fisheries existent at the project seascapes. Overall marine productive area in 3 project sites: 925,116 hectares; including: No-take zones - Quintana Roo = 13,469 hectares No-take zones - Baja California Sur = 7,051 hectares PIF: Third party certification(s): Overall marine productive area

in 3 project sites: 925,031 hectares; including: No-take zones - Quintana Roo = 13,469 hectares No-take zones - Baja California Sur = 6,966 hectares

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

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

Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
21,717.00	21,296.00		

Fishery Details

CEO Endorsement: The total estimated production of finfish and lobster at the project seascapes is 21,717 tons; however existing FIPs at Baja California Sur (finfish) and Quintana Roo (lobster) have a total yearly sustainable production of 421 tons. PIF: The target figure is based on the following data from the Statistical Annual Book of Conapesca (2014) State / fishery Finfish Lobster Total Baja California Sur 13,861 0 13,861 Nayarit 4,592 23 4,615 Jalisco 2,763 124 2,887 Quintana Roo 0 354 354 TOTAL 21,216 501 21,717

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,200	1,234		
Male	3,800	3,086		
Total	5000	4320	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

? GEF Core Indicators 1 and 2: The target figures are based on the total area of the formal protected areas within the project target sites (see Annex F). ? GEF Core Indicator 5: The target figure is based on the area of NTZs, and other waters surrounding the targeted protected areas, in the three project sites. ? GEF Core Indicator 8: The Statistical Annual Book of CONAPESCA (2014) estimates a total of 21,717 tons generated at the three seascapes; however, it is estimated that 421 tons of finfish and lobster out of this total are currently harvested sustainably by FIPs in Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo, so this amount has been subtracted from the total. State / fishery Finfish* Lobster Total Baja California Sur 13,861 0 13,861 Nayarit 4,592 23 4,615 Jalisco 2,763 124 2,887 Quintana Roo 0 354 354 TOTAL 21,216 501 21,717 *Finfish: Mullet, snapper, grouper, sierra mackerel, snook, ocean whitefish, patzcuaro whitefish, horse mackerel, sea bass, grouper GEF Core Indicator 11: 4,230 persons will be direct project beneficiaries. This figure includes 3,086 men working as artisanal fishers, including 2,000 artisanal fishers in the Central Pacific Islands seascape; 606 artisanal fishers in the Quintana Roo Caribbean Seascape; and 480 artisanal fishers in the Baja California Sur Seascape. This figure also includes 1,234 women working in post-harvest activities (preparation of bait; fish cleaning; product marketing; etc.); although in many cases the work of these women is considered ?non-formal employment?, it is still very real work and an important part of the fisheries value chain. During Project Year 1, the project will undertake a stakeholder engagement process in the cities of La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, San Blas and Boca de Camich?n (Nayarit); San Miguel de Cozumel, Chetumal and Tulum (Quintana Roo); and Loreto, La Paz, Agua Verde, Tembabiche, Los Dolores, Ensenada de Cort?s, Palma Sola, Punta Alta, La Cueva, Nopol?, San Evaristo, El Pardito, Portugu?s and Punta Coyote (Baja California Sur). Among other activities, the stakeholder engagement process, which will be led by the CTA and the Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist, will confirm all potential project beneficiaries, including local fishers and their relatives, fishing cooperatives, individual permit holders, local seafood brokers, and owners and employees of local fisheries processing facilities and local seafood markets and stores, in order to validate / update the targets for GEF Core Indicator 11, including separate figures for women and men beneficiaries. Project contribution to Aichi Targets: The project aims to actively involve local fishing communities in collectively managing and monitoring their fisheries through an

ecosystem-based approach and participatory, collective decision-making. To achieve that, incentives promoting the participation of coastal communities will be created for them to implement sustainable fisheries co-management and to adopt practices and technologies that reduce impacts on marine ecosystems and their ecologicalservices. The project will promote the re-assignation of subsidy programs applied by CONANP, and INAPESCA at seascapes, in ways that they explicitly: i) support the implementation of co-management schemes; ii) pay local women and men for undertaking activities that support fisheries co-management, particularly during periods of fishery closure ; iii) support the incubation of new fisheries-related and other nature-based enterprises in areas around highly visited NPAs; and iv) support the construction of facilities for the landing, processing, storing, freezing and distributing catches. These activities will contribute to Aichi Target 3 (?By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out, or reformed to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions?). Most efforts of this project are focused on driving local fishers to effectively practice ecosystem-based fisheries co-management and strengthening institutional capacities and processes for those ends. In consequence, planning and management tools and technologies for marine conservation and fisheries co-management will be developed and used for guiding decision-making processes; project stakeholders will be trained in ecosystem-based fisheries management; authorities/community arrangements will be designed and implemented for facilitating co-management approaches (including those for inspection and surveillance activities); and comprehensive, transparent, and open fisheries information systems will be created and used in decision-making processes. These activities will contribute to Aichi Target 6 (?By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits?); Aichi Target 10 (?By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning?); and Aichi Target 11 (?By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes?). The internalization of ecosystem-based fisheries management and the availability of subsidies supporting co-management schemes, the incubation of new fisheries and nature-based related enterprises and the construction of fish processing, storing and commercialization facilities , will allow local fishers to add value to their fish and direct them

to diversified economic activities and differentiated market options; to participate in sustainable fisheries certification programs and to seize financing opportunities for sustainable fisheries. In addition, community-driven productive alternatives, including those that benefit women, will be identified, planned, and implemented, while technical, organizational and entrepreneurial capacities of fishing organizations related to community-driven productive alternatives and fish value addition strategies, will be strengthened. These activities will contribute to Aichi Target 4 (?By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of the use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits?) and Aichi Target 14 (?By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable?). Finally, the project will systematize and disseminate its best practices and lessons learned to a variety of audiences and stakeholders, including the National System of Protected Areas of Mexico. By doing so, it will contribute to Aichi Target 19 (?By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied?).

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Environmental Context

1. Mexico?s coastline extends for 11,122 km along the north-eastern Pacific, Gulf of California, Tropical Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. Mexico ranks 12th worldwide in terms of the extension of its littoral zone and marine surface, and the interaction of temperate and tropical waters, confluence of biogeographic zones and the physiography of its territory, create a high heterogeneity of megadiverse environments. With over 1.5 million ha of estuaries, and over 3,000 geomorphologic structures including islands, reefs, islets, shoals and banks, Mexican coastal and marine ecosystems encompass an enormous biological diversity of global importance. Marine and coastal ecosystems in Mexico are classified into 6 types of marine ecosystems and 7 types of coastal ecosystems, which together harbour 3,099 different species, of which 369 are endemic.[1]1

2. One-third of Mexico?s total population lives within 100 km of the coast and 15% of its total population is settled in coastal towns[2]2. Between 1990 and 2005, the mean yearly rate of population growth in many coastal States of Mexico surpassed the national average, including Quintana Roo, Baja California Sur and Baja California. While the coastal states of Mexico represent 56% of the national territory and house 45% of the national population, they generate only 36% of the national gross production. The coastal zone supports a large number of relevant economic activities, such as tourism, national and international commerce and industries. This zone also generates important environmental services, such as mitigating coastal erosion, reducing flooding and saltwater intrusion coming from tropical storms and hurricanes, regulating local climates, filtering organic wastes, acting as a nursery for a huge variety of marine species and absorbing significant emissions of greenhouse gases[3][3].

3. Globally, Mexico ranks 17th in capture fish production with an average annual catch of 1.8 million tons, and at least 600 known species targeted by commercial fisheries. Small-scale fisheries (SSF) are particularly important to vulnerable coastal communities[4][4],.Mexico has over 300,000 small-scale fishers who rely heavily on fishing for food and income, as well as nearly 2 million households that directly or indirectly depend on fisheries for a living.[5][5] The livelihoods of these households depend on healthy fish stocks, which in turn depend on healthy and resilient coastal

habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, lagoons, salt marshes, wetlands, and seagrass beds. However, in the face of greatly increasing demand for seafood, 89% of Mexican fisheries are at their maximum sustainable yield, and 8% are overexploited.[6][6] An important factor contributing to overfishing is that 94% of Mexico?s total fleet operates in the coastal zone and 80% of total national fisheries production comes from the coastal zone[7]7. The vast majority of Mexico?s artisanal fishing effort takes place along the Pacific coast and the Gulf of California (97%), while the Caribbean and continental fisheries represent only 3%[8]8.

4. Sustainable fishing practices are beginning to take root in Mexico. As of 2018, 430,000 tons of Mexico?s total catch of 1.8 million tons were certified by the Marine Stewardship Council[9][9]. By 2019, there were 19 active Mexican Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) registered at the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (representing 11% of the total number of Fishery Improvement Projects registered worldwide)[10][10]. Presently, there are 28 active FIPs in Mexico, involving 20 assessment units with artisanal fisheries and 4 assessment units with industrial fisheries[11][11], in which producers are capable of meeting explicit and demonstrable sustainability practices. In addition, 15 networks of Fishery Refuges have been decreed in South Baja California, Sinaloa, Sonora, Yucatan and Quintana Roo; these refuge networks (composed of one or several spatially georeferenced geographic polygons) have partially or completely restricted the exploitation of commercial species with the goal of restoring fish stocks. These are biologically assessed on a 5-year basis. Finally, some areas have developed community agreements aiming at hindering poor fishing practices. For example, in the Baja California Sur seascape, local communities have agreed to only catch commercial fish species employing hand-held-hooks, in order to deter the practice of commercial nocturnal diving.

Socio-Economic Context

5. Artisanal fisheries in Mexico are frequently related to marginalized and poor coastal communities[12]12. Income levels of Mexican artisanal fishers vary widely depending on the geographic region and target fishery, but they are estimated to range between MXP $300 and MXP $2,000 a day. Mexican artisanal fisheries generate 275,000 direct jobs and ca. 2 million indirect jobs, . Mexico?s coastal communities are vulnerable to a variety of pressures, including poor human rights conditions, restricted access to health services, scarcity of educational facilities, restricted access to potable water, absence of urban sanitary services, the prevalence of unstable and precarious employment, and the absence of investment for enhancing productive sustainable fisheries[13]13. Furthermore, national fisheries policies and programs are primarily focused on industrial fisheries and high-value fisheries[14][14]. Traditionally, public and private support to these communities has focused on productive and environmental perspectives, but not on socio-economic development, leading to reduced community wellbeing. For example, among the project areas, only the state government of Baja California Sur provides artisanal fishers with free life insurance to cover fishers whether or not

their deaths are directly related to fishing activities[15]15. A desire for improved access to social benefits (medical insurance, retirement funds, etc.) is among the main motivations for fishers to organize and take collective action[16][16], and also acts as an incentive for reducing risks associated with overfishing (e.g. cooperative members expelled due to infractions automatically lose their social benefits).

6. Mexican artisanal fishers frequently supplement their income by practicing small commerce, farming, and other jobs related to the construction industry (builder, electrician, carpenter, etc)[17]17. In most cases, incomes generated by fishing alone are below the threshold of MXP $11,290/month, which defines the category of poverty for a 4-member family[18]18. During the on-going COVID-19 outbreak, most Mexican coastal fishing communities suffered from a severe economic downturn[19]19, and the lack of financial savings among the majority of Mexican artisanal fishers resulted in significant disruptions to the well-being of residents in these communities.

7. Generally speaking, the existence of processing infrastructure, freezing and refrigeration facilities, storage and vehicles for transportation are key elements that allow cooperatives to be better positioned in the commercialization chain[20][20], to be independent of middlemen, and to secure a higher percentage of the value of the catch. However, in the project seascapes, many fishing communities lack adequate freezing and refrigeration facilities, and production is often processed and stored using artisanal iceboxes and salting. In the Baja California Sur (BCS) seascape, the lack of these facilities and the remoteness of many fishing communities has led to reduced channels of distribution, monopolized value chains and undervaluation of fish catches, with most fish products sold commercially only in local neighbouring markets (La Paz and Loreto) and rarely reaching other markets (Ensenada, Tijuana, Guadalajara). Artisanal fishers from the Central Pacific Islands (CPI) seascape share similar production conditions, but they are located close to the cities of Guadalajara and Tepic and have a higher variety of commercialization options.

8. Ecotourism is probably the most frequent economic strategy mentioned as an alternative to fishing and it is considered a key component of the sustainable Blue Economy[21]21,[22]22. Recent estimates[23]23 indicate that ecotourism in Baja California Sur generates USD $47 million annually in direct spending by tourists and USD $314 million in indirect spending. In Nayarit, ecotourism generates ca. USD $40 million annually in direct and indirect spending. Businesses based on swimming and diving with sharks in Mexican waters generate USD $12 million annually. CONAPESCA[24]24 has estimated that sport fishing generates at least USD $2 billion/year and is an activity that also promotes services related to lodging, transportation and technical services for fleets and vehicles.

Mexico?s System of Protected Areas and Fisheries Management

9. Currently, 22% of Mexico?s marine exclusive economic zone (697,883 km2) is protected by 66 marine protected areas[25]25 that preserve highly diverse and productive marine ecosystems. Management plans for these areas focus on the sustainable management and use of natural resources, but independent effectiveness assessments of Mexico?s most iconic marine protected areas revealed wide areas of opportunity for improvement, mostly in aspects related to implementation and impact assessment[26]26.

10. Mexico?s nationwide system of Natural Protected Areas (NPA) is designed to conserve biodiversity, ecosystems and environmental services; to encourage the development of sustainable practices; and to encourage the active participation of communities living within or adjacent to NPAs in the management of these sites.[27][27] NPAs are considered the most powerful instrument in Mexico for the conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. At present, the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) manages 182 federal NPAs (including 67 National Parks, 44 Biosphere Reserves, 40 Protected Flora & Fauna Areas, 18 Nature Sanctuaries, 8 Protected Natural Resource Areas, and 5 Natural Monuments), which together represent 10.77% of the country's land area and 22.64% of its marine area. 37 of the country?s NPAs include marine and coastal ecosystems totalling 649,587 km2.

11. According to the Mexican General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, CONAPESCA, which is subordinated to the Secretariat of Agriculture and rural Development, is the only entity responsible for regulating, promoting and administering the use of fisheries and aquaculture resources; as well as designing, coordinating and executing related national policies, plans and programs. On the other hand, INAPESCA has the responsibility for coordinating, executing and guiding scientific research to generate knowledge inputs for the sustainable management of fishery and aquaculture resources. The main functions of INAPESCA include to carry out comprehensive and interdisciplinary research on fishing and aquaculture activities to guide the sustainable development, management and use of the country's aquaculture and fishery resources; this includes fish stock assessment and monitoring as a basis for CONAPESCA?s management decisions. Also to provide public and private users with scientific and technological research services, opinions, technical opinions and assistance (for example, for the NTZ geographic definition). The Institute is also responsible for elaborating and updating the National Fishing and Aquaculture Charts and to participate in multidisciplinary analytical processes for development decision-making in aquatic ecosystems.

12. Fisheries No-take Zones (NTZs; or *Zonas de Refugio Pesquero* in Spanish) are defined in Mexico?s General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (LGPAS, for its name in Spanish), as ?delimited areas, to conserve and contribute, naturally or artificially, to the development of fishery resources for their reproduction, growth or recruitment, as well as preserving and protecting the surrounding environment? (Table 1). NTZs are only established at the request of fishers, who also participate in the definition of NTZ boundaries and restrictions. While NTZs have had success in restoring fish stocks, the capacity of CONAPESCA and INAPESCA to monitor most NTZs is very limited, and community co-management is important because it involves fishermen in monitoring and also increases social pressure within the fishing community to abide by NTZ regulations. NTZs are

designed to enable the replenishment of commercial fishing species by reducing fish mortality, protecting fish reproduction, repopulation, larval dispersion and supporting the recovery of trophic chains and habitats. In economic and social terms, NTZs are intended to support increased volumes and values of fish catches, certification of sustainable fisheries, development of alternative activities (e.g. ecotourism) and more active community participation (co-responsibility and governance). Mexico?s NTZs can be considered as Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), which are defined as a ?geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio?economic, and other locally relevant values?.[28]28 The Official Mexican Standard (NOM-049-SAG / PESC-2014) authorizing the establishment of NTZs entered into force in 2014.

13. As of November 2019, regulatory agreements are in place for four NTZs in Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo, which together include 22 polygons and have a total area of 20,520 hectares. These NTZs have a mix of four different types of restrictions: Temporary and Partial, Temporary and Total, Permanent and Partial, and Permanent and Total. In the Temporary Total NTZs of San Cosme - Punta Coyote in Baja California Sur (BCS), and Espir?tu Santo, Punta Herrero and Banco Chinchorro in Quintana Roo, no commercial or domestic consumption fishing may be carried out at all during a defined period, and recreational-sport fishing is limited to "capture and release?. In the Temporary Partial NTZs of San Cosme - Punta Coyote in BCS., commercial, sport-recreational and domestic consumption fishing activities may be carried out on various species of flora and fauna, but only during a defined period and through the use of only specific allowed gear and/or fishing methods. For example, fishing throughout the year within the "La Brecha" NTZ is limited to capture sardine with casting nets; fishing of mackerel with hand lines with #9 hooks and fishing squid with specific types of lures.

Table 1: Comparison of No-Take Zones and Protected Natural Areas in Mexico

Natural Protected Areas	**No-take zones**
Primary orientation for environmental conservation	Primary orientation for fisheries production
Managed by CONANP	Regulated by CONAPESCA/INAPESCA
Very large polygons	Small polygons
Permanent status	Temporary status (can be extended)
Greater limitations on fishing activity (Zoning)	Fewer limitations on fishing activity (Modalities)
Higher implementation costs and operation	Lower implementation costs and operation
Proposed by authorities (consultation and imposition)	Proposed by the productive sector (consensus and joint responsibility)

Less adaptable to the needs of the fishing sector	More adaptable to the needs of the fishing sector

14. It is estimated that at least 300,000 persons practice artisanal fisheries in Mexico, although accurate statistics do not exist[29][29]. In 2017, there were 7,000 economic units dedicated to fishing, half of which were fisher?s cooperatives, but there is no certainty about the number of persons affiliated with those cooperatives or how many boats the cooperatives operate. Some recent estimates for Mexico refer to 300,000 fishers (including men and women), and at least 2 million families living in 10,000 communities, including cities and rural towns with <15,000 inhabitants each[30][30]. It is estimated that 85% of artisanal fishers nationally may belong to cooperatives and that they operate at least 71,500 boats.

15. Analysis of Mexico?s total catch from 1950 to 2010 revealed that most catches were probably almost twice as high as official reports[31][31]; the unreported catches are likely related to illegal fishing, fishing of unregulated species, or logistical barriers to effective monitoring (e.g. extensive and often not easily accessible coastline, *de facto* open-access fisheries, poor administrative practices, and generalized corruption in the fishing sector as a whole).

Project Intervention Sites & Species

16. The proposed project will work in three marine seascapes in Mexico. Such sites include eight Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) and two complexes of fisheries No-Take Zones (NTZs), which together represent different models and opportunities for conserving the marine environment and preserving sustainable fisheries.

Table 2: Project Sites

Seascapes	Location	Target Species	Sites	Protected Areas		Productive Marine Areas (ha)
				Terrestrial Area* (ha)	Marine Area (ha)	
1. Central Pacific Islands (CPI)	Pacific Coast (Nayarit State)	Finfish	Islas Marietas National Park	71	1,312	0
			Islas Mar?as Biosphere Reserve	24,295	616,989	0
			Isla Isabel National Park	194	0	0

			Other waters surrounding protected areas			793,830
			Subtotal	**24,560**	**618,301**	**793,830**
2. Quintana Roo Caribbean (QRC)	Caribbean Sea (Quintana Roo State)	Lobster, Queen Conch, possibly Finfish	Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve	586	143,774	0
			Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve	375,012	153,136	0
			Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve**	28,589	633,243	0
			Xcalak Reefs National Park	4,522	13,428	0
			No-Take Zones (10)	0	0	13,469
			Other waters surrounding protected areas	0	0	0
			Subtotal	**408,709**	**943,581**	**13,469**
3. Baja California Sur (BCS)	Gulf of California (Baja California Sur State)	Finfish	Esp?ritu Santo Archipelago National Park (marine area)	0	48,655	0
			Islas del Golfo de California Flora and Fauna Protection Area	374,554	0	0
			No-Take Zones (12) in the San Cosme-Punta Coyote marine corridor	0	0	7,051
			Other waters surrounding protected areas	0	0	110,766
			Subtotal	**374,554**	**48,655**	**117,817**
			Final Total	**807,823**	**1,610,537**	**925,116**

* The Central Pacific Islands Seascape considers terrestrial areas because effective management of the islands within this area will reduce anthropogenic pressures that impact the surrounding marine environment.

** This refers specifically to the coral reefs of Xcalak and Sian Ka?an and their area of influence

17. **Selection criteria**: Co-management schemes may employ a wide variety of collaborative arrangements depending on the specific conditions of a given area. Support for diverse co-management approaches is critical for developing models that can eventually be scaled up into a nationwide strategy. In light of this, project intervention areas have been selected (with the participation of all project partners) with a diverse array of institutional and management arrangements and different social,

economic and environmental conditions. The criteria used in selecting the project sites and target species are the following:

i. **Global biodiversity significance:** According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the selected target areas are within and/or adjacent to Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). The San Jose Archipelago and Bah?a de Loreto National Park are close to the KBAs in the San Cosme ? Punta Coyote marine corridor, and the Islas Marietas National Park and Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve overlap with KBAs of the same name. In many cases, globally significant species within the selected areas interact with the project target species and/or share habitat and ecosystem services.

ii. **Presence of critically-important fisheries:** The targeted fisheries are critically important for the local communities and fishing cooperatives in the project sites; they are also protected target species due to on-going population declines[32][32], and are believed to be vulnerable to future climate change impacts, in particular potential habitat alterations that could affect their productivity, development, reproduction and distribution.

iii. **Type of fishing community:** The project will work with fishing communities with lower-than-average incomes and where fishing practices are less sustainable (these two factors are inter-related), specifically in communities with smaller fleets and simple fishing gear. The share of population living in poverty increases from the Baja California Sur seascape to the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape[33][33]. The proportion of the population of coastal communities living in poverty and extreme poverty ranges between 25-54% and 3-10%, respectively in the Baja California Sur seascape; between 38-60% and 4-12%, respectively in the Central Pacific Islands seascape and between 30-72% and 4-25%, respectively in the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape. In addition, as the project seeks to strengthen community co-management of fisheries, it will work in communities with a high level of local organization and institutional / organizational partnerships, as well as expressed interest in co-management approaches.

iv. **Value chains:** The project will work in areas and fisheries that have a strong potential for improving fisheries value chains that can benefit local communities and incentivize fishers to adopt sustainable practices and actively participate in co-management, which will produce valuable learned lessons to replicate in other areas.

Description of project sites: environmental problems, root causes and baseline scenario

Central Pacific Islands Seascape

18. Located on the central Pacific coast of Mexico in the state of Nayarit, the Central Pacific Islands (CPI) seascape is an area where the California Current, the Costa Rican Coastal Current and the mass of water from the Gulf of California converge, producing biophysical conditions that have created

a habitat for an enormous biodiversity. This seascape provides habitat for a large variety of resident and migratory seabirds, including brown boobies (*Sula leucogaster*), motmots (*Momotidae*), seagulls (*Larus heermanni)* and pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis)*. The seascape has a high importance as a breeding area for marine species including Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaengliae*) and the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*); and contains a great diversity of coral species, reef fish, sponges, annelids, molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms. However, this area is vulnerable to a variety of threats, including the construction of marinas and associated infrastructure, and increasing levels of fishing, recreational diving and boat traffic.[34][34] As a result of these drivers, marine water quality has deteriorated in recent years, resulting in reduced levels of invertebrates and fish stocks as well as habitat degradation and reduced resilience to climate change impacts.[35][35] Within NPA buffer zones, some restrictions on fishing exist, but despite this, the harvesting of natural resources is negatively affecting a variety of fish, corals, invertebrates and sea mammals with important ecological and economic values.[36][36] The NPA buffer zones in this seascape are not large enough to protect most marine species and as of now, there are no NTZs in the area. As a result, key species such as snapper *(Hoplopagrus guentherii*) are overfished, and the widespread use of bottom gill nets is causing extensive damage to marine ecosystems. Increased seawater temperatures (reaching up to 32? C) have resulted in areas of coral bleaching.

19. The CPI seascape encompasses three Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) situated within the Bahia de Banderas, all three of which are Key Biodiversity Areas. The Islas Marietas National Park is a RAMSAR site and forms part of UNESCO?s Man and the Biosphere Program. This NPA consists of two small islands and two islets of volcanic origin that together have 71 ha of land and a marine buffer zone of 1,312 ha. Sustainable tourism activities (diving, bird watching from boats, etc.) are allowed throughout the buffer zone, while commercial and recreational sport fishing activities are limited to designated ?sustainable use zones? within the buffer zone. The Isla Isabel National Park, situated 28 km. off the coast of Nayarit, consists of 194 hectares of terrestrial area. A temporary fishing camp is located on the island and used by approximately 150 fishers at different times throughout the year; these fishers come mainly from the communities of San Blas and Boca de Camich?n in Nayarit. Consultations with these fishers have resulted in agreements for the protection of the marine area around the island through the establishment of no-take zones, actions to protect and recover adjacent coral reefs and collaboration in working towards a declaration of protection for the marine zone. Researchers working on the island who have provided technical inputs for management decisions have supported this work. The Islas Mar?as Biosphere Reserve encompasses 24,295 ha of land and 616,990 ha of marine area and is part of UNESCO?s Man and the Biosphere Program. Until recently, several prisons were located on islands within the reserve, but these sites were closed in March 2019 in order "to contribute to the preservation and conservation of the biosphere reserve of the Marias Islands?.

20. The most important fisheries in this area are red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus)*, snapper (*Hoplopagrus guentherii*), tuna (*Thunnus thynnus)*, mojarra (*Mayaheros urophthalmus),* and octopus (*Octopus sp*), all of which are artisanal fisheries whose products are almost entirely for local markets. Tuna and tuna-like species are high-value and support fisheries of a global, multi-gear and multi-species nature; these fisheries are international and regulated by Regional Fishery Management Bodies, such as the Interamerican Tropical Tuna Commission of which Mexico is a member. The main species of tuna in this area are yellowfin (T*hunnus albacares*), albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), together accounting for about 80% of the regional catch of tuna and tuna-like species. In Mexico, tuna fisheries are fully exploited (sustainable biological level).

21. Fish catches in the CPI seascape are generally put on ice, refrigerated or frozen, but no value-addition is undertaken that could help fishers to get more cash income for the same or even less catch volume, and thus fishers only receive the much lower ?beach prices?. Most of the fishing vessels around Islas Marietas come from nearby ports within or to the North of Banderas Bay and most of the fishing takes place near the Marias Islands and around the "La Corbete?a" islet, which are located 7 km. Southwest of Marietas Islands. Many fishers are now also selling fishing tours and transportation services for tourists who visit the Marietas Islands for recreational water activities.

22. Fishers from this seascape live in eight municipalities and 16 coastal cities and communities in the States of Sinaloa, Nayarit and Jalisco. Apart from the city of Puerto Vallarta (184,728 inhabitants), populations in other coastal towns range between 200 - 10,200 inhabitants. Coastal communities from Sinaloa and Jalisco have medium marginalization and very low social gap indexes; while those from Nayarit have high-medium marginalization and very low social gap indexes. While fisheries production is still significant for the municipality of Puerto Vallarta, its relative importance has been greatly reduced due to the massive growth in tourism and general commerce in the area[37][37]. Today this municipality has only a modest presence of local artisanal fishers (10 registered cooperatives operating up to 70 fishing boats)[38][38]; in addition, many local artisanal fishers are also employees of hotels and restaurants[39][39]. However, coastal artisanal fisheries for shrimp and fish are important in other municipalities (Tecuala, Santiago Ixcuintla and Cruz de Hanacaxtle), which have at least 1,700 organized fishers[40][40]. The municipality of Tecuala has a municipal committee for fisheries, integrated by 49 cooperatives[41][41].

23. There are no indigenous communities or indigenous territorial governments registered in the coastal fringe of this seascape [42][42],[43][43],[44][44],[45][45],[46][46].

24. An estimated 2,000 artisanal fishers are active in the CPI seascape, including 150 from the municipality of Puerto Vallarta, 1,700 from the municipalities of Tecuala, Santiago Ixcuintla and Cruz de Hanacaxtle and 150 who are active in the Isla Isabel National Park. The fishing cooperatives and individual fishing permit holders with the highest average catches in the CPI seascape are shown in Table 3 below. Such figures are part of the project?s baseline, in order to assess the impact of the project?s intervention, once it is executed. The range of production levels of these fishers during 2018-2020 was from 12 - 709 tons per year, with economic values ranging from USD 31,200 ? USD 1.8 million per year. During the first year of project implementation, the project will undertake a stakeholder engagement process with these productive units and others that might join the process, at the cities of La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, San Blas and Boca de Camich?n. Geographic Coordinates of

these locations are shown in Annex E. The stakeholder engagement process will build a portfolio of cooperatives and permits holders that accept implementing the project in their productive units.

Table 3: Fishing Cooperatives / Individual Permit Holders with the highest average yearly catches in the Central Pacific Islands seascape

Cooperative or individual permit holder	Fishery	Yearly production volumes (2018-2020 average, fresh weight, tons)	$/kg (average)	Value (USD) of average yearly production	Number of fishers
S.C. Cruz de Huanacaxtle	Fish, Multiple Species	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
S.C.P.P. isla Isabel		111.7	$2.67	$298,312.053	30-50
S.C.P.P. de Altamar Fuerte de San Basilio de San Blas		132.6	$2.67	$354,004.947	30-50
S.C.P.P. de Altura Pescadores del Puerto de San Blas		186.2	$2.67	$497,268.000	30-50
S.C.P.S. de Langosta de La Isla Isabel		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
S.C.P.A Ostricamichin		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
S.C.P.P. Piedra de la Campana		709.2	$2.67	$1,893,895.421	80-120
S.C Cerro de la Cantaduria		173.8	$2.67	$464,261.211	50-70
S.C.P.P de Alta Mar El Delf?n		36.3	$2.67	$96,956.105	20-40
Miguel Garc?a Z??iga		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Individual
Samuel Ramos Araiza		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	
J. L. Inocente Fregoso		308.9	$2.67	$824,838.316	
Joaqu?n Santill?n Celaya		24.7	$2.67	$65,939.737	
Santiago Rafael Aguilar		116.0	$2.67	$309,852.263	
Francisco Omar Bugarin		12.1	$2.67	$32,313.368	
Raymundo Ramos Garc?a		16.6	$2.67	$44,246.158	
J. F. Mart?nez Reyes		60.9	$2.67	$162,749.000	

Primartir Soto Cruz		19.2	$2.67	$51,300.789
Nabor Cabuto Mart?nez		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Alfredo Ortiz Ordo?ez		28.2	$2.67	$75,451.263
Antonio Fregoso Manzano		97.8	$2.67	$261,309.211
Carlos C?rdenas Garc?a		20.3	$2.67	$54,344.316
David Ruiz Robles		431.3	$2.67	$1,151,880.789
J. G. Ibarra Rivera		81.8	$2.67	$218,551.421
J.A. Bernal Fregoso		28.5	$2.67	$76,200.789
Joaqu?n Mendoza Montero		343.0	$2.67	$915,877.474
J. A. Mart?nez Osuna		11.7	$2.67	$31,254.053
J.F. Mendias Cruz		23.1	$2.67	$61,627.737
J.J. Burgue?o Gonz?lez		25.4	$2.67	$67,835.842
J.L. Hern?ndez Ortega		18.0	$2.67	$47,938.632
L.F. Garc?a Cortes		17.0	$2.67	$45,398.947

Quintana Roo Caribbean Seascape

25. Located on the Caribbean Sea off the coast of the state of Quintana Roo, the ecosystems within the Quintana Roo Caribbean (QRC) seascape are essential breeding and nursery grounds for numerous species of ecological and economic importance. These ecosystems host significant commercial fish stocks of species such as the queen conch (*Lobatus gigas*), Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), and several finfish species.[47][47] All of the protected and productive coastal and marine areas within this seascape are culturally and ecologically inter-connected. For example, the community of X?calak is considered the core spot of fishing in the area; the Quintana Roo fishing Cooperative located at X?calak community is the oldest fishing cooperative in the region and was the first to take advantage of the resources of the Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve. The entire seascape, including its Biosphere Reserves and NTZs, is subject to several important threats. The use of destructive fishing gear; as well as high levels of illegal fishing (by both local and foreign boats) is impacting the populations of lobster, queen conch and other reef species. The rapid growth of tourism in the area has increased the demand for seafood and contributed to the degradation of marine habitats, for example increased boat traffic resulting in reef damage by anchors, pollution, ghost fishing, etc. The construction of cabins and sun huts (e.g. on Center Key) without planning or mechanisms for sewage management represents a serious threat to reefs and other coastal and marine ecosystems .[48][48] Climate change is exacerbating these problems; the increased frequency and severity of

hurricanes and other storms is deteriorating marine and coastal ecosystems services, which in turn negatively impact fish stocks and globally significant biodiversity, while also negatively affecting the connectivity between ecosystems in this corridor of protected areas and no-take zones.

26. The QRC seascape encompasses three Natural Protected Areas and 10 No-Take Zones. The entire area is within the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) MesoAmerica Biodiversity Hotspot[49][49]. Several KBAs also are located within or adjacent to the project sites, including: Sian Ka?an, Isla Cozumel, Corredor Central Vallarta Punta Laguna, and North-eastern Belize. The Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve has a total area of 144,360 ha, including reef formations, reef lagoons, three keys (Lobos, Center and North) and adjacent ocean waters. Banco Chinchorro, which is part of the Mesoamerican Reef System and constitutes the largest reef structures of its kind in Mexico, harbours some 778 species, of which 58% are marine fauna, 14% are terrestrial fauna, 18% are marine flora and 10% are terrestrial flora. The Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve is located along the central coast of Quintana Roo and has a total area of 528,147 ha, including 374,955 ha of terrestrial habitats including tropical forests and wetlands, and 153,192 ha of marine habitat including coral reefs and shallow ocean areas. The reserve is a designated World Heritage Site, a Ramsar site, and part of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program. Within the reserve, Punta Allen, Mahahual and Xcalak are very important fishing areas. The reserve includes diverse marine environments such as sandy beaches, mangroves, shallow bays, rocky beaches, marshes and reefs with high species diversity.[50][50] The 110 km-long Sian Ka'an barrier reef, located along the eastern edge of the reserve, is part of the second longest reef in the world and harbours numerous marine species. There are three human settlements within the reserve (Punta Allen, Punta Herrero and Javier Rojo G?mez). The Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve was decreed on 2016 and it includes an important diversity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, such as coral reefs (the reefs in the Xcalak and Sian Ka?an sites are the focus of this project), marine grasslands, jungles, mangroves, and lagoon systems. The reserve has a total area of 5,754,055 ha (of which 626,740 are considered part of the project site), including several Ramsar wetland sites and fisheries No-Take Zones. The reserve also includes several important fishing areas, such as Xcalak and Mahahual. Finally, there are a total of ten fisheries No-Take Zones in this seascape, including Espiritu Santo (8 zones; 1,049 ha); Punta Herrero (1 zone; 163 ha) and Banco Chinchorro (1 zone; 12,257 ha).

27. Fishing is an important economic activity in coastal areas of this seascape. The most important species for commercial fishing are the queen Conch (*Lobatus gigas*) and lobster (*Panulirus argus* and *P. guttatus*), but there are also numerous commercially important fin fish species. The Caribbean spiny lobster is listed in Annex III of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW protocol) of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention). Available data indicate that the Caribbean lobster is within the fully exploited and overexploited classification throughout much of its geographical range. Stromboid conch stocks in the FAO fishing Area 31 (Western Central Atlantic) have been placed by FAO as depleted.

28. Fish annual catches and quotas in the area have been declining for several years; for example, the quota for queen conch decreased from 45 tons in 1995 to 9 tons in 2018. Despite the establishment of the Banco Chinchorro reserve, the level of illegal fishing (particularly for queen conch) is still high and, as a result, the three fishing cooperatives that hold legal right to fish this species requested and were granted a 5-year ban on all fishing activities for this species. The project will focus on the

management of the Caribbean spiny lobster and queen conch fisheries, which are two of the most important commercial fisheries in the Mexican Caribbean. The queen conch is found in both Biosphere Reserves and is in high demand in the Caribbean due to its commercial and tourist value. It is also an endangered species under significant pressure, primarily due to extensive poaching in areas such as Xkalak and Banco Chinchorro. Lobster is the third most important fishery of the country by the value of exports. It is the main income source of many coastal communities within this project site. However, the lobster fishery also faces threats from unsustainable practices and over-fishing ? due to the species? perishability, caught lobster requires careful post capture handling. Given the high demand for lobster and its high market price, there is a strong opportunity to promote sustainable practices and develop new market opportunities, building on experiences and good practices that have worked in other fishing communities in the region with similar conditions and problems. The project also intends to increase the awareness among local fishing communities of the consequences of illegal fishing and to promote sustainable practices that could foster the sustainability of the fishery, thus protecting the species while increasing fishers? incomes through value addition and the use of the currently market-rejected oversized lobsters.

29. The QRC seascape includes 4 municipalities and 7 cities and coastal communities. The economies of Playa del Carmen (149,923 inhabitants) and Chetumal (151,243 inhabitants) are dominated by the tertiary productive sector (massive tourism and commerce) hence artisanal fisheries are less economically important[51][51]. Playa del Carmen has only six important cooperatives, each with <50 members. Most of these cooperatives lack major infrastructure, have few active fishing permits and are focused on local tourism services in addition to fisheries[52][52]. Most of the artisanal fishing practiced around Chetumal Bay are undertaken by fishers without official permits and there is only one individual permit holder. These fisheries provide income to approximately 130 persons, but the extractive phase is undertaken by <50 persons (most of them older than 50 years). The lack of permits prevents fishers from accessing government funds to improve infrastructure for landing and processing their catches. In the municipality of Tulum (18,233 inhabitants) 97 fishers are part of the two registered fishing cooperatives and almost 70% of the population is indigenous and at least 6% of the population does not speak Spanish[53]53. In the municipality of Felipe Carrillo Puerto 92% of the population is also indigenous[54]54. Punta Allen (800 inhabitants) is located inside the Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve. Punta Herrero is a tiny town of 61 inhabitants. Mahahual and Xkalac (920 and 375 inhabitants, respectively). Xcalak is a community that has been shifting its economic activities from fisheries to conservation and tourism[55]55. Cooperatives from Mahahual, Punta Herrero, Punta Allen and Xcalac have in total 106 members, grouped into four main cooperatives and the federation Cooperativas de Producci?n Pesquera de Quintana Roo. They fish at the coral atoll Banco Chinchorro, inside the Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve. These cooperatives and the private sector focused on processing and distribution of catches are well coordinated and control the national and international marketing of fisheries products under the collective brand *Chakay*, which was certified as a sustainable fishery by the Marine Stewardship Council[56][56]. Fishers from these communities have actively participated in conservation activities of local protected areas, the pursuit of sustainable fishing and the implementation of citizen science to fisheries management[57]57.

30. An estimated 606 artisanal fishers are active in the QRC seascape, including approximately 300 fishers operating out of Playa del Carmen; 100 fishers operating out of Chetumal Bay; 100 fishers operating out of Tulum, and 106 fishers operating out of Mahahual, Punta Herrero, Punta Allen and Xcalac. The highest producing cooperatives that operate at this seascape are listed in the table below. The average production levels of these cooperatives during 2018-2021 ranged from 1-80 tons per year, with economic values ranging from USD 6,000 ? USD 1.5 million per year. During the first year of implementation, the project will undertake a FPIC process with these productive units and others that might join the process, at the cities of San Miguel de Cozumel, Chetumal and Tulum. Coordinates for these locations are shown in Annex E. The FPIC process will build a portfolio of cooperatives and permits holders that accept implementing the project in their productive units.

Table 4: Cooperatives / Individual Permit Holders with the highest production volumes in the Quintana Roo Seascape

Cooperative of individual permit holder	Fishery	Yearly production volumes (2018-2021 average, fresh weight, tons)	$/kg (average)	Value (USD) of the average yearly production	Number of fishers
S.C.P.P.Cozumel S.C. de R.L.	Fish	2-8, 5	$5.2-$6.3, $5.8	$28,947	115
	Lobster	54-60, 57	$10.5-$21, $15.8	$900,000	
S.C.P.P. Jos? Mar?a Azcorra,	Fish	15	$5.2	$78,947	46
	Lobster	19-37, 28	$16.8-$11, $13.9	$390,526	
S.C.P. Pescadores de Banco Chinchorro	Fish	3-6, 4.5	$5.2-$6.3	$26,053	51
	Lobster	21-26, 23.5	$15.8-$18.4, $17.1	$401,974	
S.C. Langosteros Del Caribe	Fish	1	$6.3	$6,316	33
	Lobster	22-27, 24.5	$15.8-$16.8, $16.3	$399,737	
	Pink snail	3	$11-$12.6, $11.8	$35,526	
S.C. Vigia Chico	Lobster	70-80, 75	$17.3-$450, $23.7	$1,539,474	95
S.C. Andr?s Quintana Roo	Fish	1	$6.3	$6,316	27
	Lobster	22-27, 24.5	$15.8-$16.8, $16.3	$39,974	

	Pink snail	3	$11-$12.6, $11.8	$35,526	

Baja California Sur Seascape

31. Located in the Gulf of California, the Baja California Sur (BCS) seascape encompasses 2 Natural Protected Areas and 12 No-Take Zones. The islands of the Gulf of California are recognized by the international scientific community as one of the most ecologically intact island ecosystems in the world and among the few natural laboratories still in existence. More than 875 species of fish, representing 145 families and 446 genera, inhabit the waters of the Gulf of California, of which 77 species are considered endemic. The Esp?ritu Santo Archipelago National Park, located off the coast of the municipality of La Paz, encompasses 48,655 ha. of the marine area that harbour a wide variety of fish, mammals, seabirds and invertebrates; as well as a heterogeneity of habitats such as mangroves, sandy bottoms, rocky reefs, estuaries, beaches, bays and mantles of rhodolites of high ecological integrity. The park is also an important feeding and sheltering site for numerous species that are representative of the marine biodiversity of the Gulf of California. The Islas del Golfo de California Wildlife Protection Area encompasses 898 islands located off the shores of the states of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora and Sinaloa. Of these, the islands most relevant to the proposed project are San Jos?, Santa Cruz and Santa Catalina. Finally, there is a complex of 12 No-Take Zones with a total are of 6,966 ha. located in the San Cosme - Punta Coyote Marine Corridor, which is a designated priority ecoregion for conservation according to the WWF Global 200 list, and is located adjacent to the Key Biodiversity Areas of Archipielago San Jos? and Bah?a de Loreto National Park[58][58].

32. To curb the decline of fish stocks in the BCS seascape resulting from increased fishing from non-resident fishermen, the use of new fishing gear that has been highly destructive of marine habitats, and the impacts of climate change, a network of 12 No-Take Zones in the area was established in 2012. The NTZs in this corridor have helped to improve the health of the multi-species finfish fishery in the area by preserving habitat and enabling the restoration of the population levels of some species, including commercially fished finfish (although data is lacking on the relative impacts of NTZs and changes in environmental conditions on fish stocks). However, the existing complex of NTZs has not been sufficiently large to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks, and several key habitat areas remain unprotected. The NTZs were initially valid for 5 years; they have since received a second period of validation that extends from 2017 ? 2022 (with the possibility of revalidating it again for another 5 years). Realizing the economic and social benefits of the establishment of no-take zones, ten fishing communities in the municipalities of La Paz, Comond?, and Loreto have requested that the existing network of no-take zones is extended and made permanent.

33. Fishing is one of the most important economic activities within the Gulf of California and critical to the economies of even large cities in the region such as La Paz. Small-scale or artisanal fisheries have played a central role in the establishment, consolidation and growth of many coastal communities along the Gulf, and fishing remains the primary activity today in these communities. The Baja California Sur seascape is part of the Eastern Central Pacific fishing statistical area monitored by FAO (FAO area 77). This Statistical area covers a total surface of 48.90 million km2. It extends from 40?00?N and 40?30?N off northern California, USA, to 05?00?N off southern Panama and 25?00?S off South America farther offshore in the mid-Pacific. The differences in climate, water circulation patterns, and enrichment processes influence the distribution and abundance of fishery species.

Historical capture fish production reveals that small and large pelagics sustain major local fisheries. The status of the main fish stocks in the area varies widely. In general terms, blue fin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) is overexploited; miscellaneous coastal finfish such as snappers (*Hoplopagrus guentherii*) and groupers (*Mycteroperca jordani*), ranging from moderately exploited to overexploited. Science-based information and fisheries management regulations are also variable throughout the area and among species.

34. In the BCS seascape, the project will focus on the management of the finfish fishery, which spreads across the complex of NTZs as well as neighbouring NPAs and unprotected waters. This fishery includes finfish species such as snappers (*Hoplopagrus guentherii*), groupers (*Mycteroperca jordani*), mullets (*Mugil cephalus)* and mackerels, all of which are part of the fishery group called ?escama? with more than 200 species. Based on catch statistics from 2011-2016, 85% of the catch within the marine corridor consists of the following species: red snapper (*Lutjanus peru*); ocean whitefish (*Caulolatilus pr?nceps*); Pacific creolefish (*Paranthias colonus*); horse mackerel (*Seriola lalandi*); finescale triggerfish (*Balistes polylepis*); mulatto snapper (*Hoplopagrus guentherii*); Yellow snapper (*Lutjanus argentiventris*) and Leopard Grouper (*Mycteroperca rosacea*). Fishers can receive a license for the overall fishery. Typically, small-scale fishers (SSFs) use this license as a supplement to the income from other fisheries - like lobster or shrimp. However, this license is the main income source of fishing households in some cases. Most of the fish products extracted from this area go to local markets in La Paz, Loreto and Comond?, or to cities such as Guadalajara and Tijuana.

35. The cities of La Paz (215,178 inhabitants) and Loreto (14,724 inhabitants) have very low and low indexes of margination and social gap, respectively. In 2015, there were 29 cooperatives registered at the municipality of Loreto. The majority of them (16 cooperatives) operated inside the Loreto Bay National Park, nine cooperatives operated at the northern limit of the park and four cooperatives operated at the San Cosme-Punta Coyote Marine Corridor, the southern limit of the park and Santa Catalina Island[59][59]. The municipality of La Paz accounts for 74 registered cooperatives - 80% of them are organized by four federations. At least 41 out of the 74 registered cooperatives operate inside La Paz Bay[60][60] and three cooperatives operate inside the San Cosme-Punta Coyote Marine Corridor.

36. Rural coastal communities distributed along the coasts of both municipalities are rural, highly remote, hard-to-reach and have restricted access to freshwater, education and communication. Indexes for margination and social gap are high and medium, respectively. In total, the two municipalities house <700 persons in 13 communities, being fishers 173 persons. Access to some of these communities is only feasible by boat. Those coastal communities have 15-255 inhabitants, 2-60 artisanal fishers, 1-34 boats and 0-17 fishing permits. They are highly dependent on small-scale fishing, as well as small-scale farming and cattle raising[61][61],[62]62. Only 100 fishers are organized into seven cooperatives, while the rest of the fishers are independent or employees of a permit owner[63][63].

37. Local authorities from CONANP have confirmed the absence of indigenous communities or indigenous territorial governments along this project seascape.

38. An estimated 480 artisanal fishers are active in the BCS seascape, including 190 resident fishers and approximately 120 outsider fishers from Loreto and La Paz, and 170 fishers from the Espiritu Santo Archipelago. The highest producing cooperatives that operate at the San Cosme-Punta

Coyote coastal corridor and the Espiritu Santo Archipelago National Park are listed below. During the first year of implementation, the project will undertake a stakeholder engagement process with these productive units and others that might join the process, including the cities and communities of Loreto, La Paz, Agua Verde, Tembabiche, Los Dolores, Ensenada de Cort?s, Palma Sola, Punta Alta, La Cueva, Nopol?, San Evaristo, El Pardito, Portugu?s, Punta Coyote. Coordinates for these locations are shown in Annex E. The stakeholder engagement process will build a portfolio of cooperatives and permits holders that accept implementing the project in their productive units.

Table 5: Cooperatives / Individual Permit Holders with the highest yearly production in the Baja California Sur Seascape

Project seascape region	Cooperative of individual permit holder	Fishery	Production volumes (fresh weight, tons)	$/kg (average)	Value (USD) of the production	Number of fishers
San Cosme-Punta Coyote coastal corridor	SCPP Playas del Puertito	Fish	70[64][64]	$5	$349,026.79	114
	SCPP Roca Solitaria					
	SCPP Islote de Agua Verde					
	SCPP Acuicola y de Servicios Tur?sticos Isla San Jos?					
	SCPP San Juan de la Costa					
	SCPP La Almejita					
	SCPP Pescadores de Isla Santa Cruz					
	SCPP y Serv. Tur. Coral de Tembabiche					
	Permisionarios varios					76
Esp?ritu Santo Arch. Nat. Park	S.C.P.P. Ensenada Blanca de Balandra		1.3[65][65]	$2.5	$1,528.11	120
	S.C.P.P. Uni?n de Pescadores Libres B.C.S					

	S.C.P.P. Pescadores del Esterito					
	S.C. Hermanos Calder?n					
	S.C.P.P. La Cuaresma de La Paz					
	S.C.P.P. de altura "Bah?a de La Paz"					
	Uni?n de Pescadores Bah?a de La Paz					
	S.C.P.P. Pescadores Unidos de La Paz					

Threats / Root Causes of Environmental Problems

39. Although many analyses have attempted to define the natural and anthropogenic threats to Mexican ecosystems[66]66, the absence of long-term monitoring programs that can assess *ex-ante* and *ex-post* effects of major disturbances constitute a major limitation. There is only limited ecological information on disturbance regimes (extension, frequency, duration, patch type, and recovery rate). Information and knowledge gaps for threats to coastal and marine ecosystems are widespread, including information on long-term trends such as water discharge and water quality flows from rivers, comparative analyses of ecological and economic impacts of hurricanes between the Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Caribbean.

40. Mexico?s National System of Natural Protected Areas consists of 37 marine and coastal protected areas covering 649,587 km2, and 92% of Mexican islands are currently protected by an NPA. Yet, several threats continue to degrade biodiversity and ecosystem services within NPAs and in the broader seascapes in Mexico, as described below:

41. Infrastructure and Tourism Development: The rapid unplanned growth of the human population along the coasts (1/4 of the national population lives at the coast, and this population currently has the highest birth rates in the country)[67]67 creates multiple negative impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems. Approximately 90% of the national and international flow of merchandise in Mexico occurs by maritime routes, resulting in the development of huge ports and large-scale immigration to the coastal zone. Conflicts for land ownership along Mexico?s coasts are common due to the high land values and absence of clear property and access rights. In some tourism hotspots, the value of land has increased by 900% over the last decade. Furthermore, urban and industrial development (including tourism) is profoundly changing coastal areas, and the constant and rapid pace of development has resulted in degraded or destroyed natural ecosystems, reduced ecological productivity and biodiversity, and severe impacts from pollution and sedimentation.

42. Pollution: Coastal pollution in Mexico causes negative interactions with vessels and boats, tourism, seafood, and the entanglement of marine wildlife. Mexico is reviewing its waste management laws and policies in the face of growing evidence of the ubiquity, longevity, and negative effects of plastic waste in the environment, particularly in aquatic habitats[68]68. In addition, more recent problems - such as the disposal of facemasks since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak - have further increased current pollution levels and impacts[69]69.

43. Increasing fishing effort and unsustainable fishing practices: The causes of the increasing pressure on Mexican fisheries are multiple. In many places, inappropriate fishing practices continue to be employed, including for example the use of long lines and floating gills and anchors that damage both fish habitat (e.g. coral reefs) and fish populations themselves.[70][70] In some places, illegal fishing continues to be an important problem. For example, illegal fishing of high-value species such as lobster and queen conch, fishing within restricted areas and/or with prohibited gear, harvesting fish below minimum catch sizes, among others. The impacts of illegal fishing have been so severe in some areas (on both fish stocks and the incomes of fishermen obeying the law) that they have helped to galvanize fisher associations to support fishing restrictions/bans. In addition, unsustainable levels of fishing effort (as well as unsustainable practices) are affecting many fisheries, including all of the fisheries targeted by this project. Access to fishing in Mexico is essentially open, and hundreds of thousands of individuals practice commercial fishing, individually or collectively, in a wide array of legal and illegal ways. Unfortunately, even when faced with declining fish stocks, fishing communities find it difficult to agree on harvest reductions. This fact is due to several factors: i) weak governance (due to lack of community coordination and capacity for co-management); ii) lack of productive economic alternatives for many fishing communities; and iii) the low level of understanding even among fishermen of the importance of biodiversity conservation and the negative impacts of ecosystem degradation from fishing practices. While unsustainable fishing is a problem throughout the country, different areas are subject to varying types of problems, including **the following problems for artisanal fisheries in the seascapes targeted by the proposed project:**

? Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape: Exploitation of undersized and immature lobster, as well as gravid female lobster, with the aim of harvesting as much lobster as possible despite the sacrifice in price.

? Baja California Sur seascape: IUU fishing, facilitated by the absence of effective regulations for local artisanal fisheries (lack of regulations on minimal allowed sized, fishery closure periods, and incidence of overfishing), commercial fishing by means of nocturnal diving operations, and instances of illegal shrimp trawl operations by industrial vessels. In addition, without improvements in freezing and cooling infrastructure and access to fuel, artisanal fishing in this region will continue to be carried out with very few value-added activities, and fishers will therefore continue to focus on maximizing catch levels at any cost. In addition, the high level of uncertainty about land ownership in this seascape hinders basic development (roads development, electrification, health services, public education, potable water) and fishers? livelihoods.

? Central Pacific Islands seascape: IUU fishing, facilitated by the absence of effective regulations for local artisanal fisheries and the absence of surveillance, is a significant problem.

In addition, illegal fishing by foreign fleets has been widely reported in this seascape (Maria Cleofas Island is known as a frequent refuge for illegal artisanal and industrial fishers)[71][71].

44. Climate Change Impacts: In Mexico, climate change is believed to be responsible for various impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems, including changes in weather patterns, changes in ocean temperature and sea level rise; water stratification due to changes in water density, increased acidification, decreased oxygen and reduced primary productivity, which are jointly directly impacting the structure and function of these ecosystems. This problem affects the proposed project sites with significant biodiversity that is highly vulnerable to changes in ecosystem functioning. These same impacts are also driving shifts in the availability and distribution of marine species, for example by causing invertebrate deaths and hypoxia events, which are in turn having both direct and indirect negative impacts on seafood catches and consequently on the levels of cash income of fishing communities . This problem is particularly acute because these climate change impacts are aggravating the negative consequences of unsustainable fishing practices that exist for some of the most important fish stocks.[72][72] Also, it is projected that some fish stocks will not only decline in productivity but also will spatially shift poleward in response to climate change, in which case they will become unattainable to the communities that have fished them historically.[73][73]

45. Degradation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems: Massive invasions of Sargassum seaweed have been reported for over a decade in the Atlantic Ocean and have affected the coastline of the Mexican Caribbean. First reported in Mexico in 2011, these invasions are particularly intense along the north coast of Quintana Roo (up to 2,360 m^3 of sargassum seaweed per km of beach have been recorded). This multifactorial phenomenon (identified triggers include excessive inputs of nutrients into coastal waters; as well as shifts in sea currents and superficial seawater temperature and irradiance), combined with contamination by plastics of coastal and marine waters[74][74], have resulted in important economic losses for tourism in a region that generated up to 1.5% of the national gross domestic product[75][75]. This phenomenon has also resulted in the mortality of marine fauna (polychaetes, fish, sea turtles, sea cucumbers, lobsters) related to anoxic conditions caused by decomposing seaweed (decomposition generates and introduces sulphuric acid into the water and the atmosphere), as well as the migration of local marine fauna to other locations[76][76].

Barrier Analysis

46. The main barriers to the sustainable co-management of fisheries in Mexico are:

Barrier #1: Poor implementation of existing fisheries policies and regulations, insufficient institutional coordination and capacities to implement ecosystem-based fisheries management approaches, and the need for more reliable and easily available information/data on fisheries and marine ecosystems

47. One of the key barriers to effective fisheries and marine ecosystem management is the lack of institutional alignment and coordination between key agencies. Most notably, CONANP is focused on marine conservation while CONAPESCA is focused on fisheries production, and the lack of an ecosystem-based approach that incorporates both priorities results in poor coordination and even conflicting actions in some cases. Although both agencies have well-defined roles, the lack of coordination between the two in designing public policy and regulations and implementing management on the ground, has constrained both fisheries management and marine conservation objectives. Since many fish stocks move between areas managed by CONANP (e.g. NPAs) and areas managed by CONAPESCA (e.g. NTZs), this lack of coordination and alignment prevents effective management of many fish stocks. In addition, poor institutional capacities also create barriers to effective management; for example, government agencies are often unable to effectively implement Marine Protected Areas management programs or regulations for no-take zones due to limited capacities for inspection, surveillance and sanctioning of non-compliant activities. At most of the sites in which the project will work, existing infrastructure and staff are unable to fully meet the needs of conservation, monitoring, dissemination, signalling, environmental education, and community and sustainable development of the system.

48. Effective management of Mexican fisheries is also constrained by low capacities for monitoring and surveillance, making it difficult to measure and control the number of licensed fishers, their fishing operations and the detection of undocumented fishing vessels, as well as the accurate monitoring of fish stocks and regeneration rates that should guide management decisions on closures. In 2018, there were only 210 inspectors from CONAPESCA assigned to survey Mexico?s marine exclusive economic zone. Those inspectors worked only 5 days/week, only in daylight and had 65 boats for undertaking their duties[77][77]. By the end of 2019, and as result of national austerity policies, there were only 7 inspectors of CONAPESCA available for the entire state of Baja California Sur, with 2,230 Km of coastline[78][78]. The intention of transferring surveillance responsibilities from CONAPESCA to the Mexican Navy was announced in July 2017[79][79] and was confirmed again in July 2020[80][80], and by the end of 2020, the first group of 30 elements of the Mexican Navy had concluded their training as Federal Inspectors for Fisheries[81][81]. However, as of today, this transfer of responsibilities has not happened officially and CONAPESCA is still responsible for all fisheries surveillance and monitoring. In addition, due to government austerity measures, the capacities of the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) related to the prosecution of crimes inside and outside of NPAs and preventive surveillance against such potential crimes, has been drastically reduced. A number of PROFEPA offices are in the process of being closed[82][82], which will reduce its spatial coverage and presence in various parts of Mexico.

49. The existing regulatory framework for fisheries and marine ecosystems is highly complex and often subject to discretional interpretation due to a lack of information. Fisheries *Ordenamientos*[83][83]

and Management Programs, which are intended to regulate and manage fisheries and promote the sustainable exploitation of fishing resources, are frequently incomplete as they do not have sufficient data on fisheries participants, the fish stocks that are being targeted, or the fishing technologies that are being applied. Fisheries management in Mexico is also constrained by insufficient and out-dated data in terms of fishery catch reference points, stock assessments, and the number of fishers, licenses, vessels, gear and targeted species in a fishery. Most of the current approaches to estimate climate impacts on fisheries are developed at a global scale, even when the majority of fisheries worldwide are managed at a national or local scale, which leads to inadequate measures that could be inefficient. The conditions of each region, ecosystem and local population are very specific.[84][84]

50. Furthermore, Mexican fisheries generate only marginal contributions to the national economy, hindering the generation of high-quality information for planning and management[85]85. The National Fisheries Chart of Mexico[86][86] is the official reference document for reference points of the country fisheries. Nevertheless, only 1% of the factsheets presented by this document have all information fields complete, only 4% of them have verifiable sources of information and the rest of them are based on restricted access information. This official reference document was created in year 2000 and the national law obliges its yearly update. Nevertheless, it has been updated only five times since then and 51% of the factsheets presented by that document have not been updated in more than 8 years[87][87].

51. Another key issue for the sustainability of Mexico?s fisheries is the level of fishing effort and precise information on the number of legal and illegal fishers in the country?s waters. Several studies have looked at this issue, given that the magnitude of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Mexico is estimated to be 40-60% of the officially reported catch[88][88], but with limited success. Nevertheless, CONAPESCA is implementing a national campaign to update and re-organize the legal fishing effort, which provides expedited and free 2- to 5-year fishing permits to active fishers that do not have permits and/or fishers whose previous requests for fishing permits have been rejected[89][89]. The first edition of that campaign (2020-2021) is expected to reach one-third of the irregular fishing boats estimated by CONAPESCA, resulting in the licensing of 22,285 artisanal fishing boats that were not part of the legal fishing effort. By the first week of January 2021, CONAPESCA had received at least 1,837 applications for new fishing permits (997 from illegal fishers and 840 applications from indigenous fishers)[90][90]. According to CONAPESCA, most of those applications were from fishers living in marginal and indigenous communities, who aim to fish in better legal, social and economic conditions. However, the granting of these licenses belies the fact that only 7% of Mexican fisheries are in a healthy-enough condition to support increased fishing effort[91][91].

52. Before the establishment of the national austerity policy, CONAPESCA directed up to 70% of its budget to subsidies, primarily for fuel, new fishing vessels and boats, motors and freezing systems. However, several analyses considered that most of those subsides were perverse[92][92] because they allowed the operation in a larger spatial extent and temporal duration of highly inefficient industrial

shrimp trawlers, sardine purse seiners and shark longliners, which in turn generated high bycatch and discard volumes. In addition to this, 70% of the total subsidies were allocated to only 10% of the beneficiaries and in just two states (Sonora and Sinaloa). Furthermore, only small amounts of subsidies were directed to surveillance and stock restoration approaches such as NTZs. Between 2013 and 2018, only seven NTZ networks received operating subsidies that allowed for the acquisition of fuel for surveillance and monitoring. Among the NTZs, there were significant inequities in the assignation of subsidies; the Ulloa Gulf NTZ (South Baja California) received 74% of the total subsidies, while NTZs from Sonora and Quintana Roo did not receive any operating subsidies[93][93]. Due to the national austerity policy, between 2019 and 2020 no operating subsidies were allocated to the 36 NTZ polygons of the country[94][94].

53. In general terms, marine and coastal ecosystems in Mexico are not adequately recognized and prioritized, as they are considered infinite or lack an easily quantifiable monetary value.[95][95] As a result, many existing fisheries management plans do not take sufficient account of managing the ecosystems that support fish populations, nor are they adapted to the specific ecological and social conditions of specific sites and communities. This is another reason why it is a high priority to move towards an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, which will enable the integration of socio-economic and environmental priorities. In addition, poor environmental knowledge among all stakeholders, including lack of awareness regarding the dependence of fish stocks on well-functioning marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as their importance in terms of food security and economic stability, inhibits effective management and reduces local support for sustainable long-term approaches to maintaining healthy fish stocks.

Barrier #2: Weak community involvement in fisheries governance and management

54. Effective governance of Mexican fisheries in partnership with fisher organizations is challenging due to: i) the high degree of turnover within these organizations; ii) the high number of individuals that fish without belonging to a cooperative or other organized collective body; iii) the high occurrence of illegal, irregular and unreported fishing in Mexican waters; and iv) the reduced availability of human and material resources in authorities and civil organizations for managing and regulating the activity[96]96.

55. In Mexico, both NPAs and no-take zones have attempted to apply co-management schemes. However, these attempts have not succeeded for the most part due to power asymmetries between management authorities and local communities. Community members often feel frustrated, uninformed and unprepared and with their voices not heard or their interests not adequately taken into account, resulting in a lack of participation. There are very few examples of participatory diagnoses of fisheries issues. Fishers often feel disenfranchised from and resistant to management decisions and local regulations. Power within fishing cooperatives and federations is often concentrated in a few people. There is a lack of mechanisms to bring together government agencies and fishermen, and to share easy-

to-understand scientific findings and data to demonstrate the relevance of introducing fishery management measures and agree on fishing limits.

56. Uncertainty about fishing rights and quotas, insufficient data on fish stocks and movements, weak law enforcement and area surveillance, and the absence of dialogue and evidence-based conflict-resolution mechanisms, have also constrained the ability of communities and managers to collaborate effectively.

57. Many government agencies do not have offices or staff in local communities. The absence of other local partners leads to limited trust from fishers. To worsen the scenario, existing community monitoring and vigilance schemes have mostly been inadequate and insufficient, due largely to poor training, the lack of effective technologies and a regular follow up

Barrier #3: Insufficient capacities to add value to and commercialize fish catches, resulting in low incomes among small-scale fisherwomen and fishermen, and increased pressure on fish stocks and ecosystem functions.

58. At a global level, every dollar extracted from the sea is estimated to produce an average of 3 additional dollars in value through post-capture fishing practices. However, the average added value in Mexico is only 60 cents per dollar.[97][97] The productivity of Mexican artisanal fishers[98][98] has been affected by the continued overexploitation of their fisheries, environmental degradation of coastal habitats, high operating costs (mostly related to the high cost of off board motors, fuel and fishing gears), absence of fishing regulation (i.e. leading to abundance of idle fishing permits and irregular and illegal fishers), and limitations for directly addressing markets[99][99].

59. The reasons for the inability of Mexican fisheries to generate more added value are varied: i) Lack of infrastructure and transport facilities that result in fisheries products being sold on the beach. Fishers lose the opportunity to add value during the post-capture process, and sell the fish at higher prices to more diverse markets; ii) Fishermen have a relatively strong capacity to negotiate subsidies and governmental benefits, but lack market negotiation, administrative and financial skills. Fishery cooperatives are also unable to effectively coordinate and communicate with each other; iii) Fishers that apply sustainable management practices have difficult access to certification schemes (MSC) and to differentiated markets; iv) Lack of consensus in Mexico regarding the definition of ?sustainable fisheries?; v) As most consumers have incomplete information about the seafood, demand for certified or specialized fish products is limited and not prioritized. Even those consumers interested in purchasing sustainable seafood frequently have difficulty in sourcing such products; vi) Fishing communities in the project target areas suffer from a lack of alternative livelihoods. Vii) Middlemen indirectly prevent fisher folk?s direct access to better markets beyond the fishing communities, by facilitating the trading process through the collection of fresh seafood directly from landing sites, while paying much lower prices than what fishers would get if they sold processed products.

The local population should add value to their products by switching to sustainable fishing practices and respond to market demand, or find innovative income-generating activities, to avoid the negative effects of human population growth on fisheries and marine habitats.

There are some examples of successful commercial operations of sustainable artisanal fisheries in Mexico[100]: fisheries that have improved the quality and value of their catch, adopted better fishing standards, and reached financial stability and entrepreneurial expansion. However, these examples have very specific contexts not comparable at the national scale. In addition, to date all Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) processes undertaken in Mexican fisheries have been paid for by the government and civil organizations, and most of the costs of on-going Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) are being borne by civil organizations. Fishers have yet to generate the income and resources necessary to pursue certification on their own.

Barrier #4: Gender gaps in fisheries value chains

60. The minimization of gender gaps is a key component for the success of sustainable fisheries worldwide[101]. Analyses of gender perspectives in Latin American fisheries are recent[102] and Mexican studies are still limited in terms of measuring the participation of women in the capture, processing, and sale of fishery products, with few quantitative and qualitative analyses with sex-disaggregated data[103],[104],[105],[106]. The knowledge generated by community leadership programs, empowerment and collective action is starting to be public[107],[108],[109]. In 2017, CONAPESCA, the Commission for Gender Equity from the Mexican Senate, and the Environmental Defense Fund-Mexico organized the Regional Forum ?Women?s role in sustainable fishing?, to illustrate the contributions of women to Mexican fisheries and aim for the generation of public policies that effectively empower women in national fisheries[110].

61. According to CONAPESCA, at least 22,000 women are directly employed in fisheries[111]. Nevertheless, 93% of the recipients of subsidies granted by CONAPESCA between 2011 and 2019 were men[112]. 7 out of 8 job positions in the extractive phase of fisheries are occupied by men (although women do occupy close to 50% of indirectly related job positions). In consequence, less than 10% of women in cooperatives are formal members or directors. Most of the fishing permits are issued to men. In a cooperative, when a fisher passes away, his son will typically inherit his membership rather than his wife or daughters. In addition, in order to become a member of a fishing cooperative without having inherited a legacy membership, a candidate must work exclusively in

extractive activities for several years. Since women primarily contribute to either pre- or post-production activities, they are hindered from becoming members. Instead, women usually collaborate in bait preparation, nets construction and repair, catch processing and marketing[113][113]. Those activities are recognized as ?help? and are unpaid[114]114. It is also frequent that the catch obtained by women is intended for feeding their families or sold locally, whereas only catches generated by men enter markets[115][115].

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

2a. Baseline Scenario

Policies, laws and regulations

62. The three project seascapes are regulated by a set of federal institutions, the most relevant of which are responsible for productive sectors (the Minister of Agriculture as head of the sector, which includes INAPESCA and CONAPESCA.) the environment (CONANP, SEMARNAT, PROFEPA) and public security (SEMAR, FGR). State and municipal dependencies with mandates relevant to fisheries are also important stakeholders in Baja California Sur and Central Pacific Islands seascapes, but less in the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape.

63. Several laws and policies constitute the primary instruments governing environmental management and fisheries in Mexico and form an important baseline for project activities. The legal framework for the management of fisheries in Mexico includes the General Law for Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection (LGEEPA), the General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (LGPAS), and the Mexican Official Standards for environmental and fisheries issues. The LGPAS establishes and defines principles to plan, promote, and regulate the management and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture; establishes a regime for permits and authorizations for fisheries and aquaculture activities; and regulates the designation of fisheries No Take Zones (NTZs).

64. The National Environmental Policy for the Sustainable Development of the Oceans and Coasts (PANDSOC) is the key policy for the integrated management of the coastal and marine areas of the country. The PANDSOC authorizes subsidies that are given by CONANP to fishers and adjacent communities to promote the conservation of ecosystems and their biodiversity in Priority Regions, as well as subsidies from CONAPESCA as part of its Program for the Promotion of Fisheries and Aquaculture Productivity.

65. Mexico?s National Policy on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture addresses food sovereignty and requires that fisheries and aquaculture resource usage is compatible with their natural recovery and sustainability. Fishing gear, equipment and methods should be selected to minimize environmental impacts in order to maintain the structure of fish populations; and that fisheries authorities should adopt the precautionary principle in defining fishing quotas and effort.

66. Mexico?s National Development Plan establishes that public programs must prioritize the country?s most vulnerable communities; and fishing communities are often among the most vulnerable in the country.

67. The National Fisheries Chart is a technical publication for the fishing sector and a binding mechanism for the decision-making processes of fisheries authorities; the chart includes technical information for the adoption and implementation of measures for the control of fishing effort, and the resolution of authorization requests and permits for fisheries and aquaculture activities.

68. National and international regulatory instruments and international treaties (including decrees, State and General laws and rules, Official Standards, Territorial Planning and Development Programs, management programs, as well as IUCN, UNESCO and Ramsar Conference designations) govern activities in each of the project seascapes, with 48 such instruments relevant to the QRC seascape and 19 each in the CPI and BCS seascapes. All nine of the NPAs involved in the project have conservation and management programs, although six of these were published at least 14 years ago and have not been updated.

69. At the site level, the project will build on several baseline activities. Fishing *Ordenamientos* exist for two of the three regions targeted by this project. In the Caribbean region, the Marine and Regional Ecological Management Program of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea was created in 2012 and jointly agreed to by the Federal Government and the governments of the relevant coastal states. In the Gulf of California, the Marine Ecological Management of the Gulf of California was agreed to in 2004 by the Federal Government and the Governments of all states along the Gulf of California (both of these *Ordenamientos* need to be updated). These programs are designed to govern land and resource use to achieve environmental protection and preservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and are intended to: i) distribute the activities of different sectors in the most suitable sites; ii) maximize consensus between sectors and minimize conflict for development activities; and iii) conserve, protect and restore the natural resources and biodiversity of the region.

70. Most fisheries targeting fish species in Mexico have a lax regulatory framework and in many cases essentially operate under an open access regime. In the BCS seascape, the only regulatory instruments for fisheries are the official standard for fishery refuges and local voluntary agreements limiting fishing to the use of hand-held hooks. In the CPI seascape, commercial fishing is only allowed at the Marietas Islands buffer zone; it is formally forbidden around 12-nautical miles perimeters around the Marias islands, although frequent illegal fishing activities are undertaken at the southernmost island of the archipelago. In the QRC seascape, the high value lobster and pink snail fisheries are carefully regulated; the San Cosme-Punta Coyote coastal corridor is the only project area with a Consultative Committee. This committee (which includes fishing cooperatives and individual permit

holders)[116][116] has strengthened the signalling scheme for the local fisheries refuges network, created a specific work group for analysing solutions related to illegal fishing and overfishing of sea cucumber, and identified options for the local diversification of fisheries. Fishery Consultative Committees are the highest level of participatory management in Mexico.

Fisheries Management and Marine Conservation Programs in the project seascapes

71. In all three project seascapes, CONAPESCA plays an active role in fisheries management through the on-going activities and programs of its offices and personnel in both regions, while INAPESCA carries out technical and scientific research programs on the status of fisheries, including assessing and updating information on fisheries practices, efforts levels, and trends. In the CPI seascape, CONANP has done extensive outreach with fishing communities operating in the Islas Marietas, and has also implemented some reef restoration work in areas that constitute important habitats for fish. In the QRC seascape, fishermen who are authorized to fish in the Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve recognized that illegal fishing of Queen Conch within the reserve was a significant threat and worked with CONANP?s staff in the reserve to establish a fishing ban for this species[117][117]; this provides a good opportunity to replicate such activities in adjacent areas. CONANP staff responsible for managing the Banco Chinchorro reserve have also had success in working with fishers in the management of the Caribbean lobster, and various fish species, as well as working with local communities on conservation activities in wetlands and for the control of exotic fauna. Also, both the Banco Chinchorro and Sian Ka?an reserves have implemented Climate Change Adaptation Programs in which local stakeholders who benefit from the natural resources of the area, such as tourism providers, fishermen and other local inhabitants, have participated in activities such as wetland restoration, the development of contingency plans and risk atlases, the diagnosis of conservation of coastal ecosystems and the quantification of carbon stored in the restored surfaces, and raising community awareness of the risks of climate change.[118][118] These activities have increased local awareness of environmental issues and willingness to participate in resource management decisions and activities.

72. Mexico?s General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture authorizes several mechanisms for social participation in fisheries management (with a primary focus co-management and research[119][119]) that allow diverse stakeholder to meet and try to develop consensus about management decisions in informed and responsible ways. These mechanisms include the National Council for Fisheries and Aquaculture, State Councils for Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the National Network of Information and Research on Fisheries and Aquaculture. In addition, Consultative Committees of Fisheries Management and Planning are spaces for individual fishers, State and Federal authorities in fisheries, scientists, and civil organizations to discuss solutions to the urgent most problems of particular fisheries.

Investment in fisheries in the project seascapes

73. The investment of public resources by CONAPESCA and CONANP is shifting. 72.5% of the public resources applied between 2011 and 2019 by CONAPESCA were subsidies worth MXP $17.6

billion[120]120, with three subsidy programs accounting for more than 50% of that amount: fuel subsidies (24%); fleet modernization (15%); and Propesca (15%). Propesca subsidies consisted of economic support to artisanal fishers, crews of industrial fleets and aquaculture employees whose operations were temporarily restricted by fishery closures, fishery refuges and/or other ordination/management decisions. From 2011 - 2019, the CPI and BCS seascapes received MXP $329,170,455 and MXP $111,654,492 of Propesca subsidies respectively, while the QRC seascape received only MXP $14,981,000. In 2019, Propesca changed its name and specifications to Bienpesca, and moved to making direct money transfers from the government to successful applicants. At the start of Bienpesca, eligible applicants needed to belong to the National Census of Fishers and Aquaculturists, but now, eligible applicants include individuals in the process of receiving a fishing permit, individuals that have registered catch or production landings, and individuals participating in CONAPESCA?s fisheries/effort regularization and ordination processes[121][121]. Bienpesca currently provides subsidies to 201,714 persons, with the goal of promoting the productive development of vulnerable and marginalized coastal communities, enhancing local job opportunities and increasing local incomes and wellbeing, and generating material conditions that improve productive activities. Other relevant subsidies applied by CONAPESCA at the project seascapes are for the promotion of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through investments in physical, human and technological capital securing food security and enhancing production. Between 2015 and 2018, the BCS seascape received MXP $12,098,410, the CPI seascape MXP $5,413,559, and the QRC seascape MXP $1,202,601[122]122.

74. CONANP experienced significant budget contractions between 2015 and 2019 that reduced its operating capacities by 75%[123]123,[124]124. Nevertheless, between 2015 and 2020, CONANP was able to operating its PROCODES subsidy program (focused on the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity for local social development in local NPAs) in the amounts of MPX $30,418,849, MXP $14,864,913 and MXP $9,652,500 in the QRC, BCS and CPI seascapes respectively[125]125. During the same period, CONANP provided MXP $10 million from its PROCER subsidy program for the conservation of threatened coral species in the QRC seascape.

75. With regard to private sector financing of the fisheries sector, the Mexican financial system offers a number of credit options for fishers (e.g. Fondo de Garant?a y Fomento para las Actividades Pesqueras (FOPESCA) of Fideicomisos Instituidos en Relaci?n con la Agricultura[126]126), which are usually operated through banks, credit unions, etc. Another option is Financiera Nacional de Desarrollo Agropecuario, Rural, Forestal y Pesquero (related to Hacienda), which offers credits to small and large producers. In all cases, access to credit is only feasible through a legal figure with warranties to credits.

2b. Associated Baseline Projects

76. Several recently concluded initiatives have established important learned lessons for the proposed project. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) supported several such projects, including: 1) Sinergy+: Strengthening the effective management of NPAs[127]127, an initiative to support CONANP in establishing strategic alliances for biodiversity conservation by consolidating citizen networks for participation in conservation and promoting the establishment of voluntary areas for conservation in 62 NPAs in 25 Mexican States, including Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo; 2) Citizen participation and environmental governance for sustainability 2014-2019[128]128, a project that developed guidelines for the consolidation and operation of consultative councils for sustainable development in SEMARNAT, as well as incentives for enhancing the participation of the population in environmental conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources; and 3) Inclusion for sustainable development[129]129, a project that piloted training modules on financial education and behavioural economy, with an explicit gender perspective, representing a significant empowerment tool for Mexican women.

77. On-going local initiatives include: 1) Community strengthening for the control and monitoring of Lionfish[130]130, in which the Sociedad Cooperativa de Producci?n Pesquera - Pescadores del Banco Chinchorro S.C. de R.L is collaborating with 20 governmental and academic institutions and civil organizations for the consolidation and operation of a local committee for the control of the invasive Lionfish; the committee will support the implementation of the National Action Plan and the Mesoamerican Reef Regional Strategy for the control of that species at the Banco Chichorro and Xcalak NPAs; and 2) the project Equipment and fleet and dock renewal, in which the fishing cooperative Muyil Conjunto de Aluxes S. de P.R. de R.I.[131]131, which operates at the Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve, is undertaking an environmental education program for visitors that is expected to generate 42 jobs, includes a biodiversity monitoring program operated by local youngsters and the exclusive supply of food and materials from local sources.

78. On-going initiatives supported by international donor agencies include: 1) Sustainable development of urban coastal regions through the integration of ecosystem services and biodiversity (BIOCITIS)[132]132: Funded by GIZ (2020-2023; budget of 4.5 million Euros), this initiative is designed to optimize the management of 40,000 ha of urban and peri-urban ecosystems in the Gulf of California, the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Caribbean. Local initiatives for ecosystem protection and restoration will be undertaken and lessons learned will be shared with other coastal regions of Mexico. The technical capacities of municipal and State public servants will be strengthened so that urban ecosystems are taken into account in urban planning and territory use plans, and participatory decision-making processes on urban planning, including indigenous peoples, women and youngsters will be undertaken; and 2) Effective management and sustainable financing of MPAs[133]133: Funded by KfW (2020-2025; budget of 22 million Euros), this initiative will support the management and financing of Mexican MPAs decreed between 2016 and 2020. Participating MPAs include the Revillagigedo Archipelago National Park, Pacific Islands from the Baja California Peninsula Biosphere Reserve, Mexican Caribbean Biosphere Reserve and the Marias Islands Biosphere Reserve (specifically the consolidation of a training centre for its rangers). In addition, productive activities at state reserves and voluntary conservation areas from Baja California, Guanajuato, Jalisco and Quintana Roo will be promoted.

79. A number of environmental NGOs are undertaking various programs to support marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management in the project seascapes, the most notable of which are the following:

? WWF-Mexico?s corporate engagement program: WWW-Mexico is a key executing partner for the project. The WWF global network works with multinational businesses around the world to help drive more sustainable food systems that conserve nature and feed humanity. Recognizing that the global hospitality sector is key to transforming seafood supply chains, WWF is partnering with the hospitality companies Hilton, Hyatt and Marriott to shift their global seafood supply chains, assess procurement practices, and develop responsible sourcing strategies for their priority markets, which will benefit local fishing communities and facilitate the transition to global sustainable seafood supply. WWF-US has established collaborations with the regional offices of these companies, and WWF-Mexico is working with specific hotel properties in Los Cabos (South Baja California), the Nayarit Riviera and Puerto Vallarta (Central Pacific Islands), and Playa del Carmen, Canc?n and Cozumel (Quintana Roo). In 2019, WWF-Mexico conducted roundtables that informed key stakeholders of the Mexican seafood supply chain about opportunities for adopting more sustainable practices[1], and participants issued the following public announcements: i) the Mexico City Hyatt Regency Hotel committed to sourcing half of its seafood from sustainable fisheries; ii) the Hilton chain in Mexico committed to sourcing at least on quarter of its seafood from sustainable fisheries; and iii) Iberostar committed to developing a strategy for sourcing sustainable seafood from local fish markets.

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[1]www.wwf.org.mx/que_hacemos/oceanos_resilientes/sustainable_seafood_roundtable___transitioning_mexican_fisheries_towards_sustainability/

? Environmental Defense Fund-Mexico: EDF - Mexico has three relevant programs: i) *Sustainable Fisheries Management*, focused on applying Rights-Based Fisheries Management to fisheries with high social and economic values, based on the definition of a total allowable catch for a fishery, the distribution of that total allowable catch in catch quotas among users of that fishery, the definition of common catch strategy for exercising those catch quotas, and the proper monitoring and administration of catch quotas; ii) *Strengthening of Governance and Public Policies*, focused on the identification of public policies that can solve the social, environmental and economic challenges of Mexican fisheries, including socio-economic diagnoses of Mexican artisanal fisheries; assessment of gaps in that sector for access to basic human rights (health, education, living place, access to potable water, sanitary services, property rights, dignified employment and economic growth); and the projection of socio-cultural and socio-economic impacts and contributions; and iii) *Climate change resilient fisheries*, which addresses mitigation of negative impacts of climate change on Mexican fisheries, including the application of scientific knowledge for identifying adequate management modifications, the design of win-win adaptation scenarios for the environment and humans, the construction of adaptation capacities through fisheries management and governance, and the effective ordination of fisheries for enabling the adaptation of fisheries. Although the first program does not overlap geographically with the proposed project, there is significant potential for collaboration with the other two programs (EDF-Mexico is currently updating its strategic plan, which will be concluded by winter 2021-2022)

80. Mexican civil society organizations have a strong presence in the project seascapes, with programs directly linked to the topics addressed by the proposed project:

? Comunidad y Biodiversidad, A.C.: During the past 21 years, COBI, A.C. has participated in the creation of 31 of the 36 NTZs established in Mexico and 30% of the FIPs. Since 2020, COBI?s

role changed from direct implementation to ensuring knowledge transfer and scaling, through a social impact network of fishers and a digital infrastructure. COBI, A.C. is now capable of identifying needs and guiding the next steps for new fish refuges and FIPs, and providing training to project implementors. For existing NTZs and FIPs in the Caribbean, COBI, A.C. supports the transition to blended finance and the transfer of leadership for key activities to fishers. COBI, A.C. has also been including fishers in the national social impact networks that support knowledge exchange within projects and with other fishers. COBI, A.C. has a program for gender equality at sea, which has generated important knowledge about the role of women in Mexican fisheries and is supporting gender equality in fisheries curricula. COBI, A.C. is the developer of the digital PescaData app, which leverages technology for fishers and fishing organizations by improving landing data, raising the value of fishers? data, promoting digital governance, measuring the impact of collective action towards international goals (SDGs and FAO?s small-scale fisheries guidelines-SSF Guidelines) and providing a base-layer digital infrastructure for the construction of modular components by third parties. This app documents and co-creates solutions and ideas generated by fishers, using links to Spanish language solution hubs and resources. It can also connect third-party technologies[135]134 (e.g. traceability, species and citizen science, reporting mechanisms, marketplaces, CONABIO?s traffic light on commercial species sustainability and Naturalista) through APIs[136]135, to provide additional utility to fishers and project managers. PescaData is already connected to CONABIO?s Enciclovida.

? Pronatura Noroeste, A.C.: This organization has worked in various MPAs in Nayarit since 2006 on marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, land conservation, shorebird conservation, and conservation education. Pronatura has developed and implemented conceptual models to improve MPA governance and compliance, has strengthened surveillance and enforcement capacities at key fishing grounds, and has wide experience in the implementation of FIPs in northwest Mexico. Pronatura participates in on?the?ground operations of MPAs and specific fisheries to enhance governance and to test multiple approaches and develop practical solutions, which it replicates within the MPA network and the fishing sector throughout northwest Mexico. Pronatura?s focus is on creating the conditions for the effective protection and sustainable use of marine ecosystem and resources, promoting compliance with environmental and fishing regulations, increasing community understanding and stewardship for marine conservation and sustainable development, and moving fisheries towards sustainability, as a way to improve community livelihoods in the long?term. Its partnership with fishing cooperatives, coastal communities, and other organizations has allowed it to implement FIPs in eight regional fisheries, including the ongoing FIP in the Baja California Sur seascape and one for snook in the northern coast of Nayarit. In the Central Pacific project seascape, it collaborates with INAPESCA in the adoption of novel stock assessment methods and harvest strategies for data?limited finfish fisheries and the design and establishment of NTZs along the coast of Nayarit. Pronatura evaluated the management effectiveness of northwest Mexico?s MPAs in 2015, which allowed it to design Governance Improvement Projects (GIP) in which it worked with MPA authorities and stakeholders to facilitate and improve participation and decision making, adjust management instruments, create technical capacities, and provide long?term funding, with the overall purpose of increasing the capacity of MPAs to conserve marine ecosystems. Pronatura collaborates with CONANP on improving the management of Isla Isabel and Islas Marietas national parks, and it participates in the network of NPA advisory councils for northwest Mexico (RedCanor) to foster civil participation in MPA management. Since 2010, Pronatura has led efforts to modernize surveillance and enforcement in MPAs in northwest Mexico, including the hiring and training of park rangers; the design of an innovative mobile?based logbook app to integrate spatial and temporal information from the field; the development and implementation of innovative funding mechanisms to ensure permanent and long?term surveillance; investment in radio communications, long?range cameras and radars (installed in the Cabo Pulmo and Loreto national parks as the first Marine Monitoring systems in Mexico); and the use of surveillance drones to reduce the cost and increase the patrolled area.

? Niparaj?, A.C.: A leading civil society organization in the Baja California Sur seascape, Niparaj? has ongoing initiatives in the San Cosme-Punta Coyote coastal corridor and the Espiritu Santo Archipelago National Park. Niparaj? works to strengthen the operations of the Consultive Committee for Fisheries Management of the San Cosme-Punta Coyote coastal corridor, and supported the establishment of the Fisheries Sub-council under the Espiritu Santo Archipelago National Park Advisory Council. Niparaj? has also organized and supported the operation of the community network for scientific monitoring and surveillance of the San Cosme-Punta Coyote coastal corridor and has coordinated effectiveness assessments of the NTZs network operating in that area. Niparaj? is currently working on a proposal to update the management program of the Espiritu Santo Archipelago National Park, and is coordinating a community program (mostly composed of women divers) for scientific monitoring of the park. Niparaj? also collaborates with the Mexican Confederation of Fisher Cooperatives in the design of a national capacity-building program.

81. Several on-going market-based initiatives to promote sustainable seafood produced by Mexican artisanal fleets are also highly relevant to the project?s objectives, including:

? Fair Trade USA: This organization, which designed the first certification scheme that combined social, environmental and economic criteria, certifies fleets, landing sites and processing plants (before exportation). Fair Trade helps producers to obtain a price premium (paid to producers by importers), some or all of which is used for improving fishing communities (scholarships, health services, improved infrastructure for local fisheries, etc.). Fair Trade offers producers and consumers an international network of selling points[137]136, and assists producers in the identification of potential buyers. Producers must comply with a series of standards related to stock assessment, sustainable exploitation, protection of biodiversity, catch traceability, labour conditions, human rights, and use of the price premium. There are two Fair Trade Certified artisanal fisheries in Mexico[138]137: the finfish fishery managed by the S.C.P.P. Ensenada certified in April 2020[139]138 and the shrimp fishery managed by nine cooperatives (comprising at least 1,000 fishers) in Sinaloa certified in 2016. Due to the volume of the shrimp fishery, the price premium generated in 2017 was $166,000. This was invested in improvements to local fisheries infrastructure, establishment of a retirement fund for fishers, and educational infrastructure. Details of the price premium obtained by these producers are available at www.fairtradecertified.org/es/news/cleaning-up-altata-bay.

? SmartFish Group: The SmartFish Group is composed of two entities: a) SmartFish A.C., which trains fishers in producing high-quality seafood and reaching markets for sustainable seafood, and advises seafood wholesalers on the acquisition of sustainable seafood; and b) the marketer Comercializadora SmartFish, which commercializes endorsed sustainable seafood products[140][139] and shortens and introduces transparency to supply chains, so that fishers obtain higher profits and break circles of poverty and overexploitation. Comercializadora SmartFish is the only seafood distributor in Mexico exclusively selling sustainable seafood. The SmartFish Group has sales point in Mexico City and distributes seafood to restaurants, hotels and seafood stores in Mexico and the USA[141][140]. The SmartFish group works only with legal and organized fishing cooperatives. The SmartFish Group evaluates the health of fisheries and aquaculture processes sourcing their products; leverages co-funding for new producers so that they can formally start fishery/aquaculture improvement projects; implements catch traceability and custody processes to warrant the legality of its products; does not collaborate with fisheries or producers with documented IUU fishing activities or identified by the IUCN Red List;

collaborates only with likeminded providers, and continuously educates employees and fishers on sustainability and publishes progresses. This model has trained fishers in fishing and processing catches with quality standards required by processing plants certified for exporting seafood and has generated employment, mainly for women. Participating fishers have obtained prices twice as high as those that they received before the improvement process.

? Iniciativa de Impacto Colectivo por la Pesca y Acuacultura Mexicanas: This initiative[142]141 is composed of representatives of fishers, aquaculture producers, public and private sector entities, consumers, civil organizations, marketers, and academics. This group is generating consensus-based proposals and actions for improving the competitiveness, sustainability and equity of Mexico?s fisheries and aquaculture sectors. It is projected that by 2025, half of Mexico?s seafood production could be produced and commercialized following the initiative?s recommendations. With the participation of 20 marketers and 12 civil organizations, the group has identified mandatory and voluntary guidelines that fishers, first buyers, distributors and final buyers should follow for responsibly generating and acquiring seafood[143]142, and a group of 30 marketers will start implementing those guidelines in 2021.

3) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project?s Theory of Change

82. The **Project Objective** is to ensure the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and secure the sustainable livelihoods of fishing communities through innovative fisheries co-management approaches in three priority seascapes.

83. **Project Strategy:** Following FAO?s Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, as well as FAO?s recommendations for developing co-management schemes[144][143], this project will address existing barriers to the sustainable co-management of fisheries in three targeted seascapes in Mexico. The project approach is based on the understanding that co-management schemes propose that resources are jointly managed between the government and beneficiaries. However, to be successful, co-management schemes must respond to the needs of fishing communities at specific sites, they must rely on effective institutional and legal arrangements, sufficient information for effective decision-making and mechanisms for social participation, and they must be coupled with sustainable livelihoods alternatives to keep future fishing effort within sustainable levels. Furthermore, the project strategy is to focus on the co-management of fisheries in seascapes that include various forms of protected status (NPAs and NTZs), and to use ecosystem-based management strategies to generate benefits for both biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods and economies.

84. By working mainly in Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) but also closely with Fisheries No Take Zones (NTZs[145][144]), the project will support better management of fisheries while also conserving biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in important ecological areas. The project will promote fisheries management approaches that address the health of fish stocks and ecosystem/habitat degradation, and are aligned with the management priorities and legal activities in different types of

NPAs and NTZs. By managing fisheries in an integrated manner across different protected sites, the project will provide an opportunity to align and integrate the conservation approaches of CONANP and the fisheries production orientation, while also piloting ecosystem-based fisheries management at a larger scale than previous programs in Mexico and considering a close community participation along this process. This approach will create valuable models and lessons learned, and will provide new incentives and justification to make changes in the country?s existing fisheries policy and regulatory framework. To achieve this, INAPESCA will provide updated information that promotes decision-making based on scientific evidence.

85. To support the development of fisheries co-management and the conservation of fish stocks and important marine ecosystems, the project will adopt an integrated approach through four components. Under Component 1 ?Enabling institutional and regulatory conditions for sustainable fisheries in Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) and Other Area-based Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)?, the project will strengthen the capacities of government institutions and other relevant stakeholders and processes; as well as will accommodate within the legal framework, co-management mechanisms. Under Component 2 ?Community participation in fisheries management?, the project will strengthen the capacities of fishers/fishing communities to enable them to play an active role in co-managing fisheries. Under Component 3 ?Supporting sustainable fisheries-based alternative livelihoods?, the project will develop market opportunities and bankable solutions to provide fishing communities with more secure incomes that will reduce their participation in illegal fishing or unsustainable fishing practices. Finally, under Component 4 ?Project Coordination, Collaboration, and Monitoring and Evaluation?, the project will monitor, document and share lessons and models developed through the other components to support adaptive management and the upscaling of project results at the national level.

86. The project strategy to focus on small-scale fishers and fisheries co-management approaches is highly timely. The UN General Assembly has declared 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in recognition of the fact that millions of small-scale fishers, seafood farmers and associated workers supply healthy and nutritious food to billions of persons worldwide and play an indispensable role in reaching the UN SDG of ?Zero Hunger?. The IYAFA also directs public attention to the sustainable use of natural resources and is an opportunity to improve the dialogue among fisheries stakeholders and to strengthen associations of small-scale fishers so that are more involved in the design of public policies and decisions related to their everyday life[146][145].

Component 1 - Enabling institutional and regulatory conditions to strengthen sustainable fisheries in Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) and Other Area-based Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Under this Component, the project will support the development of ecosystem-based management plans and regulations that respond to changing ecological conditions (including climate change impacts), socio-economic contexts, and the needs of local communities. The primary outputs under this component will be the development of adequate participatory planning mechanisms and ecosystem-based fisheries co-management tools (NPAs and NTZs); effective formal and informal institutional and legal arrangements and capacities to secure proper implementation and compliance of co-managed fisheries; and a comprehensive, transparent, and open fishery information system to support participatory decision-making and learning. Project activities will strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries biodiversity through the interaction of at least three management instruments: NPAs, NTZs and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). While NPAs have positive impacts on marine biodiversity inside their core zones, NPAs operating in isolation are unable to effectively

conserve fish stocks (which often move in and out of NPA boundaries); in addition, the existence of NPAs can export fishing pressure into other areas that lack effective management and thereby significantly impact the livelihoods of fishers[147][146]. For this reason, a wider variety of management structures and interventions are required to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and ecological functions and the sustainability of fish stocks. The approach under Component 1 is aligned with the Mexican sectoral law, which states that fisheries policy should focus on three primary mechanisms: up to date fisheries information (on fishers, licenses, vessels, gear, target species, etc.), fisheries management plans, and the corresponding allocation of permits and concessions. In addition, the management plans and regulations developed through this project will be aligned with the road map of the 13th meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties in 2016 and the Cancun Declaration on the Integration of the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being, as well as FAO?s program for the integration of biodiversity in different agricultural sectors.[148][147]

Outcome 1.1: Institutional capacities and processes have been strengthened for effective fisheries co-management in three seascapes encompassing Natural Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

GEF Core Indicators 1 & 2: 807,823 ha of terrestrial protected areas + 1,610,537 ha of marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness, as demonstrated through increased METT scores for target NPAs:

Baseline & Target: Baseline and End-of-Project METT scores for project NPAs:

Table 6: METT Scores for Natural Protected Areas

Natural Protected Area	Baseline METT Score	Target METT Score
Sian Ka?an	82	88
Banco Chinchorro	81	85
Caribe Mexicano	51	73
Islas Marietas	74	83
Islas Mar?as	41	65
Isla Isabel	77	87
Esp?ritu Santo	80	91
Islas del Golfo de California	79	97
Arrecifes de Xcalac	76	86

GEF Core Indicator 5: 925,116 ha of marine habitat under improved practices

Baseline: 20,520 ha (7,051 ha in 12 fisheries NTZs in the BCS seascape, and 13,469 ha in 10 fisheries NTZs in the QRC seascape) under improved practices

Target: 925,116 ha of marine habitat under improved practices through improved management of 793,830 ha in the CPI seascape and 110,766 ha in the BCS seascape providing functional ecological connectivity between NPAs

Output 1.1.1: Planning and management tools for marine conservation and fisheries co-management have been developed and are guiding decision-making in three target seascapes

87. Under this output, **Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)** processes will be carried out in each of the three project seascapes. MSP processes have not been carried out to date in any of the project seascapes, but they are expected to be used as standard management tools by the end of the project. The MSP processes will identify critical habitats, fish aggregation sites, patterns of fishing pressure; develop detailed maps of the project seascapes; increase awareness among fishers of the benefits of NPAs and NTZs in sustaining healthy fish stocks; improve the understanding required for adequately managing fisheries and the marine environment across NPAs, NTZs and the waters that connect them; and facilitate the development of EBFM plans. For the two project seascapes in the Pacific Ocean, the project will collaborate with the TDA/SAP process under the on-going UNDP-GEF project ?Towards Joint Integrated, Ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem?. Furthermore, the MSP processes will build on Ecologic Ordination of the Territory (OET) processes previously completed in the Gulf of California in 2006[149]148 and the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean in 2012[150]149. The OET process determines the optimal uses of an area based on its environmental characteristics and possibilities, and thereby contributes to the management of natural resources and productive development.

88. The project will also support the development of **Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)** plans explicitly incorporating fisheries co-management approaches that are integrated with the management of NPAs and NTZs. Currently, there are 24 management plans for Mexican fisheries[151][150], developed and implemented by INAPESCA. Most of these existing plans have been developed with few if any inputs from fishers, and most are focused on specific fish stocks rather than ecosystem-based approaches, with the exception of a few regional fisheries management plans made at the request of fishers (e.g. the management plan for the Alvarado lagoon system in Veracruz). The only existing fishery management plan in the project seascapes is for the lobster fishery in the Yucat?n[152][151]. Existing fisheries monitoring, governance, control and surveillance frameworks will be reviewed, and required adjustments will be identified for their incorporation into the EBFM plans. The EBFM plans developed under this project will be based on the completed MSP processes and detailed cost-benefit analyses; will utilize open standards for information and participatory processes of consultation and validation; and will seek for the first time in Mexico to integrate the conservation-based approaches of CONANP and the fisheries production-based approaches of CONAPESCA in a single management framework for fisheries in each seascape.

89. During the first year of implementation, technical coordination will be established and/or strengthened with CONAPESCA and the Ministries of Fisheries of the three states where the project will be implemented, so that legal frameworks and sectoral policy improvements, as well as institutional arrangements identified by the project, are achieved. This coordination will be attended/facilitated through Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, who is the head of the fisheries sector. The project, through INAPESCA leadership, will provide updated scientific information to define, based on scientific evidence, the extent and boundaries of NTZs, including

biological indicators. The project will provide technical assistance to communities that have requested CONAPESCA the renewal or incorporation of new fishing refuge zones (NTZ?s).

90. The project will provide support in carrying out the technical assessments required for the **renewal of 22 existing Fisheries No-Take Zones (NTZs) and the establishment of 6 new NTZs**, based on Article 4?, Fracc. LI of the General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of Mexico and the Mexican Official Standard NOM-049-SAG/PESC-2014, as detailed in the table below.

Table 7: Fisheries No-Take Zones (NTZs)

Seascape	**NTZs for Renewal**	**Due date**	**New NTZs to Establish**
Central Pacific Islands	0	NA	At least 2
Quintana Roo Caribbean	Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve: 8 NTZs	12-01-2022	At least 2, TBD sites in the first year of the project
	Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve: 1 NTZ	06-01-2024	
	Punta Herrero:1 NTZ	08-28-2024	
Baja California Sur	San Cosme- Punta Coyote: 12 NTZs	12-01-22	At least 2

91. Finally, the project will support the **updating and implementation of management plans and development of Climate Change Adaptation Programs for two NPAs** targeted by the project (specific NPAs to be determined during Project Year 1). Climate Change Adaptation Programs are a tool used by CONANP to create localized climate change scenarios and identify and guide adaptation measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural ecosystems and productive sector activities. To date, CONANP has completed 10 Climate Change Adaptation Programs, with 8 more being developed, as part of the UNDP-GEF project ?Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Safeguard Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change?.

Output 1.1.2: Effective ecosystem-based fisheries management capacities and processes have been generated in key government institutions and among other stakeholders.

92. Under this output, the project will strengthen existing fisheries policies and regulations and build the institutional capacities of CONANP, INAPESCA, other institutional stakeholders and civil organizations in the project seascapes to drive marine spatial governance and planning processes, implement ecosystem-based fisheries management approaches in a participatory manner, and promote the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity and coastal resources. To achieve this, the project proposes different lines of action:

93. **Review, simplify and harmonize existing fisheries regulations to** ensure the sustainability of fisheries management approaches and to respond to local conditions and community needs. To guide this work, a gap analysis will be carried out to identify key elements of the regulatory framework that are missing and to identify potential legal and regulatory instruments for strengthening. More specifically, the project will support an analysis of the legal framework for Mexican artisanal fisheries in order to identify the variety of legal and regulatory instruments related to fisheries used by each institution, as well as the legal instruments that are used at each project seascape, with the goal of identifying opportunities for legally establishing and implementing fisheries co-management. The project will also support efforts to generate a shared definition of sustainable seafood, based on international certification standards (e.g. MSC), and advocate for its use in fisheries regulations.

94. **Implement capacity-building programs (with gender equity) for decision-makers and technical staff of fishing sector in Mexico** (e.g. CONANP, Agriculture Ministry, INAPESCA and other agencies) in areas including: 1) EBFM approaches (including integration of climate change trends and impacts) as well as leading the development of EBFM plans (see Output 1.1.1); 2) strategies to ensure that management and conservation efforts do not generate additional problems for the poorest and most vulnerable fishing communities; 3) understanding the dependence of commercial fish and shellfish stocks on healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and their relevance to economic stability and food security, and therefore the importance of recognizing, evaluating and protecting marine and coastal ecosystem services (in Mexico, these ecosystem services are typically unrecognized and are not considered as priorities, because they are considered to be infinite or because they are not easily evaluated); and 4) capacities among all actors involved in NPA management so that they can sustain actions even when the project ends (based on lessons learned from the GEF-funded projects ?Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Safeguard Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change? and ?Conservation of Coastal Basins in the Context of Climate Change?).

95. The project will **develop the capacity building program for key government staff** during Project Year 1 (PY1)[153]152 through interviews with key actors and participatory workshops, and by synthesizing and adopting lessons learnt in recent GEF projects that are thematically and geographically aligned to the proposed project. The program will utilize a ?training of trainers? approach that strengthens the capacities and knowledge of key individuals who will be responsible for supporting project interventions at the institutional and local level, as well as increasing the capacities of their peers to replicate and multiply lessons learned. A cross-cutting aspect of the training courses and workshops is that they will be carried out through interdisciplinary, participatory, and inclusive (gender and cultural equity) approaches, which will facilitate the integration of a myriad of disciplines, practices and knowledge to address the management challenges in a more effective manner and build consensus among all stakeholders. The training program will focus on professional staff within CONANP, CONANP and INAPESCA, as well as planning, environment and/or public works technicians and professionals at the municipal and state levels. To support design of the training plan, partnerships will be established with universities, research institutes and civil society organizations to design training courses and materials and to share their experiences and lessons learned from planning and marine governance processes around the world. The training will be supported by facilitators, lecturers, case study analysis, field visits and group and individual exercises. Training courses and/or workshops will be held in each of the three regions where the project is being implemented, and the project will facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned between participants within and between seascapes.

Output 1.1.3: Government institutions with strengthened institutional arrangements and capacities to facilitate effective fisheries co-management approaches.

96. To strengthen interaction and coordination between government agencies responsible for fisheries and marine conservation, so that fisheries management incorporates both productive and ecosystem conservation priorities and approaches, the project will facilitate **inter-institutional dialogues on fisheries management at both the national and project seascape levels**. In addition, the project will develop **formal and informal institutional arrangements to support inter-institutional coordination on fisheries co-management approaches**, with the objective of enhancing joint decision-making processes through official agreements that can improve fisheries management and also improve the livelihoods of artisanal fishers. To support both of these objectives, the project will clarify the mandates and powers of different federal, state, and local agencies concerning fisheries management, as well as user?s right to participate in co-management processes (based on legal and regulatory analyses under Output 1.1.1). To further strengthen fisheries co-management approaches, the project will develop and implement **capacity-building programs for both government staff and participating fishers in the project seascapes to jointly develop and operate fisheries co-management agreements and plans.**

Output 1.1.4: Comprehensive, transparent, and open fisheries information system in place to support participatory decision-making and learning at project target sites.

97. The project will support the **participatory development of comprehensive fisheries and marine ecosystems information systems for the project seascapes in order to facilitate fisheries co-management and inter-institutional information sharing and decision-making,** and thereby enable fishers and governmental authorities to jointly assess and act on data and information that can strengthen evidence-based fisheries regulations and management plans. These information systems will enable fisheries, marine conservation managers and fishers to do the following:

? Consolidate/link existing information systems on fisheries (including databases of existing permits, vessels and concessions managed by Fishing National entities, as well as information held by other agencies[154]153 and fishing cooperatives) relevant to the three target seascapes, with the goal of establishing harmonized information among government institutions related to fisheries management.

? Ensure that fisheries ordinations (data on fishers, licenses, vessels, gear, target species, etc.) are up to date and accurate, and that public programs to support fishers are aligned with the data in those ordinations;

? Develop and monitor biophysical indicators (species occurrence, water quality, temperature, sea currents, etc.), potential impacts of climate change on fish stocks, and catch limit reference points to support adaptive fisheries co-management;

? Consolidate systematic data on the economic, social and physical conditions and vulnerabilities to environmental change and ecosystem degradation among communities in the project seascapes;

? Carry out photo-credentialing, registration, and chipping of all fishermen and minor vessels, and support community surveillance volunteers to protect legal fishermen from the activities of illegal fishermen;

? Consolidate information useful for artisanal fishers on government support programs, fishery closures, fishery seasons, NTZs, market prices, etc. (such information will be made easily available to fishers through the Submarine App described under Output 2.1.3)

98. This improved information management approach will facilitate joint management decisions by government and beneficiaries, and thereby increase acceptance and support among fishing communities for regulatory mechanisms such as size, site and effort restrictions and even fishing bans. For the design and implementation of the systems, workshops will be held with stakeholders from the fisheries sector, federal governmental institutions, local non-governmental organizations, etc. in order

to identify their specific information needs related to decision-making processes and the challenges they face in accessing existing information systems. Finally, the project will **secure an agreement for institutional responsibility for the information systems post-project** in order to support the ongoing use of the integrated information systems once the project has ended, and to facilitate replication of integrated information systems in other seascapes in Mexico.

Output 1.1.5: Inspection and surveillance activities are reinforced to ensure compliance with fisheries management policies and regulations.

99. Under this output, the project will strengthen the institutional capacities to effectively implement EBFM plans and the management programs for NPAs and NTZs. The project will: 1) **train authorities on improving and updating fisheries information platforms, and using them as tools to support fisheries inspection and surveillance;** 2) **develop institutional capacities to employ innovative technologies that strengthen surveillance, monitoring and enforcement of fishing regulations** (e.g. cellular and satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems, etc.) in the project seascapes, including strengthening the capacities of fisheries inspectors to monitor NTZs through training on the uses permitted within NTZ boundaries as well as by delimiting NTZ boundaries with buoys and supporting increased inspection trips; and 3**) strengthen the capacities of public prosecutors to understand and address illegal fishing** (training for public prosecutors will be provided early in the project, and then again near the end of the project so as to integrate lessons learned from the implementation of improved surveillance programs and co-management schemes). All of the above-mentioned activities will be implemented and carried out under a strong communication channel between governmental institutions and/or key actors in the territory with related responsibilities. As a result of these activities, agreements between authorities and producers on participatory inspection and surveillance schemes will be formalized and implemented, thereby increasing the area of NPAs with effective surveillance undertaken by official management authorities and/or community committees.

Component 2 - Community participation in fisheries management

100. Under Component 2, the project will ensure the extensive participation of local fishing communities in the development and implementation of fisheries co-management systems. Given the significant threats facing fisheries in Mexico, there is a clear need to implement effective management tools such as permit limits and fishing quotas. However, acceptance of and compliance with fisheries regulations is always challenging[155][154], and in Mexico, such administrative decisions are often followed by complaints and poor compliance from the fishing sector. Some researchers have argued that the effective engagement of actors in collaborative governance arrangements is the only viable option to address environmental problems at a large scale[156]155, and thus the involvement of fishing and other coastal communities in fisheries co-management is an urgent priority in Mexico. The project design takes the view of fisheries as socio-ecological systems, composed of subsystems that include the targeted fish species, the marine ecosystem, fisherpersons, and an integrated control and execution system that fosters and protects the resilience of the system as a whole, an approach that allows fishermen to be considered as active partners in fisheries governance.[157][156] Since effective co-management requires that communities have governance mechanisms that allow them to play an active role in collectively managing and monitoring their fisheries, outputs under Component 2 include: mechanisms for collective community design, decision-making, co-regulation, monitoring, compliance,

and conflict resolution; strengthened capacities to effectively access and apply public fishery information to improve co-management, and incentives to promote the participation of coastal communities. In piloting such approaches, the project also will seek to develop co-management mechanisms that involve and empower groups that are usually excluded from decision-making processes. Activities under this component will seek to build on prior experiences in Mexico, including in particular co-management activities between CONANP, INAPESCA and fishing cooperatives in the Banco Chinchorro and Sian Ka?an reserves on lobster and queen conch, including the establishment of NTZs and coordination in governance matters, as well as experiences developed in other co-management fisheries. Such models will be useful at other project sites where co-management approaches have not yet been tested, such as the Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve (specifically in the Xcalak region); and the Islas Mar?as, Isla Isabel, and the Islas Marietas National Park in the Bahia de Banderas; as well as sites where existing co-management schemes need to be strengthened, such as the Esp?ritu Santo Archipelago, and the islands of San Jos?, Santa Cruz, and Santa Catalina in the Gulf of California.

Outcome 2.1: Local fishing communities play an active role in collectively managing and monitoring their fisheries through an ecosystem-based approach and participatory, collective decision-making

GEF Core Indicator 8: Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Baseline: 421 metric tons of fish harvested sustainably in the three project seascapes (from the San Cosme-Punta Coyote and Quintana Roo FIPs)

Target: 21,717 metric tons of lobster and fish (Mullet, snapper, grouper, sierra mackerel, snook, ocean whitefish, patzcuaro whitefish, horse mackerel, sea bass, grouper) managed sustainably in the three project seascapes

Output 2.1.1: Mechanisms are in place for collective community decision-making, co-regulation, monitoring, compliance, and conflict resolution related to fisheries

101. This output will generate various dialogues and mechanisms of social participation that will facilitate multi-stakeholder decision-making processes that include individual fishers, fishing cooperatives, seafood brokers, management authorities, scientists and non-governmental organizations. These social participation tools will be used to expand decision-making beyond the leaders of local organizations and to promote inclusivity and well-informed fisheries management. To start, the project will design and implement **local-level multi-sectorial territorial development dialogues for fishers in the project seascapes** to provide common space to generate social capital, resolve conflicts, learn from activities in other regions, and discuss, review and agree on directions for fisheries regulations and fisheries co-management agreements. To support this process, the project will **synthesize lessons learnt from recent GEF projects on co-management and governance and share that information in the community dialogues.** The dialogues (assemblies and meetings) will include gender and trans-generational perspectives and will encompass a vision for the entire fisheries value chain in which women have increased opportunities to participate and gain benefits.

102. Building on these dialogues, the project will support the **development and operation of fisheries co-management agreements between Governmental Fisheries Institutions and fisher associations at the level of each project seascape**. Once these agreements are in place, consultations will take place with fishers to determine if co-management agreements are also needed at the level of specific fisheries. Complementing these seascape-level co-management agreements, and building on lessons learned from previous efforts at community co-management, the project will also support the establishment and strengthening of co-management and governance mechanisms, with gender mainstreaming considerations, in each of the three project seascapes, including:

- Fisheries Consultative Committees[158][157]: These committees are legally regulated mechanisms for citizen participation in fisheries management, with the objective of promoting the integrated and sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture for specific fisheries or regions. Three Fisheries Consultative Committees currently operate in the project seascapes.
- NPA Fisheries Sub-Councils: Operating under NPA Advisory Councils[159][158], Fisheries Sub-Councils can be established to address issues such as surveillance, use of prohibited gear by commercial fishers, impacts of sea level rise on fishing communities and camps. In the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape, a Fisheries Sub-Council operates in the Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserve with the participation of local fishing cooperatives. In the Central Pacific Islands seascape, there are no Fisheries Sub-Councils operating, although the NPA Advisory Councils for Isla Isabel and Islas Marietas do have representation by fishers. The project will promote the strengthening of the existing Fisheries Sub-Councils and/or the establishment of new Fisheries Sub-Councils in each of the 9 target NPAs, and it will work to ensure that democratically elected fisher representatives are included on each Fisheries Sub-Council.
- NTZ Advisory Councils: 2 NTZ Advisory Councils currently exist in the project seascapes (for the Sian Ka?an and San Cosme - Punta Coyote NTZ complexes, although the latter has not met since being established in 2015). The project will strengthen these existing councils, and also establish a new council for the NTZ complex that will be created in the CPI seascape).
- Committee on Environmental Crimes: This committee will be re-activated and strengthened to effectively address fisheries co-management and governance issues.

The implementations means for output 2.1.1 will be participatory refined in PY1.

Output 2.1.2: Local communities strengthen their capacities to participate in fisheries co-management and to adopt new technologies and practices.

103. The development of human capital is essential in order to enable Mexican fishers to participate in sustainable fisheries co-management, add value to local fish production, and achieve improved socio-economic conditions[160][159]. The three project seascapes have different knowledge and development contexts, and the table below illustrates the diverse training needs identified by fishers in the project seascapes[161][160].

Table 8: Training needs identified by fishers from the three project seascapes

Project Seascape	Training needs identified by fishers
1. Central Pacific Islands	Productive improvement, sustainable fisheries management, linking management decisions and the biological features of target species
	Good practices for sanitary safety of seafood
	Sustainable fishing gear and value-added activities
	Establishment and operation of NTZs
	Supporting processes to improve infrastructure for artisanal fisheries; value-added seafood practices; seafood processing and storing techniques.
2. Quintana Roo Caribbean	Administration and organization of fishing cooperatives
	Improvement of labour conditions
3. Baja California Sur	Effectiveness of fishing cooperatives (governance, pride of membership).
	Administration (work planning, financial planning, personal and organizational economy)
	Fisheries management, ecology, surveillance and enforcement
	Markets (value-adding, good practices for sanitary safety, value chain improvement).

104. The initial training priorities identified by fishers will be reviewed and validated during PY1 using the participatory method SENDAPA[162][161], which involves initial identification of key stakeholders (e.g. cooperatives, individual fishers, non-governmental organizations, local operators of tourism services, other individuals interested in strengthening their skills) and prioritizes activities based on participatory workshops.

105. The surveys conducted during PPG already identified some capacity development priorities for local fishers. The strengthening of fisher associations is a high priority, increasing fishers? pride in their associations, generating common visions, empowering members in decision-making, developing improved organizational practices, and establishing clear rules and procedures. The project will **strengthen the operational capacities of fisher associations** (incorporating gender and inter-generational considerations) by: 1) fostering awareness-raising campaigns in which households become co-participants in the process to generate a common identity within each cooperative; 2) training in communication, negotiation, formulation of agreements, leadership; 3) strengthening the governance of fisher associations through the creation or improvement of internal rules[163][162], and promoting women, youth and indigenous peoples development; 4) encouraging the creation or strengthening of alliances among fishing cooperatives, including the sharing of information on IUU fishing; and 5) ensuring that women and men have equitable access to capacity development activities for fisher associations, including training in leadership and financial matters. To further strengthen these associations, the project will provide **training for the leaders of fisher associations** on governance and collaborative

approaches. In addition, the project will strengthen the capacities of **people and associations to participate in fisheries co-management**, including: i) understanding and participating in co-management; ii) creation and revision of fishing regulations; iii) sustainable fishing practices; and iv) ecological information (e.g. on fish population dynamics, biodiversity, marine and coastal ecology).

106. To achieve these capacity building objectives, the project will design and implement a training program[164][163] and a flexible curriculum (using on-site and workshop approaches). Training will be initially led by technical and academic experts, who will employ a ?Training of Trainers? model intended to reach more people and to improve sustainability. Community facilitators will be responsible for the local knowledge sharing and will act as local change agents. They will identify local problems and solutions related to fisheries co-management and monitoring, and the design and use of NTZ networks. Community facilitators and other trainees will be selected through community assemblies, based on specific criteria, an approach that has proven effective in other fisheries projects.

Output 2.1.3: Local communities benefitting from improved access to fisheries information

107. One of the main obstacles faced by Mexican artisanal fisheries is the absence of information about fishing and post-catch operations, including information on closure seasons, no-take zones, environmental conditions, market prices, government support programs. This creates a profound gap in the understanding and priorities of fishers, fisheries and marine conservation management institutions, and disincentivizes community participation[165][164]. Under this output, the project will address these gaps in information access in several ways:

a. Establish mechanisms to improve information access for fishers and others in coastal communities: in order to make newly consolidated fisheries information systems (see Output 1.1.4) easily accessible to fishers, the project will support the design, development and distribution of a user-friendly training guide on the use of fisheries information systems, and will promote the use of this guide (and the associated information systems) as tools for strengthening community-based monitoring and co-management of artisanal fisheries.
b. Redesign, test and share the Submarino Mobile App with participating fishers, with a focus on providing user-friendly information on fishing conditions, market opportunities and prices (linked to Output 1.1.4).
c. Train artisanal fishers on the Submarino app, the digital fisheries logbook and related information systems, and data analysis from those sources. This aims at increasing fishers? engagement in sustainable fishing practices and fisheries management. During the first year of the project, the type of app to be implemented with fishermen will be defined.

108. The project will also promote knowledge management (KM) among fishing cooperatives, individual fishers, coastal communities, women and youth. The project will support fisher-to-fisher exchanges within and between seascapes. Best practices of artisanal fisheries and opportunities for transitioning to sustainable fishing practices, creation of multi-stakeholder knowledge networks, management recommendations, scientific findings and data, and agreements on fishing limits and other regulations will be part of the KM exercises. Knowledge networks will be composed of fishers, community members, NGOs, universities, research institutions, and providers of other productive services (e.g. tourism operators).

109. Output 2.1.3 will also work to strengthen early warning systems for adverse meteorological events, as well as the mechanisms and platforms for dissemination to cooperatives and fishermen, to safeguard infrastructure and especially staff who collaborate in the face of the adverse consequences of

climate change. This action is aligned with the findings of the Environmental and Social Analysis carried out during the PPG phase (see Annex I-1 as reference).

Output 2.1.4: Incentives are in place to promote the participation of coastal communities in implementing sustainable fisheries co-management and adopting practices and technologies that promote and preserve marine ecosystem services.

110. Output 2.1.4 will generate an analysis of existing subsidies and social investment programs to identify opportunities for sustainable fisheries practices. The project will design and implement a diversified incentives strategy. Output 2.1.4 is aimed to strengthening and transforming existing fisheries subsidies by promoting biodiversity-positive incentives. Output 2.1.4 will also re-direct existing social funding to support the adoption of sustainable fisheries practices (e.g. programs of the Ministry for Welfare[168][165], and CONANP Conservation Program for Sustainable Development (PROCODES[169][166]). Output 2.1.4 will support fishers in the process of requesting subsidies and/or social funds (linked to the capacity building activities under Outputs 2.1.1-2.1.3 and 2.1.5). Where feasible, the project will also work to identify and secure supplementary public and private financial resources for sustainable fisheries in the project seascapes. Finally, the project will promote fisheries co-management employment opportunities (e.g. species monitoring, retrieving ghost nets, recycling used nets) during closure seasons in order to provide fishers with a positive incentive to support co-management schemes and sustainable practices. Output 2.1.4 will also provide the allocation of small grants for sustainable projects.

Output 2.1.5: Inspection and surveillance systems in place to enhance fisheries governance schemes

111. This output will support the implementation of inspection, surveillance and monitoring, through: i) establishment and operation of strengthened Community Surveillance Committees (with gender equity) to support inspection activities in each of the project seascapes, including development of operating protocols for the committees; provision of monitoring / surveillance equipment; and training of local authorities and community members in the use of such equipment; ii) support to fishing communities and fishermen in accessing data and information relevant to surveillance and monitoring generated by management authorities, and in contributing such data and information to the seascape fisheries information systems; and iii) improving protocols for interactions between local communities and management authorities, for example interactions related to complaints regarding official procedures. The activities of the Community Surveillance Committees in participatory community monitoring, as well as information gathering by community facilitators (see Output 2.1.2), will constitute important contributions to the project?s M&E strategy (see Output 4.1.1).

Component 3 ? Supporting sustainable alternative livelihoods

112. The adoption of improved fisheries management processes and new fishing restrictions (e.g. catch limits; effort/gear/size restrictions; time/area closures) under Components 1 and 2 has the potential to impact the income of fishers in the project target areas, particularly in the short term while

fish stocks are recovering from the impacts of earlier unsustainable practices. For this reason, Component 3 is designed to identify and provide fisher folk with sustainable economic opportunities to reduce the impact of the new measures on their incomes, while also minimizing their incentive to participate in illegal fishing and reducing the risks of social conflict. Under this component, the project will develop community-driven value-added and alternative production opportunities and also improve the capacities of fishing organizations to manage these opportunities; establish infrastructure to enable local fishing communities to add value to fisheries products; implement programs to enhance participatory certification, market linkages, and differentiated markets for sustainable fisheries; and carry out social campaigns to promote the production and consumption of sustainable fisheries products. A key element of the strategy for this component is to demonstrate that the combination of opportunities for fishers and others to earn income from fisheries co-management activities (particularly during periods of fishery closures), implementation of value-addition practices, the incubation of new fisheries-related enterprises (including alternatives to fishing in areas around highly visited NPAs), development of new financing mechanisms, and traceability systems and certification systems for fisheries that add value to fisheries products, can provide fishers and other residents of coastal communities the opportunity to improve their incomes and diversify their livelihoods while also increasing the sustainability of the fisheries and ecosystem services on which their long-term prosperity depends.

Outcome 3.1: Fishing communities and fisher folk are benefitting from increased incomes deriving from value added activities, sustainable local post-capture practices, and access to differentiated market prices for sustainable products

GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of persons directly benefitting from the GEF investment (data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity)

Baseline: 0 persons directly benefitting from the GEF investment

Target: 4,320 persons (including 1,234 women and 3,086 men) directly benefitting from the GEF investment

Output 3.1.1: Community-driven productive alternatives, including those that benefit women, have been identified, planned, and implemented.

113. Based on the socioeconomic analysis and the Gender Action Plan developed during the PPG, output 3.1.1 will undertake a diagnosis of the three project seascapes of: i) existing and potential livelihoods activities based on fisheries production and nature-based activities; ii) potential livelihoods and entrepreneurship opportunities; and iii) gender-sensitive livelihoods[170][167]. The diagnosis will include assessments of data on fisheries capture and post-capture activities, and other economic activities, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity, to better understand the dynamics of paid and unpaid work of women and men.

114. Very little data exists on the number of women working along the fisheries value chain, including their positions, working conditions and pay rates. While it is understood that women play important roles in input provision, extraction and cultivation, primary and secondary processing, and marketing, few studies have quantified this information for the artisanal fishing sector. Consequently, the project will undertake a mapping and analysis of the fisheries value chain in order to identify areas where interventions are needed. The objective is to strengthen the participation of women and other groups in fisheries value chains, with a transformative approach that aims to achieve gender equality. Output 3.1.1 will include: i) levelling measures to remove physical, regulatory or other obstacles to the effective exercise of the rights of vulnerable people and groups (e.g. paid work of women and youth); ii) inclusion measures, which are preventive or corrective policies and actions to eliminate exclusionary mechanisms that lead to discrimination; and iii) affirmative actions: measures to promote access to fisheries resources, including budget allocation targeting women, youth, and indigenous people.[171][168] The project will seek to learn lessons from the GEF-funded project ?Conservation of Coastal Watersheds to Achieve Multiple Global Environmental Benefits in the Context of Changing Environments? (GEF ID 4792), which developed strong programs on strengthening the capacities and inclusion of women and indigenous peoples. Using the aforementioned analyses, the project will strengthen the technical skills of local communities in the three project seascapes, empowering women to participate in the entire fisheries value chain. The project will also foster multi-sectoral dialogues to identify non-fishing productive alternatives and alleviate fishing pressure.

115. Building on the diagnosis and capacity building activities, the project will implement a program to support the creation of new fisheries-related enterprises, including pre- and post-capture processing of fisheries products, as well as sport fishing and marine tourism opportunities in areas around highly-visited NPAs such as Islas Marietas. The project will use the sex-disaggregated data developed in the diagnosis to ensure that new productive enterprises and activities offer equal participation in and access to productive resources, and to training, technology and other input, and financial services. In some cases, productive activities will be linked to the seasonally-based fisheries co-management employment (e.g. species monitoring, retrieving ghost nets, recycling used nets) described under Output 2.1.4, but the project will also seek to promote other employment opportunities (e.g. sport fishing, diving, marine tourism) for fishers during fishery closures.

Output 3.1.2: Infrastructure established to enable local fishing communities to add value to fisheries products

116. Artisanal fishers operating in the project seascapes have very limited infrastructure and services to support fisheries production once fish catches are landed. In some areas, there is no electricity to operate cold rooms and warehouses, and inadequate sanitary conditions for the handling of fish prevent fishers from selling higher-value fish products that earn higher prices. In the Quintana Roo seascape, some fishing cooperatives (Cozumel, Vig?a Chico, Jos? Mar?a Azcorra) have loading and unloading docks for their fishing products, but other cooperatives land all of their catch on the beach. One fishing cooperative (in Cozumel) has a cold room and is able to store part of their production, and the Vig?a Chico cooperative has a flake ice machine. None of the other participating cooperatives have any capacity to store fish. In the Baja California Sur seascape, there is some public infrastructure for use by fishers, though in many cases docks must be shared with recreational and tourism boats.

117. To address this problem, the project will provide facilities and equipment to support value-adding activities. The project will provide basic infrastructure and materials for fishing camps currently

located on Esp?ritu Santo Island and in new camps in the other two project seascapes. These camps are visited by fishermen on average every two weeks for a duration of 4-5 days. The camps are constructed by fishers using local materials and have a basic and functional design that includes accommodations for fishers so that they can stay close to their fishing grounds. The camps have basic storage facilities to keep fresh products and maintain their market value. The project will invest in the procurement and management of these inputs. An input needs-assessment will be undertaken in PY1, looking at infrastructure and equipment. The project will co-finance equipment based on institutional policies and co-financing agreements. In late PY1, use agreements and training for fishers on equipment management will be implemented. By PY2, the project will carefully document the infrastructure and equipment impacts on improving fisheries quality and market prices. Infrastructure and equipment will mean freezer systems to manage post-harvest catch, appropriate gear for safe post-harvest handling of lobster, and community-based fish processing facilities. In PY3, the project will develop a resource mobilization strategy to identify and secure public and private funds.

Output 3.1.3: Technical, organizational, and entrepreneurial capacities of fishing organizations related to community-driven productive alternatives and strategies to add value have been strengthened

118. The project will implement technical assistance programs to enable local fishing communities to adopt and manage value-added activities, with an emphasis on the participation of women and youth participation in these activities. Value-added products will include traditionally processed fish, market-driven products that have a steady or increasing demand, health-driven seafood, values-driven products focused on environmental concerns and social issues, and technology-driven products that often ensure food safety and quality.[172][169] Under these programs, at least 500 fishers and 18 fishing organizations will be trained in the development of sustainable fisheries-based businesses, financial and administrative management, commercialization and marketing, certification processes and leadership. In addition, the project will support increased collaboration among fishing cooperatives to increasing information-sharing on market opportunities, consolidating fish production, and reducing production costs through the use of shared infrastructure, transport and other elements of the logistical value chain.

Output 3.1.4: Financing opportunities for sustainable fisheries enhanced

119. Output 3.1.4 will assist fishers and fisher cooperatives in developing and submitting business plans to social banks in Mexico. The objective is to seek funding to support sustainable and value-added fisheries products. Approximately 3,000 social banks (micro-financing cooperatives) currently operate in Mexico, with a mandate to provide small low-interest loans to farmers and fishers. To assist fishers, the project will use FAO Rural Invest[173][170], a toolkit that comprises a tried-and-tested methodology, user manuals, online and in-country training and the Rural Invest computer software programme. Rural Invest is designed to help prepare and evaluate small- and medium-size agricultural and rural investment projects. Rural Invest addresses questions such as: Which investments will yield the best results? Is the investment sustainable? Does the project reflect the priorities of local communities?

120. In addition, the project will assess the available financing mechanisms of social banks and other sources to support sustainable fisheries, such as blended financing, guarantees, insurance, and fiscal and market-based incentives, and will share this information with project fishers and fisher cooperatives. Working with these partners, the project will seek to secure financing for the sustainable fisheries-related enterprises developed under Output 3.1.1 (at least one in each project seascape).

Output 3.1.5: Programs for participatory certification, differentiated markets, and information campaigns to support sustainable fisheries products are under implementation

121. Output 3.1.5 will encompass a suite of activities to increase consumer interest in sustainability, and market opportunities for sustainable fish products. The project will design and implement social marketing and awareness-raising campaigns both for local and national markets; these campaigns will include efforts to make visible the participation of women in certification and commercialization processes for sustainable fisheries products. The project will also work to raise awareness among fisheries value chain participants and consumers on the problems caused by IUU fishing, such as illegal harvesting practices and violations of fishery closures, in order to reduce consumption of illegal fish products and redirect value chains and consumer demand to sustainably harvested fish.

122. To ensure that fishers can meet market demand and also secure favourable prices, the project will support fishing cooperatives in: i) developing new products, ii) reaching new markets and buyers, iii) interacting with marketers, logistics and distribution companies, brokers, and iv) negotiating favourable prices based on product quality and sustainability.

123. Activities will be tailored to the opportunities in each project seascape, as follows:

- Finfish (Gulf of California and Central Pacific Islands): These fisheries produce high levels of bycatch of species, for which there is no market demand currently. However, some of these bycatch species have high nutrient levels and are a potentially promising product for lower income populations that cannot afford to buy tuna or other popular finfish species.
- Lobster (Quintana Roo): Large chain hotels in this region currently purchase lobster from Maine or other distant locations, as local lobster fishers do not know how to carry out pre- and post-capture processes to ensure a consistently high quality product that would allow them to sell their catches to these customers.
- Queen Conch (Quintana Roo): The market for Queen Conch in this region is currently almost entirely supplied by IUU fishing, due to poor enforcement, lack of livelihoods alternatives for illegal fishers, and low consumer awareness about IUU fishing and its impacts. For this reason, strengthening fisheries management and reducing demand for IUU products would greatly benefit fishermen who abide by the regulations for fishing of Queen Conch.

124. Output 3.1.5 will promote fisheries traceability systems[174][171] (from bait to plate) in the three project seascapes. These systems can generate data to combat IUU fishing and to inform consumer choices; and also enable fishers to increase their selling prices[175][172]. The project will implement

participatory fisheries certification programs in the three seascapes ? assuring fish quality and sustainability for hotels and commercial buyers. The project will support interested fishers in completing the certification processes required by systems such as Fair Trade, COFEPRIS and Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs). FIPs are standards for stock management and fish quality required by certification programs. During PPG, two target cooperatives from the Baja California Sur seascape and one federation from the Quintana Roo seascape were identified as implementing FIPs, with modest volumes of annual seafood production. The project will assist them, and at least one new Fishery Improvement Project in the CPI seascape, in fully embracing sustainable fishing practices and meeting the monitoring and reporting requirements to comply with the FIP standards.

Component 4: Project Coordination, Collaboration, and Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcome 4.1: Project implementation is supported by an M&E strategy based on measurable and verifiable outcomes and adaptive management principles

125. Activities under Component 4 are designed to monitor and assess the project?s progress, achievement of indicator targets, and risk mitigation measures; identify new actions as needed to address unanticipated risks or change conditions; mainstream gender approaches into the project; draw lessons learned (including successes and failures) resulting from project implementation; and disseminate lesson learned and other project information at the national, regional and global levels. The project will support results-based implementation designed to ensure that project implementation is supported by an M&E strategy based on measurable and verifiable results and principles of adaptive management and knowledge management.

Indicator: Project outcomes achieved and demonstrating sustainability

Baseline: No project outcomes achieved

Target: 100% of project outcomes achieved, with sustainability demonstrated

Output 4.1.1: Gender sensitive M&E strategy developed with relevant stakeholders, clearly defining the expected outcomes, expected implementation timeframe, and confirmation through objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification

126. A project M&E system will be developed in partnership with relevant stakeholders that clearly defines the expected results, the expected time frames for their achievement, and their confirmation through objective indicators and means of verification. To support gender mainstreaming through project M&E processes, the project will carry out a study on gender gaps in artisanal fishing; develop a strategy to measure the gender-inclusivity of fisheries value chains; and disseminate the results of gender mainstreaming practices carried out through the project?s Gender Action Plan. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for the implementation of the M&E plan, including the Inception Workshop; annual progress review workshops and preparation of the annual work plan and

budget; monitor activities and project results and indicators; risk mitigation and supervision measures; completion of the GEF Core Indicator Worksheet and METT at mid-term and end of the project; monitoring of the Gender Action Plan and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The M&E system will also explicitly screen for socio-environmental risks in the project seascapes, and carry out all required reporting for FAO ? GEF projects: Annual Work Plan and Budget; Progress Project Reports; Project Implementations Reports; and updating of METT and GEF indicators.

Output 4.1.2: Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation carried out.

127. A Mid Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) will be carried out with the purpose of informing and advising on the implementation of the project in a constructive manner. After 30 months of project implementation, the MTR will be carried out. Six months before the end of project implementation, the TE will be carried out. Prior to the TE process, the project will articulate a coherent ?exit strategy?, with a focus on sustainability of the project outcomes.

Output 4.1.3: Best practices and lessons learned systematized and disseminated to a variety of audiences and stakeholders

128. The project will support the consolidation of lessons learned and dissemination of good practices to strengthen the sustainability of the project outcomes in the project seascapes and to facilitate replication and up-scaling in other seascapes in Mexico and internationally. In PY1, a gender-sensitive project communications and information strategy (aligned with the Gender Action Plan) will be developed and implemented during project lifetime. Knowledge products will be disseminated through various media; socialization with relevant stakeholders; and creation of a project website that. As the project will rely on the participation of multiple territorial and institutional stakeholders, communication tools will be developed to facilitate the process of integration between stakeholders and to foster cooperation. The project will also share best practices between the three target seascapes. Finally, the project will facilitate the replication and scaling up of project results within the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) through information materials, training workshops, and visits and field trips to the selected sites for technical personnel of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), PA managers and park rangers, and fishermen and other local community members.

Project Theory of Change

129. The main project objective will be achieved if regulatory conditions are strengthened and ecosystem-based and innovative fisheries co-management approaches are adopted by the institutions and fishing communities, resulting in the conservation of marine ecosystems, their biodiversity, and the sustainable livelihoods of the fishing communities in the three priority seascapes of the project. The project objective will be achieved if the following key results of the project are met:

1. Institutional capacities and processes have been strengthened and effective fisheries co-management has been implemented in the three project seascapes
2. Local fishing communities have strengthened capacities and are able to play an active role in collectively managing and monitoring their fisheries through an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach

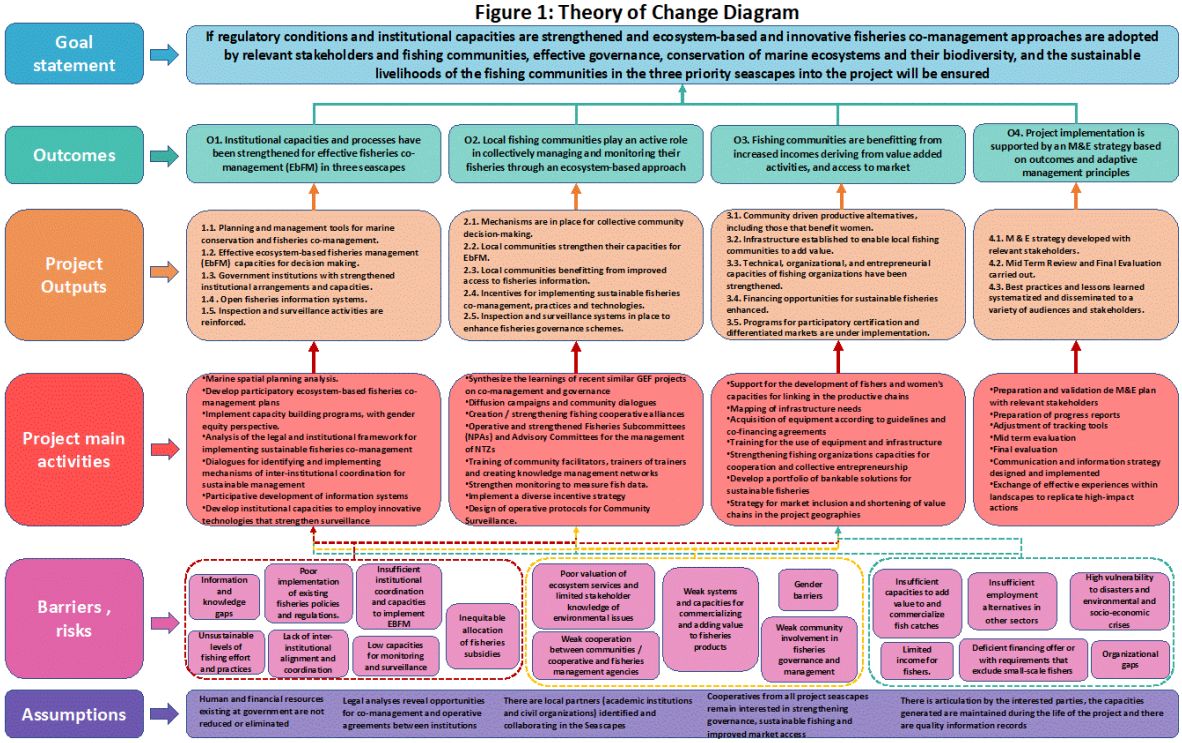
3. Fishing communities are benefitting from increased incomes deriving from value added activities and access to markets

130. The primary barriers that impact fisheries in all of the regions include the existence of unsustainable levels of fishing effort and practices, a poor implementation of existing fisheries policies and regulations, the lack of inter-institutional alignment and coordination and capacities to implement EBFM between the main authorities of the sector, information and knowledge gaps, low capacities for monitoring and surveillance, and inequitable allocation of fisheries subsidies. The project will address these problems through activities under Component 1 to strengthen institutional capacities and processes applied to fisheries co-management, simplify institutional arrangements, create comprehensive and open information systems useful for making management decisions, and use modern planning and management tools.

131. The problem of overexploitation and mismanagement of fisheries resources and their ecosystems is mainly due to the poor valuation of ecosystem services, limited stakeholder knowledge of environmental issues, weak community involvement in fisheries governance and management, and a lack of cooperation between fishing communities or cooperative management. The project will address these barriers through activities under Component 2 to provide technical (EBFM), organizational, and entrepreneurial capacities to local authorities and fishers. The articulation of those elements will provide users with incentives and practices for co-management, required for effectively interacting with management authorities.

132. Likewise, fishing communities face limited incomes and unsustainable and declining fish stocks due to weak systems and capacities for commercializing and adding value to fisheries products, as well as organizational gaps that affect their financing capacity because of the scarce supply of credits and supports as well as the existence of requirements that cannot be covered by small-scale fishers. The project will address these barriers through activities under Component 3 to generate local fisheries with capacities for adding value to their products, financing opportunities for fishers engaged in sustainable fishing by contributing to the development of a portfolio of bankable solutions made for small-scale fishers, sustainability certification processes, improved productive infrastructure and equipment, and the generation of new collective entrepreneurs in areas around highly visited NPAs, with gender considerations in fisheries relevant to all of these issues.

Figure 1: Theory of Change Diagram



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

133. The proposed project is aligned with the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area, and specifically with focal area programs BD 1-1: Biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors and BD 2-7: Improving financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystems coverage of the global protected area estate. The project includes marine spatial planning in three targeted seascapes to ensure that NPAs and OECMs preserve marine ecosystem services and biodiversity while also supporting sustainable fishing; through this approach, the project will provide the first step for further comprehensive mainstreaming investments in seascapes. The project will improve existing fisheries production practices through value-added approaches to fish catches, which together with a participatory and accessible certification scheme, will increase incomes for fishing communities while also incentivizing fishermen to carry out more sustainable practices. The project will support the sustained strengthening of the capacities of individual fishers, fishing organizations and government agencies to co-manage fisheries such that production practices do not harm biodiversity or important marine habitats. In working with local individuals and communities, the project will pay particular attention to women, youth and indigenous persons.

134. The selected intervention sites are coastal and marine ecosystems of great global importance; all of the sites are either classified as or adjacent to Key Biodiversity Areas, RAMSAR Sites, or Biosphere Reserves under UNESCO?s Man and the Biosphere Program. By improving conservation area and fish stock management practices, the project will help to reduce anthropogenic pressures on globally important ecosystems and species, which in turn will increase their resilience to potential climate change impacts. The proposed project will contribute to addressing the marine ecosystem coverage gap within Mexico?s national system of protected areas through the effective management of coastal and near shore protected area sites, including no-take zones to conserve and sustainably use marine ecosystems and biodiversity. The project also considers the adoption and alignment with the Global Framework for Biodiversity after 2020 as a strategy to achieve the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature", which took place in COP-15 as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Finally, the project is aligned to Aichi Targets 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 14 and 19

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

135. Demand for fish and shellfish in Mexico is increasing steadily, and as a result, more and more people are entering the fisheries sector, both legally and illegally. At the same time, climate change impacts are affecting fish stocks in many parts of the country, which are reflected in the increase in sea temperatures, increases in sea level, stratification due to changes in water density, increase in acidification, decrease in oxygen, changes in primary productivity, etc. As a result of these trends, fish stocks are declining in many parts of Mexico. At the same time, the impacts of overfishing, IUU fishing, and unsustainable fishing practices are leading to the degradation of critical marine habitats (most notably coral reefs and other ocean bottom habitats) and changes in species composition and food webs. In the absence of the proposed project, fish stocks in the three target seascapes will continue to decline and marine ecosystems will continue to be degraded. Efforts to address these problems will remain ineffective, as government agencies will continue to have insufficient data and inadequate technical capacities and resources, regulatory frameworks, and coordinating mechanisms

among different government entities to sustainably manage fisheries on their own. In addition, the lack of experience and effective models for joint co-management with local fishers / fishing communities will prevent the combined efforts of government and civil society from being applied to this urgent situation. Although fishing communities at the project sites have an interest in fisheries co-management, they do not have sufficient technical understanding, planning processes, or access to information and tools to enable their effective participation in co-management.

136. Under the alternative scenario, the proposed project is designed to develop for the first time in Mexico:

- ? A collaborative management approach between conservation authorities, fisheries authorities, and fishing communities;
- ? So that fish stocks are more sustainably managed, important marine habitats are more effectively protected, and fisher livelihoods are improved and sustained;
- ? Based on better understanding (through marine spatial planning and enhanced data management and information sharing) of ecological conditions and fish stocks;
- ? Made possible by strengthening the regulatory framework and capacities of institutions and fishers to jointly participate in fisheries co-management, as well as by developing new and better market opportunities for products based on sustainable fisheries.

Table 9: Project Contribution to Elimination of Barriers

Components	Outcomes	Identified barriers in Theory of Change	Contribution to the elimination of barriers
1. Enabling institutional and regulatory conditions to strengthen sustainable fisheries in Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) and Other Area-based Effective Conservation Measures	Outcome 1.1: Institutional capacities and processes have been strengthened for effective fisheries co-management in three seascapes encompassing Natural Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures	Unsustainable fishing levels; poor management of existing fisheries; lack of inter-institutional alignment and coordination; insufficient institutional capacities to implement EBFM; insufficient information & knowledge; low monitoring capacities; inequitable allocation of fisheries subsidies	The project areas have a significant presence of governmental, academic and non-governmental dependencies and institutions; but governmental budgets have been applied in narrow areas mostly oriented to supporting the extractive phases of local fisheries, while processing and marketing / distribution phases have not been supported. Mexico?s Integration Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (2016-2022) is the enabling condition for moving from isolated institutional performance to integrated approaches with strengthened capacities. Experiences gathered by management and technical staff from these institutions are necessary for identifying operating agreements through which civil and community participation (taking into account gender equity) can be practically and legally articulated and for solving human capacity gaps and gaps in information for management. As result of the project, authorities will have strengthened institutional arrangements, comprehensive and open information systems, and effective planning and management tools for marine conservation and fisheries co-management.

Components	Outcomes	Identified barriers in Theory of Change	Contribution to the elimination of barriers
2. Community participation in fisheries management	2.1: Local fishing communities play an active role in collectively managing and monitoring their fisheries through an ecosystem-based approach and participatory, collective decision-making.	Poor valuation of ecosystem services and limited stakeholder knowledge of environmental issues; weak cooperation between communities / cooperatives and fisheries management agencies; weak systems and capacities for commercializing and adding value to fisheries products; gender barriers; weak community involvement in fisheries governance and management	Local communities from the project areas have been active participants in the operation of their local NPAs and have received training in several technical aspects of conservation. In the case of the Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo Caribbean seascapes, local communities requested the establishment of their fishery refuges to Governmental fsheries institutions and they have also voluntarily designed and implemented on-going FIPs. Lobster fishers from Quintana Roo are even experienced in the operation of a MSC-certified fishery. During the most uncertain moments of the COVID-19 outbreak, local fishers found ways of using their fisheries to feed their communities and solve their economic needs. Civil organizations from the project areas are national and regional leaders in the design and implementation of FIPs for achieving better markets, the operation of fishery refuges, the design of alternative collaborative schemes between governmental and civil entities, and more recently the analysis of gender gaps in Mexican fisheries. All of these skills prove that communities and other stakeholders in the project areas are willing to learn and implement knowledge for improving their conditions and are ready to work with authorities on improved fisheries management and marketing schemes, as well as participating in the generation of knowledge and information for the management and operation of NPAs, fisheries refuges and fisheries. As result of the project, authorities and local fishers will acquire and implement technical, organizational, and entrepreneurial capacities, capacities in EBFM, mechanisms for collective community decision-making as well as technologies, practices and incentives for co-management.

Components	Outcomes	Identified barriers in Theory of Change	Contribution to the elimination of barriers
3. Supporting sustainable fisheries-based additional livelihoods	3.1: Fishing communities and fisher folk are benefitting from increased incomes deriving from value-added activities, sustainable local post-capture practices, and access to differentiated market prices for sustainable products.	High vulnerability to disasters and environmental and socio-economic crises; financing mechanisms that are insufficient or have requirements that exclude small-scale fishers; poor employment alternatives in other sectors; insufficient capacities to add value to and commercialize fish catches; organizational gaps; gender barriers	Ordination (regulatory) gaps and the lack of traceability, processing, storing and distribution systems represent the main factors limiting artisanal fisheries at project areas. At the same time, demand for seafood is increasing in local markets, which are beginning to represent attractive alternatives for many products (in Quintana Roo, there are at least 10 top-end hotels with sustainability policies, with an average yearly demand of 12 tons of whole lobster). The existence of 27 on-going FIPs in Mexico (two of which are located in the project seascapes) is further evidence of the interest of buyers in acquiring local sustainable seafood. Understanding that improved and gender-sensitive value chains are needed in local fisheries in order to secure their sustainability also represents an additional factor of added value for gender-sensitive markets that has never been addressed previously in Mexican fisheries. The improved collaboration that will emerge from this project among CONANP, and INAPESCA, and between those institutions, civil society organizations leading many of Mexico?s FIPs (COBI, A.C., Pronatura Noroeste, A.C., Niparaj?, A.C.), and organizations such as SmartFish, A.C. that are skilled in placing national sustainable seafood in alternative markets, will enable the identification and development of better market options for improved / value-added fisheries products. As result of the project, local fisheries will have improved infrastructure for adding value; fishers will have better financing opportunities for sustainable fisheries practices; fishery value chains will be strengthened and more gender equitable; the availability of sustainability certification processes and differentiated markets will be enhanced, and community driven productive alternatives will be identified, planned, and implemented.

CONANP and INAPESCA will provide in-kind co-financing by USD 7,052,571 and USD 5,121,828, respectively. GIZ will contribute USD 5,014,575 through the project *Conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the Mexican Caribbean" project, which strengthens the management of the Mexican Caribbean Biosphere Reserve and neighbouring protected areas*, and the KFW project *Sustainable financing in new PNAs.* FAO will provide USD 500,000 co-financing.

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

137. The global environmental benefits that will be produced by the proposed project include:

•807,823 hectares of terrestrial conservation areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 1) and 1,610,537 hectares of marine conservation areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 2)
•925,116 hectares of productive seascapes under improved management practices (GEF Core Indicator 4)
•21,296 metric tons reduced catch of globally over-exploited marine fisheries (GEF Core Indicator 8)
•Institutional and community agreements for effective surveillance operating in 9 NPAs in the three project seascapes
•Strengthened capacities of: 1) 150 governmental management staff members for the project seascapes in EBFM; 2) 150 governmental management staff members for the project seascapes in fisheries co-management; 3) 2 public prosecutors from each project seascape on illegal fishing and its consequences; 4) 80% of fishing community members and fisher organizations in fisheries co-management practices; 5) 1,000 persons from the project seascapes in gender equity; 6) 50% of the universe of potential participants in all project seascapes (500 persons, with gender equity) in entrepreneurship; and 7) 80% of fishers and fishing organizations in implementing value addition practices
•Strengthened and more gender equitable livelihoods conditions: 1) 40% of women with paid participation in local fisheries production; 2) a 20% increase in the annual income of participating fishermen and fisherwomen; 3) 20% of the universe of potential participants in all project seascapes (200 persons, with gender equity) accessing alternative financing mechanisms; and 4) 4,320 persons (including 1,234 women and 3,086 men) directly benefitting from the GEF investment and associated co-financing (GEF Core Indicator 11).

138. Project interventions will benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services in the three project seascapes, which are home to numerous species, many of which are of global importance. The Baja California Sur seascape contains major pelagic fish such as striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) and black marlin (*Makaira indica*); manta rays; dolphins; humpback whales; blue whales; sea lions, and marine turtles. Seamounts in this area and their surrounding water column are critical habitats for juvenile and adult common Hammerhead shark (an IUCN globally critically threatened species[176]173). The area has been identified as a priority for conservation[177]174 by a national analysis of marine regions[178]175 and various national conservation gap analyses[179]176,[180][177],[181][178], and the islands included in this project seascape belong to the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage Site. Improved management of this seascape will help to protect a priority ecoregion for conservation identified in the WWF Global 200 list[182][179]. The Central Pacific Seascape houses at least 54 species of terrestrial and marine fauna protected under some risk category, of which at least 19 are endemic. The surrounding waters of the islands are inhabited by reef-fish, sharks, rays, turtles and marine mammals, while the seafloor has an important extension of hard and soft coral reefs, whose diversity and productivity sustain diverse regional fisheries. As a group, these islands house the largest nesting colonies in Mexico of the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*), the Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*), the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*); as well as the largest nesting colonies of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) in the Pacific. Isla Isabel houses the highest diversity of sea birds among the group of islands and is considered the most important reproductive hotspot for sea birds in the Pacific. Finally, the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape is one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet and is the second-largest coral reef barrier in the world. These ecosystems are coastal shields against hurricanes, and nurseries for a huge diversity of commercial and non-commercial marine species. The seascape has 66 species of hard coral reefs, at

least 500 species of fishes, crocodiles, and sea turtles, including the threatened Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate)* and Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), as well as the largest population of manatees in the oriental Caribbean and important aggregations of whale sharks. Finally, this seascape is part of the Central American-South American migratory bird corridor and houses at least 326 species of terrestrial and marine bird species. Additional details on the biodiversity and ecosystem services of all three project seascapes are provided in Annex P (Sub-Annex P2).

139. The project will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and several of its targets:

? 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

? 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

? 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

? 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

140. To help Mexico achieve its targets under SDG 14, the National Strategy for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda aims at increasing the economic benefits from sustainably managing marine and coastal ecosystems by avoiding the loss of marine biological diversity, strengthening and consolidating the networks of marine protected areas (MPA), and developing instruments for the recovery and conservation of priority species of ecological and economic importance.

141. The project also will contribute to Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and its target 2.3 - By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment; and Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and its target 5.5 - Ensure women?s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development

Innovation

142. There are four main elements of innovation in the project design:

143. A shared vision of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) among management authorities responsible for the environment (CONANP) and for fisheries, linked to their institutional mandates: EBFM has been implemented in numerous places for almost two decades since its conceptualization, but its implementation continues to be challenging. A vision of EBFM shared by environmental and productive sector institutions in Mexico would allow for the implementation of inter-sectoral interventions that contribute to sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, and social well-being. While Governmental fisheries institutions have explicitly incorporated EBFM concepts in their strategic plans, the proposed project would represent the first attempt by these two agencies to jointly implement EBFM. Furthermore, by integrating CONANP into this EBFM approach in the three project seascapes, the project will pioneer the sustainable management of fisheries and the conservation of biodiversity in NPAs, with the goal of achieving sustainable fisheries production without negatively impacting ecosystem services and other natural resources. Furthermore, through this process the project will create results and lessons learned that can improve national management frameworks for the marine environment, especially regarding institutional planning and management (fisheries ordination programs and fisheries management plans, which have yet to incorporate EBFM approaches in Mexico). By reversing the order of management priorities so that management starts with the ecosystem rather than a target species, EBFM will ensure that marine conservation and fisheries managers incorporate ecosystems components and inter-actions, including the habitat, predators, and prey of any given target species, into fisheries management plans. Furthermore, EBFM will be the gateway for multi-sectoral territorial development planning, thus introducing a more holistic analysis of future interventions that may be proposed by other institutions and sectors beyond environment and fisheries with an ecosystems perspective.

144. Fisheries Co-management: The General Law for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of Mexico confers the responsibility for developing and updating fisheries management plans onto the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), which assigns this responsibility to INAPESCA. At present, INAPESCA does not participate in any fisheries co-management schemes that integrate other management authorities, local fishers and other local stakeholders, and none of the 24 Fisheries Management Plans that currently exist in Mexico are based on co-management approaches. Although fishers are represented in other institutional partnerships such as the National Council for Fisheries and Aquaculture, State Fisheries and Aquaculture Councils, the National Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and Research, and Consultative Committees for Fisheries Ordination, their roles in these partnerships are limited and consultative, and not of a decision-making nature. However, INAPESCA has confirmed its interest in piloting fisheries co-management, which it recognizes as an opportunity to link EBFM approaches and community governance mechanisms to increase awareness among fishers, facilitate effective collaboration in fisheries management, and thereby promote conservation, sustainable use and alternative livelihoods. The proposed project will not only link management authorities and local communities in fisheries management, but it will also strengthen the capacities of fishing cooperatives and other stakeholders in data collection, co-management, governance, marine ordination and technologies for sustainable

production, thereby enabling fishers to make informed decisions on fisheries management and biodiversity protection.

145. Incentives that promote sustainable fisheries management and reduced IUU fishing: The project will be implemented in seascapes with communities earning incomes below the national average, with modest artisanal fleets and simple fishing gear. In these areas, establishment of positive incentives (including access to loans; co-management employment opportunities during fishery closure seasons, etc.), and the promotion and support of alternative livelihoods based on sustainable fisheries and other sustainable activities related to the marine environment (e.g., value-added marine tourism, sport fishing, etc.) will allow fishers to generate additional income through sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods. By providing fishers with opportunities for increased income through these mechanisms, the project will help to reduce the pressure on fishers to maximize catch levels and/or engage in IUU fishing.

146. Community-based and sustainable fisheries-related enterprises: The project will work with fishers, fishing organizations and local NGOs and CSOs, to identify and develop opportunities for coastal communities to develop enterprises focused on processing and adding value to sustainable fisheries products. To support such enterprises, the project will design and implement social marketing / awareness campaigns for both local and national markets to promote the consumption of sustainable fisheries products; assist fishing cooperatives in developing new products and new markets / buyers and negotiating favourable prices based on product quality and sustainability; establish fisheries product traceability systems (from bait to plate) that will enable fishers to increase the price of their product; and implement participatory fisheries certification programs that certify the quality and sustainability of fisheries products for hotels and other commercial buyers. In addition, the project will support increased collaboration among fishing cooperatives with the objective of increasing information sharing on market opportunities, consolidating fish production in response to market opportunities, create collective branding of their fishery products, and reducing production costs through the use of shared infrastructure, transport and other elements of the logistical value chain.

Sustainability

147. The project will ensure sustainability through a variety of approaches and mechanisms.

Environmental sustainability

148. The proposed project will strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and people by improving the health of functioning of coastal and marine ecosystems, increasing the availability of fish stocks over the long term, and ensuring that coastal communities can continue to generate sustainable livelihoods in the three project seascapes. By establishing fisheries co-management plans that incorporate EBFM approaches and the results of marine spatial planning processes; proposing / renewing and management Fisheries No Take Zones (NTZs), and updating NPA management programs that explicitly incorporate

climate change adaptation, the project will increase the resilience of ecosystems and fish stocks to negative impacts from human activity as well as climate change. Furthermore, the promotion of incentives for sustainable fishing and ecosystem conservation, the integration of mechanisms to ensure sustainable practices along fisheries value chains (eco-labeling, participatory certification), and the establishment of catch traceability systems, together will allow fishers to access stronger value chains and better markets and increase their incomes, thereby increasing their willingness to ensure that fishing is carried out in a sustainable manner. Finally, the project?s communication strategy will increase public awareness on the importance of conserving marine biodiversity and ecosystem services, and of seeking out sustainable seafood sources.

Social sustainability

149. Information from project partners on the role of women in Mexican artisanal fisheries, including their participation in the scallop and red Pacific lobster fisheries in the Gulf of California and the spiny Caribbean lobster in Quintana Roo, revealed that women have very limited opportunities to participate in decision-making (e.g. as board members or even just regular members of fishing cooperatives) or in fishing activities on the sea (for the most part, women participate in the preparation of fishing gear, catch processing and marketing). However, the proposed project is designed to reduce these gender gaps and increase women?s participation along the fisheries value chain, which will create more diversified sharing of benefits within fishing communities that will contribute to sustainable co-management of fisheries over the long-term. Among other activities, the project will: i) ensure equal access for men and women to training opportunities; ii) promote the participation of women in productive activities; and iii) promote access to incentives and markets for women and associations led by women. Finally, the consultation process to be undertaken during the first year of the project will ensure that the collective rights and livelihoods of indigenous people in the project seascapes, regardless of their population level, are integrated into the project?s implementation.

Financial and economic sustainability

150. The financial / economic sustainability of the project outcomes will be promoted through strategies and actions to involve fishers, fishing organizations, women and youth along the fishery value chain so that they can effectively access better markets and market prices and develop alternative livelihoods opportunities. Access to better markets will be facilitated through eco-labeling, fair-trade labeling, participatory certification, information campaigns and marketing for sustainable seafood. Implementation of sustainable practices by artisanal fishers requires financing, and this will be pursued through the development of financing for products and businesses along the artisanal fisheries value chain from social banks, community credit unions, and commercial banks. Awareness and education activities will improve understanding among fishers and other local stakeholders of the importance of ecosystem services and the need for sustainable production practices, and their relationship to improved livelihoods, which will increase local interest in supporting conservation at NPA sites and the effective management of NTZs.

Governance

151. The project will build governance and co-management capacities among coastal communities, community organizations and fishing cooperatives to ensure effective community participation in sustainable fisheries over the long-term. In addition, the project will work to integrate co-management mechanisms and EBFM approaches into legal and institutional frameworks so that they transcend the project life and are adopted by other NPAs and NTZs. The project will also ensure proper representation of fishers and fishing cooperatives (with gender equity) in institutional spaces for dialogue, planning and decision-making, such as NPA Advisory Committees, NPA fisheries subcommittees and Fisheries Consultative Committees. The establishment of community-based project monitoring and evaluation systems, linked to national information systems with updated productive, environmental, social and economic information (Output 1.1.4), will also promote project sustainability. Finally, the project results will promote the improvement of regulatory frameworks, policies and institutional arrangements throughout Mexico, as they will demonstrate the feasibility of sustainable fisheries production and ecosystem conservation through effective fisheries co-management.

Scaling Up

152. The project will pilot models for ecosystem-based fisheries co-management in three project seascapes with varied ecological and social conditions and under different management contexts. The models and lessons learned from working in these varying contexts will allow the project to develop recommendations that can be applied to numerous other coastal and marine areas, and NPAs and NTZs, throughout Mexico. Specific project outputs, such as the Marine Spatial Plans and related fisheries ordinations, will also constitute important models with the potential for widespread application in the country (very few areas in Mexico have carried out marine spatial planning to date, and most fisheries ordinations are out of date and/or have insufficient data). In addition, the application and field testing of technologies to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of fishing regulations (e.g. cellular and satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems, etc.) will provide lessons for the management of other areas, while also generating data to support changes in fisheries policies and regulations throughout the country. Lessons learned from the revised NPA management programs can be replicated and adopted by other federal, state and municipal NPAs. The joint fisheries monitoring programs implemented by institutions and communities will provide a model for inter-sectorial collaboration. The integrated information system supported by the project for the three project seascapes will be an interactive portal including information generated by INAPESCA and CONANP. This system will spread information related to fisheries ordinations, management plans, innovative technologies, lessons generated by the implementation of co-management plans, and improved governance and sustainable production practices. The system piloted in the three project seascapes can be up-scaled to the national level and/or replicated for other regions. Furthermore, the information system will be widely available to fishers, thereby promoting sharing of information from fisher to fisher.

Capacity Development

153. The strengthening of capacities among project beneficiaries and national, regional and local institutions is fundamental for securing project sustainability. The project will strengthen institutional frameworks and capacities at national, state and local levels to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of coastal marine ecosystems and the implementation of sustainable fisheries co-management using EBFM approaches. Among other activities, the project will: strengthen institutional capacities in EBFM, co-management, monitoring and surveillance, regulatory frameworks, production and conservation issues, and governance; develop capacities to plan, lead, manage and sustain coastal and marine ecosystem management initiatives that incorporate technical data and knowledge into local mechanisms and processes in a sustainable manner; raise awareness on the importance of sustainable management of coastal marine ecosystems; strengthen gender mainstreaming in fisheries value chains; and mainstream the ecosystem approach to fisheries into governance mechanisms and instruments for ecosystems, fisheries and NPAs. The project will support the institutionalization of its capacity building activities, for example by transferring training programs to government institutions, particularly INAPESCA, other governmental fisheries institutions and CONANP. Project beneficiaries (fishers, fishing cooperatives, other relevant stakeholders) will be trained on governance, EBFM, community-based monitoring, fisheries co-management, negotiation, financial education, business planning, and development of markets. The project will adopt a strategy of training of trainers for local stakeholders so as to promote continued capacity building and exchange of knowledge within and between the project seascapes. Lessons learned from the capacity building programs for institutions and beneficiaries will be incorporated into the project?s communication strategy, which will identify and spread key messages. In addition, the establishment of local-level multi-sectorial territorial development dialogues between authorities and producers in the project seascapes, as well as continued operation of Fisheries Consultative Committees, NPA Fisheries Sub-Councils, and NTZ Advisory Councils (with increased participation by women), will facilitate continued information sharing and building of knowledge and capacities after the project ends.

154. Specific capacity building interventions will be undertaken through in the following areas:

? Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management: Under Output 1.1.2, the project will build the capacity of the staff of CONANP, INAPESCA,and other Governmental Fisheries Institutions in EBFM approaches

? Co-management of Fisheries and the Environment: Under Output 1.1.3, the project will train governmental officers in the development of co-management plans, while under Output 2.1.2 the project will strengthen the capacities of fishers and fisher associations to participate in fisheries co-management

? Modernization of management techniques and tools: Under Output 1.1.5, the project will train the staff of CONANP, INAPESCA, and other Governmental fisheries institutions on the use of innovative technologies that strengthen monitoring and enforcement of fishing regulations (cellular and satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems, etc.)

? Law Enforcement: Under Output 1.1.5, the project will educate and train public prosecutors on illegal fishing practices and their consequences

? Information Management: Under Output 1.1.5, the project will train authorities on improving and updating fisheries information platforms and using them as tools to support fisheries inspection and

surveillance, while under Output 2.1.3 the project will train participating artisanal fishers in the use of the Submarino app, the digital fisheries logbook, and the related information systems.

? Management of Fishing Cooperatives: Under Output 2.1.2, the project will strengthen the operational capacities of fisher associations (incorporating gender and inter-generational considerations), and provide training for the leaders of fisher associations on governance and collaborative approaches

? Entrepreneurial Skills for Individuals and Organizations: Under Output 3.1.1, the project will strengthen the technical skills of local inhabitants (with an emphasis on women) in the three project seascapes to be able to develop, participate in and benefit from community-driven production alternatives, and in the creation of new fisheries-related enterprises. Under Output 3.1.3, the project will develop and implement technical assistance programs to enable local fishing communities to adopt and manage value-added activities for fisheries products.

? Financing and Market Development: Under Output 3.1.4, the project will assist fishers / fisher cooperatives in developing and submitting business plans to Social Banks in Mexico to seek funding for the development of sustainable and value-added fisheries products. Under Output 3.1.5, the project will support fishing cooperatives in developing new products and new markets / buyers, interacting with other important actors in the product chain (e.g. marketers, logistics and distribution companies, brokers, etc.), and negotiating favourable prices based on product quality and sustainability.

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

Table 10: Changes in Project Design

Co-financing information in PIF			**Revised Co-financing Information**			**Explanation for Changes**
Name of Co-financer	**Investment Mobilized**	**Amount ($)**	**Name of Co-financer**	**Investment Mobilized**	**Amount ($)**	
National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)	Recurrent Expenditures	7,052,571	National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)	Recurrent Expenditures	7,052,571	No change

National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA)	Recurrent Expenditures	5,730,051	National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA)	Recurrent Expenditures	0	National fisheries institutions are being restructured and are changing personnel.
National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INAPESCA)	Recurrent Expenditures	4,690,966	National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INAPESCA)	Recurrent Expenditures	5,121,828	No change
Fishermen and fishing communities	Recurrent Expenditures	2,000,000.00	Fishermen and fishing communities		0	Due the epidemiological situation in the country and restrictive sanitary measures adopted by the Government of Mexico it has not possible to hold local consultations with the stakeholders in the intervention areas. In-person stakeholder engagement workshops are planned for 2022 and co-financing is expected to materialize after face-to-face meetings.

Smartfish	Recurrent Expenditures	1,000,000	Smartfish	Recurrent Expenditures	0	Due the epidemiological situation in the country and restrictive sanitary measures adopted by the Government of Mexico it was not possible to hold local consultations with the stakeholders in the intervention areas. In-person stakeholder engagement workshops are planned for 2022 and co-financing is expected to materialize after face-to-face meetings.
GIZ	Investment Mobilized	5,014,575	GIZ	Investment mobilized	5,014,575	No change
KfW	Investment Mobilized	7,573,200	KfW	Investment Mobilized	23,941,720	

Other Private Actors	Recurrent Expenditures	3,100,000	Other Private Actors		0	Due the epidemiological situation in the country and restrictive sanitary measures adopted by the Government of Mexico it was not possible to hold local consultations with the local private actors in the intervention areas. In-person stakeholder engagement workshops are planned for 2022 and co-financing is expected to materialize after face-to-face meetings.
TBD	Recurrent Expenditures	2,059,204	The Nature Conservancy, TNC Mx	Investment mobilized	0	Other CSOs will be engaged in PY1, through in-person workshops.
FAO	Recurrent Expenditures	100,000	FAO	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000	

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[140] The SmartFish Group considers seafood to be sustainable only if it iscertified[140], RFM certified[140], FairTrade certified[140], BAP certified[140], ASC certified[140], if it is sourced by ?B? or ?A? graded fishery improvement projects[140] or if it is ranked ?green? or ?yellow? by SeafoodWatch (www.seafoodwatch.org)

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[148] FAO (2019). FAO Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. http://www.fao.org/biodiversity/mainstreaming-platform/es/

[149]https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=4940652&fecha=15/12/2006#:~:text=El%20Ordenamiento%20Ecol%C3%B3gico%20Marino%20del,un%20mejor%20balance%20entre%20las

[150] http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5279084&fecha=24/11/2012

[151] https://www.gob.mx/inapesca/acciones-y-programas/planes-de-manejo-pesquero

[152]https://www.inapesca.gob.mx/portal/documentos/Planes-de-Manejo-Pesquero/Golfo/Plan-de-Manejo-Pesquero-para-la-Langosta-Espinosa.pdf

[153] Sanitary restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak hindered the development of workshops with local stakeholders.

[154] Governmental Mexican institutions related to fisheries, in addition to CONANP, CONAPESCA, INAPESCA, are the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) and the National Service for Sanitary Safety and Agrofood Quality (SENASICA)

[155] Jenoft, S., B. McCay and D. Wilson (1998). Social theory and fisheries co-management. Marine Policy. Vol. 22: 4-5 pp. 423-436.

[156] Bodin, O. (2017). Collaborative environmental governance: Achieving collective action in social-ecological systems. Science 357, 659

[157] Cisneros Montemayor, Andr?s M. (2018). Half a Century of Fisheries Management in Northwestern Mexico: The Future of Fisheries as Socio-ecological Systems. El Colegio de Michoac?n. Conacyt. http://dx.doi.org/10.24901/rehs.v39i153.392

[158] In Mexico, fisheries governance has different spaces for citizen participation where various actors in society can express their opinions about the challenges facing fishing, and even participate in its management. Each of these spaces attend to problems or issues of a different scale and nature. In the National Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the main strategic axes that frame the fishing policies that are applied throughout the country are discussed. In the State Councils of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the policy instruments for the use of a state?s fishing resources are defined. Both figures are regulated by the General Law of Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture (LGPAS).

[159] In accordance with the LGEEPA Regulations on Protected Natural Areas, an Advisory Council is made up of representatives of the three levels of government, through an Honorary Presidency, which falls to the corresponding state government; the Technical Secretariat in charge of CONANP; and the presidents of municipalities whose territory is wholly or partially within the Protected Natural Area. The Council is also made up of representatives of civil society: academic institutions, universities and research centers; social organizations, civil associations, the business sector, ejidos and communities,

the owners and holders and, in general, all those people linked to the use, exploitation or conservation of the natural resources of a NPA.

[160] Inteligencia P?blica, EDF de M?xico (2019). "Impacto Social de la Pesca Ribere?a en M?xico: Propuestas para impulsar el bienestar social en el sector pesquero." CDMX: EDF de M?xico.

[161] This information is based on questionnaires completed by local fishers; the questionnaires were developed by Pronatura Noroeste, A.C (CPI Seascape); Oceanus, A.C. (QRC Seascape); and Niparaj?, A.C. (BCS Seascape)

[162] Awareness-raising about the problems and needs, diagnosis, and analysis of the identified problems, and action plan (for its name in Spanish, SENDAPA).

[163] During Project Year 1, the governance and operational mechanisms of the participating associations will further analysed.

[164] For example, the CONOCER program (conocer.gob.mx/) of the National Council for Standardization and Certification of Labor Skills, which has developed competence, training, evaluation and certification standards

[165] Inteligencia P?blica, EDF de M?xico (2019). "Impacto Social de la Pesca Ribere?a en M?xico: Propuestas para impulsar el bienestar social en el sector pesquero." CDMX: EDF de M?xico.

[166] PROPESCA. Program for the Promotion of Fisheries and Aquaculture Productivity.

[167] https://www.causanatura.org/publicacion-vd.php?id=2d62e8b9-56a2-4e62-899e-939f7c1067c1

[168] www.gob.mx/bienestar

[169]www.gob.mx/conanp/acciones-y-programas/programa-de-conservacion-para-el-desarrollo-sostenible-procodes-2021

[170] Output 3.1.1 will be aligned with the participatory diagnosis carried out under Output 2.1.2.

[171] CONAPESCA reports having invested 880 million pesos in fishing and aquaculture projects that benefited 11,000 women; however, no details are available regarding where these projects took place or what type of benefits were create https://www.gob.mx/conapesca/prensa/sagarpa-conapesca-ha-invertido-880-millones-de-pesos-enproyectos-pesqueros-y-acuicolas-en-beneficio-de-11-mil-mujeres

[172] Morrisey, M. 2011. Development of Value-Added Products in Aquaculture. En: Cruz-Su?rez, L.E., Ricque-Marie, D., Tapia-Salazar, M., Nieto-L?pez, M.G., Villarreal-Cavazos, D. A., Gamboa-Delgado, J., Hern?ndez-Hern?ndez, L. (Eds), Avances en Nutrici?n Acu?cola XI ? Memorias del D?cimo Primer Simposio Internacional de Nutrici?n Acu?cola, 23-25 de Noviembre, San Nicol?s de los Garza, N. L., M?xico. ISBN 978-607-433-775-4. Universidad Aut?noma de Nuevo Le?n, Monterrey, M?xico, pp. 12-27.

[173] https://www.fao.org/in-action/rural-invest/en/

[174]Currently absent for the above-mentioned species in the project target seascapes.

[175] For example, traceability systems that ensure that lobsters have been properly handled throughout the production chain increase the fish price.

[176] www.iucnredlist.org/species/39385/2918526

[177]www.conabio.gob.mx/informacion/metadata/gis/rmpm4mgw.xml?_httpcache=yes&_xsl=/db/metadata/xsl/fgdc_html.xsl&_indent=no

[178] Arriaga Cabrera, L.; E. V?zquez Dom?nguez; J. Gonz?lez Cano; R. Jim?nez Rosenberg; E. Mu?oz L?pez; V. Aguilar Sierra (coordinadores). 1998. Regiones marinas prioritarias de M?xico. Comisi?n Nacional para el Conocimiento y uso de la Biodiversidad. M?xico.

[179] CONABIO-CONANP-TNC-PRONATURA. 2007. An?lisis de vac?os y omisiones en conservaci?n de la biodiversidad marina de M?xico: oc?anos, costas e islas. Comisi?n Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Comisi?n Nacional de ?reas Naturales Protegidas, The Nature ConservancyPrograma M?xico, Pronatura, A.C. M?xico, D.F

[180] Berm?dez Garc?a, D.M., J.E. Bezaury-Creel, N. C?rdenas-Torres, C. Lasch-Thaler, N. Rodr?guez-Dowdell, S. Rojas-Gonz?lez de Castilla y C. S?nchez-Ibarra (Compiladores). 2011. Taller sobre instrumentos de gesti?n para cubrir los vac?os y omisiones en conservaci?n de la biodiversidad terrestre y marina del Golfo de California y Pac?fico Norte. Comisi?n Nacional de ?reas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), 66 p.

[181] S?nchez-Ibarra, C., D. M. Berm?dez-Garc?a, J. E. Bezaury-Creel, C. Lasch-Thaler, N. Rodr?guez-Dowdell, N. C?rdenas-Torres, S. Rojas-Gonz?lez de Castilla, A. Gondor (editores). 2013. Plan de acci?n para la conservaci?n y aprovechamiento sustentable de la biodiversidad terrestre y marina de la regi?n Golfo de California y Pac?fico Sudcalifornia. Comisi?n Nacional de ?reas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Fondo Mexicano para la Conservaci?n de la Naturaleza, A.C., 294 p.

[182] www.worldwildlife.org/publications/global-200

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Table 11: Project Site Geo-Coordinates

PROJECT LANDSCAPE	STATE	MUNICIPALITY	LOCATION	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
Central Pacific Islands	Nayarit	Bah?a de Banderas	La Cruz de Huanacaxtle	20.7421	-105.3924

		San Blas	San Blas	21.5412	-105.2847
Quintana Roo Caribbean	Quintana Roo	Cozumel	San Miguel de Cozumel	20.5071	-86.9446
		Oth?n P. Blanco	Chetumal	18.5001	-88.2961
		Tulum	Tulum	20.1867	-87.4981
Baja California Sur	Baja California Sur	Loreto	Loreto	26.0117	-111.3477
			Agua Verde	25.4889	-111.1360
			Tembabiche	25.2584	-110.9506
		La Paz	La Paz	24.1426	-110.3127
			Los Dolores	25.0723	-110.8628
			Ensenada de Cort?s	25.0486	-110.8275
			Palma Sola	25.0497	-110.6666
			Punta Alta	25.0138	-110.7600
			San Evaristo	24.9085	-110.7088
			Portugu?s	24.7474	-110.6813
			Punta Coyote	24.7031	-110.6966

See Annex E (Agency Project Document) for project maps.

1c. Child Project?

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

n/a

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:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder engagement during the project design phase

157. During the design phase of the proposed project, various consultation processes were carried out with institutional, social and organizational stakeholders related to the project?s intervention area and scope. In the first weeks of November 2020, an inception workshop was held, which marked the beginning of coordinated work with the ministerial technical teams to agree on the focus, scope, and contents of the project. Following this, interviews and work meetings were held with various stakeholders to learn about the interventions they carry out, identify the possibility of complementary efforts, and validate the needs of local populations.

158. Given the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent impossibility of carrying out on-site visits, contacts with project stakeholders were made through virtual meetings and consultancies with cooperative fishers and other local stakeholders were carried out through three local partners: Niparaj? in the Baja California Sur seascape, Pronatura Noroeste in the Central Pacific Islands Seascape, and Oceanus in the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape. These local organizations carried out surveys to provide information on the following topics:

? Socio-economic analysis of fishing organizations and communities;

? Status of indigenous population and gender;

? Identification of the institutions and civil organizations that work in the area of influence of the project;

? Characterization of fishing organizations that legally operate in local fisheries, in terms of fishing effort, fishing capacity, production levels, production value, markets, economic and financial capacities, monetary income structures, and in need of capacity building or strengthening;

? Identification of alternative economic activities related to fishing at the local level.

159. Annex I2 includes the FAO matrix with additional details on stakeholder engagement during the design phase. These participatory processes served as the basis for defining the mechanisms for stakeholder participation in the implementation phase, which are described below.

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

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation

160. Stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the project will be ensured through various mechanisms that are proposed to ensure full and meaningful participation of the stakeholders and which are summarized below:

161. *Project governance mechanisms*: At the executive level, stakeholder participation and representation will be implemented by the governance structures of the project, namely the Project

Steering Committee (PSC), the Project Technical Group (PTG) and the technical Field Implementation Units (FTUs). The project will promote coordination between institutions as well as the articulation and participation of actors at political and technical levels; the PSC will make decisions regarding overall management and will ensure that the project is executed within the agreed strategic framework. The PSC will meet at least once a year in a different place (*i.e.* landscape) and representatives of the Seascapes Groups will be invited to participate. The FTUs will be in charge of executing the Project activities with a participatory approach, and the technical staff of the project will be responsible for leading and guiding the stakeholder participation processes under the supervision of the CTA.

162. *Inter-institutional and inter-sectorial coordination mechanisms:* One of the strategies to achieve the project's goal is the promotion of inter-institutional and inter-sectorial coordination through various actions, including the following: i) strengthening of institutional arrangements and facilitation of inter-institutional coordination at the national level in order to influence fisheries management instruments; and ii) working with existing coordination mechanisms or promoting new ones at the national level and in the project seascapes; e.g. the project will promote inter-institutional round table discussions at the national and local levels as well as the development and operation of fishing co-management agreements between INAPESCA, CONANP, other Governmental fisheries institutions and fishermen associations in each seascape of the project.

163. *Strengthening of spaces for citizen participation and fisheries co-management:* The project will carry out actions that support the establishment and strengthening of co-management and governance mechanisms in each of the three project seascapes such as: Fisheries Consultative Committees (which are legally regulated mechanisms for citizen participation in fisheries management); NPA Fisheries Sub-Councils Operating under NPA Advisory Councils (these will be established to address issues related to fishing) and NTZ Advisory Councils.

164. *Project communication and knowledge management plan:* At the beginning of project implementation, a communication strategy will be prepared with specific elements for the key stakeholders and for the seascapes. The main objectives of the communication strategy include: i) promotion and awareness among individuals, governmental institutions and project beneficiaries on the need for sustainable fishing for sake of the preservation of marine biodiversity and the national nutritional security; ii) public information on the implemented activities and achieved results, thorough diversified communication channels and products; iii) provision of strategic information on sustainable fishing, for governmental and productive decision-makers; iv) diffusion of lessons learned on subjects mentioned in Section 8.1; and v) public awareness on the production and local and national consumption of sustainable seafood, through the implementation of social marketing campaigns. The strategy will be implemented together with the communication teams of the project partners. The design of the strategy will take into account criteria and actions to promote participation and dialogue, as well as considerations of cultural sensitivity, social inclusion and gender. IN addition, the project knowledge management strategy has two lines of action: *i) creation of local spaces for learning and knowledge management territorial networks and ii) systematization and diffusion of information, lessons and best practices.* These lines of action secure that the variety of stakeholders can acquire, spread and generate knowledge and best practices in conditions of equity and inclusion.

165. *Workshops and trainings:* The project will launch capacity-building programs aimed at thee target groups: i) national and sub-national government technicians from CONANP, and INAPESCA (see Component 1); ii) fishing cooperatives and individual fishing permit holders; and iii)

men and women working at local fish processing and packaging plants, owners of local fish processing and packaging plants, and local seafood brokers. These programs will include considerations aimed at promoting stakeholder participation, including: i) gender and cultural relevance approaches; ii) pedagogical tools aimed at differentiated target audiences with the idea of encouraging their participation; iii) participatory learning methodologies such as local spaces for learning that will generate and/or strengthen the knowledge and skills of fishers along the value chain, through practical learning, sharing of knowledge and participatory action research; iv) exchanges of experiences; v) knowledge management territorial networks, and vi) participatory evaluations. The project will use a participatory approach in working with the beneficiary populations in all phases, seeking their empowerment, with an emphasis on women and indigenous peoples.

166. *Gender Action Plan and FPIC Strategy for Indigenous Peoples:* The project includes a Gender Action Plan and a strategy for the implementation of FPIC in the QRC seascape (see Annex J) to ensure the proper participation of women and indigenous communities present in the three project seascapes. These plans include the definition of criteria and conditions for participation in the different project activities, taking into account the conditions in which women and indigenous people operate in the seascapes, as well as their different knowledge, needs and roles, so that these are recognized and addressed in project interventions. In the case of indigenous peoples, the FPIC processes proposed are in correspondence with FAO guidelines.

167. *M&E Plan:* At the beginning of project implementation, the M&E Expert and the Chief Technical Advisor will establish a system to monitor the progress of the project. Participatory mechanisms and methodologies will be developed to support the monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators and outputs. The project M&E system will include consultation with stakeholders, including collecting their views regarding the project and their participation and contributions to the project. The project will implement Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Process and Approaches. (See Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation)

168. *Project-level grievance redress mechanism:* The project will have a grievance redress mechanism, which will be disseminated among the key stakeholders of the project to inform them of its existence and mode of operation. The Chief Technical Advisor will be responsible for documenting all complaints and ensuring that they are addressed in a timely manner (see Annex I2).

169. The table below summarizes the key stakeholders and their role in the implementation of the project. Additional details on expected stakeholder participation during the project implementation phase are provided in Annex I2.

Table 12: Stakeholder Participation in Project Implementation

Stakeholders	Interest / Role in the preparation and design of the Project
The National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)	CONANP, as the agency in charge of Natural Protected Areas in Mexico, will lead the implementation and adaptive management of activities related to the strengthening of NPA management of fisheries. It will coordinate with CONAPESCA and INAPESCA in the discussion and design of co-management mechanisms. CONANP will provide financial matching funds to the project.
The National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA)	CONAPESCA, as the agency in charge of the management of fishery NTZs, will lead the implementation and adaptive management of activities related to the strengthening of management in those polygons. It will coordinate with CONANP and INAPESCA in the discussion and design of co-management mechanisms. CONAPESCA will provide financial matching funds to the project.
The National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INAPESCA)	INAPESCA, as the main agency responsible for directing, coordinating and guiding scientific and technological research in fisheries and aquaculture, will provide information, experience, mechanisms and techniques on fisheries management. It will coordinate with CONANP and CONAPESCA in the discussion and design of co-management mechanisms. INAPESCA will provide financial matching funds to the project.
WWF-Mexico -	WWF-Mexico will act as the lead project executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of an Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO. Based on its technical expertise and capabilities, WWF-Mexico will lead the implementation and adaptive management of Project Components 2 and 3. WWF-Mexico will provide financial matching funds to the project.
FAO	FAO is the GEF Implementing Agency and will supervise the project execution by WWF-Mexico. FAO will provide co-financing funds to the project. FAO's role as the implementing agency will include inter-institutional coordination and technical contribution to the implementation of the project. Based on its technical expertise and capabilities, FAO will provide technical guidance to the project on EBFM (Component 1); community participation strategies (Component 2); developing gender-sensitive value chains (Component 3); and project M&E and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Process and Approaches (Component 4).

<table>
<tr><th>Stakeholders</th><th>Interest / Role in the preparation and design of the Project</th></tr>
<tr><td>Fishing cooperatives and individual fishing permit holders involved in the extractive phases of the target fisheries at the project seascapes</td><td>Through the project interventions, the fishing operations of these stakeholders will be improved, gender gaps in their production chains will be reduced, and the value of their production will increase and have access to higher value markets. Fishers will participate in fisheries and environmental co-management processes, and they will facilitate project implementation through the use of their productive infrastructure in service of the project. Fishers will participate in the project governance structure through their membership in the Governance Subgroup of the Project Technical Group.

Project seascapes have well-stablished fishery businesses, in terms of production volumes and values generated by the main local cooperatives and individual permit holders.

<table>
<tr><th>Project seascape</th><th>Average yearly production (Tons)</th><th>Value of average yearly production (USD)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Central Pacific Islands</td><td>121[1]</td><td>324,174</td></tr>
<tr><td>Baja California Sur</td><td>35.6[2]</td><td>175,277</td></tr>
<tr><td>Quintana Roo Caribbean</td><td>5[3]; 38.7[4]; 3[5]</td><td>29,280; 611,947; 35,526</td></tr>
</table>

Diversified artisanal fisheries and the existence of lobster commercial fisheries allow for much more valuable production per ton at the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape.

In the Central Pacific Island seascape, the main producers are based at the cities of La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, San Blas and Boca de Camich?n (Nayarit). In the South Baja California seascape, the main producers are based at the cities of Loreto, La Paz, Agua Verde, Tembabiche, Los Dolores, Ensenada de Cort?s, Palma Sola, Punta Alta, La Cueva, Nopol?, San Evaristo, El Pardito, Portugu?s and Punta Coyote (Baja California Sur). In the Quintana Roo Caribbean seascape, the main producers are based at the cities of San Miguel de Cozumel, Chetumal and Tulum (Quintana Roo).</td></tr>
</table>

Stakeholders	Interest / Role in the preparation and design of the Project
Men and women working at local fish processing and packaging plants; owners of local fish processing and packaging plants; local seafood brokers	Through the project interventions, the processing operations of these stakeholders will be improved, gender gaps in their production chains will be reduced, and the value of their production will increase and have access to higher value markets. They will facilitate project implementation through the use of their productive infrastructure in service of the project. These persons working along the fisheries value chain will participate in the project governance structure through their membership in the Governance Subgroup of the Project Technical Group.
Hotel chains operating in the project seascapes and regional marketers of sustainable seafood	Through the project interventions and collaborations established with these stakeholders, sustainable seafood will be sold in local and regional higher value markets (local markets targeting national and international tourists, and national and international seafood markets).

[1] 2018-2020, fish

[2] 2017, fish, including the San Cosme- Punta Coyote coastal corridor and the Espiritu Santo Archipelago National Park.

[3] 2018-2021, fish

[4] 2018-2021, lobster

[5] 2018-2021, pink snail

Direct Beneficiaries of the Project

170. CONANP and Governmental fisheries institutions will benefit from the improved management of participating terrestrial and marine NPAs, NTZs networks and other waters surrounding protected areas (3,343,476 ha). INAPESCA will benefit from the consolidation and use of fisheries information systems at the project seascapes, and the participation of local trained users in fisheries and environmental monitoring. At least 3,086 artisanal fishers directly involved in the extractive phases of the target fisheries, and 1,234 persons working in the fisheries value and supply chains in the project seascapes, will benefit through the series of training offered by the project;

improvements in quality and value of local fisheries productions; and improved governance, organizations and social justice inside their productive units.

Indirect Beneficiaries of the Project

- 798,447 inhabitants from Baja California Sur (392,568 women and 405,879 men)[6].
- 1,235,456 inhabitants from Nayarit (623,178 women and 612,278 men)[7].
- 1,857,985 inhabitants from Quintana Roo (921,206 women and 936,779 men)[8].

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[1] 2018-2020, fish

[2] 2017, fish, including the San Cosme- Punta Coyote coastal corridor and the Espiritu Santo Archipelago National Park.

[3] 2018-2021, fish

[4] 2018-2021, lobster

[5] 2018-2021, pink snail

[6] cuentame.inegi.org.mx/monografias/informacion/bcs/poblacion/default.aspx?tema=me&e=03

[7] cuentame.inegi.org.mx/monografias/informacion/Nay/Poblacion/default.aspx?tema=ME&e=18

[8] cuentame.inegi.org.mx/monografias/informacion/QRoo/Poblacion/

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

171. Women are recognized as an important workforce in Mexican fisheries and aquaculture, although there are some discrepancies in official statistics (CONAPESCA estimates that at least 22,000 women are directly employed in fisheries, while INEGI estimates 14,000[1].

172. Existing data in Mexico rarely differentiates the roles of women and men in the fisheries sector and the numerical and qualitative importance of women is not adequately reflected[2],[3],[4],[5],[6],[7],[8]. Discrimination against women has been documented in Mexican fisheries[9]. Inheritance of rights from cooperative members are preferably made to male heirs, and the acquisition of rights without having inherited a legacy membership requires other candidates (e.g. women) to work exclusively and for several years in extractive activities. Since most women primarily work in pre- or post-production activities, they are thereby excluded from becoming formal members of cooperatives. In some case, fishing cooperatives even prevent women from having a voice or vote, as only male members can make decisions or become members of directive boards. A recent study found that women participating in Mexico?s Caribbean lobster fishery have limited opportunities for reaching leadership positions in cooperatives since only 4% of them are cooperative members[10]. When the Caribbean spiny lobster fishery is compared to the Baja California lobster fishery and the Baja California Sur penshell fishery, it accounts for the lowest-paid jobs and the largest number of unpaid jobs for women.

173. Between 2011 and 2019, men received 93% of CONAPESCA?s fuel subsidies, fleet modernization subsidies and Propesca subsidies[11]. In 2017, CONAPESCA reported investment of MXP $880 million in fisheries and aquaculture projects that benefited 11,000 women[12], but details of those projects in terms of geographic results and impacts are not available yet.

174. Since women?s roles in commercial fisheries are undervalued, their actions and efforts are frequently unpaid, which affects women?s quality of life and limits their opportunities to improve their living conditions and achieve economic stability. In addition, the catch obtained by women is typically fed to their families or sold locally, whereas the catch obtained by men typically enters the market[13]. It is very important to make women's work in fisheries visible along the entire extent of fisheries value chains, since women are frequently important participants in areas along the value chain that are not always accounted for, such as the preparation of materials and tools and processing and sales. The gender analysis undertaken during the PPG phase identified that women have differentiated participation in fisheries activities and differentiated linkages with livelihoods, labour and other social conditions. For example, the analysis found that while women typically participate in biological monitoring of fisheries and thereby help to generate key information for management and decision-making processes and ensuring the continuity of scientific monitoring, they are typically prevented from having a voice in assemblies and meetings[14]. In essence, women's contributions in the fisheries sector often remain Invisible, Ignored, and Unrecognized (IIU)[15].

175. The project design includes activities that will assess gender aspects and incorporate gender-responsive measures into all aspects of project implementation. During the design phase of the project, a gender analysis was carried out (see Annex J for detailed analysis). During project preparation, restrictions on undertaking field work and difficulties in contacting fisheries cooperatives during the COVID-19 pandemic limited the gender analysis to a desk study. As a consequence, a

gender analysis based on detailed consultations with participating groups and communities to identify specific gender gaps in use of time, workloads, differentiated needs of men and women, and access and control of resources and benefits related to the target fisheries was not able to be carried out.

176. For this reason, during project implementation, the project will undertake a continual assessment of gender gaps in participating fishing cooperatives in order to support the eventual reduction of gender gaps. These continual assessments of gender gaps will enable: i) the generation and dissemination of statistics for each cooperative on participation in capture and post-harvest fishing activities, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity and analysed from a gender perspective; ii) the generation and dissemination of data on the contributions of different groups to local, regional and national economies; and iii) an assessment of the gender dimensions and contributions of those participating in pre and post-harvest activities.

177. Annex N provides a Gender Action Plan that promotes the technical strengthening of organizations on gender-related issues, ensures that women and men have equal opportunities to participate in project activities and equal access to project benefits (technical knowledge and information on the fisheries sector; access to productive resources, training, and financial services); and promotes the establishment and development of informal women?s networks for sharing information on biodiversity protection and restoration.

178. The project will incorporate **gender** and inter-cultural perspectives and record sex-disaggregated data into the M&E system, as follows:

a. **Capacity development:** number of women beneficiaries, degree of satisfaction with the training methodology and quality;
b. **Decision-making**: number of women in project planning, consultation and validation of field interventions processes;
c. **Access to resources**: number of women participating in the implementation of management plans, adoption of sustainable management practices, and in knowledge-sharing;
d. **Socio-economic benefits**: changes in women income and livelihoods; and levels of achievement of project activities and budget earmarked for gender mainstreaming.

179. The project will make a significant effort to mainstream gender considerations throughout the project interventions, including the following: EBFM and use modern management techniques and tools that strengthen monitoring and enforcement of fishing regulations (Output 1.1.2); training of public prosecutors on illegal fishing issues and their consequences (Output 1.1.5); development and implementation of co-management plans for fisheries and the environment and training of community facilitators to work with government, to implement fisheries co-management tools and to monitor fishing activities (Output 1.1.3); gender equity and the rights of women and youth, collaborative work among fishing cooperatives for consolidating fishing productions, adoption and management of value-added activities, development of sustainable fisheries-based businesses, financial and administrative management, commercialization and marketing and certification processes, leadership (Output 2.1.4); development of new fisheries products, new markets and gender-sensitive value chains (Output 3.1.5); development of business plans for small- and medium-size rural resource use projects (Output 3.1.4).

[1] L?pez-Ercilla, I.; N. Solano; S. Marcos and D. Valdez. 2019. Participaci?n de las mujeres en la cadena de valor de tres pesquer?as ribere?as en M?xico. DataMares. InteractiveResource. https://doi.org/10.13022/M33357

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[11] https://pescandodatos.org/sexo

[12] https://www.gob.mx/conapesca/prensa/sagarpa-conapesca-ha-invertido-880-millones-de-pesos-en-proyectos-pesqueros-y-acuicolas-en-beneficio-de-11-mil-mujeres

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[14] Fulton, S., L?pez-Sag?stegui, C., Weaver, A. H., Fitzmaurice-Cahluni, F., Galindo, C., Fern?ndez-Rivera Melo, F. J., et al. (2019b). Untapped potential of citizen science in mexican small-scale fisheries. Front. Mar. Sci. 6:517. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00517

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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; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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.

180. The following steps will be taken to support effective engagement with the private sector and achieve the sale of improved fisheries products in high-value markets:

181. Promote the development of WWF-Mexico?s corporate engagement program: WWF-Mexico is a key executing partner for the project (details on WWF-Mexico?s programs on fisheries are provided in the Associated Baseline Projects section). The development of this program is not part of the results framework and activities of the project, but its consolidation and development are key for the success of the proposed project because hotels represent potential buyers of improved / sustainable fish catches. The development and implementation of WWF-Mexico?s sustainable seafood sourcing strategy from local fish markets is critical for solving obstacles associated with the preservation of fish catches in local communities and the timely transportation and delivery of catches to hotels. For this reason, the project will promote WWF-Mexico?s corporate engagement program among entrepreneurial fisheries stakeholders in the project target seascapes.

181. Pursue the incorporation of organizations with expertise in the commercialization of improved fisheries catches as advisors or project partners: Labour conditions and social justice are topics of concern within the sustainable seafood community[1], and various guidelines are available for addressing these social challenges in fishery improvement projects[2],[3]. Fair Trade USA[4] is a leading organization in this area and it developed the first certification scheme that combined social, environmental, and economic criteria. Fair Trade USA might be engaged in the project in two ways. First, the project can inform interested local producers and processors about the Fair Trade USA certification scheme and carry out a preliminary evaluation of the eligibility and potential for success among these stakeholders. If eligible producers are confirmed, their cases could be discussed with the Fair Trade USA deputy in Mexico for evaluating the potential interest of Fair Trade USA in those producers. Alternatively, if no eligible producers and processors are detected or if Fair Trade USA is not initially interested in the improved fish products offered by project stakeholders, the project could instead invite Fair Trade USA to act as a project advisor, with a focus on supporting participants along the fisheries value chain in ensuring that improved fisheries products can meet Fair Trade?s requirements in the future. Another potential project partner with relevant expertise is the SmartFish Group. Although the Smartfish Group has rigorous standards, and it is unlikely that producers from the

project seascapes could sell improved catches to the Group in the short term, project partners could still benefit immensely from guidance and advice from SmartFish, A.C.

182. Incorporate knowledge generated by organizations facing similar challenges: The ?Iniciativa de Impacto Colectivo por la Pesca y Acuacultura Mexicanas?[5] is composed of representatives of fishers, aquaculture producers, public and private sector entities, consumers, civil organizations, marketers, and academics (additional details on this initiative are provided in the Associated Baseline Projects section). With the participation of 20 marketers and 12 civil organizations, the group has identified mandatory and voluntary guidelines that fishers, first buyers, distributors, and final buyers should follow for responsibly generating and acquiring seafood[6], and a group of 30 marketers will start implementing those guidelines in 2021. By collaborating with this initiative, the project will have the opportunity to interact with key stakeholders and introduce participating fishers to these guidelines. Another beneficial interaction will be with developers of free digital infrastructure that: i) allows fishers and fishing organizations to generate, systematize and articulate data from landings; ii) builds digital governance mechanisms; iii) measures the impacts of collective action towards international goals (e.g. the SDGs and FAO?s small-scale fisheries guidelines-SSF Guidelines); and iv) provides the digital infrastructure for articulating components developed by third parties. One example of this digital infrastructure is the *PescaData* app[7], which allows participating fishing groups to collect and visualize project data; conduct gender equality surveys; communicate in local, regional, national, and thematic groups; document and co-create solutions and ideas; and connect with third-party technologies[8] useful for catch traceability, citizen science, marketplaces and traffic lights on commercial species sustainability.

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[1] The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and CEA Consulting. 2020. Progress Toward Sustainable Seafood ? By the Numbers. June 2020 Edition. oursharedseas.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-Progress-Toward-Sustainable-Seafood-%E2%80%93-By-the-Numbers.pdf

[2] solutionsforseafood.org/

[3] fishwise.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MontereyFramework_CI.pdf

[4] The ?Associated Baseline Projects? section has further details on SmartFish A.C. and Fair Trade USA?s programs.

[5] www.icpmx.org

[6] www.icpmx.org/uploads/1/1/8/1/118130934/buenaspracticasenero2020.pdf

[7] pescadata.org/#%C2%BFQu%C3%A9%20es%20PescaData?

[8] Traceability (e.g Nadir, GoChain, etc.) species lists and citizen science (e.g. CONABIO?s platforms), reporting mechanisms (SDGs, FAO-SSF Guidelines), marketplaces (e.g. iPescado.com, Interfishmarket etc.)

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):

Section A: Risks to the project

Table 13: Risks and Risk Mitigation Strategies

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Fishermen are unwilling to participate in co-management regimes or unwilling to abide by new fisheries regulations	High	Low	For the NTZs in Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo, which were established at the request of fishers, this risk is low. For the NPAs, the project will work to raise awareness of the need to take an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and of the benefits this will produce for fishing communities in terms of sustainable fish stocks, as well as the benefits of co-management in terms of reducing the significant negative impacts of illegal fishing activity. In addition, the project will support the involvement of fishers and their knowledge in improving the information base on which fisheries management decisions are	CONANP, INAPESCA

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			made, thereby building additional collaboration and increased trust between fishers and fisheries managers.	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Absence of reliable data concerning fish stocks, catch effort and the utilization and consumption of caught fish	High	Low	The project is designed to create robust, science-based, regular fishery resource monitoring schemes in all three of the targeted seascapes, thus ensuring that timely and reliable fishing information is available for decision-making. The project will generate marine spatial planning analyses to support fisheries / ecosystem management in each seascape. To achieve this, existing information systems will be consolidated and linked in order to facilitate joint management decisions by government and beneficiaries. Additional information will be generated through the participation of local fishers, women and youth in	CONANP, INAPESCA

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			monitoring of fisheries and the environment. This will be supplemented by the use of innovative technologies that strengthen monitoring (cellular and satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems, etc.) and the implementation of ad hoc custody chains and catch traceability systems to deter IUU fishing. In addition, the key government partner institutions (CONANP and INAPESCA) have all been extensively involved in the project design and are fully committed to its implementation, and information in their databases will be shared among these institutions and other project	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			partners through the consolidated information system. The information system will be used by technical staff in designing management activities, and implementation of those actions will help to validate (or require changes to) the quality of information on fisheries. In addition, the information system will be accessible to community members, academics and civil society organizations, who will further validate / revise collected information (local fishers will benefit from capacity building programs that will enable them to generate / check data quality). Public access and transparency will also ensure that updated ordenamientos (data on	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			fishers, licences, vessels, gear, target species, etc.) are sound and trustworthy, while the operation of agreements between authorities and producers on participatory inspection and surveillance schemes will also provide public endorsement to data and information generated. Finally, while INAPESCA, and CONANP are committed to carrying out regular fishery assessments, one of the pillars of the project will be the continuous engagement of local communities in these processes, including training of community members in fishery data collection and interpretation, so that both fishers and fishery management	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			institutions will work together in a transparent, efficient, cost effective, and science-based fishery management system beyond the duration of this project.	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Climate change impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems (e.g. degradation of ecosystem functions due to changes in temperature, currents, extreme weather events, etc.; reduced levels and/or increased variability in fisheries production; modified stock distributions and/or seasonality; etc.) impact the project?s ability to conserve ecosystem functions and/or fish stocks	Moderate	Moderate	The project will help to increase resilience to the potential impacts of climate change on the target fisheries by: i) improving regulations, monitoring fisheries, and enforcing new regulations so that fish stocks are not overfished and thereby more vulnerable to changes in the availability of food related to climate change impacts; ii) reducing habitat degradation caused by unsustainable practices such as destructive fishing gear, so that habitats are more likely to sustain healthy ecosystem functioning even in the face of warming waters, increased and more intense storm activity.; iii) improving management of NPAs and NTZs in order to reduce pressures on	INAPESCA, CONANP

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			marine habitats and ensure the maintenance of ecosystem services in those areas; and iv) promoting practices and measures such as coastal restoration and rehabilitation to maintain ecosystem functioning and provide habitats for marine species. The project will also work to strengthen information resources, capacities and systems related to climate change, including: v) capacities of national and local institutions on the use of climate data; vi) monitoring of hydro-meteorological events (sea temperature, sea level, acidification, etc.) in real time, and consolidating and improving early warning systems for fishermen; and vii)	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			disseminating relevant climate information to fishing communities. Finally, the project will support viii) the diversification of livelihoods through the identification and incubation of new business options and the improvement of catch quality and access to increased-value markets, which will reduce the pressure on fishermen to overfish stocks and employ practices that degrade marine habitats (i.e. fishing less and earning more).	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
The term of validity for fisheries No-take zones included in this project will expire and not be renewed	High	Low	The NTZs within the project sites have periods of ?validity? ending between 2022 and 2024. However, the project partners will work with fishers to ensure that they see the benefits of well-managed NTZs (particularly since extensions are only made at the request of the fishers), and the project will facilitate the production of the technical information that is required for a new period of validity to be granted (primarily this is information demonstrating that the NTZ is fulfilling its objectives in terms of sustaining healthy fish stocks).	Governmental fisheries institutions

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Local governance of fisheries continue to be weakened by the absence of incentives that support legal fishing practices	High	Moderate	The project expects significant participation from local producers, based on their demonstrated interest and the positive impacts project activities will have on their livelihoods. Historically, the NTZs in Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo were established at the request of fishers and have been operated by them as a strategy for improving fish stocks. With regard to NPAs, the project will work to raise awareness among fishermen of the benefits for fishing communities of implementing ecosystem-based fisheries management in terms of sustainable healthy fish stocks, as well as the benefits of implementing fisheries co-management in terms of	INAPESCA, Governmental fisheries institutions, CONANP

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			reducing the significant impacts of illegal fishing activity on fish stocks. Trust between stakeholders and fisheries managers will be further strengthened by incorporating information provided by fishers into the scientific information used for management. In addition, the project will develop and promote economic alternatives for local coastal communities through value-added fisheries products. These activities will go beyond just fishers themselves by explicitly including women, who already play an important role in the fisheries productive chain in processing and selling, and the project will seek to strengthen their capacities in areas such as value-added	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			activities and participation in fisheries management decisions. The project will also promote the inclusion of youth, fostering entrepreneurship through capacity building in sustainable fishing technologies, fish processing, commercialization, and boat and engine repair, among other fishing-associated economic activities. Furthermore, fishers recognize that in order to access higher priced markets, fisheries products must be able to demonstrate that they have been sourced from legal fishing operations, and for this reason, the project will support establishment of ad hoc custody chains and catch traceability systems that will validate legal and sustainable	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			fishing practices and allow those fishermen who follow such practices to benefit from improved market access and higher prices. Complementing these positive incentives for fisheries communities, the project will also undertake various activities to improve fisheries governance, including the reduction of IUU fishing practices. Existing fisheries regulations will be reviewed, simplified and harmonized to respond to local conditions, and community needs and the powers of different agencies with regard to fisheries management will be clarified. Enforcement of fishing regulations will be made using innovative technologies (cellular and	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems, etc.), legal fishers will be photo-identified, and their boats will be registered and chipped. NTZ boundaries will be demarcated with buoys in order to improve surveillance, and inspection will be carried out with trained inspectors. Authorities and producers will formalize agreements on participatory inspection and surveillance programs that will be operated by Community Surveillance Committees. Governance at the Islas Marietas National Park and the Banco Chinchorro, Sian Ka?an and Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserves will be strengthened through NPA Councils that will operate	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			committees on environmental crimes, co-management and governance issues. The simultaneous implementation of positive incentives and improved governance in the project seascapes will create a common foundation of culture, support and practical experience for sustainable fisheries among all stakeholders.	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Prolonged impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, such as potential reduction / prohibition of fishing operations; reduced demand for seafood; challenges in distribution and commercialization of catches; price fluctuations; immigration to project seascapes; increased IUU, etc.	High	Moderate	During the initial stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, commercial fisheries in Mexico closed, seafood commerce collapsed[2], and coastal communities remained isolated and dependent on local consumption and barter. However, because of the importance of fisheries for national food security, the Mexican government put no movement or operational restrictions on the national artisanal and industrial fleets due to the COVID-19 outbreak. As of today, the primary impacts of the outbreak on fisheries have included a reduction in demand for seafood; reduction in value of the most valuable species (which were replaced by low-value and low-cost	WWF-Mexico

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			species) due to the global financial crisis; increased IUU[3] due to reduced surveillance; and the magnification of gender gaps, since women have often been required to take care of children and sick adults[4]. As part of its work with participating fisheries associations and local fisheries management authorities at the site level, the project will promote the application of official health protocols and the effective vaccination of all project participants. The promotion of local and national commercialization and consumption of produced seafood will contribute to the supply of healthy and sustainable food. The project will continuously monitor the	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			socioeconomic impacts of the project and will apply adaptive management according to findings, thorough the operation of the Governance Subgroup of the Project Technical Group. FAO will assist the project team in accessing remote project supervision and M&E tools/options that have been rolled out in various development agencies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The project will also develop measures to increase the flexibility of project management approaches. Fo r example, FAO may sign letters of agreement with CSO / NGOs who have field staff in geographic areas targeted by the project to carry out	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			various project activities, which can help to mitigate restrictions on the mobility of staff of FAO, WWF, CONANP, IN APESCA, and other partners in a pandemic context. FAO will assist the project team as needed in developing, planning and executing virtual meetings and working groups, and the project will support stakeholders in having access to such events. In the case of pandemic-related travel restrictions, local consultants will be recruited to support international consultants responsible for the Mid Term Review, Terminal Evaluation, and other technical consultancies in terms of ground data collection, physical meetings with stakeholders, etc. The use of	

Description of risk	Impact [1]	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
			necessary protective measures (e.g. masks and other personal protection equipment) and compliance with required social distancing measures will be standard for all project personnel and activities. Particular attention will be paid to the protection of rural communities with minimal access to health care.	

[1] H: High; M: Moderate; L: Low.

[2] Torre, J. 2021. Interviewed in: Vidal, O. 2021. De pescadores y pescadores; la crisis de la pesca en M?xico. El Universal. Opini?n. 20/02/2021.

[3] Bennett, N.J.; E.M. Finkbeiner, N.C. Ban, D. Belhabib, S.D. Jupiter, J.N. Kittinger, S. Mangubhai, J. Scholtens, D. Gill and P. Christie. 2020. The COVID-19 Pandemic, Small-Scale Fisheries and Coastal Fishing Communities, Coastal Management, 48:4, 336-347, DOI: 10.1080/08920753.2020.1766937

[4] Brice?o-Lagos, N. y Monfort, M. C. 2020. Women set to bear the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. thefishsite.com/articles/women-set-to-bear-the-brunt-of-the-covid-19-pandemic

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. Institutional Arrangements and Coordination

6.a Institutional arrangements for project implementation

195. The World Wildlife Fund Mexico (WWF Mexico) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, with FAO providing oversight as the GEF Implementing Agency as described below. WWF Mexico will act as the lead executing agency (EA) and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA)[1] signed with FAO. In view of such OPA, WWF Mexico will be the project Operational Partner (OP), responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

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[1] It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner or OP, results to be implemented by the OP, and budgets to be transferred to the OP, are non-binding and may change due to FAO internal partnership and agreement procedures which have not yet been concluded at the time of submission.

196. The project implementation will be governed by:

197. **Project Steering Committee (PSC)**: The PSC will be the highest decision-making entity fin terms of project design and implementation. The PSC will be co-chaired by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), the National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INAPESCA), WWF-Mexico and FAO. The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development will be have a permanent seat in the PSC as an Official Observer. These institutions and organizations will be represented in the PSC by National Commissioners, National Representatives, General Directors and Executive Directors, FAO Country Representative or by alternates in cases where such persons are not able to attend meetings.

198. The decisions of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be made based on consensus. The agencies representing the Government of Mexico in the PSC may change during project implementation depending on the project needs. The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), and the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) will collaborate with the project, but only at the coordinating level with CONANP

and INAPESCA. FAO will be represented on the PSC throughout the project lifetime. As long as the OPA with FAO is operational, WWF Mexico will have full participation in the PSC?s decisions.

199. The PSC will meet at least twice a year for i) oversight and ensuring the technical quality of outputs; ii) addressing the strategic alignment of the project; iii) timely securing of co-financing for the project; iv) foreseeing the up-scaling and replication of the project outputs; v) approving Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP/Bs) on a yearly basis; vi) approving the six-monthly technical and financial reports; vii) providing strategic guidance to the Project Management Unit (PMU) and to all executing partners; viii) supervising, guiding and communicating management decisions to the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and ix) providing the CTA with guidance on the government policies and priorities.

200. The detailed Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Committee are included in Annex O.

201. **Project Technical Group (PTG)**: The PTG will report directly to the PSC, and provide information and advice on technical matters. The PTG will work in close consultation with the FAO Lead Technical Officer (LTO). The PTG will take technical and operational decisions to allow the smooth project implementation, without modifying the approved workplan, budget or results framework contained in this Project Document. If any of these changes is sought, prior approval by the PSC will be required on a consensus basis. The approved Project Results Framework and Budget distribution among components (Project Budget) contained in this Project Document can only be modified after the Mid-Term Review (MTR) (30th month of project implementation).

202. The PTG will also provide continued operational and technical guidance to the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Field Technical Units (FTUs; described below). The institutions in the PSC will each appoint a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. As Focal Points, the concerned PTG members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project. The PTG will meet at least quarterly.

203. **Project Management Unit (PMU)**: The PMU will provide constant information to the PSC on project implementation issues. The PMU will be funded by the GEF grant. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the AWP/Bs. Financial management of GEF resources will be carried out according to FAO and GEF regulations and procedures.

204. The **Chief Technical Advisor (CTA):** The PMU will be advised by a CTA, who will be Secretary of the PSC. The CTA will be supported by a Financial Manager, an Administrative/Operational Specialist, and a Technical Assistant (see below), and complemented by field experts in each seascape (see below). The CTA will be responsible for the technical supervision of all project activities and will be selected through a competitive selection process, subject to no objection from the PSC and FAO. S/he will be

located at the CONANP office in Mexico City and will work full-time for the project lifetime. The CTA will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. The CTA will be the Secretary to the PSC. Furthermore, the CTA shall ensure a close relationship and collaboration on project activities with other relevant national and regional activities and partners. Finally he/she shall contribute to the effective dissemination of lessons learned at the national and regional levels.

205. Details on the role and responsibilities of the CTA, as well as all other persons listed below, are provided in Annex O.

206. The **Procurement Specialist** will be based at the FAO Mexico office. She/he will be responsible the next activities:

- Organize and coordinate the procurement processes of the project, in full compliance with FAO rules, regulations, and policies.
- Prepare and update the annual procurement plans, as well as their timely execution, review and, where appropriate, modification as necessary, in coordination and cooperation with the CTA and the respective technical units.
- Raising contracts, procurement, and other needed inputs in accordance with the AWP/Bs.
- Prepare bidding based on technical information, specifications and quantities established by the technical staff.
- Carry out the procedures for the publication of calls for acquisitions
- Organizing the logistics of project workshops and meetings to monitor progress.
- Participate in the meetings scheduled to clarify the processes of selection and hiring of human resources, prepare the respective minutes in coordination with the technical areas and guarantee publicity to all those interested in the processes.
- Carry out the final review of the contracts, before requesting the disbursements.
- Prepare correspondence and pertinent communications related to contracting and coordinate public contracting matters, including internal procedures for the approval of documents.
- Keep the records of the procurement and contracting processes of the reference project updated, for adequate control.
- Participate in reviews of bidding documents, requests for proposals and collaborate in ex post reviews of procurement and contracting processes.

207. The **Financial Manager** will have the following responsibilities:

- Ensure accounting and finance operations comply with FAO Standards and donor obligations.
- Reviews and approves financial reports to donor.
- Reviews fund request and project work advances to ensure they are within budget and to ensure timely payments.
- Ensuring compliance with all Letter of Agreement (LOA) with national technical partners provisions during implementation, including on timely reporting and financial management.
- Preparing the AWP/B for the PSC approval.
- Timely approving and managing requests for the provision of financial resources.

- Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports.
- Approving and managing requests for provision of financial resources using provided templates in LOA.
- Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- Reviewing and clearing the requests for funds, financial and progress reports as per LOA.
- Requesting and recording documentation and evidence that describes the proper and prudent use of project resources as per LOA.
- Collecting invested co-financing information and providing it to the M&E Specialist when preparing Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs).
- Preparing Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and annual reports on invested co-financing.
- Supporting the organization of the mid-term review (MTR) and terminal evaluation (TE) in close coordination with the FAO Mexico, , national project partners and the FAO Headquarters.
- Informing the PSC and FAO of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the project implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support.

208. The **Technical Assistant** will support the work of the CTA and other specialists to make sure the project advances in a timely manner. She/he will be located at the CONANP office in Mexico City. He/she will work together with the PMU and the Field Technical Units (FTUs) to facilitate communication among project participants and ensure that deadlines are being met and achievements are being reported. This person will work closely with the CTA and will also facilitate technical coordination with CONANP, and INAPESCA.

209. **Field Technical Units (FTUs):** Three FTUs (one in each targeted seascape) will be co-funded by the GEF grant. The FTUs will ensure the efficient local management and implementation of the project, facilitate coordination with the Seascape Groups, and promote communities engagement. The FTUs will be responsible for efficient and timely implementation of the project annual action plans for each seascape. Each FTU will be led by one thematic technical expert (either the FCE, KME or MAE) and have two other specialists, as described below:

? The **Field Conservation Expert (FCE)** will supervise the three Field Technical Units, and will be located at one of the seascapes. The FCE will work under the supervision of the CTA. He/she will provide technical know-how for planning, implementation and follow-up to the activities foreseen in this Project Document.

? **The Community Planning and Knowledge Management Expert (KME**) will report to the CTA and will work in close coordination with the FCE. S/he will be responsible for building strong partnerships with different stakeholders to deliver the Project outcomes. S/he will ensure frequent and structured interaction within and across the project different levels to ensure effective cross-cutting knowledge development, capture and transfer; sharing of lessons; identifying synergies and potential innovative solutions.

? **The Inclusive Market Access ExpertMarkets Access Expert (MAE)** will report to the CTA and will provide the technical expertise for Component 3, managing all related field activities. S/he will ensure that improved community access to markets and financial bankable solutions are achieved.

? The **Marine Protected Areas Specialists** (3 persons) will report to the FCE, and will oversee the implementation of all biodiversity conservation activities, working directly with personnel from CONANP and in close collaboration with other stakeholders. Together with the Fisheries Specialist(s), they will engage local communities and will be responsible for field pilot projects.

? The **Fisheries Specialists** (3 persons) will report to the FCE and will oversee implementation of all productive and fisheries management activities, working directly with personnel from INAPESCA and in close collaboration with other stakeholders.

210. Three **Seascapes Groups (SGs)** will be created, one in each targeted seascape. Each SG will include the relevant Field Technical Unit, Regional Directors of INAPESCA and the Directors of CONANP Natural Protected Areas (NPA), and key stakeholders (i.e. fishing cooperatives, civil society organizations, private sector entities, and representatives of participating communities). The SGs will take advantage of already existing governance structures, avoiding duplications and clarifying roles and responsibilities. The general objective of these multi-actor groups is to facilitate a dialogue and coordination between fishers, NPA communities, and other local stakeholders, and find common solutions to the problems faced in each seascape. This setting will help ensure the sustainability of project governance structures after closure.

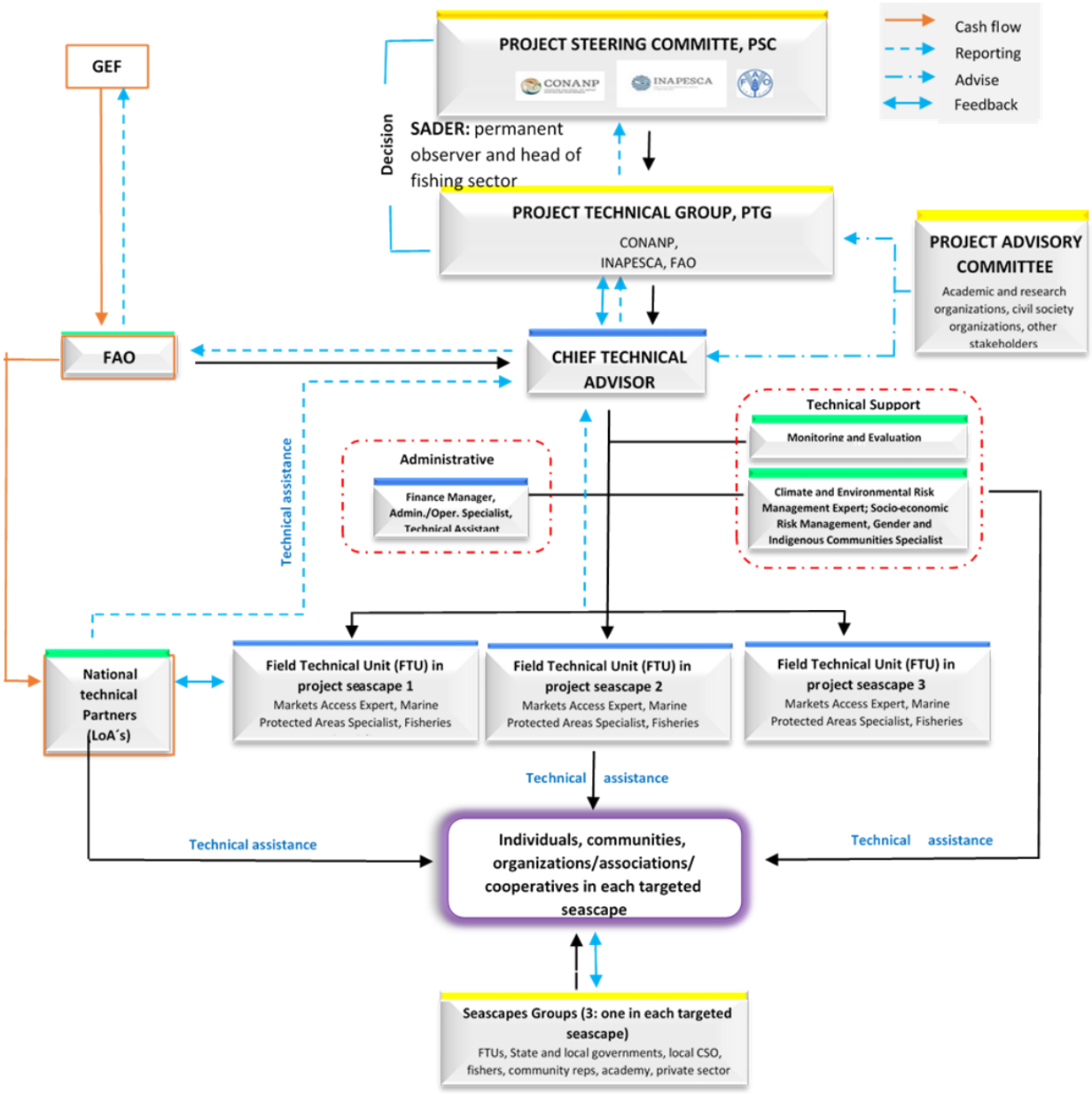
211. The SGs will continuously exchange with PMU, will lead stakeholder engagement at local level, discussing perceptions of impacts and benefits derived from the project, and propose adaptive improvements to be discussed with the PMU. These activities will enable effective local participation and ownership. Representatives of the three SGS will be invited to participate in occasional PSC sessions to provide information on good practices and obstacles faced by the project in the field, and inform the PSC?s decisions on the project future actions.

212. The **Project Advisory Committee (PAC)** will be composed of academic and research entities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders relevant to the project that participate voluntarily in the project. The group members will be selected through a call for expressions of interest. The PAC will generate opinions and action recommendations useful for the adaptive management of the project strategies, based on experiences obtained in the project seascapes, other regions of Mexico, or other countries; as well as on scientific information, research findings and specialized literature. The PAC will also provide technical and scientific advice to all other entities in the project governance structure.

213. **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**: The M&E Expert will monitor project indicators and keep track of project performance. The Risk Management Specialists (i.e. the Climate & Environmental, and the Socio-economic, Gender and Indigenous Communities) will monitor environmental and social risks, as well as the implementation of risk mitigation plans and the Gender Action Plan They will raise eventual red flags to the CTA, M&E Expert and the Field Technical team on the need for corrective actions. The M&E Expert and the Risk Management Specialists will document and ensure compliance with social and environmental safeguards, according to GEF and FAO rules and procedures.

214. The following diagram illustrates the project governance structure:

Figure 2: Project Governance Structure



215. The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy four different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex K for details):

? The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution;

•The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
•The Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.
? The Project Task Force which is a multidisciplinary team of FAO Staff members with expertise in the technical areas the project is working on.

216. FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

? Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, and other rules and procedures of FAO;

? Carry out Monitoring & Evaluation activities to ensure outcomes and outputs delineated in the Results Framework are delivered;

? Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;

? Conduct at least one supervision mission per year;

? Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;

? Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

217. FAO?s roles in internal organization are further detailed in Annex K.

6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives

218. Several recent and on-going GEF-funded projects implemented in Mexico provide important opportunities for collaboration and other synergies; these are described in the table below.

Table 15: GEF Projects with potential collaborative opportunities with the ?Bait to Plate? project

GEF-Project	Project status	Aligned Project Elements	Areas of potential collaboration
WWF (US) ? GEF project ?Integrated Transboundary Ridge-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR2R)? (GEF ID 5765)[1]	Project Approved	This project supports the conservation of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecological systems in the Mesoamerican Reef shared by Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. It aims for the development of i) marine spatial planning processes and related planning tools; ii) fishery improvement projects; and iii) training programs for communities on monitoring mangroves and reefs.	The MAR2R project?s activities on governance of the reef area, marine spatial planning processes and tools, design and implementation of fishery improvement projects and community training programs on monitoring of mangroves and reefs, and management of coastal and marine resources, should provide valuable opportunities for synergies and cross-learning, particularly as both projects are being managed by the WWF

?Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Criteria in Mexico?s Tourism Sector with Emphasis on Biodiversity-rich Coastal Ecosystems? (GEF ID 9613)[2]	Project Approved	This project?s objective is to promote biodiversity conservation with emphasis on BD-rich coastal ecosystems through the design and implementation of innovative policies and models of sustainable tourism in Mexico at the national and local levels. It is being implemented in Quintana Roo, Baja California Sur and Oaxaca. Among its components and actions, the project will consolidate and support diversified ecotourism activities in enterprises at a landscape level; support and generate information systems for the design of municipal zoning plans; develop sustainable supply chains; train local communities in the monitoring of biodiversity; and create alternative tourism business initiatives related to biodiversity.	Sharing of experiences related to the consolidation of local ecotourism enterprises; development of sustainable supply chains; and design of training programs for local communities on biodiversity monitoring

?Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem? (GEF ID 6952)[3]	Project Approved	This bi-national project in the Gulf of Mexico basin will review the regulatory framework for small-scale fisheries; strengthen the enforcement capacity of government authorities for reducing overfishing risks; adopt ecosystem-based management practices in artisanal fisheries; and aim to improve the marine environment by maintaining biodiversity and sustaining ecosystem trophic structure. Local fishers will be trained on how to prevent overfishing of commercial living marine resources, catching of under-sized fish, fishing of reproductive adults and dumping of by-catch. The project will also involve communities in conservation and restoration actions.	Sharing of experiences related to the review and harmonization of regulatory frameworks for small-scale fisheries; strengthening of enforcement capacities of government authorities for reducing overfishing; promotion and adoption of ecosystem-based management practices in artisanal fisheries; the design and implementation of training programs for artisanal fishers; and the design and implementation of strategies for involving local communities in conservation and restoration actions.

?Towards Joint Integrated, Ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA)? (GEF ID 10076)[4].	Concept Approved	The PACA project aims to harmonize levels of ecosystem-based management for selected natural resources (e.g. marine mammals and billfish fisheries) in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica and Ecuador. Project activities include marine spatial planning and EBFM. In Mexico, the project will focus on the Pacific coast between Jalisco and Chiapas.	Sharing of experiences and information related to the marine spatial planning exercise undertaken for the coastal zone of Jalisco (especially its boundary limits with Nayarit) and the design and implementation of EBFM training programs.
?Green and Inclusive Recovery in Mexico (GreenMex): Making high-value ecosystems and rural livelihoods more resilient and sustainable in a post-COVID-19 scenario? (GEF ID 10717)[5]	Concept Approved	The Project will mainstream biodiversity conservation, integrated landscape management, and ecosystem connectivity into social policies and programs in Mexico, such as the ?Sembrando Vida? Programme and other support programs of SEMARNAT, CONAFOR and CONANP. The project will develop and implement economic incentives for poor families to adopt more sustainable practices in agroforestry, and it will create community-based businesses with access to financial services, extension services and training to farmers. Among its components, it identifies and strengthens inclusive and sustainable markets for high-value products and promotes investments from Social Banks for improving sustained socio-economic and environmental benefits.	Sharing of experiences related to the identification of sustainable markets for high-value products and the attraction of investments from Social Banks for improving sustained socio-economic and environmental benefits.

?Fostering sustainable, legal and traceable use and trade of wild native species in Mexico? (GEF ID 10689)[6]	Concept Approved	This project will operate in the Biocultural Regions Nayar, Huasteca, Pur?pecha, Itsmo-Mixteca, and Maya, where it will work to establish value chains that promote the sustainable, legal and traceable use and trade of selected species, and the strengthening of inspection and surveillance capacities to promote the sustainable, legal and traceable trade of native species of wild flora and fauna. Project actions include the development of community-based business models to allow small enterprises to sustainably use biodiversity with enhanced value chains through strategic alliances with multiple stakeholders and multiple sectors; and the development of effective community-based participatory inspection and surveillance committees for the legal trade of species.	Sharing of experiences related to the establishment of value chains that promote the sustainable, legal and traceable commerce of species; strengthening of inspection and surveillance capacities to promote such commerce; development of community-based business models for the sustainable use of biodiversity; and development of effective community-based participatory inspection and surveillance committees.
?Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Rural Landscapes of Mexico? (GEF ID 10574)[7]	Concept Approved	This project will mainstream biodiversity in rural landscapes by implementing sustainable policies and practices in the agriculture sector in the States of Sonora, Jalisco, Nayarit, San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, State of Mexico, Morelos, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas. The project will strengthen and improve decision-making capacities for sustainable land use in rural landscapes, using capacity-building processes directed to producers that include the understanding and protection of ecosystem services.	Sharing of experiences related to the design and effectiveness of capacity-building processes implemented in Nayarit.

[1] www.thegef.org/project/integrated-transboundary-ridges-reef-management-mesoamerican-reef

[2] www.thegef.org/project/mainstreaming-biodiversity-conservation-criteria-mexico-s-tourism-sector-emphasis

[3] www.thegef.org/project/implementation-strategic-action-program-gulf-mexico-large-marine-ecosystem

[4] www.thegef.org/project/towards-joint-integrated-ecosystem-based-management-pacific-central-american-coastal-large

[5] www.thegef.org/project/green-and-inclusive-recovery-mexico-greenmex-making-high-value-ecosystems-and-rural

[6] www.thegef.org/project/fostering-sustainable-legal-and-traceable-use-and-trade-wild-native-species-mexico

[7] www.thegef.org/project/mainstreaming-biodiversity-rural-landscapes-mexico

219. In addition to the projects in the table above, the GEF has supported several recently completed projects that may also provide important lessons learned and models for the ?Bait to Plate? project, including:

- ?*BIOFIN*?[8]: The BIOFIN project concluded in 2020 and generated a portfolio of financing solutions supporting the conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and protection of environmental services relevant to forestry, agriculture, tourism and fisheries.
- The WB-GEF project Coastal Watersheds Conservation in the Context of Climate Change Project, which developed tools, knowledge and lessons on NPA management that could guide project design and implementation, including work on Action Plans for Integrated Watershed Management (PAMIC), as well as important lessons on efficient strategies for capacity building that incorporates gender and indigenous peoples? priorities and knowledge.
- The UNDP - GEF project ?Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Safeguard Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change?[9]. This project, which concluded in 2020, strengthened the explicit inclusion of climate change resilience (connectivity corridors) in the strategic planning of CONANP, generated a National Climate Information Portal for Protected Areas, consolidated the ?Mexico Resiliente? Alliance as a national advisory council, and strengthened Community Advisory Councils in 17 NPAs of Mexico (including Gulf of California islands). This project produced important learned lessons that could guide the proposed project, including: the importance of ensuring conservation and sustainability not only in NPA buffer zones but also in the corridors connecting NPA sites; the benefits and effectiveness of managing multiple NPA sites within a landscape/seascape as an NPA ?complex?; the need to develop robust scientific data, and to develop mechanisms to share such data, to support effective decision-making; and the importance of considering climate change trends / impacts in biodiversity management. This project also developed tools, knowledge, and lessons learned based on activities that took place in the three seascapes targeted by the proposed GEF 7 project, including: i) work in several NPAs (terrestrial and marine) in the Central Pacific Island Seascape on Vulnerability Diagnoses for Marine Areas; ii) NPA Climate Change Adaptation Programs (PACCs) in the gulf of California supported by local working groups; and iii) baseline information and platforms for biodiversity monitoring, namely the Climate Change and Biodiversity Explorer (ECCBio) and the Biodiversity and Degradation Monitoring System (SMBD), in several NPAs in the Mexican Caribbean (Nichupt? Mangrove Flora and Fauna

Protection Area, Puerto Morelos Reef National Park, and Punta Nizuc National Park), which will be highly useful in designing and implementing activities under the proposed project.

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[1] www.thegef.org/project/integrated-transboundary-ridges-reef-management-mesoamerican-reef

[2] www.thegef.org/project/mainstreaming-biodiversity-conservation-criteria-mexico-s-tourism-sector-emphasis

[3] www.thegef.org/project/implementation-strategic-action-program-gulf-mexico-large-marine-ecosystem

[4] www.thegef.org/project/towards-joint-integrated-ecosystem-based-management-pacific-central-american-coastal-large

[5] www.thegef.org/project/green-and-inclusive-recovery-mexico-greenmex-making-high-value-ecosystems-and-rural

[6] www.thegef.org/project/fostering-sustainable-legal-and-traceable-use-and-trade-wild-native-species-mexico

[7] www.thegef.org/project/mainstreaming-biodiversity-rural-landscapes-mexico

[8] www.mx.undp.org/content/mexico/es/home/projects/biofin-iniciativa-finanzas-para-la-biodiversidad.html

[9] www.thegef.org/project/strengthening-management-effectiveness-and-resilience-protected-areas-safeguard-biodiversity

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.

220. The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), together with their subsidiary organizations the Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), and the Institute of Fisheries (INAPESCA), are fully aware of and support the project and its objectives. CONANP, and INAPESCA have participated in the project formulation. The project?s alignment with national priorities was confirmed through its inclusion in the 2018-2022 SHCP-SEMARNAT-GEF National Projects Portfolio for Mexico[1].

221. The Mexican government has expressed its interest in linking productive fisheries management with ecosystem-based management of fisheries, and is prepared to modify its programs to

include the ecosystem-based approach and community management of fisheries. The Territory and Sustainable Development axis of Mexico?s National Development Plan (NDP) requires that public policies consider a development approach that ensures economic, financial, social and environmental viability, and as a consequence, resource managers must strive to align fisheries regulations based on the General Law of Fisheries and Sustainable Aquaculture (LGPAS) with NPA regulations based on the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection (LGEEPA). In addition, CONANP?s Strategy 2040, the National Biodiversity Strategy of Mexico (ENBioMex), and the Integration Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (2016-2022), all call for intergovernmental coordination to allow for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity across governmental programs, which is one of the goals of this project.

222. The alignment of the project?s strategy and scope with national policies and programs is described in the table below.

Table 16: Project Alignment with National Policies and Programs

Policies / Programs	**Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs**
National Strategy for Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Mexico[2]	2030 country visions for: - ending hunger, achieve alimentary security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture - achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls - conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development - strengthening means of implementation and renew the World alliance for sustainable development
Mexico Strategy for Biodiversity Mainstreaming. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (2016-2022)[3]	Substantive axes ?Participation?, ?Sectorial Impact on Biodiversity?, ?Instruments and Mechanisms for Management and Development?. Coordination axis ?Institutional Capacity and Arrangement?. Support axes ?Financing?, ?Legal Framework?, ?Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms?.
Mexico General Law of Climate Change[4]	Article 30, disposition XVIII ?Strengthen the resiliency and resistance of marine ecosystems through the restoration of their integrity and ecologic connectivity?. Article 34, disposition III, paragraph d) ?Strengthen sustainable co-management in marine ecosystems, especially mangroves and coral reefs?.

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
Mexico National Strategy for Climate Change[5]	Pillar "Transversal, articulated, coordinated and including policies and climatic actions", Action line P1.9 (introduction of mitigation actions in ecologic-marine ordinations). Pillar "Implementation of a research, innovation, development and adequacy of climatic technologies and strengthening of institutional capacities", Action line P3.19 (connection of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems for maintaining regional ecologic processes and promotion of NPAs).
Mexico Nationally Determined Contribution (Update 2020[6])	The project responds to the country?s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on adaptation by contributing to food security through the conservation of biodiversity, including the following specific elements: ? Axis B. Resilient productive systems and alimentary security. Action line B1 (promotion of sustainable production and consumption practices). ? Axis C. Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Action line C3 (conserve and restore marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems). Action line C6 (Strength and implement islands conservation and restoration and increase their resilience). Action line C7 (conserve and restore seas and oceans for sake of their resilience to climate change).
Mexico 6th National Communication and 2nd Biannual Update Inform to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[7]	Adaptation goals and actions: Ecosystem-based adaptation: Transit to sustainable production and consumption patterns facilitated by cases nested in NPAs, including tourism and recreative activities. Conserve and restore ecosystems (with equitable participation of local populations) for increasing the ecologic connectivity among NPAs and other conservation tools, through sustainable productive activities.

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
Mexico National Strategy for Biodiversity and 2016-2030 Action Plan[8]	Conservation and restoration: Actions 2.1.1. (Strength and consolidate NPAs), 2.1.2. (Generate public policies for the conservation of important areas and biodiversity processes), 2.1.4. (Increase the number of fisheries NTZs and implement fisheries ordination and management plans for fishery NTZs), 2.1.5 (Develop, strengthen and implement financial mechanisms and instruments supporting the conservation and the sustainable use of ecosystems and their services), 2.1.6. (Evaluate the effectiveness of tools and programs for biodiversity conservation), 2.1.7. (Promote the connectivity of ecosystems for securing the continuity of ecologic processes), 2.1.11. (Develop schemes and mechanisms that articulate and increase the participation of the social and private sectors in conservation), 2.1.13. (Develop and implement in situ conservation programs and tools for reducing the main factors of pressure over ecosystems and priority species), 2.3.3. (Implement, expand and strengthen ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration actions in coastal, insular and marine ecosystems for re-establishing their ecosystem services). Sustainable Use and Management: Actions 3.1.1. (Incorporate criteria and standards of sustainability in fisheries, including diversification and reconversion programs), 3.1.2. (Instrument realistic and effective monitoring schemes for exploited populations and the establishment of sustainable exploitation rates and points of reference), 3.2.1. (Diagnose, from a gender perspective, production and value chains), 3.2.2. (Value ecosystem services in production and value chains), 3.2.3. (Promote the development of social enterprises that incorporate the sustainable management of natural resources in value chains), 3.2.4. (Promote the incorporation of sustainable practices in conventional production systems), 3.2.6. (Design, promote and apply added-value schemes to products and services derived from the sustainable use of biodiversity), 3.2.7. (Identify and develop market niches for products derived from the sustainable use of biodiversity), 3.3.2. (Identify governmental, private and mixed funding mechanisms for the support of projects for the sustainable use of biodiversity), 3.3.3. (Simplify and make accessible, efficient, opportune, and congruent procedures related to the sustainable use of biodiversity).

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
Mexico 2020-2024 Sector Program for the Environment and Natural Resources[9]	Punctual actions 1.1.1. (Consolidate and promote NPAs, private and communitarian reserves and other conservation schemes), 1.1.2. (Promote the effective management of NPAs for warrant the provision and quality of environmental services, with the equitable participation of women, youngsters and indigenous peoples), 1.3.3. (Restore marine ecosystems for recovering environmental services, with interdisciplinary, intersectoral, participative, territorial and long-term perspectives), 5.1.4. (Promote and strengthen the scientific research and information systems for decision-making processes, design, implementation, evaluation and accountability of environmental policy; allowing a systematic, proactive, opportune and culturally pertinent access to women, youngster and indigenous peoples), 5.1.7. (Promote the involvement and participation of the private productive sector in the innovation, mobilization and transformation of productive processes, respecting human rights), 5.2.1. (Strength and create mechanisms, instruments and tools for dialogue and construction of agreements for solving collective problems that affect ecosystems, livelihoods and traditions, observing the existing juridic institutional framework), 5.3.1.- Promote the active, free and previously informed participation in the development of environmental policy, so it solves social needs and promotes co-responsibility), 5.3.3.- (Educate, train, communicate and research on gender and environmental topics for the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies and the use, conservation and conservation of natural resources), 5.3.5. (Secure the opportune, verifiable, relevant and culturally pertinent access to public environmental information, observing principles of proactive transparency), 5.4.3.- (Create a critical, informed and purposeful society that participates in the public policy cycle and that influences the sustainability and the reduction of inequalities).
Mexico National Program for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020-2024[10]	Punctual action 1.4.1 (Strengthen the equipment of processing plants and sale points for facilitating the transformation of seafood), 1.4.3 (Strengthen the research of new products based on fish and shellfish), 1.5.1 (Develop catch traceability criteria for securing the supply chain and regulating the domestic market and imported products), 2.1.1 (Promote the ordination of fisheries for the establishment of productive units that support the economy of small communities), 2.2.3 (Promote the installation of infrastructure for catch primary processing and conservation), 2.4.7 (Promote the certification as fundamental principle of quality for national and international markets), 2.5.4 (Promote the application of best practices for the management of fisheries), 3.1.1 (Update and improve administrative processes and coordination with producers for promptly solving the issuing, modification and extension of fishing permits), 3.1.2 (Update and debug databases of economic units and permits for commercial fisheries), 3.1.5 (Promote training, organization, management and regulation for sustainable fishing at regions needed of development), 3.2.5. (Promote a unique system of fisheries information for the use of SENASICA and INAPESCA), 3.2.6. (Strengthen the link between INAPESCA and CONAPESCA for promoting the generation and use of knowledge for attending producers needs and solving scientific issues), 3.4.1 (Promote the culture of law compliance and sustainable use of fisheries), 3.5.4. (Elaborate and update regulatory agreements for the promotion of sustainable fisheries, through the definition of fishery closure periods, fisheries NTZs, catch quotas and the establishment of artificial reefs), 3.7.2. (Establish linking strategies and communication with SEMARNAT and its units, for timely and grounded decision-making processes).

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
CONANP 2040 Strategy[11]	Substantive Axis "Integrated Landscape Management" (Consolidate the management of NPAs; strengthen other conservation schemes, including fishery management plans and fisheries NTZs). Substantive Axis "Economy of Conservation" (Strength and consolidate sustainable productive activities focused on markets that promote fairness, biodiversity conservation and reduction of poverty and margination; attract public and private funds supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; certify and support sustainable productive activities inside NPAs). Substantive Axis "Legal framework for conservation" (Develop mechanisms and instruments for inter-institutional coordination that warrant the adequate application of the Law; solve normative incongruities that affect the sustainability and the conservation of biodiversity). Substantive Axis "Administration for Conservation" (Solve needs of infrastructure, equipment and staff; accordingly, to the increase of responsibilities of CONANP). Substantive Axis "Biodiversity Conservation and Management" (Develop dynamic information systems supporting real-time decision-making processes for warranting effective management at local, regional and national levels; create trained, equipped and certified community surveillance networks for protection, management and monitoring of biodiversity; promote the generation of knowledge that support decision-making processes for the conservation and management of biodiversity). Substantive Axis "Social participation and culture for conservation" (Promote formal and informal educative schemes for the conservation of biodiversity; promote the involvement of local communities inside NPAs in conservation activities and sustainable use of their natural resources; strengthen capacities of local communities for increasing their roles in management). Substantive Axis "Climate change" (Promote NPAs and other conservation schemes as effective adaptative strategies for climate change). Substantive Axis "Coordination of Intersectoral and Multilevel Policies" (Promote the conservation and sustainable development through the alignment of public policies with a vision of landscape integrality; strengthen the interinstitutional coordination for the management of biodiversity and sustainable development). Substantive Axis "Institutional Capacities" (Strengthen indicators and protocols for evaluating the effectiveness of the adaptive management of NPAs; train CONANP staff in adaptive management of NPAs).

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
INAPESCA 2020-2024 Institutional Program[12]	Punctual actions 1.1.8 (Promote the establishment of fisheries NTZs for protecting critical biologic processes, jointly with local communities), 1.1.9 (Evaluate, monitor and survey fisheries NTZs for strengthening their resilience and recovering species in critical condition, with the participation of governments, national and international research and educative centres and international cooperation), 1.2.3 (Promote transversal research programs with biologic, ecologic, environmental, ecosystem, socioeconomic and technologic focus, in benefit of producers), 1.3.5 (Research technologic innovation for improving the fishing systems used by commercial fisheries, for making them more efficient without affecting the ecosystems), 3.1.5 (Professionalize women and men from INAPESCA in technical topics, gender perspective, diversity and inclusion).

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
SADER Priority Objectives	The project is aligned with the three Priority Objectives (POs) of SADER, as follows: PO 1: **Achieve food self-sufficiency through increased production and productivity in agriculture, livestock and aquaculture** ? Priority strategy 1.1: Boost productive capacity with direct support to small and medium-scale agricultural and fisheries producers to stimulate agricultural and fisheries activity. Action 1.1.7: Provide accurate, current and real-time information to the country's producers and fishermen. Actions through component 1, output 1.1.4 and C2, output 2.1.2. ? Priority Strategy 1.4 Strengthen the domestic food market with micro, small and medium-sized agro-industrial and marketing enterprises to generate employment and income in the territories. Actions: 1.4.1 Strengthen processes of economic-productive organisation and associativity among producers for their incorporation and positioning in value chains; 1.4.2 Promote the development of productive, entrepreneurial and self-management capacities of producers in rural and coastal territories; 1.4.3 Promote a new system of investment, financing, insurance and rural credit for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and 1.4.4. Reconfigure local markets with short value chains according to the characteristics of the territories. To be made through the actions of component 3 of the GEF project. PO 2: **Contribute to the well-being of the rural population by including historically excluded producers in rural and coastal productive activities, taking advantage of the potential of territories and local markets**. ? Priority strategy 2.1 Promote the productive inclusion of small and medium-scale producers for inclusive regional development; actions 2.1.2 Promote the associativity of farmers, community members, ejido members, fishermen, aquaculturists and indigenous people and 2.1.6 Promote the creation of innovation networks of small and medium-scale agricultural, livestock and aquaculture and fishery producers. ? Priority strategy 2.3 Promote gender equality in agricultural and aquaculture-fisheries activities for the promotion and protection of rural women's rights. Actions: 2.3.3 Develop organisational and productive capacities in the activities carried out by women producers in the rural sector; 2.3.4 Promote the participation and positioning of women in the rural sector in the value chain; 2.3.6 Promote the access of women producers in the rural sector to financing services, technical assistance and markets; and 2.3.8 Strengthen the participation of rural women in the sector in decision-making. ? Priority strategy 2.4 Strengthen the productive activities of indigenous communities in rural and coastal territories for their integration into the local food system. Actions 2.4.3. Promote agricultural, livestock and aquaculture and fishing activities in indigenous communities. ? Priority Strategy 2.5 Implement differentiated policies by agri-food regions in order to make the most of the potential of the territories. Actions: 25.1 Promote investment in the sector considering the potential, vocations of the territories, local genetic resources

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
	and product demand; 2.5.2. Promote the diversification of productive activities in rural and coastal territories. PO 3. **Increase sustainable production practices in the agricultural and aquaculture-fisheries sector in the face of agro-climatic risks**. ? Priority strategy: 3.4 Strengthen sustainable production systems for the conservation, restoration and use of agrobiodiversity. Actions: 3.4.4 Promote sustainable fishing practices and gear for the conservation of marine species while respecting the natural environment and 3.4.5 Support the development and implementation of traceability systems for agricultural, livestock, aquaculture and fishing units with good natural resource management practices.

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
SEMARNAT Sector Programme	The project is aligned with the following Priority Objectives (POs) of SEMARNAT?s Sector Programme: PO 1. **Promote the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and their biodiversity with a territorial and human rights approach, considering biocultural regions, in order to maintain functional ecosystems that are the basis of the population's wellbeing.** ? Priority Strategy 1.1 Promote the conservation, protection and monitoring of ecosystems, agro-ecosystems and their biodiversity to guarantee the provision and quality of their environmental services, considering normative instruments, uses, customs, traditions and cosmovisions of indigenous peoples, Afro-Mexicans and local communities**.** Actions 1.1.1 Consolidate and promote protected natural areas, community and private reserves and other conservation schemes, giving priority to the representativeness and connectivity of ecosystems, the conservation of priority species and the biocultural heritage of the communities that inhabit them; and 1.1.2 Promote, through the equitable participation of women, young people and indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities, the effective management of federal protected natural areas and other conservation schemes with the participation of the sectors involved and local communities in order to guarantee the provision and quality of their environmental services. PO 2. **Strengthen climate action to move towards a low-carbon economy and resilient people, ecosystems, production systems and strategic infrastructure, supported by available scientific, traditional and technological knowledge.** ? Priority Strategy 2.1 To reduce vulnerability to climate change through the design, integration and implementation of adaptation criteria in instruments and tools for decision-making with a preventive and long-term approach that allows for the improvement of the population's well-being and quality of life. Action 2.1.1 Coordinate and implement adaptation processes through the integration and articulation of intersectoral actions in the territory. PO 4. **Promote an environment free of water, air and soil pollution that contributes to the full exercise of the right to a healthy environment**. ? Priority Strategy 4.2 Encourage change and innovation in the methods of production and consumption of goods and services in order to reduce the extraction of natural resources, the use of energy and minimise the impact of human activities on the environment. Action 4.2.3 Encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns in order to reduce the extraction of natural resources, the use of energy, and to minimise the effects of human activities on the environment.

Policies / Programs	Project Alignment with specific section of the Policies / Programs
	PO 5. **Strengthen environmental governance through free, effective, meaningful and co-responsible citizen participation in public policy decisions, ensuring access to environmental justice with a territorial and human rights approach and promoting environmental education and culture.** ? Priority Strategy 5.1 Effectively articulate government action with the balanced participation of different actors and social groups to contribute to effective and efficient public management, with a territorial, gender equality and sustainability approach. Action 5.1.7 Promote the participation and involvement of the private sector in innovation, resource mobilisation and transformation of productive processes, with respect for human rights.

[1] 132.248.31.69/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1362&Itemid=1

[2] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/514075/EN-A2030Mx_VF.pdf

[3] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/187913/Pesca_EN_S.pdf

[4] www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LGCC_061120.pdf

[5] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/41978/Estrategia-Nacional-Cambio-Climatico-2013.pdf

[6] www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Mexico%20First/NDC-Esp-30Dic.pdf

[7] unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MEX_6aNC_Revisada_0.pdf

[8] bioteca.biodiversidad.gob.mx/janium/Documentos/12890.pdf

[9] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/566832/PROMARNAT-2020-2024.pdf

[10] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/616554/PROGRAMA_Nacional_de_Pesca_y_Acuacultura_2020-2024baja.pdf

[11] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/60963/E-2040_completa.pdf

[12] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/581180/programa_institucional_2020-2024.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.

8.1 Knowledge Management approach

223. Knowledge management will be a cross-cutting activity throughout the project, to strengthen institutional memory and capacities, promote continuous learning, and produce documentation to support the scaling-up of project results. Knowledge management will be aligned to the approaches of the FAO Knowledge Management Strategy[1] aimed at stakeholders and project beneficiaries and will incorporate the following: a) participatory and gender-based approach; b) support for ongoing processes focused on finding solutions to local problems; c) differentiated training for different target groups at multiple scales; and d) monitoring and evaluating results and impacts. Emphasis will be placed on preparing information that includes a gender approach in the knowledge products and highlight the experiences of women's work in the target fisheries and other related activities.

224. The project knowledge management strategy has two lines of action: i) creation of local spaces for learning and territorial networks, and ii) systematization and dissemination of information, lessons and best practices. Project stakeholders can acquire, spread and generate knowledge and best practices in conditions of equity and inclusion. This strategy links outputs 2.1.3 and 4.1.3.

225. Local spaces for learning and territorial networks: The project will promote joint learning of fishers and project beneficiaries, local organizations, local representatives of CONANP, INAPESCA and government agencies, research and academic institutions, service providers, seafood buyers and other stakeholders from the seafood value chains. The project will promote fisher-to-fisher exchanges among project seascapes and replication of high-impact actions (see output 2.1.3). The territorial networks for knowledge management will be composed of groups with common goals that voluntarily exchange information. The networks will develop action plans for local involvement. The project Knowledge Management Expert and Field Specialists will lead the development and activities of the local spaces and the territorial networks. A group of community promoters will facilitate the participation of their own communities.

226. Systematization and dissemination of information, lessons and best practices: Knowledge management will be supported by documents tailored for decision-makers (e.g. policy briefs) and other project beneficiaries (e.g. brief notes, handbooks, and factsheets). Documents will include information on: ??i) the relevance of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM); ii) planning and management tools for marine conservation and fisheries co-management; iii) local mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination; iv) the role of local communities in co-management; v) the relevance of NTZs and NPAs in sustainable fishing; vi) regulated and sustainable fishing practices; vii) guidelines for developing fishery co-management plans; viii) handbooks for the use of the Integrated Information System and its related apps; ix) artisanal fisheries governance; x) the role of women in fisheries; and xi) supporting sustainable fisheries-based alternative livelihoods. Experiences and lessons learned from the project implementation will be also published and uploaded to the project website.

227. The project will create a website linked to the web platforms of government institutions, FAO, WWF, and other partner organizations. The site will provide updated information to project partners and wide audience. A digital protocol will guide information transfers between the project website and the Integrated Information System (output 1.1.4). The website will be updated periodically to share

experiences, disseminate information, highlight project results and progress, and facilitate the replication of project outputs.

228. All project knowledge products will be generated with a gender perspective, highlighting women's work and their participation in initiatives for sustainable biodiversity use, sustainable fisheries, fisheries co-management, local planning, and adding value to fish catches.

229. The project will share knowledge with two other GEF co-funded projects (one in the Caribbean and one in the Pacific; described in Section 6b - *Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives*). In addition, the project will share information with several other projects, including: ?No take zones in the coastal Corridor of San Cosme to Punta Coyote in the Gulf of California? [2] led by the Natural History Society, Niparaj?; ?Assuring the long-term success of the network of fish refuges in the Mexican MAR project?[3] in Quintana Roo led by Conservaci?n y Biodiversidad (COBI); and the ?Climate-Smarting Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Management in the Mesoamerican Reef Region, MAR Project (Smart Coasts)? [4] funded by IKI in the Mexican Caribbean. The FAO Subregional Office for Central America (SLM) will facilitate knowledge-sharing among the PMU, key national stakeholders and neighbouring countries with similar challenges (e.g. the Caribbean), ecosystems, species and threats.

230. Progress metrics for the described knowledge management structure include i) the number of project websites/microsites online; ii) the number of visitors to the project websites/microsites; iii) the number of news, documents, or products generated by the project diffused by the project websites/microsites; iv) the number of Project Technical Group and the Project Steering Committee work sessions dedicated to addressing communications and knowledge management, and v) the number of approvals related to communications and knowledge management made by the Project Steering Committee. The project Knowledge Management strategy will be refined in the first semester of PY1 by the KM Expert, under the CTA?s guidance.

8.2 Communication Strategy

231. The project will implement a communication strategy to support the positioning of the project. The strategy will target project partners, national, sub-national and local stakeholders. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit and the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central America will support the dissemination of project outputs relevant for the global commons, both in Latin America and worldwide.

232. The project communication strategy will include the development of a logo, emblematic images, and campaigns or events at the national and local level to position fisheries concepts and ideas.

233. The main objectives of the communication strategy are:

i. To promote and raise awareness among individuals, government institutions and project beneficiaries on the linkage between sustainable fisheries, marine biodiversity and food security;

ii. To publish information on the project activities and outcomes through diversified communication channels;

iii. To inform the government and productive decision-making through the provision of strategic information on sustainable fisheries;

iv. To disseminate project lessons learned (see Section 8.1 ? Knowledge Management Approach)

v. To raise public awareness on the local and national production and consumption of sustainable seafood, through the implementation of social marketing campaigns.

vi. Promote the importance of gender-sensitive value chains and the role of women in fisheries

234. The communication strategy will ensure project visibility. The Integrated Information System (output 1.1.4) will inform institutional decision-making, will locally share lessons and best practices, and will provide data to local fishers. Social networks, emails, electronic bulletins, policy briefs and informative video clips will be used. Information, news, and knowledge products will be disseminated by the Social Communication and Press offices of INAPESCA and CONANP, which have the infrastructure and human resources to establish, host and manage websites and make electronic versions of documents available.

235. Key messages will include:

- A shared vision of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) among environmental authorities (CONANP) and fisheries authorities, which will allow for inter-sectoral interventions contributing to sustainable fisheries, marine habitat conservation, and social well-being;

- Project leadership on sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in NPAs without negatively impacting local livelihoods;

- Project results and lessons learned that are applicable at the national level, especially regarding institutional planning. Policy briefs and strategic reports generated for the PSC will be useful for this end.

236. Key messages for fishers and local stakeholders will include:

- The importance of making collective and informed decisions;

- The importance of participating in the development and implementation of fisheries co-management plans;

- Communities are key stakeholders for sustainability and the protection of marine biodiversity;

- Positive incentives can promote sustainable management and reduce IUU fishing.

237. To support activities under project Component 3, the project will use marketing campaigns, social networks, local and regional spaces for learning and exchanging information, and local media to deliver key messages related to alternative livelihoods, including:

- working with fishers, fishing organizations and NGOs to identify and develop business opportunities related to the processing of catches;

- promoting local and regional consumption of sustainable fisheries products;

- supporting cooperatives in developing new products and addressing new markets;

- promoting catch traceability systems that enable higher prices for catches.

238. The project Communication Strategy will be refined in the first semester of PY1 by the Communications Specialist, under the CTA?s guidance.

8.3 Integration of lessons learned from other GEF projects

Table 17: Lessons from previous GEF projects that have contributed to design of the ?bait to plate? project

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
# 5785 Promotion of sustainable land management (PROTIERRAS) FAO was both GEF and Executing Agency	The project objective was to reduce land degradation with the introduction of cross-sector policies and good practices of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in strategic agro-productive landscapes. The project generated lessons on mechanisms for project governance, for example that governance should consider strategic - directive bodies as well as technical - administrative bodies, and those in the territories and the links between them, clarifying the objectives and duties of each one in both decision-making and consultation. Attention should also be paid to the representativeness and participation of different actors involved in the project, as well as timely attention to thematic and strategic agendas, ensuring effective communication platforms between all the partners for an effective	The design of Institutional Arrangements for the project?s implementation (see section 6) incorporates 3 Seascape Groups (1 per landscape). Members of these groups will include the Field Technical Unit, INAPESCA?s and CONAPESCA?s Regional Directors, CONANP?s Natural Protected Areas (NPA) directors, as well as other relevant actors in each landscape, such as fishing cooperatives collaborating in the project, civil organizations, entities of the private sector, as well as representatives of participating communities. Representatives of the Seascape Groups will be invited occasionally to participate in the PSC sessions to provide information on good practices and obstacles faced by the project in the field, which will aid in the PSC?s decisions regarding the project?s future actions. The Seascapes Groups will take advantage of already existing governance structures in each landscape, avoiding duplications and clarifying roles and responsibilities to prevent confusions. The general objective of these multi-actor groups will be to facilitate dialogue and coordination between fishers, NPA?s communities and other local stakeholders, in order to find common solutions to the problems faced in each landscape. This will also allow the sustainability of these governance structures after project closure.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
	implementation of the project.	
	The project did not have clear indicators to measure possible land degradation reductions, which made it challenging to demonstrate environmental impact. The MTR and ET found that monitoring of the project was limited and lacked effective technical supervision.	The proposed project will have a M&E Unit that will operate outside the project implementation unit (PMU and FTU); the M&E Unit will be hosted by FAO Mexico. The project M&E system, as well as all other activities under both Output 4.1.1 and Output 4.1.2, will be led by the project M&E Unit. The M&E Unit will strengthen the M&E capacities of the executing agency (the results of the capacity analysis indicate some weaknesses in WWF's M&E capacities). Additionally, the project will implement Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Process and Approaches (PM&E), which will promote accountability through citizen-led monitoring as a strategy to ensure quality, accountability and transparency for diverse actors? participation
	During project implementation, limitations were observed in identifying, managing and mitigating the risks that arose. At the beginning of implementation, there was a substantial cut in the Federal Government budget, which considerably affected the participation of the government lead partner (SEMARNAT) in the project.	The project proposes the search for strategic alliances and the promotion of coordinated actions toward sustainable fisheries as key elements the project's exit strategy.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
# 5089 Strengthening Management of the PA system to Better Conserve Endangered Species and their Habitats	During project implementation, limitations were observed in identifying, managing and mitigating the risks that arose. At project mid-term there was a substantial cut in the CONANP budget, and expenditures that should have been covered by CONANP in the initial years of implementation were identified as a risk to the project in 2017. It was not viable to estimate the amount of funds used in substitution of CONANP funding.	To broaden the financing options for sustainable fisheries, the project has proposed a sustainable fisheries-based alternative livelihoods strategy. Among the important actions are the mobilization of available public and private funds for the acquisition of required infrastructure; structuring public-private partnerships; and developing a portfolio of bankable solutions for sustainable fisheries that includes market-based incentives, blended financing, guarantees, insurance, and fiscal and market-based incentives.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
	Gender equality and women?s empowerment were not specifically included in project design, and there were no gender-based indicators in the project. However, a specific strategy or action plan would have enabled the project to work on the root causes of inequality and produce more profound changes beyond ensuring equal participation of men and women, moving from the rating of gender-targeted to gender responsive.	The structure of the project will have two safeguards specialists, the Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist and the Climate and Environmental Risk Management Specialist. These specialists will be responsible for ensuring that gender considerations are adequately mainstreamed through project activities, results, monitoring, participation mechanisms and safeguards, in order not only to avoid negative impacts on women from the project?s activities, but also to proactively identify and realize opportunities for the project to improve the social and economic status of women. In order to incorporate the gender responsive across all project components, the Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist will oversee implementation of the project?s Gender and Indigenous Action Plan.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
# 9380 Securing the Future of Global Agriculture in the Face of Climate Change by Conserving the Genetic Diversity of the Traditional Agro-ecosystems of Mexico	Given its nature, the project component on capacity development required direct contact with beneficiaries that are the smallholder farmers that cultivate and protect agrobiodiversity. The COVID-19 pandemic began when the smallholder farmers needed support because it was right before planting time. The project suspended field work for only 3 months, during this period a protocol was designed to be able to continue field work, which consisted of the implementation of activities through local partners and project advocates located in the communities that did not require travel, as well as the application of health measures such as social distancing, the use of masks and personal hygiene, a reduction in the number of people participating in meetings or activities, and use of spaces with	The lesson obtained will be capitalized through of blended training: on-line and face-to-face training. This lesson will be adapted to Component 2 "Community participation in fisheries management". The training strategy considers implementation of activities through local partners and project advocates located in the communities. The project strategy to address risks associated with Covid-19 is described in Section 4 (Risks).

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
	better air circulation and activities in open spaces	
	Gender equality and women?s empowerment were not specifically included in project design, and there were no gender-based indicators in the project. However, a specific strategy or action plan would have enabled the project to work on the root causes of inequality and produce more profound changes beyond ensuring equal participation of men and women, moving from the rating of gender-targeted to gender responsive.	The structure of the project will have two safeguards specialists, the Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist and the Climate and Environmental Risk Management Specialist. These specialists will be responsible for ensuring that gender considerations are adequately mainstreamed through project activities, results, monitoring, participation mechanisms and safeguards, in order not only to avoid negative impacts on women from the project?s activities, but also to proactively identify and realize opportunities for the project to improve the social and economic status of women. In order to incorporate the gender responsive across all project components, the Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist will oversee implementation of the project?s Gender and Indigenous Action Plan.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
	This project was the initially to be implemented by FAO Mx through OPIM, which represents a viable opportunity to decentralize the management and implementation of GEF projects. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness, it is essential to clarify roles and responsibilities during the design phase of each new project. In addition, it is important to ensure that the authorities involved participate in this process jointly with FAO in order to be aware of the GEF policies and principles and how they can be implemented within the political-legal framework of the country (and/or the spaces within this framework).	This lesson has been integrated in all the stages of formulation of the project proposal, where multiple meetings with involved stakeholders were held to provide information on the OPIM management model. In addition, the project management model has been developed in conjunction with the most relevant partners of the project and periodic actions of socialization of this model will be proposed during the operation of the project to the corresponding authorities.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
	During the project design process, a series of environmental, social, political and institutional risks related to the execution of the project were identified, most of them classified as having a low and moderately low probability of occurrence. How ever, the implemented environmental and social risk mitigation plan was inconsistent with the identified risks.	The structure of the project will have an M&E unit that include two safeguards specialists. The safeguards specialists will: ? Ensure strict fulfilment of the project?s environmental and social safeguards, as well as the implementation of the action plan to mitigate environmental and social risks within the project territory of intervention; ? Provide adequate advice in the follow-up of the activities related with the approach and application of the safeguards (including the indicators, and propose amendments and updates, if appropriate), as well as in mainstreaming the gender and intercultural approach in the execution of the project. ? Train the project team on FAO Environmental and Social Safeguards. ? Establish the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, train the project team based in the field on FPIC related matters, and support the key phases of the process.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
	The M&E and knowledge management systems, including the use of online applications (shinyapps) to store and exchange project documentation, coupled with the implementation modality by the project technical team (without contracting external services), made it possible to generate a database of project documentation, stored online in the project?s knowledge management platform, which supported project sustainability goals.	This lesson is integrated within the project through Output 4.1.3, which includes a communication and information strategy; visits and exchange tours; and a project website linked to monitoring and follow-up processes and the information system (output 1.1.4)
	Physical and financial progress monitoring of the executing partner by FAO was carried out in addition to reporting, including presentations to the FAO project monitoring committee (PMC)	The OPIM management model allows all partners to know their different roles. FAO's role as the implementing agency will be inter-institutional coordination and technical contributions to the implementation of the project.

Project	Lessons learned relevant to this project [1]	How these lessons contribute to the proposal From Bait to plate
# 4763 Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Safeguard Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change	The environment sector's budget was cut 40% from the previous year. This had implications in terms of intervention and territorial presence, which can affect Mexico's natural capital. For this reason, the search for strategic alliances and the promotion of coordinated actions toward PNA management was a key issue for the project's exit strategy.	The project proposes the search for strategic alliances and the promotion of coordinated actions toward sustainable fisheries as key elements the project's exit strategy. To broaden the financing options for sustainable fisheries, the project has proposed supporting sustainable fisheries-based alternative livelihoods strategies. Among the proposed actions are the mobilization of available public and private funds for the acquisition of required infrastructure, structure public-private partnerships and develop a portfolio of bankable solutions for sustainable fisheries that includes market-based incentives, blended financing, guarantees, insurance, and fiscal and market-based incentives.
# 9445 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in Priority Landscapes of Oaxaca and Chiapas	Fostering of cooperative platforms as essential tools to strengthen community monitoring.	This lesson is integrated into project activities under Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

[1] http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/capacity_building/KM_Strategy.pdf

[2] https://niparaja.org/en/projects/

[3] https://marfund.org/update/2020/#MARFish

[4] https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/details/project/climatesmarting-marine-protected-areas-and-coastal-management-in-the-mesoamerican-reef-region-18_II_152-3009

[5] Taken from the Terminal Evaluation reports of the projects in question

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

239. The project M&E will be conducted in accordance with FAO and GEF policies and guidelines. Monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving project results and objectives will be done based on the targets and indicators established in the Project Results Framework (Annex A1). GEF-7 Tracking Tools (MEET) will be updated at the time of the mid-term review and terminal evaluation. The project M&E system will also facilitate learning, replication and scaling-up of co-management tools in field areas.

240. The project M&E system and outputs 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, will be managed by the project M&E Expert.

9.1 Supervisory and monitoring responsibilities

241. The M&E functions and responsibilities will be carried out through:

i) Field missions to monitor the technical progress of the project. Main responsible partners: M&E Expert, CTA and Field Technical Units (FTUs: 3-one for each seascape) with support from FAO;

ii) Technical monitoring of indicators to measure improvements in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (M&E Expert, FTU and FAO LTO in coordination with national partners);

iii) Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation (independent consultants); and,

iv) Annual monitoring and supervision missions carried out by the Implementing Agency (FAO).

242. In the first quarter of PY1, the M&E Expert will design the project M&E Plan, in consultation with the CTA and FAO. The M&E Plan will be validated with project stakeholders in the Inception Workshop, and subsequently approved by the PSC. The M&E Plan will include: i) the updated annual indicators of the Project Results Framework; ii) updated baseline, if necessary, and selected tools for data collection; iii) description of the monitoring strategy, including data collection and processing, roles and responsibilities, reporting flows, and a brief discussion of who, when and how each indicator will be measured (responsibility for project activities may or may not coincide with responsibility for data collection); iv) updated implementation arrangements, if necessary; v) schedule of project workshops, including Inception, Mid-Term, Terminal Evaluation, among other project milestones.

243. The project Inception Workshop will address the following: (i) presentation and description of the project Results Framework with all project stakeholders; (ii) review of project indicator targets and their baselines; and iii) clarification of the distribution of monitoring tasks among project partners.

244. The project will also adopt Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Process and Approaches (PM&E), defined as a process based on stakeholder engagement, and shared control over contents, processes, results and adaptive actions.

245. The M&E Expert together with relevant community stakeholders will design the PM&E action plan during first semester of PY1. The PM&E process will involve: 1) identifying and engaging key stakeholders (community promotors - see Component 2); 2) building capacities in terms of skills, knowledge and experience; 3) involving stakeholders to define what will be monitored, how and by whom; 4) discussing relevant indicators; 5) discussing how data will be collected by the community promoters; 6) analysing successes and constraints and drawing conclusions; 7) sharing views and findings; and 8) learning and sustaining change. The PM&E will strengthen knowledge management, Component 2 and output 4.1.3.

9.2 Indicators and information sources

246. To monitor project outputs and outcomes, specific indicators have been established in the Results Framework (Annex A1). The framework?s indicators and means of verification will be applied to monitor both project performance and impact. Following FAO?s monitoring procedures and progress reporting formats data, collected will be of sufficient detail to be able to track specific activities, outputs and outcomes and flag project risks early on. Output target indicators will be monitored on a six-monthly basis and outcome target indicators will be monitored on an annual basis, if possible, or as part of the mid-term review and terminal evaluation.

247. The main sources of information to support the M&E plan include: i) participatory progress review workshops with stakeholders, beneficiaries and PM&E progress; ii) in-situ monitoring of the implementation of interventions in the field; iii) project progress reports prepared by the CTA with input from partners, project specialists (FTUs) and other stakeholders (e.g. community promotors); iv) consulting reports; v) training reports; vi) mid-term review and terminal evaluation; vii) financial reports and budget reviews; viii) Project Implementation Reports; ix) Technical Reports and best practices related to the progress in the outputs and outcomes indicators; and x) FAO oversight mission reports. To assess and confirm the congruence of outcomes with project objectives, physical inspection and/or surveying of activity sites and participants will be carried out.

9.3 Reporting Plan

248. The reports that will be specifically prepared within the framework of the monitoring and evaluation program are: i) the project inception report; ii) the Annual Work Plans and Budget (AWP/B);

iii) the Project Progress Reports (PPR); iv) the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIR); v) the technical reports; vi) Co-financing Reports and vii) the Terminal Report. In addition, in relation to the Mid-Term Review and the Terminal Evaluation of the project, the GEF Core Indicators Worksheet will be completed to compare progress against the baseline established during project preparation. Reports will be distributed to the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

249. **Project Inception Workshop and Report:** An Inception Workshop will be held no later than three months after project commencement. Immediately after, the M&E Expert will prepare a Project Inception Report. The report will include a narrative on institutional roles and responsibilities, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities, an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation, and detailed descriptions of the first approved Annual Work Plan, Yearly Budget and M&E Matrix. The draft Inception Report will be distributed to FAO and PSC for their review and comments prior to completion. The report must be approved by the PSC and FAO. The BH FAO will upload the report into FAO FPMIS.

250. **Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWPB):** Subsequent draft AWP/Bs will be submitted to the PSC for approval not later than the first week of December. The AWP/Bs will include detailed activities to be implemented by project outcomes and outputs and divided into monthly timeframes and targets, and milestone dates for output and outcome indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included, together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The FAO Representation in Mexico will distribute the draft AWP/B to the FAO Project Task Force (PTF) and will consolidate and submit FAO comments. The PSC will review the AWP/B and CTA will incorporate any comments. The final AWP/B will be sent to FAO for final no objection and to PSC for approval. The BH will integrate the AWP/B into FPMIS.

251. **Project Progress Reports (PPRs):** These reports identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and allow appropriate remedial action. PPRs will be prepared based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework (Annex A1), as well as approved AWP/Bs and M&E Plan. Draft PPRs will be prepared each semester and will be submitted to the FAO Project Task Force for review. Final versions of the PPRs will be submitted by the CTA to the PSC by the first week of June (covering the period between January and June) and by the first week of December (covering the period between July and December). The July-December report must be accompanied by the updated AWP/B for the following Project Year, which will be also submitted to review and no-objection by the FAO Project Task Force. The FAO BH is responsible for coordinating the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the Project Management Unit, FAO LTO, and Funding Liaison Officer (FLO). Following LTO, BH, and FLO approval, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded to FPMIS in a timely manner.

252. **Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR):** The M&E Expert, under the supervision of CTA and in coordination with the national partners, will prepare a draft PIR corresponding to the period of July (of the previous year) and June (current year) no later than 15 June of each year. Draft PIRs must be submitted to the Lead Technical Officer (LTO), who will finalize it and will submit it to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for review, by July 5th[1]. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and the LTO will discuss the PIR and the ratings. The LTO is responsible for conducting the final review and providing the technical clearance for the annual PIR. The LTO will submit the final version to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for final approval. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will then submit it to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office, as part of the Annual Monitoring Review of the FAO-GEF portfolio.

253. **Technical Reports***:* Technical reports, which are among the deliverables of output 4.1.3, will document and disseminate lessons learned. Draft technical reports will be submitted by the CTA to the PSC. Approved versions will be sent to the LTO for review. Approved versions will be sent to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for information and comments before finalization and publication. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to the PSC, Project Technical Group, Seascapes Groups, Project Advisory Committee and the local project operators, as appropriate.

254. **Co-financing Reports***:* The Administrative/Operational Specialist will collect the required information and reporting on in-kind and cash co-financing provided by all the project co-financiers and eventual other new partners not foreseen in the Project Document. Every year, the Administrative/Operational Specialist will submit the report to FAO Mexico by June 10th, covering the period July (the previous year) through June (the current year). This information will be used in the Annual PIRs.

255. **GEF 7 Core Indicators:** The M&E Expert will compile the METT and the GEF-7 Core Indicators spreadsheet and send it to FAO for submission to the GEF Secretariat: (i) at project Mid-term Review; and (ii) with the Terminal Evaluation. The baseline values are included in this Project Document (see Table B and Annex F)

256. **Terminal Report:** Within two months before the Project?s completion date, the CTA will generate and submit a draft final report for discussion with the FAO Project Task Force and approval of the PSC. The main purpose of the terminal report is to give guidance to authorities (ministerial or senior government level) on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project. The terminal report is a concise account of the main outputs, outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target audience consists of not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for ensuring the sustainability of project results. Work is assessed, lessons learned are summarized, and recommendations are expressed in terms of their application to the integrated landscape management in the context of the development priorities at national and departmental levels, as well as in practical execution terms. This report will specifically include the findings of the terminal evaluation.

9.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The table below presents a summary of the main monitoring and evaluation reports, those responsible for each one, and the deadlines.

Table 18: M&E plan and budget

GEF M&E requirements	Responsible parties	Indicative costs (USD)	Time frame
Inception Workshop	CTA, M&E Expert, Project Steering Committee, FAO Mx with support from LTO and FAO GEF-Unit	9,500	Within 3 months of CEO endorsement
Project Inception Report	CTA, M&E Expert, FAO Mx with the approval of FAO LTO and FAO Budget Holder (BH)	Time of M&E Expert, CTA and FTUs covered by project budget.	Immediately after the inception workshop
Monitoring of GEF-7 Core Indicators and Project Results Framework	CTA, M&E Expert, project partners, local organizations	127,061	On-going
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	M&E Expert, CTA, with contributions from stakeholders and other participating institutions	Time of M&E Expert, CTA and FTUs covered by project budget.	Biannual
Annual Project Execution Review Reports (PIR)	Prepared by M&E Expert and FTUs, with supervision by the CTA, FAO LTO and FAO BH. FAO-GEF Coordination Unit gives its clearance and submits PIR to the GEF Secretariat.	FAO staff time funded by GEF agency fees. Time of M&E Expert, CTA and FTUs covered by project budget.	Annually typically between June-August
Follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the socio-environmental, gender and indigenous peoples risk mitigation plan	M&E Expert, Climate and Environmental Risk Management expert, Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist; CTA; FTUs	M&E unit visits covered by project travel budget	At least a trimestral visit from M&E unit
GEF METT Tracking Tool	M&E Expert and CTA	Time of M&E Expert and CTA covered by project budget	Updates at MTR and Terminal Evaluation
Project Steering Committee meetings / Project Technical Group meetings	CTA and partners	In-person meetings covered by project training budget	Annually

GEF M&E requirements	Responsible parties	Indicative costs (USD)	Time frame
Planning for PM&E (workshops in the seascapes and other community consultations)	M&E Expert, CTA, FTUs, beneficiaries	Time of M&E Expert, Climate Risk Specialist, Social Risk Specialist, CTA and FTUs covered by salaries in project budget; other costs covered by project training budget	During first six months of project implementation
Building capacity of identified beneficiaries in terms of skills, knowledge, and experience to do PM&E	M&E Expert, beneficiaries (community promotors), CTA	Time of M&E Expert, CTA and FTUs time is included in salaries	Twice during project lifetime (training of trainers and data collection)
Gathering and analysing data on implementation processes	Community promotors, field specialists, M&E Expert, CTA	Time of M&E Expert	Twice during project lifetime (in PY2 and PY4)
Sharing results and findings, learning and sustaining change	Community promotors, field specialists, M&E Expert, CTA	Covered by salaries and multi-sectorial territorial development dialogues (27,750) (Component 2)	Immediately after analysing data
Mid Term Review (MTR)	FAO (Budget Holder), external consultant, in consultation with the Project Team and agencies, including the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	50,000 (external consultancy, travel costs included; managed by BH at FAO Mexico) 9,500 (Mid Term Workshop)	Midway through project implementation

GEF M&E requirements	Responsible parties	Indicative costs (USD)	Time frame
Terminal Evaluation	Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of FAO Office of Evaluation (OED); independent evaluation consultants.	80,000 (travel costs included; FAO staff time and travel expenses will be funded from GEF agency fees) 9,500(Final Workshop)	To be launched 6 months prior to terminal review meeting
Terminal Report	CTA; FAO Mx (with support from FAO LTO and FAO-GEF Unit); M&E expert	6,550	Two months before the project completion date
TOTAL indicative COST		**319,861**	

9.5 Evaluation provisions

257. By month 30th of project implementation, an external consultancy will carry out the Mid-Term Review (MTR). The FAO Budget Holder (BH) will organize the MTR in consultation with the Project Steering Committee, CTA, FTUs, M&E unit, FAO LTO and FAO GEF Coordination Unit. The MTR will be carried out in order to review the progress and effectiveness of the project implementation in terms of achievement of objectives, outcomes and outputs. The MTR will allow the implementation of corrective actions, if necessary. The MTR will provide a systematic analysis of the information included in the M&E Plan (see above), with emphasis on the progress in achieving the targets of the expected outcomes and outputs compared to expenditures. The MTR will refer to the approved Project Budget and the AWP/B approved for PY1 and PY2. The MTR will contribute to highlighting replicable good practices and the main problems faced during project execution and will suggest mitigation measures to be discussed by the PSC and the FAO Project Task Force (PTF).

258. The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and full size projects require a separate Terminal Evaluation (TE), which 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.

259. The FAO 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 Office 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.

260. The TE will identify the project impacts, sustainability of project outcomes and the degree of achievement of long-term results. It will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to expand on the existing project in subsequent phases, mainstream and up-scale its products and practices, and disseminate information to management authorities and institutions with responsibilities in NPA and fisheries management and artisanal fishers to assure continuity of the processes initiated by the project. It will pay special attention to outcome indicators and will be aligned with the GEF core indicators.

9.6 Disclosure of Information

261. The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

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[1] This date can vary every year, as it follows the GEF Secretariat?s guidance for Annual Monitoring Review (AMR).

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)?

262. The project will increase the capacities of key stakeholders in the following areas, which will generate varied socio-economic benefits for fishers and other coastal community residents:

Generation of individual human capacities and knowledge necessary to move fisheries towards sustainable management

263. Capacity building will be focused in two areas:
? Sustainable fisheries practices: The project will design and undertake standardized trainings for fishers on EBFM, co-management tools and practices, and effective collaboration with governmental agencies (these trainings are aligned with the priorities of cooperatives as identified during the PPG phase).

Based on the size of the target cooperatives and the number of individual permit holders operating in the targeted project seascapes, a potential universe of at least 1,000 persons has been identified, of which at least 60% (600 men and women) will receive training

? Effective enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations: At least 2 public prosecutors from each project seascape (6 persons in total) will be trained on illegal fishing and its consequences.

264. Through these capacity building strategies, an estimated 4,320 persons who participate in fisheries value and supply chains in the project seascapes will directly benefit (GEF Core Indicator 11).

Improved management effectiveness of NPAs and NTZs

265. The suite of project interventions will directly strengthen the management of 807,823 ha of terrestrial protected areas (GEF Core Indicator 1), 1,610,537 ha of marine protected areas (GEF Core Indicator 1) and 925,166 ha of surrounding productive seascapes (including 20,520 ha of existing NTZs) (GEF Core Indicator 5). Key interventions include:
? Management Planning: The project will ensure that updated marine spatial planning analyses are used as standard tools in the management of the 9 participating NPAs and that public information platforms are also used as standard tools for the management of fisheries in those NPAs.
? Governance and Co-management: The Islas Marietas National Park and the Banco Chinchorro, Sian Ka?an and Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserves will be strengthened with the consolidation and operation of their advisory councils and their respective committees on environmental crimes, co-management and governance. Updated drafts of management programs for all NPAs will be available for their review and discussion with CONANP.

? Surveillance and Law Enforcement: Surveillance and inspection programs will be operational in 22 NTZs in the project seascapes. Monitoring and enforcement actions will be modernized by the use of cellular and satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems and catch traceability systems.

? Collaborative Conservation: Fisheries co-management agreements will be formalized between management authorities and producers at the project seascapes, including participatory inspection and surveillance schemes operated by means of Community Surveillance Committees at all project seascapes.

266. The continued effective operation of NPAs is vitally important for coastal states in Mexico. In 2007, 14 million persons visited Federal Mexican NPAs and generated economic activity of $763.6 million and resulting in at least 27,265 jobs related to tourism activities in NPAs[1]. The concrete environmental, social and economic benefits of sustaining and increasing the effective management of the NPAs and NTZs targeted by this project are shown in the following table.

Table 19: Concrete environmental, social and economic benefits of sustaining and increasing the effective management of the project NPAs and NTZs

Project NPA/NTZ	Environmental Services	Social Services	Estimated Social and Economic Impacts	Related GEF-Global Environmental Benefits

Islas Marietas Nat. Park	Capture of $CaCO_3$ by coral reefs (53.8 tons/year in Islas Marietas and 16 tons/year in Isla Isabel) [2]. Migratory and nursery habitats, gene pool protection, waste treatment and assimilation, biological control, biotic raw materials, moderation of extreme events	Recreation and tourism (scenic sightseeing, snorkelling, photography), information for cognitive development, food provisioning - capture of seafood, aesthetic experience, spiritual experience.	Islas Marietas receives 260,000 visitors/year of which 58% are national visitors and 42% foreigners. This generates a national economic spill over of $442,000/year, only considering federal entrance fees. This area generates 694 direct jobs such as boat operators and scuba diving and snorkelling guides[3].	?Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated?. ?Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use? and ?Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use?.
Isla Isabel Nat. Park			$167,006/year - $463,627/year, depending on the season and the geographic origin of visitors[4].	
Espiritu Santo Archipelago Nat. Park	Species shelter and genetic resources.	Scenic beauty, food production, recreation, culture.	There are 256 authorizations for offering tourism services at the park, which is typically visited by 16,000 persons/year. That visitation generates $40,600/year in federal entrance fees[5].	?Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use? and ?Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use?.
NPAs from the Quintana Roo Caribbean Seascape		Protecting and maintaining reefs, which reduces risks related to hurricane floods and hazards and damage to people, buildings and hotel infrastructure	Reefs prevented 43% additional damage during Hurricane Dean. Today, they reduce hazard risk for 4.3% of the people, 1.9% of the built capital, and 2.4% of the hotel infrastructure, per year. The annual benefits are estimated in 4,600 people, $42 million damage prevention for buildings, and $20.8 million USD for hotel infrastructure[6].	?Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use? and ?Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use?.
NTZ network of the San Cosme-Punta Coyote coastal corridor (Baja California Sur).	Biomass spillover of commercial and non-commercial species	Food provisioning - capture of seafood outside the NTZs	$ 338,059/year[7].	?Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels?.

NTZ network of Banco Chinchorro (Quintana Roo).			$ 5,293/year[8]	
NTZ network of Punta Herrero (Quintana Roo).			$5,016/year[9]	
NTZ network of Sian Ka?an (Quintana Roo).			$ 299,663/year[10]	

Sustainable management of target fisheries

267. Project benefits that will contribute to GEF Core Indicator 5 include:

? Effective stock restoration tools in place: Sustainable harvest plans for target fisheries will be designed, discussed and agreed between local fishers and INAPESCA at all seascapes. Proposal drafts for at least nine new NTZs will be designed and discussed with INAPESCA and and their approval is part of the project goals.

? Effective fisheries co-management: The authorization of co-management for the target fisheries at NPAs and NTZs of all project seascapes through at least three fisheries co-management agreements formalized and operated between authorities and participating cooperatives.

? Financing and investment for fisheries sustainability: The project will achieve at least one subsidy re-structuration authorization for CONANP, and INAPESCA focused on fisheries co-management, at each project seascape. This is particularly relevant in a context of national austerity. Participating fishers will receive at least 9 financial credits from Mexican Social Banks that will finance the production and marketing of sustainable and value-added seafood. At least three business opportunities related to sustainable fisheries will be identified at each project seascape, and at least one new fishery improvement project will be formalized and operative at the Central Pacific Islands seascape.

? Improved infrastructure for the landing, processing and distribution of catches: Improved infrastructure and facilities for landing, processing, storing, freezing and distribution of catches will occur at all project sites, benefiting 18 fishing cooperatives.

? Improved business practices in local fisheries: 18 cooperatives will have strengthened capacities in collaborative work with other cooperatives for consolidating production, adopting and managing value-added activities, developing sustainable fisheries-based businesses, as well as commercialization and marketing.

? Existence and operation of catch traceability systems and custody chains: 18 cooperatives will have and operate ad hoc catch traceability systems and custody chains and all women and men working in those cooperatives will understand and operate those systems.

? Effective commercialization in better markets: It is expected that, by consolidating opportunities for selling improved fisheries products to national franchises of international hotel chains, developing and creating new fisheries improvement projects, and addressing certification opportunities of environmental and social responsibility, the annual income of participating fisherwomen and fishermen will increase by 20%. Based on the number of primary fishing cooperatives and individual permit holders operating in the project seascapes, a potential volume of 3,371 tons of fisheries products will move to sustainable

production practices, with a total value of at least USD 12.3 million. If this production is improved to meet the standards required by the SmartFish Group, that value could be much greater, depending on market conditions.

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[2] Calderon Aguilera, L.E.; H. Reyes Bonilla and C. Ori?n Norzagaray Lopez. 2017. Los arrecifes coralinos de M?xico: servicios ambientales y secuestro de carbono. Elementos para Pol?ticas P?blicas 1(1):53-60.

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[5] Olmos-Mart?nez, E.; O.A. Arizpe-Covarrubias; R. Ib??ez P?rez and A. Ortega-Rubio.2015. Servicios ecosist?micos con potencial tur?stico del parque nacional Archipi?lago Esp?ritu Santo, M?xico. Teor?a y Praxis. www.redalyc.org/pdf/4561/456144904009.pdf

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[7] INAPESCA Technical opinion RJL/INAPESCA/DGAIPP/1669/2017.

[8] INAPESCA Technical opinion RJL/INAPESCA/DGAIPA/481/2018.

[9] INAPESCA Technical opinion RJL/INAPESCA/DGAIPA/482/2018.

[10] INAPESCA Technical opinion RJL/INAPESCA/DGAIPP/0907/2017.

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 Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	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.

Environmental and Social risks <u>from the project</u>

During the full Project Preparation phase, the project was re-classified as of Moderate Risk by FAO?s Environmental and Social Management (ESM) Unit, in close consultation with project proponents (FAO, WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA) and other stakeholders and based on the risk analyses prepared by the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) team. The Table below summarizes the FAO?s Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) triggered and addressed during project preparation, their potential impacts during implementations, as well expected mitigation actions, means of verification and progress measurement. The Table will guide project M&E system regarding the ESS.

Table 14: Environmental and Social Risks

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Potential impact	Mitigation Action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of Verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats	Moderate	The project will be implemented in and around National Protected Areas.	The Directorate of Natural Protected Areas has fully participated in the PPG. Fishing is an activity allowed in the Management Plans of the PAs participating in the project. The impacts of fishing in these PAs were assessed when each PA established its rules. In addition, the project will promote mitigation actions, as follows: ? Minimize ghost fishing ? Minimize plastic wastes ? Save fuel in fishing operations ? Promote consolidation and operation of consultative committees for fisheries management ? Promote and practice co-management ? Do not modify or replace ecosystems ? Assess the effectiveness of mitigation actions ? Use of environment-friendly fishing gears	Number of NPA management plans, and fisheries co-management plans incorporating the EBFM approach.	It will be evaluated semi-annually through Project Progress Reports. Persons in charge: M&E Expert, and Climate and Environmental Risk Management Specialist FAO will monitor the fulfilment of standards.

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Potential impact	Mitigation Action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of Verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS 7: Decent Work	Moderate	Incidence over labor situations of young people and women. Eventual presence of migrant workers in local fisheries Outsourcing of workers by participating cooperatives. Fisheries linked to labor risks.	The project aims to identify economic alternatives for the local coastal communities through value added products. The inclusion of women and fisher folk in value chains, with improved access to markets, is also an important project objective. Decent work and productive employment are among its priorities. In addition, the project will promote the productive inclusion of the youth, fostering entrepreneurship through capacity building in sustainable fishing technologies, fish processing, commercialization, and boat and engine repair, among other fishing-associated economic activities. The inclusion of women and fisher folk in value chains, with improved access to markets, is also an important project objective. Women play already an important role in the fishery value chain, especially in both processing and selling. The project will seek to strengthen their capacities in areas such as administration, value added activities and leadership. The project includes a gender analysis and a Gender Action Plan to address gender gaps and promote the economic autonomy of women. Decent work and productive employment	Number of fishmongers or producer associations that implement mechanisms to guarantee decent work	It will be evaluated semi-annually through Project Progress Reports. Persons in charge: M&E Expert, and Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist FAO will monitor the fulfilment of standards of performance and quality, taking into account national and international social and labour standards.

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Potential impact	Mitigation Action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of Verification	Progress on mitigation action
			are among the priorities of the project. Although the presence of migrants is not identified in the socioeconomic censuses, there have been processes of migration to the northern border and the presence of migrants in the project area is known. However, the number of migrants is low, and there are no official reports of migrant workers in the fishing cooperatives with which the project intends to collaborate. Fishing is a high-risk activity. However, the project promotes the adoption of minimum safety and health measures at work and contributes to improving capacities and established mechanisms, even for informal workers. In addition, the project will promote the following specific mitigation measures: ? Integration of young persons promoted through the development of sustainable fishing practices, processing operations,		

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Potential impact	Mitigation Action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of Verification	Progress on mitigation action
			commercialization, certifications and training. ? Explicit and recognized integration of women to fisheries value chains and strengthening and development of administration skills, value-added activities, empowerment and leadership. ? Implementation of a gender action plan. ? Supervision of compliance of national and international labour standards, if participating cooperatives outsource workers. ? Promotion and implementation of national and international codes and recommendations for safety and health at the sea.		

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Potential impact	Mitigation Action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of Verification	Progress on mitigation action
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage	Moderate	Indigenous communities are located at and around the project sites.	Assessments carried out during the PPG phase confirmed that there are no indigenous communities within any of the three project seascapes (there are scattered indigenous individuals in cities and towns within the project seascapes, but they do not form indigenous communities and there are no legally recognized forms of indigenous government in the project seascapes). In addition, participating NPAs in the project seascapes have confirmed that they have never interacted with indigenous authorities or bodies during the operation of their NPAs. Also, CONAPESCA, which issues fishing permits specifically for productive units of indigenous peoples, has confirmed that the most recent accounting of fishing permits (January 2021) shows that no permits for indigenous peoples? productive units have been granted within the project seascapes. Both civil society organizations and fishing cooperatives active in the project seascapes confirmed during the PPG phase that there is no participation of indigenous individuals in local fisheries. In addition, the project will only impact a specific subset of fishermen (individual holders of	FPIC processes conducted if indigenous peoples are found to be affected by the Project ? even indirectly.	It will be evaluated semi-annually through Project Progress Reports. Persons in charge: M&E Expert, and Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist FAO will monitor the fulfilment of standards

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Potential impact	Mitigation Action(s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of Verification	Progress on mitigation action
			legal fishing permits and fishers organized in legally constituted cooperatives, holding active legal permits for commercial fishing), none of whom are indigenous. Nevertheless, because there are indigenous individuals in the Quintana Roo seascape who could potentially be impacted by project activities, the project will carry out a FPIC process for that seascape. Additional details are provided in Annex J.		

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
GEFID_10540_AnnexI1_Mexico_BaitToPlate_EnvironmentalSocialSafeguards	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
Mexico Fisheries PIF - ESS Risk Certification	**Project PIF ESS**	

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
Objective: To ensure the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity and secure the sustainable livelihoods of fishing communities through innovative fisheries co-management approaches in three priority seascapes							
Component 1: Enabling institutional and regulatory conditions to strengthen sustainable fisheries in Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) and Other Area-based Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 1.1: Institutional capacities and processes have been strengthened for effective fisheries co-management in three seascapes encompassing Natural Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)	*GEF Core Indicators 1 & 2:* 807,823 ha of terrestrial protected areas + 1,610,537 ha of marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness, as demonstrated through increased METT scores for target NPAs: o Sian Ka?an o Banco Chinchorro o Caribe Mexicano o Islas Marietas o Islas Mar?as o Isla Isabel o Esp?ritu Santo o Islas del Golfo de Ca. o Arrecifes de Xcalac	82 81 51 74 41 77 80 79 76 20,520 ha (7,051 ha in 12 fisheries NTZs in the BCS seascape, and 13,469 ha in 10 fisheries NTZs in the QRC seascape) under improved practices	85 83 63 78 48 82 86 87 81 925,116 ha	88 85 73 83 65 87 91 97 86 925,116 ha of marine habitat under improved practices through improved management of 793,830 ha in the CPI seascape and 110,766 ha in the BCS seascape providing functional ecological	METT Spreadsheets and Mid-Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) Reports Marine conservation and fisheries surveillance reports on the three seascapes	Human and financial resources existing at CONANP are not reduced or eliminated	WWF, CONANP M&E Expert INAPESCA, M&E Expert WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
				connectivity between NPAs	Surveys and assessments of progress in the fisheries		
	GEF Core Indicator 5: 925,116 ha of marine habitat under improved practices	0 fisheries managed using BD-friendly indicators	3 fisheries have established objective and limit reference point for catch levels	3 fisheries are being managed so that catch levels do not exceed limit reference points		Human and financial resources existing at Governmental fisheries institutions are not reduced or eliminated	
	Project indicator 1: 3 fisheries are being managed using biodiversity-friendly indicators (i.e. at least objective and limit reference points for	3 NPAs with management plans (1 in each seascape) 22 NTZ complexes with operating agreements (12 in the BCS seascape and	Management plans updated for 2 NPAs (1 each in QRC and CPI) Management plans updated for 22 existing NTZ complexes and		NPA mngmt. plans updated and published in El diario official de la federaci?n (DOF[2]) NTZ documents published at DOF (agreements for extension, validity or modification)		

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	catch levels): o Finfish (NTZs in Baja California Sur) o Lobster and Queen Conch (Banco Chinchorro & Sian Ka?an Biosphere Reserves and adjacent NTZs) o Finfish (Islas Marietas National Park) <u>Project indicator 2:</u> *# of management plans for 2 NPAs, updated information related to the creation of 6 new fishing refuge zones (No Take Zones), and strengthe*	10 in the QRC seascape[1])	6 new NTZ complexes (2 in each seascape)				

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	n the regulations of 22 NTZ with environmental indicators.						

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 1.1.1: Planning and management tools for marine conservation and fisheries co-management have been developed and are guiding decision-making in three target seascapes	# of marine spatial planning analyses for 3 project seascapes completed	Marine ecological plans exist for the QRC and BCS seascapes (these provide some basis for marine spatial planning)	3 marine spatial planning analyses for project seascapes drafted	3 marine spatial planning analyses for project seascapes completed and used as standard tools in management processes	Final technical reports and operating interfaces of the marine spatial planning processes.	Human and financial resources existing at CONANP, and INAPESCA are not reduced or eliminated.	WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert. FAO Mexico, National technical Partners
	# of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) plans (encompassing NPAs and NTZs), explicitly based on co-management, for the	0 EBFM plans in the project seascapes[3]; 1 sustainable harvest plan exists as part of the Yucatan lobster fishery management plan[4]	3 EBFM plans drafted for the project seascapes	3 EBFM plans for the project seascapes finalized and formally submitted to INAPESCA for review and approval	Submitted final drafts of EBFM plans	Academic institutions actively participating.	

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	project seascapes						
Output 1.1.2: Effective ecosystem-based fisheries management capacities and processes have been generated in key government institutions and among other stakeholders	# of government staff trained on EBFM with a standardized training curriculum	No government staff have been trained in EBFM	EBFM standardized training curriculum designed, and EBFM training provided to at least 75 government staff (at least 25% women) in the project seascapes	EBFM training provided to at least 150 government staff (at least 40% women) in the project seascapes	Reports from training sessions	Human and financial resources existing at CONANP, and INAPESCA are not reduced or eliminated.	National technical Partners, WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert, FAO Mexico
Output 1.1.3: Government institutions with strengthened institutional arrangements and capacities to facilitate effective fisheries co-management approaches	# of government staff trained in fisheries co-management approaches with a standardized training curriculum	No government staff have been trained in fisheries co-management approaches	Fisheries co-management standardized training curriculum designed, and fisheries co-management training provided to at least 75 government staff (at least 25% women) in the project seascapes	Fisheries co-management training provided to at least 150 government staff (at least 40% women) in the project seascapes	Reports from training sessions.	Human and financial resources existing at CONANP, and INAPESCA are not reduced or eliminated	WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert, National technical Partners,

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 1.1.4: Comprehensive, transparent, and open fisheries information systems in place to support participatory decision-making and learning at project target sites.	# of comprehensive, transparent and widely available fisheries information platform developed for the project seascapes	Existing information platforms for fisheries in the project seascapes have limited data, are not transparent or widely available, and are not linked to each other	Agreements for institutional integration are formalized; database formatting and programming challenges identified and solved; and an information platform that integrates data from CONAP, INAPESCA, designed and operating in pilot phase	Fisheries information platform is fully operational, with interfaces to support consultation with and access to the platform for end-users	Information platform system design and implementation reports Periodic reports on levels of use and uploading of data to the fisheries information platform	Human and financial resources existing at CONAP, and INAPESCA are not reduced or eliminated.	National technical Partners, WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert, National technical Partners,

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 1.1.5: Inspection and surveillance activities are reinforced to ensure compliance with fisheries management policies and regulations. -	Area of NPAs with effective surveillance undertaken by official management authorities and/or community committees: o Sian Ka?an o Banco Chinchorro o Caribe Mexicano o Islas Marietas o Islas Mar?as o Isla Isabel o Esp?ritu Santo o Islas del Golfo de Ca.	Current area of NPAs (terrestrial and marine) with effective monitoring/surveillance: o 20% of terrestrial o 9% of terrestrial + 27% of marine o 70% of terrestrial + 2% of marine o 100% of terrestrial and marine o 0% of terrestrial and marine o 100% of terrestrial and marine o 45% of marine o 0.03% of area o 9% of terrestrial + 60% of marine	Area of NPAs (terrestrial and marine) with effective monitoring/surveillance: Mid-term target to be defined at Project Inception	Area of NPAs (terrestrial and marine) with effective monitoring/surveillance: Final target to be defined at Project Inception	Surveillance logbooks of participating NPAs. Graphic and documental memories of surveillance trips. Institutional reports.	Human and financial resources existing at PROFEPA are not reduced or eliminated.	WWF, CONANP, FAO Mexico, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	o Arrecifes de Xcalac						
Component 2: Community participation in fisheries management							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 2.1: Local fishing communities play an active role in collectively managing and monitoring their fisheries through an ecosystem-based approach and participatory, collective decision-making.	*GEF Core Indicator 8:* Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels - - - - - - - - - - Project indicator 3: Fisheries co-management agreements formalized and operational:	421 metric tons of fish harvested sustainably in the three project seascapes (from the San Cosme-Punta Coyote and Quintana Roo FIPs) Fisheries co-management agreements exist for biological monitoring of 22 existing NTZs in Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo Baseline TBC in PY1	TBC at Project Inception (PY1) 3 fisheries co-management agreements at the seascape level discussed and drafted	21,717 metric tons of lobster and fish (Mullet, snapper, grouper, sierra mackerel, snook, ocean whitefish, patzcuaro whitefish, abalone, horse mackerel, sea bass, grouper) managed sustainably in the three project seascapes 3 fisheries co-management agreements at the seascape level formalized and operating (Target: One in each of the 3 project seascapes) Target: At least 80% of members	Registration of new fishery improvement projects at fisheryprogress.org Formalized co-management agreements	Cooperatives in project seascapes interested in operating Fishery Improvement Projects Fisheries cooperatives in project seascapes remain interested in co-management	WWF, FAO Mexico, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert FAO-Mexico, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Project Indicator 4: Fishing community members and fisher organizations trained in fisheries co-management and surveillance practices.						

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 2.1.1: Mechanisms are in place for collective community decision-making, co-regulation, monitoring, compliance, and conflict resolution related to fisheries -	Number of effectively operating Fisheries Sub-Councils under the aegis of NPA Advisory Councils in the project seascapes Number of effectively operating NTZ Advisory Councils in the project seascapes	o CPI seascape: 0 operating Fisheries Sub-Councils o QRC seascape: 1 operating Fisheries Sub-Council (Sian Ka?an) o BCS seascape: 1 operating Fisheries Sub-Council (Esp?ritu Santo) 2 existing NTZ Advisory Councils in Sian Ka?an and San Cosme - Punta Coyote (the latter has not met since being established in 2015)	o CPI: 2 Fisheries Sub-Councils operating in the Islas Marietas NP o QRC: 2 Fisheries Sub-Councils operating in Banco Chinchorro and Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserves Operation of the Advisory Council for San Cosme-Punta Coyote has resumed; advisory Council established for a new NTZ complex in the CPI seascape	o CPI: 3 Fisheries Sub-Councils operating in the Islas Marietas NP o QRC: 1 Fishery Sub-Council strengthened in Sian Ka?an o BCS: 1 Fishery Sub-Council strengthened in Esp?ritu Santo 3 Advisory Councils (San Cosme- Punta Coyote; Sian Ka?an; and new NTZ complex is CPI) strengthened and effectively operating	Operating minutes of the Fisheries SubCouncils Operating minutes of the Advisory Councils for Management of fishery NTZ complexes	Local communities in project seascapes are interested in participating Human and financial resources existing at CONANP, not reduced or eliminated.	WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA. FAO-Mexico, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 2.1.2: Local communities strengthen their capacities to participate in fisheries co-management and to adopt new technologies and practices	Fishing community members and fisher organizations trained in fisheries co-management and surveillance practices. Target: At least 80% of members	0 fishers in participating fishing organizations confirmed to have had training in fisheries co-management	At least 30% of fishers in participating fishing organizations (of which at least 50% are women) trained in fisheries co-management	At least 80% of fishers in participating fishing organizations (of which at least 50% are women) trained in fisheries co-management and surveillance	Registration of participants approved in training workshops		FAO-Mexico, WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert
Output 2.1.3: Local communities benefitting from improved access to fisheries information	Mobile App with user-friendly information on fishing conditions, market opportunities and prices, etc. widely adopted by fishers in the project seascapes	There are any app alternatives, e.g. CONAPESCA has a pilot digital logbook system (the ?Submarine? App); at least two other Apps exist for Mexican fishers (POSEIDON and PESCADATA)	App has been redesigned and tested by end users	4 digital logbooks (2 for finfish, 1 for lobster and 1 for pink snail) used by all mandated fishers in the project seascapes	Digital logbook registers	Cooperatives from project seascapes interested in participating	WWF, CONANP, INAPESCA, FAO-M?xico, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 2.1.4: Incentives are in place to promote the participation of coastal communities in implementing sustainable fisheries co-management and adopting practices and technologies that promote and preserve marine ecosystem services.	% of fishers or fishing cooperatives that request subsidies to implement sustainable practices (i.e. improvement of fishing practices) and/or promote access to sustainable markets (e.g. acquisition of equipment for catch traceability systems, or GPS systems to track fishing effort in closed fishing grounds)	Two CONANP subsidy programs (PROCODES and PROREST[5]) operating in the project seascapes	Concrete possibilities for implementing CONANP subsidy programs in the project seascapes have been assessed and addressed	15% fishers applying to PROCODES, PROREST for subsidies to implement sustainable practices and/or promote access to sustainable markets	Official reports of the subsidy programs	Human and financial resources existing at CONANP are not reduced or eliminated. *Sembrando Vida en el Mar* program is not approved.	WWF, CONANP,

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 2.1.5: Inspection and surveillance systems in place to enhance fisheries governance schemes.	Number of Community Surveillance Committees operating within the three seascapes and collaborating in the surveillance of NPAs and NTZs	22 NTZ complexes have operating Community Surveillance Committees with the participation of local fishers and NGOs; none of the target NPAs have participatory surveillance systems	Protocols and agreements for participatory inspection and surveillance systems have been defined at all project seascapes	At least 3 Community Surveillance Committees (1 for each seascape) established and operating, with participation of at least 80% of all women and men in participating fishing cooperatives	Logbooks and protocols of Community Surveillance Committees.	Legal and practical agreements for participatory systems agreed between CONANP, , and fishers	WWF, CONANP, , M&E Expert
Component 3: Supporting sustainable alternative livelihoods							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 3.1: Fishing communities and fisher folk are benefitting from increased incomes deriving from value added activities, sustainable local post-capture practices, and access to differentiated market prices for sustainable products	*GEF Core Indicator 11:* Number of persons directly benefitting from the GEF investment (data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity[6])	0 persons	2,000 persons	4,320 persons (1,234 women and 3,086 men)	Registers of project participants and beneficiaries.	Cooperatives / communities in project seascapes are participative	FAO-Mexico, CONANP, WWF, M&E Expert
		0% (but no detailed data is available)	15% of all paid participants are women	40% of all paid participants are women	Testimonies of participating women		
	Project indicator 5: Percentage of women among paid participants in fisheries production coming from fisheries targeted by the project	2 cooperatives in the BCS seascape and 1 federation in the QRC seascape currently implementing FIPs	1 new FIP established in the CPI seascape	1 new FIP fully operational in the CPI seascape	Registration of new fishery improvement projects at fisheryprogress.org	Cooperatives in project seascapes interested in operating FIPs	
	Project Indicator 6: Additional Fishery Improvement Project formalized						

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	and operational in the Central Pacific Islands seascape: Target: At least 1						

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 3.1.1: Community driven productive alternatives, including those that benefit women, have been identified, planned, and implemented.	Number of new community-based fisheries related enterprises established in the project seascapes % of Increase in the annual income of	Marine tourism employment is notable at Islas Marietas, Isla Isabel, and Espiritu Santo; in addition, CONANP supports sustainable fisheries productive initiatives at Isla Isabel, Banco Chinchorro, Sian Ka?an, and Xcalak; and sustainable initiatives for the use of natural resources at Sian Ka?an (ecotourism) and Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve (marine tourism) TBD during project inception[7]	Opportunities for community-based fisheries related enterprises in the project seascapes have been identified and initial business plans developed An increase of at least 10%	At least 3 new community-based fisheries related enterprises (1 in each project seascape) established and operating An increase of at least 20%	Annual reports of fisheries related enterprises Income records. Interviews and surveys		FAO-Mexico, CONANP, WWF, INAPESCA, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	participating fishers (women and men)						
Output 3.1.2: Infrastructure established to enable local fishing communities to add value to fisheries products	Infrastructure and equipment provided to fishing collectives to support value-added activities	Artisanal fishers in the project seascapes have very limited infrastructure to support fisheries production once fish catches are brought to shore	Designs and permitting finalized for at least 3 new community-based fish processing facilities for adding value to fisheries products	At least 6 new community-based fish processing facilities for adding value to fisheries products operating in project seascapes	LOA Reports		FAO-Mexico, WWF, INAPESCA, M&E Expert
Output 3.1.3: Technical, organizational, and entrepreneurial capacities of fishing organizations related to community-driven productive alternatives and strategies to add value have been strengthened	Metric tons of seafood in the project seascapes caught as part of Fishery Improvement Projects and able to access high value markets	Annual sustainable fish harvest by Fishery Improvement Projects: 421 metric tons o San Cosme-Punta Coyote (BCS seascape[8]): 211 o Quintana Roo (QRC seascape[9]): 210	At least 2,000 metric tons of seafood in the project seascapes caught as part of Fishery Improvement Projects	At least 4,000 metric tons of seafood in the project seascapes caught as part of Fishery Improvement Projects	Sales records and reports of fisheries products	Fishers able to access selective markets for fisheries products in Mexico and with other countries	FAO Mexico, CONANP, WWF, INAPESCA, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 3.1.4: Financing opportunities for sustainable fisheries enhanced	% of persons involved in fisheries production (fishing and post-fishing activities) and participating in the project able to access financing from Social Banks to support sustainable fishing practices	0% (fisheries stakeholders in the project seascapes only have access to loans provided by local and regional seafood retailers to increase production)	A portfolio of financing mechanisms available from Mexican Social Banks (and other sources) has been consolidated and disseminated to local fishers	At least 20% of persons involved in fisheries production (of whom 50% are women) have accessed financing mechanisms that support sustainable fishing practices	Agreements between fishers and providers of sustainable financing sources	None	FAO, CONANP, WWF, INAPESCA, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 3.1.5: Programs for participatory certification, differentiated markets, and information campaigns to support sustainable fisheries products are under implementation	Traceability systems (from ?bait to plate?) are established for the following target fisheries in three project seascapes: o Finfish (BCS seascape) o Finfish (CPI seascape) o Lobster and Queen Conch (QRC seascape)	0 traceability systems currently in place	3 traceability systems have been developed	3 traceability systems are operational and generating data to combat IUU fishing and to inform consumers that they are purchasing sustainably harvested fisheries products	Traceability reports		WWF,
Component 4: Project Coordination, Collaboration, and Monitoring and Evaluation							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 4.1: Project implementation is supported by an M&E strategy based on measurable and verifiable outcomes and adaptive management principles.	Project indicator6: Project outcomes achieved and demonstrating sustainability	No project outcomes achieved	70% of project outcomes achieved	100% of project outcomes achieved, with sustainability demonstrated	PIRs, PPRs, MTR and FE reports	Project partners remain committed to the project outcomes, and capacities generated are sustained	FAO, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 4.1.1: Gender sensitive M&E strategy developed with relevant stakeholders, clearly defining the expected outcomes, expected implementation timeframe, and confirmation through objectively verifiable indicators and means of verification	Project M&E strategy developed with relevant stakeholders and guiding on-going adaptive management of the project, including the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into project activities	No M&E strategy in place	M&E strategy, including monitoring of gender mainstreaming indicators in the Gender Action Plan and Results Framework, developed and under implementation by end of Q2 of project	M&E strategy has provided on-going guidance for adaptive management and gender mainstreaming throughout project implementation period	PIRs, project M&E reports		FAO, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 4.1.2: Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation carried out	1 Mid-Term Review and 1 Terminal Evaluation	No Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation have been undertaken yet.	1 Mid Term Review Report	1 Terminal Evaluation Report	MTR and TE reports	MTR and TE results used to review project progress and define corrective actions to achieve the project objective and outcomes	FAO Mexico, M&E Expert

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 4.1.3: Best practices and lessons learned systematized and disseminated to a variety of audiences and stakeholders.	- Number and type of knowledge products containing best practices and lessons learned published and disseminated (including chapters on gender mainstreaming)		Best practices and lessons learned on sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation documented At least 1 report from each seascape produced on best practices Project partner websites disseminate experiences At least 3 women's testimonies included in communication products	Best practices and lessons learned synthesized, replicated and scaled up in the National System of Protected Areas At least 3 reports from each seascape and 1 documentary film produced on best practices Project partner websites disseminate experiences and promote replication At least 6 women's testimonies included in communication products	Project information is available throughout the National System of Protected Areas Publications. Documentaries. Websites. Press clippings. PPR/PIR.	Human and financial resources existing at CONANP and INAPESCA are not reduced or eliminated.	FAO Mx, CONANP, INAPESCA, M&E Expert

[1] https://www.gob.mx/conapesca/documentos/zonas-de-refugio-pesquero

[2] El Diario Oficial de la Federaci?n, DOF., es el ?rgano del Gobierno Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, que tiene la funci?n de publicar en el territorio nacional: leyes, reglamentos,

acuerdos, circulares, ?rdenes y actos expedidos por los poderes de la Federaci?n, a fin de que ?stos sean aplicados debidamente en sus respectivos ?mbitos de competencia.

[3] Currently in Mexico, management plans are used for non-territorial fisheries

[4] https://www.inapesca.gob.mx/portal/documentos/Planes-de-Manejo-Pesquero/Golfo/Plan-de-Manejo-Pesquero-para-la-Langosta-Espinosa.pdf

[5] The Programa de Conservaci?n para el Desarrollo Sostenible (PROCODES) is a subsidy program

focused on sustainable development

[7] The income of fishers in Mexico is highly variable due to differences among regions, fish species, seasons, and other factors; in general, fishers? incomes range from around 300 to 2,000 pesos a day, but precise figures for the target fisheries in each project seascape will need to be determined during the project inception period

[8] fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/mexico-gulf-california-grouper-snapper-triggerfish-yellowtail-hook-line

[9] fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/mexico-quintana-roo-spiny-lobster-casitas

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).

GEF Secretariat Review

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission

Co-Financing: Please list all CSO co-financers by the time of CEO endorsement	Kindly note that civil society partners at the local level have been particularly hit by the pandemic and the economic downturn that is affecting Mexico. As a result, field CSOs will be key project beneficiaries (please see details in Table 10, Section 2 - Stakeholder Engagement), but unfortunately have not managed to issue co-financing letters at this stage. This state of affairs will be re-assessed by the Project Management Unit in PY1, and CSO co-financing will be reported in the 1st PIR ? if the economic downturn is reverted as expected. Please note that in 2020, ECLAC reported that Mexico's GDP contracted by 8.3% in real terms (in 2019 it had decreased by 0.2%), mainly due to the coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19). Inflation stood at 3.2% at the end of 2020 (compared to 2.8% registered in 2019) and 12.5 million jobs were lost in April 2020, concluding with an unemployment rate, at 4.4% (3.5% in 2019). It is estimated that the full recovery of the economy will be achieved in 2023 (although in terms of GDP per capita it would not be achieved until 2029). By the end of 2021, ECLAC forecasts that Mexico's GDP will increase by 6.2% and by 2022 it will have a growth of 3.2%. Likewise, the estimates of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit for 2022 stand at 4.1% of GDP, similar to those made by the International Monetary Fund of 4.2% GDP growth and 3.1% inflation. For its part, the Bank of Mexico makes a more conservative estimate, reporting a GDP growth of 2.9%, figures that are more in line with the forecast by the World Bank, which estimates a growth of 3% In 2021, the pandemic was in the focus of budget programming, with a redirection of the expenditure budget towards strengthening the Health Sector and cuts in several secretariats. For 2022, a public expenditure of 7,088,250 million pesos is estimated, which represents an increase of 8.5% compared to the 2021 expenditure budget. Likewise, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) is expected to have an increase of 7.7 % in its budget by going from 49 billion pesos to 53 billion pesos and that the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) has an increase of 30% in the expenditure budget, going from 32 billion pesos to 40 billion pesos, while the budget of SADER.
By the time of CEO endorsement, please elaborate a more robust climate risk mitigation strategy.	During full project preparation, a Climate and Environmental Risk Expert was hired and developed a Climate Risk Analysis. A summary of this report, as well as analysis of the climate risk likelihood, mitigation actions and responsible parties, is provided in Section 5a (Risks to the project) of the CEO Endorsement Request. The complete version of the report in Spanish is included as Annex M (Climate Risk Screening) of the FAO Project Document.

GEF Council Review

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
Norway	
The Norwegian embassy has previously been in discussions with CONAPESCA and SEMARNAT about the possibility of Mexico investing in Norwegian technology to further its advance into fish farming, but so far there are no concrete projects.	To date, there have been no major advances in establishing projects involving Norwegian technology use in fish farming in Mexico. CONAPESCA has confirmed that is currently analysing the proposals they have received from their Norwegian counterparts and will decide on what is compatible with their needs and when to invest in late 2021 or 2022.
There is a strong need for new and improved ways to remeasure Mexican fish stocks, especially on the Pacific coast. As the project accurately describes there is a need for clearer cut and less bureaucratic regulation when it comes to No Take Zones and Marine Protected Areas in Mexican waters.	The project agrees with this comment since the assessment of fish stocks is a key component for sustainable management. While there are regular fish stock assessment programs carried out by INAPESCA throughout the Pacific Coast of Mexico, MPAs are not regularly assessed given that they are mostly closed to fishing and assumed to have fish stocks in good conditions. A number of No Take Zones (NTZ) in the Baja California Sur seascape are part of a NTZ network that has been regularly monitored since 2009 by the local NGO Niparaj?, A.C, which also supports the socio-economic development of that area[1]. The NGO COBI, A.C. has made the same for the NTZ networks located at Punta Herrero and Sian Ka?an[2]. Those independent assessments were undertaken as part of the commitments acquired with the NTZs establishment. The project will use this data, jointly with results from upcoming assessments, to strengthen the basis for participatory fishery management decisions. The project also aims at strengthening community-based mechanisms for continuous fish stock monitoring. The project will also provide robust scientific and socioeconomic information and will promote better inter-sectoral articulation and simplified management measures thus reducing bureaucratic management processes. Please see the project Alternative Scenario (Part II, Section 3 of the CEO Endorsement Request), specifically project outputs 1.1.2., 2.1.1. and 2.1.2. The project will facilitate the participation of fishermen in dialogues with local management authorities for reviewing and creating fisheries regulations and co-management agreements (outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.3), which will certainly include the use of the above-mentioned information in management decisions.

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
Relatively small investments in improvements to postharvest fish handling, storage and transportation, could have a huge positive affect on the value of the fishery. We would therefore like to underline the importance of these elements in component 3. Increased effort to technical support to post harvest treatment and food safety measures, including support to improve sanitary measurements, infrastructure and processing are important to better utilize the resources and increase value.	The project agrees with this comment. High quality seafood is desired by all buyers and limited catch landing and processing facilities at project seascapes limit that. In the long-term, the project aims for the three seascapes to implement fishing and catch processing standards - as required by processing plants certified for exporting seafood. Cooperatives from the Campeche Caribbean seascape apply those standards when fishing lobster for exportation to Asian markets. It is desirable to reach and apply the SmartFish Group standards for selling seafood to Mexican and US niche markets and obtain price premiums. As described in the project Alternative Scenario (Part II, Section 3 of the CEO Endorsement Request), the project will: i. Re-direct local subsidies to the construction of landing, processing, storing, freezing and distributing facilities (output 3.1.2) ii. Advise fishers on the adoption and management of value-added activities, the development of sustainable fisheries-based businesses, trade, marketing, certification processes and leadership (output 3.1.3) iii. Build local capacities and improve access to financing - for the production and marketing of sustainable and value-added seafood (output 3.1.4) iv. Train fishers on the development of new fisheries products, accessing new markets and qualifying for fisheries certification programs (output 3.1.5)

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
The risks identified in chapter 5 should include risks of availability and access to reliable data of the resources. There is often a significant shortcoming of reliable catch data and data recording systems which can provide reliable estimates of the fisheries resources. Lack of reliable data concerning fish stocks, catch effort, landings, utilization and consumption are often major constraints that hinder the fishing sector development planning. Nevertheless, such systems could be very costly in terms of funds and human resources and should be scaled according to the size and trends in the fisheries. It is positive to see that a fisheries information system is developed under Output 1.1.4. However, the risks of obtaining poor and unreliable data are high. These risks should be assessed with proposed mitigating measures.	The project agrees with this comment. The risk mitigation strategy for this risk (Part II, Section 5a of the CEO Endorsement Request) has been revised to the following: ?The project is designed to create robust, science-based, regular fishery resource monitoring schemes in all three of the targeted seascapes, thus ensuring that timely and reliable fishing information is available for decision-making. The project will generate marine spatial planning analyses to support fisheries / ecosystem management in each seascape. To achieve this, existing information systems will be consolidated and linked in order to facilitate joint management decisions by government and beneficiaries. Additional information will be generated through the participation of local fishers, women and youth in monitoring of fisheries and the environment. This will be supplemented by the use of innovative technologies that strengthen monitoring (cellular and satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems, etc.) and the implementation of ad hoc custody chains and catch traceability systems to deter IUU fishing. In addition, the key government partner institutions have all been extensively involved in the project design and are fully committed to its implementation, and information in their databases will be shared among these institutions and other project partners through the consolidated information system. The information system will be used by technical staff in designing management activities, and implementation of those actions will help to validate (or require changes to) the quality of information on fisheries. In addition, the information system will be accessible to community members, academics and civil society organizations, who will further validate / revise collected information (local fishers will benefit from capacity building programs that will enable them to generate / check data quality). Public access and transparency will also ensure that updated ordenamientos (data on fishers, licences, vessels, gear, target species, etc.) are sound and trustworthy, while the operation of agreements between authorities and producers on participatory inspection and surveillance schemes will also provide public endorsement to data and information generated. Finally, while INAPESCA, and CONANP are committed to carrying out regular fishery assessments, one of the pillars of the project will be the continuous engagement of local communities in these processes, including training of community members in fishery data collection and interpretation, so that both fishers and fishery management institutions will work together in a transparent, efficient, cost effective, and science-based fishery management system beyond the duration of this project.?
UK	

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
It would be good to understand government buy-in is for this project, and who the main counterparts are on the Mexican side. In addition to the Commission?s mentioned, is the Environment Ministry SEMARNAT aware of this, the Agriculture Ministry SADER or the Agenda 2030 team in the President?s Office?	The Ministry of Environment in Mexico is fully aware of the project and has been actively involved in its formulation. The Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) is a decentralized organ of this Ministry. The Institute of Fisheries (INAPESCA) is a decentralized organ of the Ministry of Agriculture (SADER), so this Ministry is also fully involved in the project. CONANP, and INAPESCA confirmed their commitment to the project in the project inception workshop held in May 2021. The main focus of the project is to link productive aspects with the ecosystem management of fisheries; the government has expressed its agreement with this approach and is willing to modify its programs to transform them as needed to include the ecosystem approach and community management of fisheries. The Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) has been prioritized and adopted by the Government of Mexico through CONAPESCA?s strategic fisheries development plan, given that it is clearly in line with its efforts to promote social involvement in natural resources management. All topics and approaches included in the Project Results Framework (Appendix A1) and Work Plan (Appendix H) are aligned to the *Sector Program for the Environment and Natural Resources 2020-2024* (*SEMARNAT*)[3], the *2040 Strategy of CONANP*, *National Program for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020-2024 (CONAPESCA)*[4] and *2020-2024 Institutional Program (INAPESCA)*[5], as described in Part II, Section 7 of the CEO Endorsement Request.
USA	

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
We hope that any cross-agency jurisdiction and coordination challenges may be smoothly overcome in this project. We recommend particularly attention to successful enforcement of Natural Protected Areas and fisheries No Take Zones.	The project agrees with this comment. Poor institutional coordination between CONAPESCA, INAPESCA and CONANP in designing public policy and regulations and implementing management on the ground hinders effective fisheries and marine ecosystem management. However, these agencies are prepared to work together under the proposed project to: i. Undertake dialogues with local producers for reviewing, simplifying and harmonizing existing regulations and adapting those regulations to local conditions and community needs ii. Identify legal co-management opportunities and operate them through the formalization of co-management agreements with producers Kindly refer to outputs 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.5 and 2.1.1. Under Output 1.1.3: *Government institutions with strengthened institutional arrangements and capacities to facilitate effective fisheries co-management approaches*, the project will strengthen the coordination between government agencies responsible for fisheries and marine ecosystem conservation. Fisheries management will incorporate both productive and ecosystem conservation priorities and approaches, through inter-institutional dialogues at national and project seascape levels. The project will support the development of formal and informal arrangements to support inter-institutional coordination for fisheries co-management. It will also help clarifying the mandates and powers of different federal, state, local agencies concerning fisheries management. Regarding the enforcement of NPAs and NTZs, the Project will support: 1. The establishment and strengthening of NPA Councils in the Islas Marietas National Park and the Banco Chinchorro, Sian Ka?an and Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserves, jointly with the operation of co-management and governance committees (output 2.1.1); 2. The enforcement of regulations through the delimitation of NTZ boundaries with markers, to improving surveillance (output 1.1.2); 3. Photo-credentialing, registering and chipping of all fishermen and minor vessels (output 1.1.4); 4. Strengthening capacities of public prosecutors on illegal fishing (output 1.1.5); 5. Developing mechanisms to clarify access rights to fisheries (output 2.1.1); 6. Dissemination of information on the current state of fisheries and the importance of transitioning to sustainable practices (output 2.1.3); and

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
	7. The establishment, strengthening and operation of Community Surveillance Committees (output 2.1.5). Kindly find a thorough description in the project Alternative Scenario (Part II, Section 3 of the CEO Endorsement Request).
Germany	

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
Germany approves the following PIFs in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account: Germany welcomes the proposal. The project?s core focus to promote the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, which will enable the integration of socio-economic and environmental priorities, is very convincing and does reflect best practices. The aim to review, simplify and harmonize existing fisheries regulations to respond to local conditions and community needs, to generate a shared definition of sustainable seafood, based on Marine Stewardship Council standards, and advocate for its use in fisheries regulations is highly welcomed. Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal: ? Germany would like to encourage more emphasis in the proposal on the implementation according to the FAO-Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the FAO-Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (VGSSF), which both are	The project proponents and FAO welcome Germany?s comments and confirm that the Project strategy follows FAO?s Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, as well as FAO?s recommendations for developing co-management schemes, and the FAO-Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). The project approach is based on the understanding that co-management schemes propose that resources are jointly managed between the government and beneficiaries. However, to be successful, co-management schemes must respond to the needs of fishing communities at specific sites, they must rely on effective institutional and legal arrangements, sufficient information for effective decision-making and mechanisms for social participation, and they must be coupled with sustainable livelihoods alternatives to keep future fishing effort within sustainable levels. Furthermore, the project strategy is to focus on the co-management of fisheries in seascapes that include various forms of protected status (natural protected areas and no-take zones), and to use ecosystem-based management strategies to generate benefits for both biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods and economies. The ?Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication? (2015), formulated as a supplement to FAO?s Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995) have incorporated equity and equality as key principles, especially in promoting specific measures to accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women through preferential treatment to women when this is necessary to achieve equitable results. This project?s Gender Analysis specifically states that ?all parties should recognize that achieving gender equality requires concerted efforts by all and that gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of all small-scale fisheries development strategies?. Please for more details refer to section 3 (Proposed alternative scenario) and Annex N (Gender Action Plan) of the Project Document.

Comments	FAO response at CEO Endorsement submission
seen as crucial for any project success in the context of Blue Economy / marine resource utilization.	

STAP Review

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
1. Project description. Briefly describe:			
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	Project structure is clear but design lacks an explicit theory of change.	A Theory of Change and set of assumptions have been developed during full project preparation. Kindly see the Alternative Scenario (Part II, Section 3) of the CEO Endorsement request.
5) incremental / additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing	GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?	Good likelihood, though magnitude of benefits uncertain.	The Global Environmental Benefits section (Part II, Section 6 of the CEO Endorsement request) has been refined during full project preparation, including an assessment of the magnitude of expected benefits. The expected socio-economic co-benefits are also quantified in that section, as well as in Part II, Section 10.

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up	Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?	Claims regarding innovation are very preliminary. would benefit from specific articulation of innovative dimensions with regards to policy, (community-based) business models, governance and incentives for sustainable fishing. Good opportunity to test principles of collaborative governance, with lessons relevant beyond fisheries.	With regard to policy, the project will focus on establishing a shared vision for Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) among management authorities responsible for the environment (CONANP) and for fisheries (INAPESCA) that will allow for the implementation of inter-sectoral interventions that contribute to sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, and social well-being, with the goal of achieving sustainable fisheries production without negatively impacting ecosystem services and other natural resources. Regarding collaborative governance, the project will promote the first fisheries co-management systems in Mexico as a means to link EBFM approaches and community governance mechanisms to increase awareness among fishers, facilitate effective collaboration in fisheries management, and thereby promote conservation, sustainable use and alternative livelihoods. Regarding community-based business models, the project will work with fishers, fishing organizations, and local NGOs and CSOs, to identify and develop opportunities for coastal communities to develop enterprises focused on pre- and post-capture processing of sustainable fisheries products, supported by social marketing / awareness campaigns to promote the production and consumption of sustainable fisheries products; assisting fishing cooperatives in developing new products and new markets / buyers and negotiating favourable prices based on product quality and sustainability; establishing fisheries product traceability systems to enable fishers to increase the price of their product; and implementing participatory fisheries certification programs that certify the quality and sustainability of fisheries products for hotels and other commercial buyers. Regarding incentives for sustainable fishing, the project will establish positive incentives (including access to loans; co-management employment opportunities during fishery closure seasons, etc.), and the promotion and support of

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
			alternative livelihoods based on sustainable fisheries and other sustainable activities related to fisheries (e.g., value-added marine tourism, sport fishing, etc.), that will allow fishers to generate additional income through sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods. By providing fishers with opportunities for increased income through these mechanisms, the project will help to reduce the pressure on fishers to maximize catch levels and/or engage in IUU fishing. The project?s contribution to innovative approaches is described in more detail in Section 7.

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	While many of the approaches have found local success in other places, achieving change at the scale targeted requires transformational change.	The project will support a number of interventions that seek to support transformational changes that will allow for large-scale and sustainable changes across the three targeted seascapes. First, by managing fisheries in an integrated manner across protected sites and production areas, the project will provide an opportunity to align and integrate the conservation approaches of CONANP and the fisheries production orientation of INAPESCA, while also piloting ecosystem-based fisheries management at a larger scale than previous programs in Mexico. Under project output 1.1.1, marine spatial planning analyses and fisheries ecosystem-based management plans will be developed and implemented at a large geographic scale across each of the three targeted seascapes. Under Output 1.1.3, the project will strengthen interaction and coordination between government agencies responsible for fisheries and marine conservation, so that fisheries management incorporates both productive and ecosystem conservation priorities and approaches, and communication, coordination and joint decision-making processes among governmental agencies will is integrated and linked to improving the livelihoods of artisanal fishers. Under Component 2, the project will ensure the extensive participation of local fishing communities in the development and implementation of fisheries co-management systems. Some researchers have argued that the effective engagement of actors in collaborative governance arrangements is the only viable option to address environmental problems at a large scale[6], and thus the involvement of fishing and other coastal communities in fisheries co-management is an urgent priority in Mexico. The project design takes the view of fisheries as socioecological systems, composed of subsystems that include the targeted fish species, the marine ecosystem, fisherpersons, and an integrated control and execution system that fosters and protects the resilience of the system as a whole, an approach that allows fishermen to be considered as active partners in fisheries governance.[7] Furthermore, under Output 2.1.4, the project will work to establish incentives systems that will enhance the role of coastal communities in implementing

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
			sustainable fisheries co-management and adopting practices and technologies that promote and preserve marine ecosystem services, including transforming existing fisheries subsidies programs by eliminating perverse subsidies and promoting subsidies that support the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable fishing; and re-directing financial resources from existing social programs to support the adoption of sustainable practices by fishers, thereby supporting widespread adoption and sustained participation of fishers across each seascape. Finally, under Component 3 the project will identify and develop sustainable livelihoods opportunities for fishers, including through: technical assistance programs to enable local fishing communities to adopt / manage value added activities, as well as training in the development of sustainable fisheries-based businesses; helping small producers to develop business plans for resource use projects, including developing and submitting business plans to Social Banks in Mexico to seek funding for sustainable and value added fisheries products and for market development and outreach; and increasing market opportunities for fishers through programs for developing new fisheries products, negotiating favourable prices based on product quality and sustainability, participatory certification, differentiated markets, and information campaigns to support sustainable fisheries products.

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
3. Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis). Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes/no/ tbd. If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality: access to and control over resources; participation and decision-making; and/or economic benefits or services. Will the project?s results framework or logical framework	Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?	Good, initial indication of plans for gender analysis. Consider research on women?s empowerment, collective action in Mexican fisheries: Torre, J., Hernandez-Velasco, A., Rivera-Melo, F.F. et al. (2019). Women?s empowerment, collective actions, and sustainable fisheries: lessons from Mexico. Maritime Studies 18, 373?384 (2019).	A gender analysis was conducted during PPG, and the summary of its findings is described in Part II, Section 3 of the CEO Endorsement Request. Based on the gender analysis, a Gender Action Plan for the project has been developed (See Annex N of the FAO GEF Project Document). The indicated bibliographic reference was reviewed during project preparation and considered in the design of the project?s Gender Action Plan.

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
include gender-sensitive indicators? yes/no /tbd			
5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be	Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project?s control? Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?	Reasonable mitigation measures noted to address four identified risks, including climate change. However, there is not adequate attention to risks concerning governance and incentives for enforcement of regulations at multiple (community,	As described in the Part II, Section 5a of the CEO Endorsement Request, the project expects significant participation from local producers, based on their demonstrated interest and the positive impacts project activities will have on their livelihoods. Historically, the NTZs in Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo were established at the request of fishers and have been operated by them as a strategy for improving fish stocks. With regard to NPAs, the project will work to raise awareness among fishermen of the benefits for fishing communities of implementing ecosystem-based fisheries management in terms of sustainable healthy fish stocks, as well as the benefits of implementing fisheries co-management in terms of reducing the significant impacts of illegal

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
further developed during the project design	●For climate risk, and climate resilience measures: ●How will the project?s objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately? ●Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed? ●Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with? ●What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?	local / state / national government) levels. Given broader concerns regarding rule of law, and documented links between drug cartels and fishing operators involving human rights abuses, there should be explicit attention to the political economy dimensions of reform.	fishing activity on fish stocks. Trust between stakeholders and fisheries managers will be further strengthened by incorporating information provided by fishers into the scientific information used for management. In addition, the project will develop and promote economic alternatives for local coastal communities through value-added fisheries products. These activities will go beyond just fishers themselves by explicitly including women, who already play an important role in the fisheries productive chain in processing and selling, and the project will seek to strengthen their capacities in areas such as value-added activities and participation in fisheries management decisions. The project will also promote the inclusion of youth, fostering entrepreneurship through capacity building in sustainable fishing technologies, fish processing, commercialization, and boat and engine repair, among other fishing-associated economic activities. Furthermore, fishers recognize that in order to access higher priced markets, fisheries products must be able to demonstrate that they have been sourced from legal fishing operations, and for this reason, the project will support establishment of *ad hoc* custody chains and catch traceability systems that will validate legal and sustainable fishing practices and allow those fishermen who follow such practices to benefit from improved market access and higher prices. Complementing these positive incentives for fisheries communities, the project will also undertake various activities to improve fisheries governance, including the reduction of IUU fishing practices. Existing fisheries regulations will be reviewed, simplified and harmonized to respond to local conditions, and community needs and the powers of different agencies with regard to fisheries management will be clarified. Enforcement of fishing regulations will be made using innovative technologies (cellular and satellite systems, drones, electronic fishing monitoring systems, etc.), legal fishers will be photo-identified, and their boats will be registered and chipped. NTZ boundaries will be demarcated with buoys in order to improve surveillance, and inspection will be carried out with trained inspectors. Authorities and producers will formalize agreements on participatory inspection and surveillance programs that will be operated by

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
			Community Surveillance Committees. Governance at the Islas Marietas National Park and the Banco Chinchorro, Sian Ka?an and Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserves will be strengthened through NPA Councils that will operate committees on environmental crimes, co-management and governance issues. The simultaneous implementation of positive incentives and improved governance in the project seascapes will create a common foundation of culture, support and practical experience for sustainable fisheries among all stakeholders.

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
6. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	Appropriate links with related initiatives are noted, including opportunities for exchange of lessons. Would be good to also include consideration of programs supported by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) on fisheries management.	At present, EDF-Mexico operates an *Oceans Program* with three action lines: i) Sustainable Fisheries Management, focused on fisheries with high social and economic values (Upper Gulf of California artisanal corvine, Upper Gulf of California industrial hake, Yucatan artisanal grouper and artisanal fisheries from the Altata-Ensenada del Pabellon coastal lagoons in Sinaloa). The standard tool promoted by this program is Rights-Based Fisheries Management; based on the definition of a total allowable catch for a fishery, the distribution of that total allowable catch in catch quotas among users of that fishery, the definition of common catch strategy for exercising those catch quotas and the proper monitoring and administration of catch quotas. ii) Strengthening of Governance and Public Policies, focused on the identification of adequate public policies that can solve the social, environmental and economic challenges of Mexican fisheries. This action line has focused on socioeconomic diagnoses of Mexican artisanal fisheries; the assessment of gaps faced by that sector for access to basic human rights (health, education, living place, access to potable water, sanitary services, property rights, dignified employment and economic growth) and the projection of sociocultural and socioeconomic impacts and contributions. iii) Climate change resilient fisheries, focused on the mitigation of negative impacts of climate change to Mexican fisheries. This line is focused on the application of scientific knowledge for identifying adequate management modifications, the design of win-win adaptation scenarios for the environment and humans, the construction of adaptation capacities through fisheries management and governance local units and the

Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	STAP Response (at PIF stage)	FAO Response at CEO Endorsement submission
			effective ordination of fisheries for enabling the adaptation of fisheries. There is ample room for potential thematic collaboration between this GEF project and the EDF-Mexico Oceans Program; but at the present, there is no geographic match in their priorities. A change in the executive direction of EDF-Mexico occurred in 2021 and the organization is now updating its strategic plan. The result of that process will be ready by the winter 2021-2022. The Project Management Unit, and FAO can explore geographic coincidences again in early 2022.
8. Knowledge management. Outline the ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project, and how it will contribute to the project?s overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations.	What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?	Knowledge management well integrated into design. Would benefit from detailing metrics to measure progress.	The project?s knowledge management strategy is described in Part II, Section 8 of the CEO Endorsement Request. Specific metrics to measure the progress in implementing the project knowledge management strategy will include: i) number of project websites/microsites online; ii) number of visitors to the project websites/microsites; iii) number of news, documents or products generated by the project diffused by the project websites/microsites; iv) number of Project Technical Group and the Project Steering Committee work sessions dedicated to address communications and knowledge management; and v) number of approvals related to communications and knowledge management made by the Project Steering Committee.

[1] niparaja.org/zonasderefugio

[2] cobi.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Evaluacion-de-los-Refugios-Pesqueros-de-Punta-Herrero-2012-2014.pdf; cobi.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Evaluacion-de-los-Refugios-Pesqueros-de-Maria-Elena-2012-2014.pdf

[3] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/566832/PROMARNAT-2020-2024.pdf

[4]www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/616554/PROGRAMA_Nacional_de_Pesca_y_Acuacultura_2020-2024baja.pdf

[5] www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/581180/programa_institucional_2020-2024.pdf

[6] Bodin, O. (2017). Collaborative environmental governance: Achieving collective action in social-ecological systems. Science 357, 659

[7] Cisneros Montemayor, Andr?s M. (2018). Half a Century of Fisheries Management in Northwestern Mexico: The Future of Fisheries as Socio-ecological Systems. El Colegio de Michoac?n. Conacyt. http://dx.doi.org/10.24901/rehs.v39i153.392

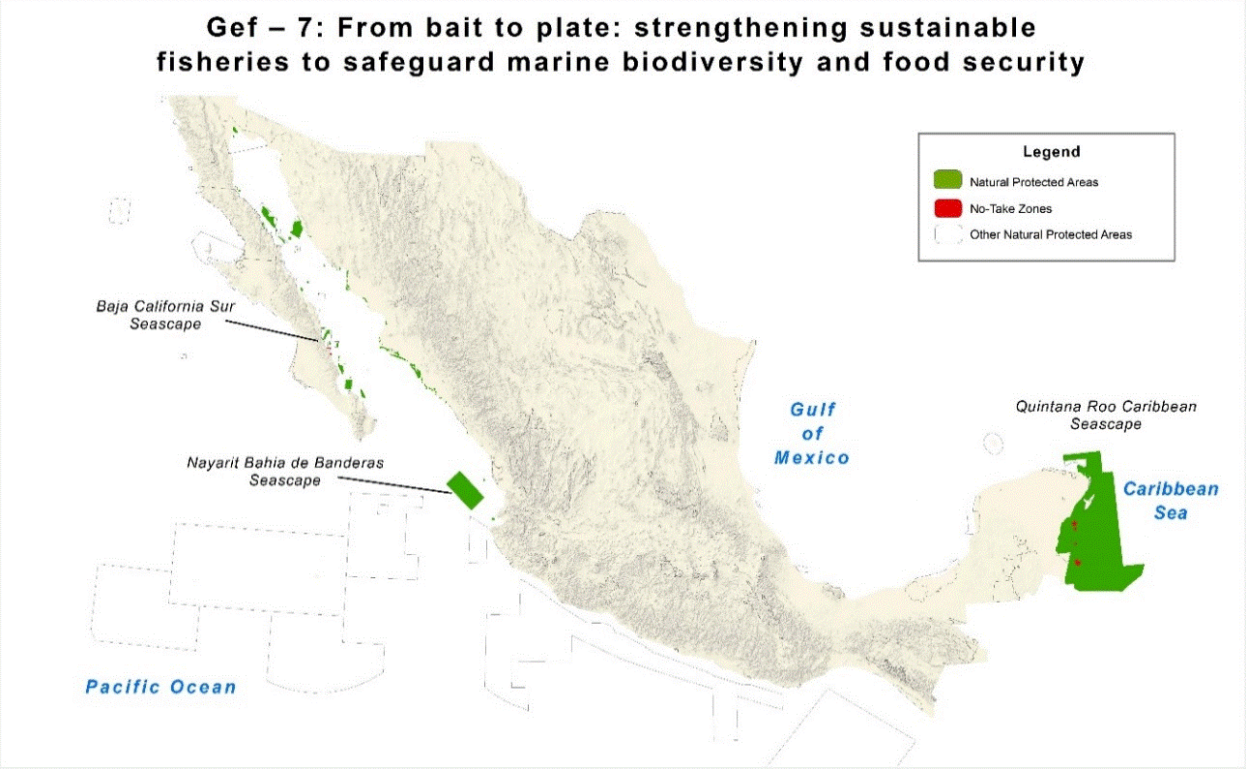
ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 200, 000 USD			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent to date***	***Amount Committed***
Activity 1: Analysis of the current institutional and regulatory framework and definition of institutional baselines related to the project, including co-financing	30,000	20,820	9,180
Activity 2: Measurement of baseline indicators in the three intervention areas and socio-environmental risk assessment	60,000	41640	18,360
Activity 3: Economic and financial opportunities analysis of fishing organizations	60,000	41,640	18,360
Activity 4: Design of institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms and project execution	20,000	13,880	6,120
Activity 5: Consultations with key stakeholders and gender mainstreaming	10,000	6,940	3,060
Activity 6: Synthesis of information, integration of the project document and budget formulation	20,000	13,880	6.120
Total	**200,000**	**138,800**	**61,200**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

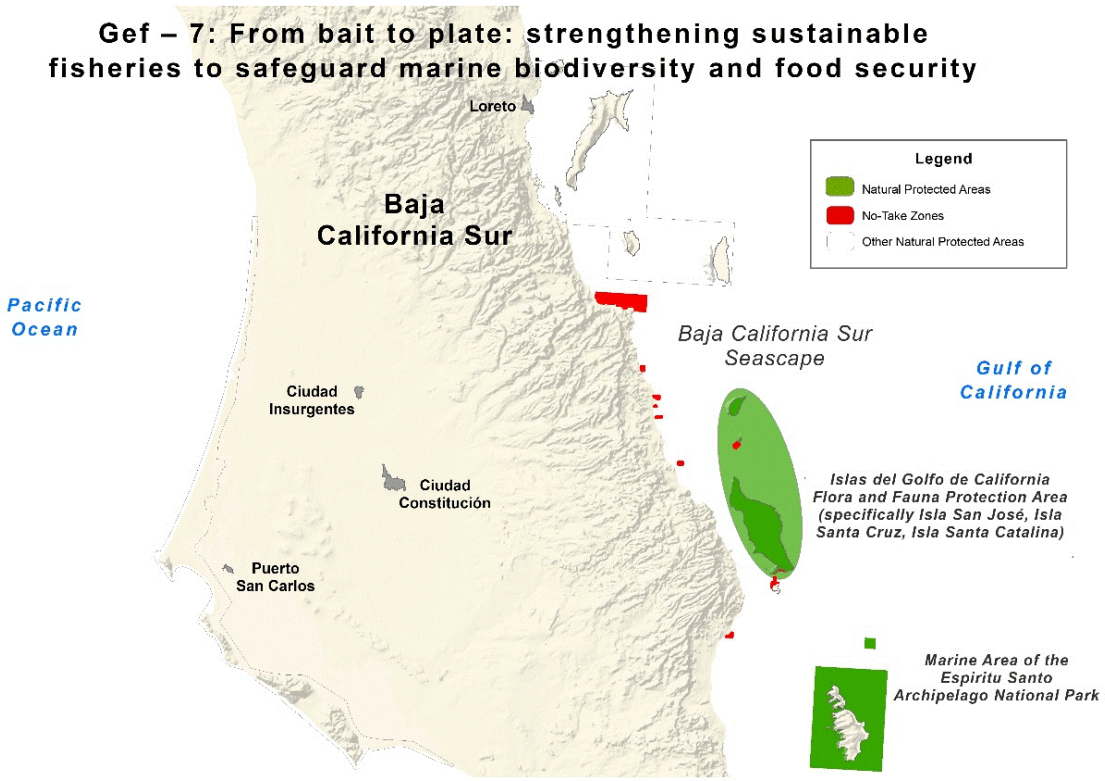
Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Map 1: All Project Seascapes in Mexico

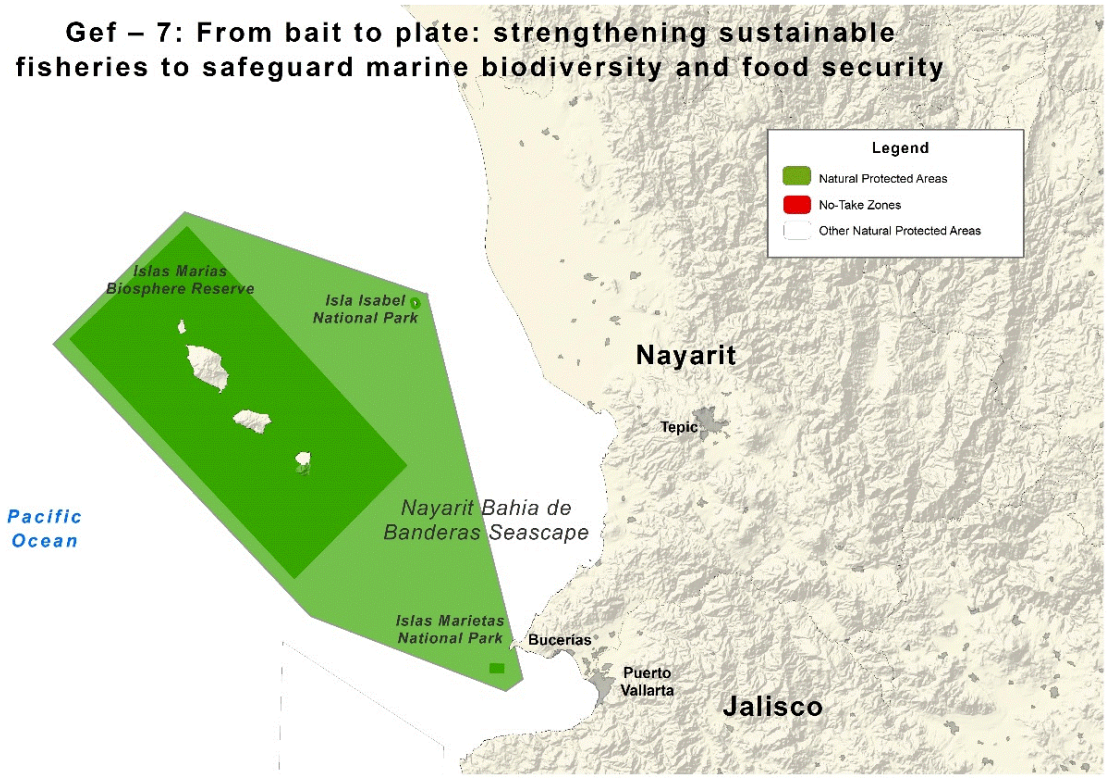


Source: Comisi?n Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas de M?xico (CONANP)

Map 2: Baja California Seascape

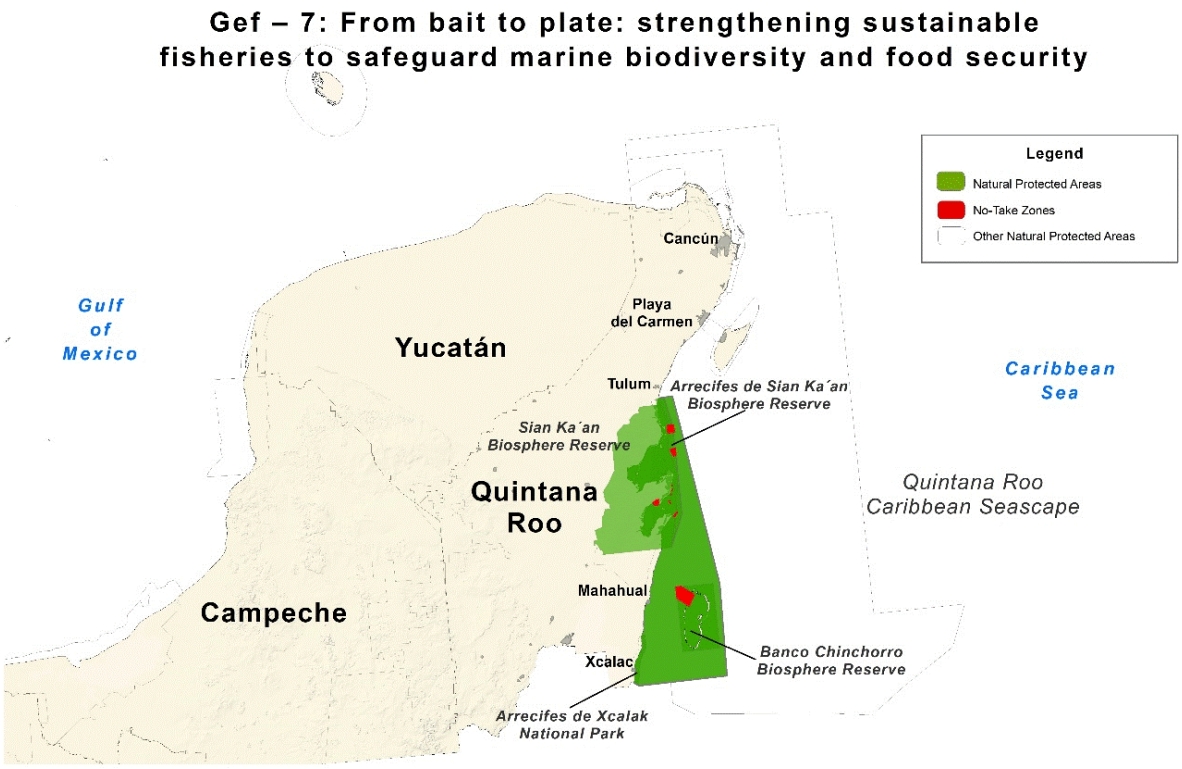


Map 3: Central Pacific Seascape



Source: Comisi?n Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas de M?xico (CONANP)

Map 4: Quintana Roo Seascape



Source: Comisi?n Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas de M?xico (CONANP)

?The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries?.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

FAO Cost Categories	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	M&E	Subtotal	PMC	Total	WWF	FAO
5013 Consultants										
Chief Technical Advisor	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	194,000	**194,000**	194,000	0

Seascape and technical liason specialist	44,374	59,165	36,978	7,396	0	**147,913**	0	**147,913**	147,913	0
Financial Manager	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	143,270	**143,270**	143,270	0
Liaison and Strategic Processes Specialist	42,981	57,308	35,817	7,163	0	**143,270**	0	**143,270**	143,270	0
Monitoring & Evaluation Expert	0	0	0		127,061	**127,061**	0	**127,061**	127,061	0
Climate and Environmental Risk Management Expert	0	0	0	64,380	0	**64,380**	0	**64,380**	64,380	0
Socio-economic Risk Management, Gender and Indigenous Communities Specialist	0	0	0	122,322	0	**122,322**	0	**122,322**	122,322	0
Community Planning and Knowledge Management Expert	48,462	64,616	40,385	8,077	0	**161,539**	0	**161,539**	161,539	0
Field Conservation Expert	48,462	64,616	40,385	8,077	0	**161,539**	0	**161,539**	161,539	0
Inclusive Market Access Expert	48,462	64,616	40,385	8,077	0	**161,539**	0	**161,539**	161,539	0
Quintana Roo Marine Protected Area Specialist	30,351	40,469	25,293	5,059	0	**101,172**	0	**101,172**	101,172	0
Quintana Roo Fisheries Speciaist	30,351	40,469	25,293	5,059	0	**101,172**	0	**101,172**	101,172	0
Baja California Sur Marine Protected Area Specialist	30,351	40,469	25,293	5,059	0	**101,172**	0	**101,172**	101,172	0

Baja California Sur Fisheries Speciaist	30,351	40,469	25,293	5,059	0	**101,172**	0	**101,172**	101,172	0
Nayarit Marine Protected Area Specialist	30,351	40,469	25,293	5,059	0	**101,172**	0	**101,172**	101,172	0
Nayarit Fisheries Speciaist	30,351	40,469	25,293	5,059	0	**101,172**	0	**101,172**	101,172	0
Fisheries Surveillance and IUU Specialist	41,653	0	0	0	0	**41,653**	0	**41,653**	41,653	0
Communication for development and audiovisual materials	18,482	24,642	15,401	3,080	0	**61,605**	0	**61,605**	61,605	0
Fisheries expert	19,206	25,608	16,005	3,201	0	**64,020**	0	**64,020**	64,020	0
Ocean conservation expert	39,600	52,800	33,000	6,600	0	**132,000**	0	**132,000**	132,000	0
Biodiversity finance expert	39,600	52,800	33,000	6,600	0	**132,000**	0	**132,000**	132,000	0
5013 Sub-total consultants	**573,389**	**708,982**	**443,114**	**275,325**	**127,061**	**2,127,870**	**337,270**	**2,465,140**		
5030 Cash and Financial Assistance										
Implementation of productive projects for fishing organizations based on the business plans developed. BCSur	0	585,167	0	0	0	**585,167**	0	**585,167**	585,167	0

Implementation of productive projects for fishing organizations based on the business plans developed. Qroo	0	585,167	0	0	0	**585,167**	0	**585,167**	585,167	0
Implementation of productive projects for fishing organizations based on the business plans developed. Nayarit	0	585,167	0	0	0	**585,167**	0	**585,167**	585,167	0
5030 Sub-total cash and financial assistance	**0**	**1,755,500**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,755,500**	**0**	**1,755,500**		
5650 Contracts										
Development of fisheries business plans with a gender focus (Rural Invest): training for project technicians, organizations, cooperatives and people in the fishing value chain (3 regions)	0	0	69,399	0	0	**69,399**	0	**69,399**	69,399	0
Output 1.1.1. LoA 1: Study ("Estudio de Pesca Justifivativo") for NTZs	11,400	0	0	0	0	**11,400**	0	**11,400**	11,400	0

Output 1.1.1. Loa 2: Update of management plans for two ANPs	22,800	0	0	0	0	**22,800**	0	**22,800**	22,800	0
Output 1.1.2. Loa 3: Analysis of the fisheries regulatory framework and proposed adjustment to it, based on the assessment of the capacity needs of the communities	42,750	0	0	0	0	**42,750**	0	**42,750**	42,750	0
Output 1.1.1 Loa 4: Technical Assistance in Marine Spatial Planning and Co-management Plans (Consortium of Academic Institutions) for the 3 seascapes.	132,050	0	0	0		**132,050**		**132,050**	132,050	0

Output 1.1.2. Loa 5: Development and implementation of a training program (with a gender focus) for CONANP and INAPESCA staff on: Ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM), innovative technologies and fisheries monitoring.	43,700	0	0	0	0	**43,700**	0	**43,700**	43,700	0
2.1.1. Loa 6: Design and implementation of a capacity building program for fishermen, to develop and operate fisheries co-management plans and agreements (3 regions)	0	87,400	0	0	0	**87,400**	0	**87,400**	87,400	0
2.1.2. Loa 7: Design and implementation of a training programme for fishermen and fishermen's associations in new technologies and practices.	0	42,785	0	0	0	**42,785**	0	**42,785**	42,785	0

2.1.2. Loa 8: Training of leaders (within fishing cooperatives) in governance and cooperativism (Diplomas).	0	55,100	0	0	0	**55,100**	0	**55,100**	55,100	0
3.1.1. Loa 9: Assessment of livelihood needs and opportunities (based on fisheries and nature) with a gender perspective.	0	0	25,650	0	0	**25,650**	0	**25,650**	25,650	0
3.1.1. Loa 10: Technical assistance to add value to fishery products (mainly women).	0	0	87,400	0	0	**87,400**	0	**87,400**	87,400	0
Output 1.1.4. Loa 11: Design and implementation of a comprehensive system (CONANP and INAPESCA) of information on fisheries and marine ecosystems	87,400	0	0	0	0	**87,400**	0	**87,400**	87,400	0

Output 2.1.3. Loa 12: Design, testing and implementation of a mobile application for fishermen (relevant information, information exchange, digital logs).	0	87,400	0	0	0	**87,400**	0	**87,400**	87,400	0
Output 3.1.5. Loa 13: Traceability systems for fishery products in the three seascapes of the project.	0	0	175,750	0	0	**175,750**	0	**175,750**	175,750	0
Output 3.1.5. Loa 14: Create and strengthen (where they already exist) participatory initiatives for fisheries improvement (e.g. FIPs), labeling, participatory cetification to ensure the best management of fish stocks and quality of the product to be marketed in the three regions	0	0	304,000	0	0	**304,000**	0	**304,000**	304,000	0
Executing Partner Fiduciary Review (Audit)	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	45,125	**45,125**	0	45,125

Control Agreement (spot checks)	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	21,375	**21,375**	0	21,375
Mid-Term Review	0	0	0		50,000	**50,000**	0	**50,000**	0	50,000
Terminal Evaluation	0	0	0		80,000	**80,000**	0	**80,000**	0	80,000
Terminal Report	0	0	0		6,550	**6,550**	0	**6,550**	0	6,550
5650 Sub-total Contracts	**340,100**	**272,685**	**662,199**	**0**	**136,550**	**1,411,534**	**66,500**	**1,478,034**		
5021 Travel										
Technical Team Trips - Fieldwork	77,557	103,410	64,631	12,926	0	**258,525**	2,000	**260,525**	260,525	0
Exchange of regional experiences to form networks of fisheries organizations	121,500	162,000	101,250	20,250	0	**405,000**	0	**405,000**	405,000	0
Institutional national trips, fishermen's associations and local cooperatives	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0	**90,000**	0	**90,000**	90,000	0
Travels for Inspection Activities (Fisheries Inspection - Output 1.1.5, 2.1.5 and certification programs - Output 3.1.5)	0	42,500	42,500	0	0	**85,000**	0	**85,000**	85,000	0
5021 Sub-total travel	**229,057**	**337,910**	**238,381**	**33,176**	**0**	**838,525**	**2,000**	**840,525**		
5023 Training										
Inception Workshop		0	0	0	9,500	**9,500**	0	**9,500**	9,500	0
Mid Term Workshop	0	0	0		9,500	**9,500**	0	**9,500**	9,500	0
Final Workshop	0	0	0		9,500	**9,500**	0	**9,500**	9,500	0

Stakeholder Engagement Workshops (3 at each project site)	16,650	0	0	0	0	**16,650**	0	**16,650**	16,650	0
FPIC Workshops in Quintana Roo	5,550	0	0	0	0	**5,550**	0	**5,550**	5,550	0
Output 1.1.1 Participatory Design of co-management plans	16,650	0	0	0	0	**16,650**	0	**16,650**	16,650	0
Output 1.1.1.Participatory renewal of 22 existing NTZs and establishment of 6 new NTZs	55,500	0	0	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0
Output 1.1.1. Workshops to validate the plans for 2 NPAs	7,400	0	0	0	0	**7,400**	0	**7,400**	7,400	0
Output 1.1.3. Inter-institutional dialogues on fisheries management at both the national and project seascape levels	10,800	0	0	0	0	**10,800**	0	**10,800**	10,800	0
Output 1.1.4. Validation of comprehensive fisheries and marine ecosystems information systems	11,100	0	0	0	0	**11,100**	0	**11,100**	11,100	0

Output 1.1.5. Capacity development of government authorities (fisheries information platforms for surveillance).	69,000	0	0	0	0	**69,000**	0	**69,000**	69,000	0
Output 1.1.5 Workshops to Strengthen the capacities of public prosecutors to understand and address IUU fishing	18,400	0	0	0	0	**18,400**	0	**18,400**	18,400	0
Output 2.1.1. Local-level multi-sectorial territorial development dialogues for fishers	0		0	0	27,750	**27,750**	0	**27,750**	27,750	0
Output 2.1.1. Validation and operation of fisheries co-management agreements between CONAPESCA, INAPESCA, CONANP and fisher associations:	0	55,500	0	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0

Output 2.1.1. Co-management governance meetings (Fisheries Consultative Committees; NPA Fisheries Sub-Councils; NTZ Advisory Councils; Committee on Environmental Crimes)	0	55,500	0	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0
Output 2.1.2 Training of fisher associations (compliance, conflict resolution)	0	55,500	0	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0
Output 2.1.4. Establishment and operation of strengthened Community Surveillance Committees	0	55,500	0	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0
Output 3.1.1. Workshops to strengthen technical skills	0	0	55,500	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0
Output 3.1.4. Workshops: program to support the creation of new fisheries-related enterprises	0	0	55,500	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0

Output 3.1.3. Workshops: collaboration among fishing cooperatives (market and reducing costs)	0	0	55,500	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0
Ouput 3.1.3. Capacity development of fishers submitting business plans to Social Banks (value-added products)	0	0	49,950	0	0	**49,950**	0	**49,950**	49,950	0
Outuput 3.1.5. Capacity development of cooperatives to create and market new products (negotiation skills, prices, quality, sustainability).	0	0	55,500	0	0	**55,500**	0	**55,500**	55,500	0
5023 Sub-total training	**211,050**	**222,000**	**271,950**	**0**	**56,250**	**761,250**	**0**	**761,250**		
5024 Expendable procurement										
Community Monitoring Software (Annual License)	0	0	0	6,345	0	**6,345**	0	**6,345**	6,345	0

Output 3.1.5. Advertising space for awareness-raising campaigns to promote the production and consumption of sustainable fisheries.	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	**50,000**	0	**50,000**	50,000	0
Output 3.1.5 y 4.1.3. Diverse publications: community, institutional	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	**50,000**	0	**50,000**	50,000	0
Output 3.1.5 y 4.1.3. Design and maintenance of project website	0	0	12,500	12,500	0	**25,000**	0	**25,000**	25,000	0
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement	**0**	**0**	**62,500**	**68,845**	**0**	**131,345**	**0**	**131,345**		
6100 Non-expendable procurement										
Technological equipment (Computers) for project technical personnel	9,255	27,765	0	0	0	**37,020**	0	**37,020**	37,020	0
Technological equipment for implementation Surveillance Systems	0	118,836	0	0	0	**118,836**	0	**118,836**	118,836	0
Refrigeration equipment of fisheries products for transportation	0	0	60,000	0	0	**60,000**	0	**60,000**	60,000	0

Materials and equipment to Add value, process and conserve fisheries products (output 3.1.2)	0	0	429,679	0	0	**429,679**	0	**429,679**	429,679	0
Output 3.1.5. Materials and equipment for FIPs	0	0	110,000	0	0	**110,000**	0	**110,000**	110,000	0
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement	**9,255**	**146,601**	**599,679**	**0**	**0**	**755,535**	**0**	**755,535**		
5028 GOE budget										
General expenses and miscellaneous (*Office supplies and stationery, Communication and internet services, Development of educational materials, Purchase of field supplies, Communication devices, Public awareness campaigns and media outreach)*	6,433	8,577	5,361	1,072	0	**21,442**	23,068	**44,510**	44,510	0
Recurrent mobility expenses (car rentals for field activities)	121,500	162,000	101,250	20,250	0	**405,000**	0	**405,000**	405,000	0

Recurrent mobility expenses (Boat rentals for field activities)	92,250	123,000	76,875	15,375	0	**307,500**	0	**307,500**	307,500	0
Maintenance of fisheries equipment	18,381	24,508	15,318	3,064		**61,270**		**61,270**	61,270	0
6300 Sub-total GOE budget	**238,564**	**318,085**	**198,803**	**39,761**	**0**	**795,212**	**23,068**	**818,280**		
TOTAL	**1,601,415**	**3,761,763**	**2,476,626**	**417,107**	**319,861**	**8,576,771**	**428,838**	**9,005,609**	**8,802,559**	**203,050**

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an 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 Agencys 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