GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION 3

Project Summary 4

Indicative Project Overview 5

PROJECT COMPONENTS 5

PROJECT OUTLINE 8

A. PROJECT RATIONALE 8

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION 17

Project description 17

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project. 24

Core Indicators 25

Key Risks 30

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES 31

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS 32

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: 32

Stakeholder Engagement 33

Private Sector 37

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks 37

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS 38

Knowledge management 38

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES 38

GEF Financing Table 38

Project Preparation Grant (PPG) 38

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation 38

Indicative Focal Area Elements 39

Indicative Co-financing 39

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS 39

GEF Agency(ies) Certification 39

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s): 40

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION 40

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING 41

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS 41

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET 41

General Project Information

Project Title

Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Chilean Wetlands to Protect Migratory Birds through the Implementation of SBAP Conservation Tools

Region	GEF Project ID
Latin America and the Caribbean	12104
Country(ies)	**Type of Project**
Chile	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	**GEF Agency ID**
CAF	11354
Executing Partner	**Executing Partner Type**
Ministry of Environment (MMA) Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP)	Government Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	**Submission Date**
Biodiversity	10/16/2025

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approache, Indigenous Peoples, Large corporations, Private Sector, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Capital providers, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Education, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Communications, Capacity Development, Innovation, Learning, Training, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Conference, Peer-to-Peer, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Gender Equality, Biodiversity, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Financial and Accounting, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Tourism, Fisheries, Certification -National Standards, Mainstreaming, Wetlands, Biomes, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Species, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Focal Areas

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	36
GEF Project Grant: (a)	**GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)**
2,101,835.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	**Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)**
189,165.00	0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
2,291,000.00	5,000,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
100,000.00	9,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
109,000.00	2,400,000.00
Project Tags	
CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B "project description".(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Chile hosts one of the world's biodiversity hotspots and harbors a high diversity of marine, coastal, terrestrial and insular ecosystems, with elevated levels of endemism heterogeneously distributed across its territory. Regarding inland aquatic ecosystems, the country contains approximately 1,317,704 hectares of wetlands across more than 40,000 sites, which sustain unique biodiversity, including hundreds of migratory bird species, many of which are globally classified as threatened or near threatened.

While Law 21.600 was enacted in 2023, mandating the creation of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP), further progress is required to advance the national, regional and territorial implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments and incentives, particularly outside protected areas. For example, the progressive degradation of coastal wetlands is reducing the ecological functionality of key habitats for biodiversity.

In response to this global environmental challenge, the project aims to conserve and promote the sustainable use of migratory bird habitats in coastal wetlands through the implementation of conservation instruments under the framework of Law 21.600. In this context, the project's transformative character is grounded in its capacity to integrate ecological, institutional, social and territorial dimensions, while supporting the operationalization of biodiversity conservation instruments for coastal wetlands and migratory birds. The Outcomes include: (i) improved governance through gender-responsive and Indigenous Peoples-inclusive approaches, supported by multi-stakeholder convergence mechanisms, inter-institutional coordination and private sector engagement; (ii) strengthened institutional capacities of SBAP, the Ministry of the Environment (MMA)and key sectors to implement Law 21.600; (iii) reduced anthropogenic pressures through compensation instruments, ecosystem services payment contracts, green infrastructure and certification of good practices; (iv) development of an inclusive ecotourism-based local economy; and (v) enhanced social engagement supported by bird monitoring, information systems, environmental education and knowledge management.

His approach will deliver tangible global environmental benefits: 33.78 hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 1.2); 128.22 hectares of marine protected areas with enhanced management effectiveness (GEF Core Indicator 2.2); 2,955.5 hectares of wetlands conserved or restored through ecosystem self-recovery processes in wetland systems (GEF Core Indicator 3.4); and 85,182.72 hectares of landscapes under improved management practices benefiting biodiversity (GEF Core Indicator 4.1), carbon capture/avoided loss of 3,959,038.81 tons of CO2 (GEF Core indicator 6.1). In addition, the project will

directly benefit 160,000 people (GEF Core Indicator 11), generating co-benefits related to food security, climate resilience, social cohesion, local economic development, water regulation, and cultural ecosystem services.

The project will focus on the Rocuant-Andalién wetland system in the Biobío Region and Quinchao Island in the Los Lagos Region. These sites have been designated as priorities due to their ecological value and importance for hemispheric migratory bird flyways.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To conserve and promote the sustainable use of migratory bird habitats associated with coastal wetland systems through the implementation of conservation instruments under the framework of Law 21.600.

Project Components

Component 1. Institutional Capacities and Processes

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
500,000.00	1,035,147.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1 Improved governance for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, with a gender-responsive and Indigenous Peoples-inclusive approach

Outcome 1.2. Strengthened institutional capacities of sectoral agencies (SBAP, MMA, MINAGRI, SubTURISMO, MINVU, MOP, Chilean Navy) and other levels of government to implement sectoral public policy instruments that enable the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

Outcome 1.3. Enhanced implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments under Title III of Law 21.600 by SBAP, promoting engagement of public and private actors in biodiversity conservation

Output:

Output 1.1.1 Expanded multi-stakeholder convergence mechanisms established to build consensus around the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds, with gender and indigenous people responsive approach.

Output 1.1.2 An ad-hoc governance structure defined and implemented to support interinstitutional coordination (national, subnational, and local) for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds.

Output 1.1.3 Roadmap implemented to integrate and mobilize private sector engagement (agribusiness, aquaculture, banking and insurance, service and real estate sectors, and port logistics) in the conservation and protection of wetland systems.

Output 1.2.1 Information systems enhanced to support decision-making, monitoring, management, and enforcement for the conservation of wetland systems and their biodiversity.

Output 1.2.2 Training and/or refresher plans implemented on wetland conservation, restoration, and the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, targeting technical staff from SBAP, sectoral institutions, and regional and local governments.

Output 1.2.3 Municipal collaboration promoted and strengthened for the integrated conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds.

Output 1.2.4. Cooperation agreements established between Regional Governments, the MMA, and/or the SBAP for the implementation of conservation instruments.

Output 1.3.1 Conceptual and operational model for the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) instrument under the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP) designed.

Output 1.3.2 Operational procedures, standards, and protocols for the implementation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Certification System established under Article 51 of Law 21.600 developed and validated.

Componente 2. Conservation Economy

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,000,000.00	2,500,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1 Anthropogenic pressure on migratory bird habitats, reduced.
Outcome 2.2. A robust local economy developed based on sustainable, inclusive, and gender- and Indigenous-sensitive tourism.

Output:

Output 2.1.1 Pre-investment studies and technical designs for priority wetland conservation projects developed to support municipalities and regional governments in mobilizing public and private resources.

Output 2.1.2 Assessment conducted on gaps and improvement needs in wastewater treatment systems in the Rocuant-Andalién and Quinchao Island wetland systems.

Output 2.1.3 Action plan designed and implemented to reduce anthropogenic threats in the project pilot sites, located in areas of importance for biodiversity.

Output 2.1.4 Sustainable productive practices in livestock, agriculture, aquaculture, seaweed farming, and shellfish harvesting demonstrated in wetland landscapes to support implementation of SBAP economic instruments.

Output 2.2.1 Comprehensive and inclusive strategy formulated and under implementation for the development fof birdwatching tourism in wetland systems, with a gender and indigenous people perspective.

Component 3. Knowledge Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
406,426.00	1,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1 Public engagement increased in the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of wetlands and biodiversity, with a gender-responsive approach.

Output:

Output 3.1.1 Monitoring system for migratory bird populations implemented in priority wetlands by responsible institutions, contributing to SBAP's Biodiversity Information System (SIB).

Output 3.1.2 Monitoring system implemented for certifications and compensation mechanisms.
Output 3.1.3 Comprehensive awareness and environmental education program designed and implemented to raise public understanding of the Rocuant-Andalién and Quinchao Island wetland systems, with a focus on associated threats and ecosystem benefits.
Output 3.1.4 Good practices, innovations, and lessons learned documented and systematized during project implementation.
Output 3.1.5 Experience-sharing forums on wetland conservation and biodiversity implemented.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
95,322.00	226,758.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1 An effective process for project monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management established

Output:

Output 4.1.1 Project monitoring and learning plan implemented

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1. Institutional Capacities and Processes	500,000.00	1,035,147.00
Componente 2. Conservation Economy	1,000,000.00	2,500,000.00
Component 3. Knowledge Management	406,426.00	1,000,000.00
M&E	95,322.00	226,758.00
Subtotal	**2,001,748.00**	**4,761,905.00**
Project Management Cost	100,087.00	238,095.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**2,101,835.00**	**5,000,000.00**

Please provide justification

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Socio-environmental context of biodiversity conservation status

Chile is a country with an exceptional natural heritage, hosting approximately 31,000 species, including plants, animals, algae, fungi and bacteria, distributed across a wide diversity of marine, coastal, terrestrial and insular ecosystems (MMA, 2017). This biodiversity is characterized by heterogeneous patterns of endemism across the national territory, because of which Chile hosts one of the world's biodiversity hotspot areas (Arroyo et al., 2004). With respect to inland aquatic ecosystems, Chile contains approximately 1,317,704 hectares of wetlands, distributed across more than 40,000 sites, which host unique biodiversity and endemic species (MMA, 2017).

Wetlands are aquatic ecosystems that sustain biodiversity (Ramsar, 1971). In Chile, they are found in coastal zones as estuaries, coastal lagoons, and salt marshes; along the Andes Mountains as salt flats, brackish lagoons, high-altitude peatlands, meadows, rivers, lakes, and lagoons; and in the southern regions as peat swamps, significant carbon sinks, or forested wetlands known as hualves or pitrantos (MMA, 2020). All these wetlands, to varying degrees, provide critical habitats for fish, crustaceans, amphibians, reptiles, migratory birds, and other species (MMA, 2020; MMA, 2021).

In Chile, wetlands face increasing threats such as unsustainable practices, climate change, eutrophication, and habitat loss, which undermine their ecological functionality and reduce the delivery of essential ecosystem services (MMA, 2017). This degradation directly affects native fauna, particularly migratory birds, which maintain a symbiotic and ecologically interdependent relationship with wetlands. Chile is home to 528 bird species, 322 of which are breeding species that play key ecological and societal roles (Martínez & González, 2017, 2004; Medrano et al., 2018; Olson et al., 2001, cited in MMA, 2021), and ranks second globally in the number of threatened seabird species (Fisheries, New Zealand, 2020). In the southern part of the country, the Rocuant–Andalién wetland system and the Quinchao Island wetland system concentrate bird species of high conservation value, aligning with objectives related to sustainability, ecological resilience, and green and blue recovery. These wetland systems include sites recognized under international biodiversity prioritization frameworks, such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Characterization of the Rocuant-Andalién Wetland:

The Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez wetland system, located in the Chiloé Archipelago in the Los Lagos Region, constitutes an integrated conservation unit that is ecologically and functionally connected through coastal ecosystems. It comprises two legally designated Nature Sanctuaries: Bahía de Quinchao (102.3 ha) and Bahía Curaco de Vélez (59.7 ha). The wetland system is embedded within the productive landscapes of Quinchao Island (5,774.72 ha), whose ecological, social, and economic dynamics are closely linked to the conservation and sustainable use of these coastal wetlands. Recognized for its high biodiversity and ecological heterogeneity (EULA, 2014; MMA, 2023), Rocuant-Andalién has been classified as the second most important wetland in Chile for migratory birds and the most important in the region in terms of species richness and abundance (MMA, 2020). In 2011, it was designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International (CONAMA, 1999; León & Benítez, 2004; Vergara et al., 2005; EULA, 2014; SGA, 2014; BirdLife International, 2011, cited by MMA, 2020) and and designated as a site within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN).

Its vegetation comprises salt marsh, dune and freshwater species (Smith, 2007). The system hosts more than 100 bird species, including migratory species from the Northern Hemisphere such as Larus pipixcan, Numenius phaeopus, Rhynchops niger and Tringa flavipes. Nine species are classified under conservation categories,

notably Coscoroba coscoroba and Plegadis chihí (Endangered), and Cygnus melancoryphus (Vulnerable). In addition, the presence of endemic reptile species has been recorded, including the short-tailed snake (Philodryas chamissonis) and the long-tailed snake (Tachymenis chilensis); amphibians, such as the Chilean four-eyed frog (Pleurodema thaul), Darwin's helmeted water toad (Rhinella arunco), the antifaz frog (Batrachyla taeniata), and the Chilean giant frog (Calyptocephalella gayi); as well as native fish species including the Chilean silverside (Basilichthys australis), cauque (Odontesthes mauleanum), lake pocha (Cheirodon galusdae), pocha (Cheirodon pisciculus) and the Concepción darter (Percilia irwini). All these species are classified under critical conservation categories, according to national assessments (EULA, 2011; SGA, 2014; Hatch, 2013; Ruiz et al., 2004; Dyer, 2000, cited in Ministry of the Environment (MMA), 2020).

In terms of ecosystem services, the wetland provides key functions such as habitat for migratory birds, as well as cultural, regulatory, and provisioning services. The wetland sub-basin includes five municipalities, Concepción, Florida, Penco, Talcahuano, and Hualpén, with a total population of 514,399 people; 97.4% reside in urban areas, and 8.55% self-identify as Mapuche (INE, 2024). The local economy is based on the industrial, forestry, agriculture, tourism, and service sectors.

Characterization of the Quinchao Island Wetland System (Quinchao–Curaco de Vélez): The Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez wetland system, located in the Chiloé Archipelago in the Los Lagos Region, constitutes an integrated conservation unit that is ecologically and functionally connected through coastal ecosystems. It comprises two legally designated Nature Sanctuaries: Bahía de Quinchao (102.3 ha) and Bahía Curaco de Vélez (59.7 ha). The wetland system is embedded within the productive landscapes of Quinchao Island (5,774.72 ha), whose ecological, social, and economic dynamics are closely linked to the conservation and sustainable use of these coastal wetlands. This complex includes salt marshes, estuaries, beaches, and extensive intertidal flats with high biological productivity, supported by nutrient inflows from terrestrial sources and the Vélez River.

These ecosystems, characterized by fine sediments and halophytic vegetation, host essential benthic communities that support a remarkable diversity of aquatic birds, both resident and migratory. Key species include the Black-necked Swan (Cygnus melancoryphus), Hudsonian Godwit (Limosa haemastica), and the Flightless Steamer Duck (Tachyeres pteneres). The site forms a critical node in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and has been classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) (FCM, 2023; FCM, 2024). These wetlands provide multiple essential ecosystem services, including food provisioning, critical habitat for threatened species, water regulation, and ecotourism opportunities. They benefit a local population of approximately 12,000 inhabitants, of whom at least 40% identify as Mapuche-Huilliche indigenous people (FCM, 2023; FCM, 2024).

Environmental Problem and Justification

Wetlands are strategic ecosystems for global ecological sustainability, acting as natural water regulators, carbon sinks, filters of pollutants, and habitats of high biodiversity. They play a critical role in the conservation of both resident and migratory birds by providing feeding, resting, and breeding grounds along their migratory routes (RAMSAR, 2025; MMA, n.d.). In Chile, the Rocuant-Andalién and Quinchao Island (Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez) wetland systems represent key habitats for a wide range of migratory bird species, some of which are classified as threatened at both national and international levels. However, these ecosystems are under growing anthropogenic pressure, threatening their ecological integrity.

In this context, the project responds to an urgent global environmental problem: ***the degradation, alteration, and loss of critical habitat for migratory birds in coastal wetland systems***. The loss of ecological functionality in these sites directly impacts migratory birds by reducing the availability of quality habitats and disrupting the trophic cycles that support their populations. At the national level, it is consistent with Chile's National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) 2017–2030, the institutional mandate of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP), and the objectives of Law 21.600, also known as the Nature Law, which emphasizes the urgency of reversing the loss of coastal wetland habitats and associated species. In the absence of a structured intervention, the Rocuant-Andalién and Quinchao Island wetland systems will continue to face progressive degradation driven by escalating anthropogenic pressures, unregulated land-use changes, and institutional gaps.

The continuation of these threats could lead to irreversible loss of critical habitats for migratory birds and other native species, along with a substantial decline in key ecosystem services that sustain the well-being of adjacent communities. The baseline scenario anticipates a weakening of ecological connectivity, increased frequency of local flooding or drought events, and a deterioration in the well-being of populations dependent on these wetland systems. This project has been prioritized by the Government of Chile (GoCh) over other alternatives, as it strengthens the implementation of instruments under the newly established SBAP, and responds to the urgency of advancing approaches to conserve wetlands and their biodiversity in the face of increasing anthropogenic pressures.

Drivers and Barriers

The threat to the ecological functionality of the Rocuant-Andalién, Quinchao, and Curaco de Vélez wetland systems is driven by at least six main underlying causes and sixteen associated barriers.

1. Governance gaps for the conservation and sustainable use of wetland systems. Biodiversity management outside of protected areas, particularly in coastal wetlands, faces weak and fragmented governance at the national, subnational, and local levels. There are significant challenges in building consensus around conservation and sustainable use approaches. Despite the existence of national environmental policies and regulatory instruments, territorial conflicts persist related to land use, the expansion of economic activities (such as aquaculture, agriculture, industry, tourism, and real estate), and divergent views on conservation. These tensions reflect competing interests among key national and territorial stakeholders, including public institutions, the private sector, civil society, and academia, many of whom operate under conflicting visions and without effective mechanisms for coordination. This issue stems from structural causes, reflected in the following systemic barriers:

1.1 Fragmented dialogue between public, private, and civil society actors. There are few institutionalized spaces for participation and intersectoral coordination, which prevents the development of national and territorial agreements to prioritize wetland conservation as a foundation for social, cultural, and environmental well-being. Despite the diversity of stakeholders, siloed dialogue persists, limiting the construction of a shared vision for wetland conservation and sustainable use.

1.2 Weak inter-institutional coordination at national and territorial levels. While there are functional national environmental policies and institutions (e.g., the National Biodiversity Strategy 2017–2030 and the National Wetlands Plan (MMA–SBAP), coordination gaps and overlapping mandates or unclear roles persist among public agencies, particularly between national, regional, and municipal levels of government, as well as among municipalities that share wetland systems within their administrative boundaries. This fragmentation of institutional leadership hinders effective environmental monitoring, enforcement, integrated management, inter-institutional complementarity, and coordination. It also limits the provision of adequate incentives for conservation, restoration, and the sustainable use of wetlands.

1.3 Limited private sector engagement due to competing interests. Private sector involvement (e.g., agroindustry, aquaculture, urban development, port logistics) in wetland conservation efforts have been limited and largely reactive, often driven by the perception that conservation restricts economic opportunities. This low level of engagement constrains the development and implementation of synergistic sustainable development approaches based on national and territorial consensus among stakeholders with divergent interests.

2. Institutional gaps in implementing environmental policy instruments at the national, regional, and local levels. Although Chile has a robust institutional and policy framework for environmental management, significant institutional gaps and challenges remain in the implementation of public policies. At the national level, there is a clear need to strengthen the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP) in fulfilling its mandate to protect biodiversity and conserve the country's natural heritage, through the application of conservation instruments established under Title III of Law 21.600 (MMA, 2023). At the regional and local government levels, there are substantial gaps in both individual and organizational capacities, including

operational systems and information management, particularly in relation to conservation, knowledge dissemination, and environmental enforcement. These limitations hinder the effective implementation of public policies and conservation plans related to the sustainable management of wetlands and biodiversity. These institutional weaknesses are manifested through the following barriers and drivers:

2.1. Limitations in generating timely data and information for decision-making, monitoring, management, and enforcement related to the conservation of wetland systems and their biodiversity. This gap can be characterized at two levels: At the national level, SBAP requires the consolidation of the Biodiversity Information System and the effective management of data on ecosystems and species. At the local level, there are no integrated geospatial information systems in place to enable continuous monitoring and enforcement of wetland ecosystems and their biodiversity, particularly migratory birds. This limitation hampers the ability to assess ecological conditions and manage resources effectively. For this reason, both the National Biodiversity Strategy 2017–2030 and Law 21.600 prioritize the strengthening of environmental information and monitoring systems.

2.2. Low technical and operational capacity within regional and municipal governments. The Rocuant-Andalién Integrated Management Plan (PGI) and outcomes from stakeholder workshops consistently identify the lack of trained personnel and adequate resources in sectoral institutions, both at the national and subnational levels, as a structural weakness for effective environmental management. This limitation restricts their capacity to lead governance, conservation, and restoration processes. At the municipal level, many local governments either lack established environmental units or face severe limitations in technical staff, which reduces their ability to engage in monitoring, enforcement, and environmental education initiatives.

2.3. Fragmented leadership among public institutions at the territorial level for guiding governance processes related to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and biodiversity. There is a fragmentation of institutional leadership across different levels of government (national, regional, and local) and among various administrative divisions. This fragmentation limits the effective management of persistent threats to species habitats, such as ecosystem alteration, pollution, and human disturbances.

2.4. Limited ownership by Regional Governments over responsibilities related to wetland and biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. Under their constitutional mandate and autonomous status, regional governments are responsible for managing the social, economic, and environmental development of their territories. Achieving conservation outcomes requires strong political ownership and commitment from regional governments to mobilize resources and capacities in support of biodiversity goals, particularly through the application of conservation instruments established under Law 21.600.

3. Gaps in coherence, regulatory fragmentation, and territorial planning. Although Chile has a solid national environmental framework, including specific laws such as Law 21.600, the Urban Wetlands Law (Law No. 21.202), and other public policy instruments, there are still significant gaps in coherence among these instruments. There is a lack of effective articulation and alignment that enables wetland and biodiversity conservation across local, subnational, national, and global levels.

3.1. Gaps within SBAP regarding the development and implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments (Nature Law 21.600, Title III). To fulfil its mandate both inside and outside protected areas, the recently established Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP, acronym in Spanish) is legally empowered to design, implement and monitor biodiversity conservation instruments. These instruments include those related to the recovery of degraded areas, ecological restoration, the certification of practices and sites, and payment for ecosystem services (PES) agreements. However, there are still institutional gaps in SBAP's capacity to fully operationalize and scale these instruments across territorial levels.

4. Direct anthropogenic pressure on migratory bird habitats. As with global threats to biodiversity, a range of human-induced pressures are impacting on the ecological functionality of wetlands and the populations of migratory birds that rely on these ecosystems for resting, breeding, and feeding. Many of these bird species are

classified as threatened or endangered, making the degradation of their wetland habitats a critical conservation concern.

4.1. Urban expansion and real estate development and industrial projects. In the case of the Rocuant–Andalién wetland system, accelerated urbanization and the implementation of real estate projects, often involving landfilling or drainage of wetland areas, have resulted in the direct loss of migratory bird habitat and the disruption of the ecosystem's ecological functionality.

4.2. Discharge of untreated wastewater. The direct and diffuse discharge of black and grey water into wetland areas poses a significant threat to ecosystem health and to the species that inhabit these environments.

4.3. Unregulated anthropogenic disturbance in wetlands and to migratory birds, including solid waste accumulation, irresponsible pet ownership, vehicle traffic, and unregulated tourism, represents a growing threat to the ecological functionality of these ecosystems. These pressures directly impact critical habitats for migratory birds by degrading their feeding, resting, and breeding environments.

4.4. Unsustainable productive activities (livestock, salmon farming, mitiliculture, seaweed and shellfish harvesting). Integrated Management Plan (PGI) assessments highlight how unsustainable practices, such as seaweed overharvesting, intensive grazing, high-density aquaculture, and extensive livestock farming, contribute to habitat degradation, soil compaction, eutrophication of water bodies, and reduced food availability for migratory birds.

5. Limited use of wetland ecosystem services for the development of a local economy based on ecotourism. Despite the high ecological and scenic value of wetlands as critical habitats for migratory birds of hemispheric importance and other species, ecotourism, a strategic activity within the conservation economy, remains underdeveloped and weakly integrated into local economies. These ecosystems represent a natural capital asset with the potential to generate sustainable economic benefits, strengthen livelihoods, and contribute to conservation.

5.1. Limited local capacities to provide services related to ecotourism. There is a significant gap in human capital development, particularly among youth and women, for active participation in nature-based tourism value chains. The lack of trained local guides, specialized services, and technical education limits the ability of communities to benefit from the economic potential of birdwatching and other ecotourism experiences.

5.2. Limited promotion of the ecological and tourism value of migratory birds. Although Chile hosts remarkable avian diversity and occupies a strategic position along major hemispheric flyways, this comparative advantage has not been adequately promoted at the national or international levels. The lack of accessible information for both domestic and international tourists such as migratory route maps, species catalogs, and service directories has hindered the positioning of wetlands as sustainable tourism destinations focused on birdwatching. As noted by Audubon (n.d.), "Chile must strengthen its visibility and promotion to attract more Birdwatching tourism, both Chilean and international, to explore its destinations" (p.6).

785.3. *Absence of incentives to support a local economy based on conservation*. There are currently no effective public or private mechanisms to promote investment in services linked to birdwatching tourism, such as lodging, transportation, observation equipment, marketing, or specialized guiding. The lack of fiscal incentives, subsidies, or green financing lines hinders the development of an economic ecosystem around wetlands that supports their conservation through the sustainable economic use of these areas. This gap limits the transition toward a territorial development model grounded in sustainability and biodiversity as a strategic asset.

6. Empowerment and awareness gaps among stakeholders regarding wetland and biodiversity conservation, protection, and sustainable use (particularly birds), and their importance in generating

social value. Despite the progress made in raising awareness of the social value of wetlands (e.g., through the GEF-Wetlands initiative), a significant gap remains in achieving broad societal commitment to the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of wetlands and their biodiversity. The Integrated Management Plan for the Rocuant-Andalién wetland system and the territorial planning instruments for Quinchao Island highlight the need to build a collective identity and shared vision that emphasizes the synergies between conservation and social well-being.

6.1 Limited knowledge among multisectoral and multilevel government technical teams regarding key bird habitat sites (feeding, resting, breeding). To ensure effective protection and conservation of bird populations, it is essential to conduct spatial zoning of areas critical for bird conservation. However, current technical teams across sectors and levels of government often lack adequate information and understanding of these important sites.

6.2 Institutional gaps of SBAP in establishing a monitoring system for the follow-up and control of certification and compensation processes. As a recently established institution, SBAP lacks a consolidated registry and monitoring system to track and control biodiversity certification and compensation processes. This gap constrains the effective implementation of the mandate under Law 21.600 and limits transparency, traceability, and impact assessment.

6.3: Responsible institutions lack adequate access to specialized technologies, such as monitoring stations, for the systematic tracking of migratory bird populations in the three priority wetlands. This limitation constrains the generation of up-to-date scientific data and hampers informed decision-making for effective conservation.

6.4: Insufficient dissemination of information on wetlands and birds. There is limited dissemination of accessible and up-to-date information on the conservation and restoration status of wetlands, associated migratory bird species, and nature-based solutions (NbS). This gap reduces awareness and engagement among key stakeholders and local communities.

6.5: Weak cross-cutting knowledge exchange platforms (technical, scientific, and local knowledge). There are limited spaces for the exchange of technical, scientific, and traditional/local knowledge that could accelerate the processes of wetland and biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.

Stakeholder Engagement.

The project adopts a multi-stakeholder approach recognizing that the conservation and sustainable use of coastal wetlands and migratory bird habitats require coordinated action among national institutions, regional and local governments, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, academia, local communities and private sector actors. At the national level, the Ministry of the Environment (MMA), the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP), MINAGRI, MOP, MINVU, SubTURISMO and Chilean Navy-DIRINMAR contribute to the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments, institutional strengthening, territorial planning and environmental management. Regional Governments, municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Chiloé support territorial implementation, stakeholder engagement and integration of biodiversity considerations into local planning and investment processes.

The project also engages civil society organizations, Audubon Chile, academia and research centers, which contribute technical expertise, biodiversity monitoring, environmental education and knowledge generation. Private sector actors, including tourism operators and productive sectors associated with wetland landscapes, support the adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices and sustainable economic opportunities. The project recognizes the presence of Mapuche and Huilliche Indigenous Peoples in the intervention landscapes. Consultations undertaken during project preparation highlighted the importance of inclusive governance arrangements, recognition of traditional ecological knowledge and meaningful participation in decision-making

processes. These considerations have been incorporated into the project design, particularly under Outcome 1.1 related to governance and stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholder Engagement Table

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type and Profile	Consultation Findings	How the Findings Were Incorporated into the Project
Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP)	Direct beneficiary government institution responsible for implementing Law 21.600 and biodiversity conservation instruments.	Need for operational tools, protocols and economic instruments to implement biodiversity conservation instruments established under Law 21.600.	Incorporated under Outcome 1.3 through the design and operationalization of Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) and Biodiversity Certification instruments, as well as biodiversity monitoring systems under Component 3.
Ministry of the Environment (MMA)	Direct beneficiary government institution responsible for environmental policy and biodiversity governance.	Need to strengthen interinstitutional coordination, governance mechanisms, biodiversity information systems and implementation of conservation instruments.	Incorporated under Outcomes 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 through governance mechanisms, institutional strengthening activities, biodiversity monitoring systems and implementation of conservation instruments under Law 21.600.
Subsecretariat of Tourism (SubTURISMO)	Government institution responsible for sustainable tourism development.	Opportunities to strengthen sustainable tourism linked to birdwatching, local livelihoods and wetland conservation.	Incorporated under Outcome 2.2 and Output 2.2.1 through the design and implementation of an inclusive birdwatching tourism strategy.
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINVU)	Government institution responsible for territorial planning and urban development.	Need to integrate wetland conservation considerations into territorial planning and urban development processes.	Incorporated under Outcome 1.2 through interinstitutional coordination mechanisms and participation in governance platforms.

Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI)	Government institution responsible for agricultural development and sustainable land management.	Need to reduce pressures generated by productive activities while promoting sustainable management practices.	Incorporated under Outcomes 1.2 and 2.1 through institutional coordination and promotion of sustainable productive practices.
Ministry of Public Works (MOP)	Government institution responsible for public infrastructure and water-related investments.	Need to align infrastructure planning and public investments with wetland conservation objectives.	Incorporated under Outcome 1.2 and Output 2.1.1 through coordination mechanisms and conservation investment projects.
Chilean Navy, Directorate for Maritime Interests and Aquatic Environment (DIRINMAR)	Government institution responsible for maritime governance and aquatic environmental management.	Need to strengthen coastal monitoring and environmental management.	Incorporated under Outcome 1.2 and Output 3.1.1 through biodiversity monitoring systems and coastal governance support.
Regional Governments of Biobío and Los Lagos	Regional government institutions responsible for territorial planning and investment programming.	Need for investment-ready conservation projects and territorial coordination.	Incorporated through Outputs 1.2.4 and 2.1.1 via cooperation agreements and conservation project development.
Municipalities (Concepción, Talcahuano, Hualpén, Penco, Florida, Curaco de Vélez and Quinchao)	Local government institutions responsible for territorial management and environmental services.	Need for technical support to address local threats affecting wetlands.	Incorporated through Outputs 1.2.3 and 2.1.1–2.1.3 related to municipal collaboration and threat reduction measures.
Association of Municipalities of Chiloé	Local government association supporting	Need to strengthen intermunicipal cooperation.	Incorporated through Outcome 1.1 and Output 1.2.3 by strengthening

	intermunicipal coordination.		governance mechanisms and collaboration platforms.
Civil Society Organizations	Civil society organizations engaged in biodiversity conservation and stewardship.	Need to strengthen citizen participation and environmental awareness.	Incorporated under Outcome 3.1 through environmental education programmes and citizen participation processes.
Audubon Chile	Civil society organization focused on migratory bird conservation.	Need to strengthen conservation actions for migratory birds and monitoring.	Incorporated through Outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.3 on monitoring and awareness programmes.
Academia and Research Centers	Academic and research institutions generating scientific knowledge.	Need for scientific information and evidence-based decision-making.	Incorporated through Outputs 1.2.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.4 related to information systems and monitoring.
Private Sector	Private sector organizations operating within wetland landscapes.	Interest in biodiversity-friendly investments and certification schemes.	Incorporated through Output 1.1.3, Outcome 1.3, and Outputs 2.1.4 and 2.2.1.
Mapuche-Huilliche Indigenous Peoples' Organizations	Indigenous Peoples organizations representing communities connected to wetland and coastal ecosystems.	Need for recognition of traditional ecological knowledge and culturally appropriate participation.	Incorporated under Outcome 1.1 and Outcomes 2.2 and 3.1 through inclusive governance and culturally appropriate participation.

Integration with ongoing investments. The GEF project portfolio in Chile provides a strategic groundwork for coordination and complementarity with ongoing initiatives that share objectives related to coastal and wetland ecosystem conservation. The Coastal Wetlands GEF Project (ID 9766), offers valuable lessons on integrating sustainable management into local development and institutional strengthening. Similarly, the GEF Project on Strengthening Interinstitutional Management for Biodiversity Conservation (ID 11208) has proven effective in facilitating collaboration among public, private, and community actors, providing tools to replicate collaborative governance structures in new intervention areas. Additionally, projects such as GEF Marine Governance (ID 10075), GEF Economic Instruments for Biodiversity (ID 5794), and GEF Landscape Restoration (ID 10758) contribute complementary approaches in the areas of coastal governance, financial sustainability, and ecological restoration, respectively.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Theory of Change (TOC)

The ultimate objective of this project is to "**Conserve and promote the sustainable use of migratory bird habitat associated with coastal wetland systems through the implementation of conservation instruments under the framework of Law 21.600**". The conservation of wetlands as habitats for migratory and endemic bird species is a national priority for the Government of Chile, through SBAP, and a matter of collective interest given their global environmental benefits. Wetlands are critical for threatened migratory bird species and provide essential ecosystem services that sustain human well-being. The Theory of Change views wetlands and migratory birds not only as conservation targets, but also as key indicators of ecosystem health and strategic assets that underpin the social, economic, and environmental well-being of territories. This integrated perspective positions wetlands as natural infrastructure vital for climate resilience, urban planning, and sustainable local economies.

The Theory of Change is based on the following logic: *If*, institutional capacities are strengthened, public policy instruments are improved, multi-stakeholder consensus is built, public and private investments are mobilized for conservation and sustainable use, and knowledge is generated and transferred, *then,* it will be possible to conserve the ecological functionality of wetlands and secure critical habitats for migratory birds, *because* this will catalyze a structural transformation that aligns policies, institutions, and society around a new, nature-based model of territorial development.

To achieve this global environmental objective, the project will deliver medium- and long-term outcomes: i) improved governance for the conservation and sustainable use of the wetland systems; ii) strengthened institutional capacities across key sectoral ministries; iii) Mechanisms adopted by SBAP for the implementation of the instruments under Title III of Law 21.600 to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable development goals; v) Reduced anthropogenic pressure on migratory bird habitats; vi) a robust local economy based on sustainable, inclusive, and gender-responsive tourism; and vii) increased public engagement in the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of wetlands and biodiversity.

Assumptions: Achieving the project's objective and outcomes depends on key enabling conditions: (i) political will and commitment from institutions at all levels; (ii) stakeholder trust to build consensus for wetland conservation, restoration, and sustainable use; and (iii) active engagement of private sector actors, agroindustry, port logistics, tourism, banking, insurance, and real estate, in implementation and contribution to results.

Components and results chain

Component 1: Institutional Capacities and Processes. This component strengthens individual, institutional, and systemic capacities to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands and migratory birds by mobilizing social consensus, enhancing inclusive governance, and improving policy coherence and implementation under Law 21.600.

Outcome 1.1 Improved governance for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, with a gender-responsive and Indigenous Peoples-inclusive approach. This intermediate outcome focuses on building consensus among public institutions and stakeholders around a shared vision for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds. It assumes the active inclusion of youth and Indigenous Peoples, and the application of a gender-sensitive approach, particularly by promoting women's participation in economic, political, and environmental decision-making processes.

Output 1.1.1 *Expanded multi-stakeholder convergence mechanisms (platforms, protocols, and agendas) established to build consensus on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds, with gender and indigenous people responsive approach.* This output focuses on developing multi-level dialogue platforms (national, subnational, and local) and strengthening existing committees and technical working groups. At the national level, a coordination mechanism led by the MMA will align conservation actions and guide the implementation of biodiversity and wetland instruments with the participation of public institutions, civil society, the private sector, and academia. At the territorial level, regional wetland committees and local bodies will be revitalized to promote gender an indigenous inclusive, consensus-based governance.

Output 1.1.2 *An ad hoc governance structure defined and implemented to enable coordination, cooperation, and complementarity in the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds.* The project will establish coordination platforms at national and territorial levels to align institutional mandates, bringing together key actors from the MMA, SBAP, and sectors such as agriculture, tourism, housing, Civil Engineering Works, defense, regional governments, and municipalities. It will strengthen governance and coordinate action under Law 21.600 through formal protocols and a permanent technical working group, with indicators to track progress in conservation, restoration, and the sustainable use of ecosystems.

Output 1.1.3 *Roadmap implemented to integrate and mobilize private sector engagement in the conservation and protection of wetland systems.* Led by SBAP, the project will develop and implement a roadmap aligned with Law 21.600 to promote strategic private sector engagement in the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, with emphasis on migratory bird habitats. It will engage key productive sectors, such as agribusiness, aquaculture, banking and insurance, services, real estate, and port logistics, through regulatory frameworks, compensation mechanisms, and financial incentives. The roadmap will foster sustainable public-private partnerships, moving beyond a reactive stance toward collaborative environmental co-responsibility, and links directly to Output 3.1.4.

Outcome 1.2. Strengthened institutional capacities of sectoral agencies (SBAP, MMA, MINAGRI, SubTURISMO, MINVU, MOP, Chilean Navy) and other levels of government to implement sectoral public policy instruments that enable the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation in Chile relies on the State's capacity to effectively implement Law 21.600 as a national policy. This outcome seeks to strengthen institutional performance by building functional capacities across ministries, with emphasis on SBAP's role in achieving national biodiversity targets aligned with global goals. Aligned with the GEF's capacity building approach, the project will enhance technical skills in wetland and biodiversity conservation and improve information systems for informed decision-making and transparency.

Output 1.2.1 *Information systems enhanced to support decision-making, monitoring, management, and enforcement for the conservation of wetland systems and their biodiversity.* This output will strengthen SBAP's capacity to implement three interrelated conservation tools: (i) biodiversity information systems, (ii) biodiversity monitoring, and (iii) reporting mechanisms, in line with Law 21.600. It will focus on developing indicators, methodologies, and data systems. A local monitoring interface will also be created to track wetland land-use changes and generate indicators on bird populations, water quality, and other key variables. This output is linked to Output 3.1.2 on bird monitoring.

Output 1.2.2 *Training and/or refresher plans implemented on wetland conservation, restoration, and the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, targeting technical staff from SBAP, other sectoral institutions, and regional and local governments.* The project will design and implement a training plan to

strengthen the knowledge of SBAP, sectoral institutions, regional governments, and local authorities. The plan will cover concepts, methodologies, and indicators for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of wetlands and biodiversity, with emphasis on migratory bird conservation.

Output 1.2.3 *Municipal collaboration promoted and strengthened for the integrated conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds*. To address fragmented institutional leadership at the territorial level in wetland and biodiversity conservation, the project will support the municipalities of Concepción, Penco, Talcahuano, and Hualpén in organizing a municipal association to unify both political decision-making and technical actions for conservation. For the Quinchao Island wetland system, the project will strengthen the technical unit of the Chiloé Municipal Association, enabling it to lead integrated conservation actions for the wetland system and migratory bird populations on Quinchao Island.

Output 1.2.4 *Cooperation agreements established between Regional Governments, the MMA, and/or the SBAP for the implementation of conservation instruments.* The project will promote the signing of cooperation agreements between the Regional Governments of Biobío and Los Lagos, the MMA, and the SBAP, to establish an inter-institutional collaboration framework that enables regional governments to actively participate in the conservation of wetlands and their biodiversity.

Outcome 1.3.. Enhanced implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments under Title III of Law 21.600 by SBAP, promoting engagement of public and private actors in biodiversity conservation. SBAP's implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments established under Title III of Law 21.600 is enhanced through the development of the operational frameworks required for the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Certification System (Article 51) and the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) instrument (Article 52). These instruments will support the participation of private landowners, producers, Indigenous communities, local small-scale producers, and other stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and the maintenance and recovery of ecosystem services, particularly in priority wetlands and their buffer zones. Achievement of this outcome will be verified through the formal adoption and validation of the corresponding standards, procedures, protocols, and operational arrangements by the competent authority.

Output 1.3.1 *Conceptual and operational model for the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) instrument under the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP) designed. The project will support the conceptual design of the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) programme, including the development of operational, incentive, and registration mechanisms for RSE agreements between ecosystem service beneficiaries (buyers/payers) and ecosystem stewards (providers), as well as indicators and verification mechanisms to support future implementation.*

Output 1.3.2 *Operational procedures, standards, and protocols for the implementation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Certification System established under Article 51 of Law 21.600 developed and validated. Through this output, the Project will support SBAP in the development of standards, criteria, procedures and operational protocols required for the implementation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Certification System established under Law 21.600. The certification system is intended to recognize activities, practices and sites that contribute to biodiversity conservation and the maintenance or recovery of ecosystem services, with a focus on priority wetlands and their buffer zones, including private landowners, producers, Indigenous communities and local small-scale producers.*

Component 2: Conservation Economy: This component delivers two medium-term outcomes: reducing human pressures on wetlands and migratory birds and fostering sustainable economic activities through birdwatching tourism. It focuses on pilot investments in wetland conservation, nature-based tourism, inclusive entrepreneurship (women, youth, indigenous peoples), and improved livelihoods in symbiosis with wetlands and migratory birds.

Outcome 2.1 Anthropogenic pressure on migratory bird habitats, reduced. This medium-term outcome reflects positive changes in human actions and associated externalities that negatively impact the ecological functionality of the Rocuant-Andalién and Isla Quinchao wetland systems. It is directly linked to the sustainable management of wetlands and contributes to GEF Core indicators and sub-indicators.

Output 2.1.1 *Pre-investment studies and technical designs for priority wetland conservation projects developed to support municipalities and regional governments in mobilizing public and private resources. As established in the Rocuant–Andalién Wetland Master Plan, long-term conservation of the wetland system requires investments that exceed the scope of the project. Through this output, the project will support municipalities and relevant sectoral agencies in the development of pre-investment studies, technical designs, and project profiles for priority wetland conservation interventions. These may include ecological buffer areas, restoration measures, nature-based solutions, ecological connectivity measures, and other conservation investments identified through ecological planning processes. The output is intended to strengthen municipalities' capacity to mobilize public and private resources for the implementation of larger-scale investments beyond the lifetime of the project. The development of these pre-investment initiatives will be coordinated through the dialogue and governance mechanisms established under Output 1.1.1 and will involve municipalities, regional governments, and relevant sectoral institutions, including agencies responsible for territorial planning, water management, public works, housing and urban development, and environmental management. The resulting project portfolios will support the mobilization of future investment resources from regional, municipal, and sectoral funding mechanisms for wetland conservation and restoration.*

Output 2.1.2 *Assessment conducted on gaps and improvement needs in wastewater treatment systems in the Rocuant-Andalién and Quinchao Island wetland systems.* As with Output 2.1.1, the project will support municipalities in conducting a diagnostic study to assess the gaps in improving the performance of wastewater treatment systems in the Rocuant-Andalién and Isla Quinchao wetland systems. The project's approach is to assist local governments in mobilizing resources for the implementation of identified improvements.

Output 2.1.3 *Action plan designed and implemented to reduce anthropogenic threats in the project pilot sites, located in areas of importance for biodiversity. This output will support the implementation of actions to reduce anthropogenic pressures in priority wetland sites within the Rocuant–Andalién and Curaco de Vélez wetland systems. Interventions will include: (i) establishment of local waste management measures and nature-based solutions for runoff filtration and retention; (ii) zoning, signage, awareness campaigns, and municipal enforcement measures to reduce impacts from domestic animals in sensitive areas; (iii) installation of exclusion zones, low-impact barriers, and access control measures to restrict vehicle access in conservation areas; (iv) visitor management measures, including designated access routes, boardwalks, viewing platforms, signage, and training for local tourism operators; and (v) livestock exclusion measures, agreements with landowners, and passive restoration and natural regeneration measures in degraded wetland habitats. Implementation will be guided by site-specific action plans developed in coordination with municipalities and local stakeholders. The output will combine management measures, visitor management infrastructure, enforcement actions, nature-based solutions, and passive habitat restoration measures to reduce pressures on wetlands and biodiversity.*

Output 2.1.4 *Sustainable productive practices in livestock, agriculture, aquaculture, seaweed farming, and shellfish harvesting demonstrated in wetland landscapes to support implementation of SBAP economic instruments. Through this output, demonstration sites will be established in productive landscapes within the Andalién River watershed and in productive areas associated with the Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez wetland systems. In the Andalién River watershed and the productive landscapes of Quinchao Island, demonstration activities will focus on sustainable livestock and agricultural practices. In the bays of Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez, demonstration activities will focus on sustainable aquaculture, seaweed farming, and shellfish harvesting practices that contribute to wetland conservation and the maintenance of ecosystem services. The demonstration sites will be used to apply and assess the standards, procedures, and methodologies developed under Output 1.3.2 under real production conditions. Activities will involve local producers, Indigenous*

communities, and other productive actors and will support the identification, characterization, and demonstration of sustainable productive practices compatible with biodiversity conservation in wetland landscapes.

Outcome 2.2. A robust local economy developed, based on sustainable, inclusive, and gender and indigenous people -sensitive tourism. The medium-term outcome of the project is to develop a local economy based on nature tourism, primarily focused on birdwatching. This development vision is grounded in the sustainable use of ecosystem services to improve the quality of life of households and communities, under a model inclusive that prioritizes the participation of women, youth and indigenous as a local service providers (e.g., handicrafts, food, lodging, transportation, local guides, etc.).

Output 2.2.1 *Comprehensive and inclusive strategy formulated under implementation for the development of birdwatching tourism in wetland systems, incorporating a gender and indigenous people perspective.* In coordination with SBAP, the Undersecretariat of Tourism, tourism chambers, operators, and regional and local governments, the project will develop a participatory Comprehensive Development Strategy focused on birdwatching and nature-based tourism. The strategy will include: i) conservation tourism guidelines, ii) development of key services (hospitality, agri-food chains, transport, handicrafts, local industry), iii) territorial branding, iv) training for guides and service providers, v) investments and subsidies for entrepreneurs, and vi) low-cost public infrastructure (viewpoints, signage, walkways, panels). Each territory will adapt the strategy to its strengths, in alignment with the National Sustainable Tourism Strategy. Women's contributions to the conservation economy will be strengthened through a gender gap assessment, while an FPIC process will promote intercultural dialogue with Indigenous peoples (Mapuche Huilliche).

Component 3. Knowledge Management. The project promotes a new paradigm of sustainable territorial development, where the conservation of wetlands and migratory birds serves as the central axis for well-being. To this end, it implements a knowledge management strategy that integrates science, local knowledge, and strategic communication.

Outcome 3.1 Public engagement increased in the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of wetlands and biodiversity, with a gender-responsive approach. The development of a new paradigm for wetland conservation requires a structured knowledge management process, mainstreamed across the results chain and transferred to stakeholders and communities. It seeks to foster positive social behavior change, mobilize social consensus, and raise evidence-based awareness of the link between wetland health and social well-being, while integrating a gender perspective to ensure equitable participation and benefits.

Output 3.1.1 *Monitoring system for migratory bird populations in priority wetlands implemented by the responsible institutions.* Within the framework of the National Bird Conservation Strategy (ENCA -2030) and Law 21.600, the project will support the establishment of a migratory bird monitoring system in priority wetlands, led by responsible institutions and integrating local capacities and citizen science. SBAP will apply standardized protocols, digital tools, and inter-institutional coordination to generate reliable data for decision-making and conservation assessment, strengthening governance and responses to threats. This product is linked to Output 1.2.1.

Output 3.1.2 *Monitoring system implemented for certifications and compensations.* The project, in support of SBAP, will design a monitoring and evaluation system for the procedures and protocols of biodiversity contribution certifications in wetlands, with the aim of incorporating improvements for their application and assessing the impact of their implementation.

Output 3.1.3 *Comprehensive environmental awareness and education program designed and implemented to raise awareness of the Rocuant–Andalién and Quinchao Island wetland systems, focusing on threats and the ecosystem benefits they provide. Through this output, the project will design and implement an environmental awareness and education programme focused on the ecological importance of the Rocuant–Andalién and*

Quinchao Island wetland systems, the threats affecting these ecosystems, and the ecosystem services they provide. The programme will target local communities, Indigenous Peoples, school communities, local authorities, productive sectors, tourism operators, and visitors through educational materials, outreach campaigns, participatory activities, and place-based learning initiatives. The programme will support the project's governance, conservation, sustainable production, and nature-based tourism objectives by promoting participation in local conservation initiatives, increasing awareness of sustainable practices in productive and tourism activities, and strengthening public support for wetland conservation and restoration efforts in the project landscapes.

Output 3.1.4 *Good practices, innovations, and lessons learned documented and systematized during project implementation*. From the outset, the project will implement a plan to document and systematize good practices, transferring knowledge to SBAP and other institutions to institutionalize and scale up conservation instruments, methodologies, and innovative approaches for the sustainable use of wetlands and migratory birds. This output is crosscutting to the results chain and linked to the information systems under output 1.2.1.

Output 3.1.5 *Experience-sharing forums on wetland conservation and biodiversity implemented*. The project will enhance local, national and international exchange through the development of forums on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and biodiversity. These forums will contribute to strengthening knowledge, facilitating knowledge mobilization and political commitment, and enabling the exchange of good practices in wetland and biodiversity conservation.

Component 4. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL).

Outcome 4.1 An effective process for project monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management established. The project will develop from the outset a robust monitoring and evaluation plan to measure performance, address inefficiencies, and track progress toward the medium- and long-term outcomes established in the results framework.

Output 4.1.1 *Project monitoring and learning plan implemented.* To ensure the project's effectiveness in achieving its results-oriented objectives, a robust monitoring and evaluation plan will be established to generate performance information. This plan will include at least three activities outlined in GEF guidelines: Project Implementation Reports (PIR), the Mid-Term Review (MTR), and the Terminal Evaluation (TE).

Generation of Additional Global Environmental Benefits: The project will generate additional global environmental benefits through interventions in three GEF focal areas. Under Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), it will conserve fragile coastal wetlands to maintain ecosystem services. In Climate Change Mitigation, it will protect natural carbon sinks and prevent emissions. By preserving wetlands as natural filters, it will reduce water pollution and improve ecosystem and community health. Transversally, it aligns with GEF Integrated Programs such as Sustainable Cities, Biodiversity Conservation, and Ecosystem Restoration.

Stakeholder Contributions: The project will be executed by SBAP and the Ministry of Environment (MMA) as GEF focal point and coordinator of environmental policies, including METT/METT4-MPA application and site integration into the National Protected Areas System. Key partners (Undersecretariat of Tourism, MINVU, MINAGRI, and MOP) will support regulatory alignment, territorial planning, wetland integration into sectoral instruments, and promotion of sustainable rural practices. Chilean Navy-DIRINMAR enforces regulations affecting wetlands, prevents marine pollution, and participates in governance within pilot sites. The Regional Governments of Biobío and Los Lagos, together with local municipalities and the Chiloé Municipalities Association, will ensure territorial implementation, co-financing, and alignment with regional instruments. The National Audubon Society Chile will participate as a strategic partner in the project. Civil society will support locally coherent interventions, academia and research centers will provide technical knowledge, monitoring, and evaluation, while the private sector will contribute to sustainability and restoration through biodiversity studies and environmental co-financing.

Private Sector Engagement: The private sector in this project is diverse, comprising agro-industrial companies, port logistics service providers, banking and insurance, the timber industry, hospitality services, real estate firms, medium-sized enterprises, the social economy sector, microentrepreneurs, and mariculture companies, among others. Their productive activities generate both positive and negative externalities in the ecosystem functionality of wetlands and their biodiversity. The project emphasizes the need to establish a proactive agenda to mobilize private sector commitment through conservation mechanisms and instruments already established under Law 21.600.

Gender: The project will integrate gender as a cross-cutting component, in line with the GEF Gender Equality Policy and the project's theory of change. Recognizing the key role of women, particularly in coastal communities, in wetland management and conservation, it will promote their participation in decision-making, community monitoring, and territorial planning. Gender gaps will be identified through a situational analysis to design targeted actions that empower women as conservation agents, environmental education promoters, and managers of the conservation economy. Gender-sensitive indicators will be incorporated into the project's monitoring and evaluation systems.

Knowledge Management and Learning: This project is based on the need to generate medium- and long-term social changes related to the adoption of good practices, improved behaviors toward wetland conservation, and enhanced institutional performance in applying the conservation instruments established under Law 21.600. The project's knowledge management strategy will focus on strengthening institutional, community, and technical capacities for the generation, systematization, and use of relevant information to support decision-making and promote social change.

Strengthening of National Policies: The project will contribute to the following public policy frameworks: (i) National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP 2017–2030; (ii) Law 21.600 – Nature Law; (iii) Framework Law on Climate Change; (iv) Law 21.202 on Urban Wetlands; (v) National Landscape Restoration Plan; (vi) Decree 469 – National Land Use Planning Policy; and (vii) National Bird Conservation Strategy 2021–2030.

Transformation, innovation and scaling:

The project will address structural drivers of biodiversity loss in wetlands through integrated solutions that combine multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance, institutional strengthening, and the promotion of a conservation-based economy. The transformative dimension lies in a paradigm shift that positions wetlands as a structuring axis of human well-being, generating synergies between biodiversity conservation, social development and climate adaptation.

In this context, innovation is reflected both in content and in implementation mechanisms. The project foresees the development of interoperable monitoring systems integrating ecological, social and economic indicators to inform adaptive decision-making; the establishment of innovative local governance arrangements, such as associations of municipalities for integrated wetland management; and the design of financial instruments that facilitate the mobilization of public and private resources towards green infrastructure investments and Nature-based Solutions. These innovations not only enhance project effectiveness but also lay the foundations for scalability.

Scaling will be supported through demonstration pilots and the generation of replicable models, including methodologies for the implementation of economic instruments for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem conservation instruments предусмотred under Law 21.600. This will enable replication in other territories with similar ecological and institutional characteristics. At the same time, the active involvement of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP) as the articulating institution will ensure vertical scaling, through the integration of results, lessons learned and tools developed into sectoral policies and national regulatory frameworks. The sustainability of impacts will be reinforced through a clear institutional ownership strategy. The incorporation of approaches, instruments and capacities into the operational frameworks of SBAP and the Ministry of the Environment will ensure the continuity of key actions beyond the project financing cycle. In

parallel, articulation with territorial actors, local communities and the private sector will strengthen governance networks and long-term financing arrangements.

Finally, the project will contribute to enhancing public policy coherence by facilitating the integration of wetland and biodiversity conservation objectives into national policies and plans, as described in Section C. This alignment will strengthen compliance with international commitments, particularly those arising from the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, ensuring that the transformations promoted by the project are consistent, sustainable and replicable over time.

Coordination and Collaboration with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects: In Chile, various public and private initiatives are underway to conserve ecosystems of high national and global ecological value. Within this context, the project will establish mechanisms of coordination and synergy with existing programs to enhance short-, medium-, and long-term results. Key initiatives include: i) CityLab, a public–private initiative in the Biobío region led by Universidad San Sebastián with regional government support and partnerships with the Chilean Chamber of Construction, "Corporación Ciudades", and MIT, aimed at improving urban planning and infrastructure development through technological and participatory tools; and ii) The Americas Flyways Initiative (AFI), led by Audubon, BirdLife International, and Latin American and Caribbean Development Bank (CAF), is a comprehensive financing mechanism designed to mobilize investment for nature and the communities that depend on it. It aims to align wildlife conservation with sustainable development needs across more than 30 marine and terrestrial landscapes in the region.

Its pilot project, 'Restoration of the Rocuant-Andalién Wetland for Flood Mitigation and Climate Resilience,' promotes Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to address urban flood mitigation while conserving and restoring key habitats for migratory birds along the Pacific Americas Flyway.

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[1] Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), Subsecretary of Turism (SubTURISMO), Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MINVU), Ministry of Public Works (MOP)

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The institutional framework is based on an agreement between the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the Ministry of the Environment of Chile. CAF will act as the Implementing Agency, providing fiduciary oversight, technical support, and regional coordination capacities. The Ministry of the Environment will serve as the Executing Agency and technical counterpart, ensuring alignment with national regulatory frameworks, biodiversity policies, and wetland conservation instruments. For these purposes, an Operational Partner Agreement will be signed in accordance with GEF policies, guidelines, and environmental and social safeguards.

Within this framework, the Chilean GEF portfolio provides a strong foundation for coordination, knowledge exchange, and replication of approaches related to wetland conservation, biodiversity governance, and nature-based solutions. The Coastal Wetlands GEF Project (ID 9766) generated relevant experience on integrating wetland conservation into territorial planning, municipal management, and local institutional strengthening. Likewise, the GEF Project on Strengthening Interinstitutional Management for

Biodiversity Conservation (ID 11208) demonstrated effective mechanisms for multi-stakeholder coordination, including public institutions, local communities, and the private sector, offering valuable lessons for collaborative governance arrangements in the project intervention sites.

Additional complementarities are identified with the GEF Marine Governance Project (ID 10075), which contributes approaches for integrated coastal governance and marine ecosystem management; the GEF Economic Instruments for Biodiversity Project (ID 5794), which provides relevant experience on biodiversity finance mechanisms and incentive frameworks aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and the GEF Landscape Restoration Project (ID 10758), which advances ecosystem restoration and landscape resilience approaches applicable to coastal wetland systems. Collectively, these initiatives provide technical methodologies, governance models, financing approaches, and restoration experiences that strengthen the proposed project's implementation, sustainability, and scalability.

In parallel, a range of public and private initiatives are currently being implemented in Chile with the objective of conserving ecosystems of high ecological value at national and global levels. In this context, the project will establish coordination and synergy mechanisms with ongoing programmes and platforms in order to enhance complementarity, avoid duplication, and maximize impacts in the short, medium, and long term.

Key initiatives with which the project will coordinate include: (i) CityLab, a public–private initiative in the Biobío Region aimed at improving urban planning and infrastructure project development through technological and participatory tools. CityLab is implemented by the Universidad San Sebastián, with funding from the Regional Government of Biobío, in partnership with the Chilean Chamber of Construction and Corporación Ciudades, and with technical support from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The project will also coordinate with the Americas Flyways Initiative (AFI), led by Audubon, BirdLife International, and CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean. AFI is a regional financial and conservation platform designed to mobilize investment for nature conservation and resilient communities across more than 30 marine and terrestrial landscapes in the Americas. Its pilot initiative, Rocuant–Andalién Restoration for Flood Mitigation and Climate Resilience, promotes Nature-based Solutions to reduce urban flood risks while conserving and restoring critical habitats for migratory birds along the Pacific Americas Flyway.

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)
33.78	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
33.78	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
The Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez Nature Sanctuaries	3874040	Habitat/Species Management Area	33.78						

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)
128.22	0	0	0

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)
128.22	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
The Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez Nature Sanctuaries			128.22			

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)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2955.74	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2,955.74			

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
85182.72	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
85,182.72			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

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

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	3959038.81	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	3,959,038.81			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025			
Duration of accounting	10			

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	80,000			
Male	80,000			
Total	**160,000**	**0**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The measurement of result indicators will be carried out through a results-based management approach, as described below:

Core Indicator 1 – Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use. Sub-indicator 1.2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness. This indicator measures terrestrial areas in the Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez Nature Sanctuaries through the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). The process includes three phases: (1) baseline assessment, (2) implementation of management improvements, and (3) final evaluation and verification, with documented progress measured by METT at project closure.

Core Indicator 2 – Marine protected areas created or under improved management. Sub-indicator 2.1: Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness. Following the same methodology as Indicator 1, this indicator measures improved management of the marsh areas within the Quinchao and Curaco de Vélez Nature Sanctuaries. The METT4-MPA (Marine Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) will be applied in three phases to assess management effectiveness in marine protected areas: (i) baseline assessment, (ii) implementation of management improvements, and (iii) final evaluation and verification.

Core Indicator 3 – Area of land and ecosystems under restoration. Sub-indicator 3.4: Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration. This indicator tracks conservation and restoration actions to sustain the ecological functions of the Rocuant–Andalién Wetland System through three phases: (i) baseline assessment with biophysical indicators, (ii) implementation of passive restoration and threat reduction, and (iii) adaptive monitoring to verify results and changes in selected indicators.

Core Indicator 4 – Area of landscapes under improved practices. Sub-indicator 4.1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity. This indicator measures improved management of productive landscapes and socio-ecosystems linked to coastal wetlands in the Andalién River sub-basin and Quinchao Island through three phases: (i) baseline assessment of land cover, connectivity, and pressures; (ii) implementation of sustainable practices such as biological corridors, water management, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS); and (iii) participatory monitoring to evaluate ecological functionality.

Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (metric tons of CO2e). This indicator measures metric tons of CO_2 equivalent (tCO_2e) avoided or reduced through project actions such as wetland restoration, reforestation, and sustainable practices. Calculations apply standardized emission factors and IPCC methodologies, ensuring traceability and alignment with international climate goals and GEF environmental safeguards.

Core Indicator 11 – Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment. The measurement methodology follows the GEF results-based management approach to accurately and verifiably account for direct beneficiaries and co-benefits from project activities. It includes three phases: (i) identification and definition of direct beneficiaries, (ii) gender – indigenous people and youth, -disaggregated registration, and (iii) monitoring, consolidation, and verification. Data will be systematized in a single beneficiary database with unique codes to avoid duplication, with continuous and cumulative monitoring throughout the project cycle.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	The project incorporates Nature-based Solutions and ecosystem restoration with climate resilience criteria, mitigating risks from extreme events. Adaptive planning and strategic location of interventions will reduce vulnerabilities.
Environmental and Social	Low	The project does not present significant environmental risks, as it focuses on the conservation and restoration of wetlands through Nature-based Solutions. It does not involve high-impact works or land-use change and is consistent with the safeguards of the Global Environment Facility, generating net benefits for biodiversity and local communities. In addition, participatory processes, including the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process to be carried out with Mapuche-Huilliche Indigenous Peoples settled within the wetland systems, as well as the development of gender-responsive and intercultural approaches and actions, will enable the anticipation and management of potential tensions. The multi-stakeholder territorial governance strategy is designed to generate social legitimacy and build consensual agreements
Political and Governance	Low	The project aligns with recent legal frameworks such as Law 21.600 and is supported by key actors including SBAP, MMA, and regional governments, strengthening institutional stability. Formal mechanisms for intersectoral coordination will be activated.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	The project promotes policy coherence under Law 21.600 and strengthens biodiversity conservation instruments such as information systems, restoration, compensation, payments for ecosystem services, and certification protocols. It will enhance SBAP's capacity to design and operationalize these instruments within the framework of the recently enacted Law 21.600, also known as the Nature Law.
Technological	Low	The design builds on previous GEF portfolio experiences in Chile and validated methodologies. Participatory solution-building and continuous technical support ensure operational relevance and feasibility.
Financial and Business Model	Low	As an externally funded initiative (GEF and public co-financing), the project is not dependent on local macroeconomic conditions. Its flexible design allows adjustments in the event of minor budgetary variations.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	The project includes strong institutional strengthening and capacity development at national and territorial levels, ensuring sustainability beyond the implementation period. In addition, the project promotes mechanisms for private sector and local government participation, fostering resource mobilization for the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects based on landscape urbanism principles.

Fiduciary	Low	The implementing agency and executing institutions have prior fiduciary management experience. Clear mechanisms for accountability and financial monitoring will be applied.
Stakeholder	Low	The project involves a diverse range of stakeholders, including national and regional authorities, municipalities, Indigenous Peoples organizations, civil society organizations, academia, local communities and private sector actors, whose interests, priorities and levels of influence may differ regarding wetland conservation and sustainable use. Potential risks include limited stakeholder ownership of biodiversity conservation instruments, insufficient participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making processes, competing interests between conservation and productive activities, and challenges in maintaining long-term coordination among institutions and stakeholder groups.

Other	Low	Phased planning, prior institutional agreements, and collaboration with already mobilized actors (from previous experiences) significantly reduce operational risks.

Overall Risk Rating	Low	The project's integrated, participatory, and normatively anchored design enables the anticipation and mitigation of risks. The Theory of Change includes concrete measures that strengthen its institutional, technical, and social resilience.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project will contribute to the following GEF-8 Focal Area:

Biodiversity Focal Area: The project aligns with the overall objective of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area by conserving, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of coastal wetlands, recognized as strategic ecosystems for global biodiversity and ecosystem services. Through an integrated area-based approach, it will implement measures in terrestrial and marine landscapes that combine in situ conservation, ecological restoration, and sustainable use. This contributes directly to:

- Objective 1: Conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems.
- Objective 3: Increased mobilization of national resources for biodiversity.

With regard to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the project will contribute to the CBD 2030 global targets as follows:

Target 2. Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 percent of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. The project will contribute to increasing restored areas by reducing the drivers causing wetland degradation.

Target 3. Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are conserved and effectively managed. The project aims to protect the ecosystem functions and services provided by wetlands and their biodiversity through the implementation of economic and conservation management instruments that support changes in harmful practices while promoting initiatives that enhance the valuation of these ecosystems.

Target 14 ,Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, strategies and decision making, particularly in sectors with significant impacts on biodiversity. The project will directly support the implementation of environmental regulations under SBAP and strengthen environmental management capacities of municipalities and regional governments in the pilot sites.

Target 19. Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources for biodiversity, including domestic, international, public and private resources. The project will contribute to increased financial resources by supporting the implementation of SBAP economic instruments for biodiversity conservation and through the engagement of private sector actors linked to prioritized productive practices in the pilot sites.

The proposed project is aligned with Chile's National Biodiversity Strategy 2017–2030. In line with Meta 1.1, it promotes the sustainable use of biodiversity by reducing pressures on wetlands and critical bird habitats while maintaining ecosystem services that support human well-being. Consistent with Meta 2.1, the project strengthens biodiversity information, monitoring and knowledge systems to support informed participation and adaptive management. In accordance with Meta 3.1, it contributes to robust institutions and multi-level governance for effective wetland management and equitable benefit-sharing. Aligned with Meta 4.1, the project mainstreams biodiversity objectives into public and private policies, plans and territorial instruments. Finally, consistent with Metas 5.1 and 5.2, the project strengthens protection and supports the restoration of priority wetlands, improving ecological connectivity and reducing risks for priority bird species. (MMA, 2017).

It promotes in situ conservation and ecological restoration, supports the implementation of Law 21.600 by enhancing SBAP's institutional capacity to lead conservation actions and validate biodiversity instruments under its mandate, and articulates with Law 21.202 on urban wetland protection to strengthen ecological planning in vulnerable urban areas. The project also contributes to the National Landscape Restoration Plan, the National Bird Conservation Strategy 2021–2030, and the National Wetlands Plan.

No national policies have been identified that contradict the expected results, as the initiative is highly contributive to the application of Law 21.600.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Summary of Stakeholder Consultations

During project preparation, consultations were conducted through bilateral meetings, technical interviews, workshops and community engagement activities involving government institutions, regional and local authorities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, academia, private sector representatives and local communities from the project intervention areas.

Consultations highlighted the need to strengthen multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms for wetland conservation, improve interinstitutional coordination for the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments under Law 21.600, strengthen biodiversity monitoring and environmental education systems, and address anthropogenic pressures affecting wetlands and migratory bird habitats. Stakeholders also identified opportunities to promote sustainable tourism, biodiversity-friendly productive practices and community participation as mechanisms to support conservation and local development.

Consultations included representatives from the Indigenous Community Los Maitenes Villa Quinchao, local communities from Concepción, Talcahuano, Hualpén, Penco, Curaco de Vélez and Quinchao, as well as civil society organizations and foundations including Audubon Chile, Marine Conservation Foundation, Cosmos Foundation, Bandada Foundation, Malvarrosa Foundation, ONG Aumen, Ecological Association Canal Ifarle and the Center for the Study and Conservation of Natural Heritage (CECPAN). Inputs received from stakeholders informed the design of governance mechanisms, conservation actions, biodiversity monitoring systems, environmental education programmes and sustainable tourism initiatives incorporated into Components 1, 2 and 3 of the project.

The following table provides a non-exhaustive summary of stakeholder engagement activities undertaken during project preparation, including representatives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society organizations, academia, government institutions and private sector actors that contributed to the design of the project.

DATE	NAMES	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	INSTANCE
02/18/2025	Javiera Ferreyra	Directora Audobon Chile	Audubon Chile	Meeting
02/18/2025	Miguel Stutzin	PFO GEF MMA	MMA	Meeting
03/04/2025	Javiera Ferreyra	Directora Audobon Chile	Audubon Chile	Meeting

04/21/2025	Patricio Fuentes, Ingrid Contreras, Alejandra Oyarzún, Lorena Guajardo	Officials: Environment, Fisheries, Productive Development	Municipality of Quinchao	Meeting
04/26/2025	Claudio Delgado, Jaime Cursach	Technical team	Marine Conservation Foundation	Bilateral interview
04/01/2025	Pablo Azúa	Regional facilitator bi-regional pilot Ñuble–Biobío	GEF Landscape Restoration Project	Bilateral interview
04/02/2025	Amerindia Jaramillo	National Project Coordinator	GEF Economic Instruments Project	Bilateral interview
04/07/2025	Diego Urrejola	Executive Director	Cosmos Foundation	Bilateral interview
04/07/2025	Paulina Espinosa	Academic, Director of Master in Sustainable Urban Processes	University of Concepción	Bilateral interview
04/14/2025	Loretto Arriagada	Local officer	Audubon (Biobío Region)	Bilateral interview
04/21/2025	Claudia Silva	National Project Coordinator	GEF SBAP Project	Meeting
05/13/2025	Carmen Zuloaga	Professional	Biodiversity Policy and Planning Department – MMA	Meeting
05/22/2025	Carolina Parra, Paulina Terra	Professionals	GEF Minvu Sustainable Cities Project	Bilateral interview
05/30/2025	Javiera Yáñez	Mayor	Municipality of Curaco de Vélez	Bilateral interview
05/02/2025	Carolina Rodríguez	Team	Center for the Study and Conservation of Natural Heritage (CECPAN)	Bilateral interview
06/05/2025	Ignacio Hernández	Company Representative	Valmar Real Estate	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	María Cecilia Jimenez	Biodiversity Professional	SEREMI Environment Biobío	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Loreto Alvarez	Air Quality and Climate Change Division Professional	SEREMI Environment Biobío	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Sergio Benavides	Species Conservation Department Professional	Ministry of Environment	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Rodrigo López	Vice-president	ONG Aumen	Concepción workshop

06/05/2025	Patricio Ortiz	Foundation Representative	Bandada Foundation	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Felipe Jara Fernández	Foundation Representative	Bandada Foundation – Chile Birds	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Catalina Torres	Foundation Representative	Malvarrosa Foundation	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Daniela Salas	Regional Wildlife Coordinator	Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG)	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Susana Oñate	SAG Biobío Professional	Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG)	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Paulina Espinosa	Urbanism Department Academic	University of Concepción	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Cristian Cornejo	Biodiversity Professional	SEREMI Environment Biobío	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Aiyen Saldoval	Representative	Ecological Association Canal Ifarle	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Karla González Leiva	Representative	Ecological Association Canal Ifarle	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Matias Fuentealba	Conservation Projects Coordinator	Cosmos Foundation	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Loretto Arriagada	Local Program Coordinator	Audubon Chile	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Hugo Ramirez	Environmental Supervisor Biobío Region	Superintendency of the Environment	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Katherine Sanhueza	Foundation Representative	Bandada Foundation – Chile Birds	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Carla Torres	Environment Directorate Professional	Municipality of Hualpén	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Karla Díaz	Operations Manager / Association Representative	Pilmaiquén Consulting – Canal Ifarle Association	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Karim Bufarhue	Association Representative	Ecological Association Canal Ifarle	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Carlos Pérez	Environment Directorate Professional	Municipality of Talcahuano	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Pablo Corona	Head of Environment Unit	Municipality of Penco	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Diego Durán Fuentes	Foundation Representative	Malvarrosa Foundation	Concepción workshop

06/05/2025	Andrés Toro	Environment Directorate Professional	Municipality of Hualpén	Concepción workshop
06/05/2025	Marcelo Vergara	Consultant	Independent Consultant	Concepción workshop
06/11/2025	Patricio Fuentes	Environment Officer	Municipality of Quinchao	Bilateral interview
06/11/2025	Katharine Gilchrist, José Almonacid, Jeannette Garrido, Mauricio Sotomayor, Estrella Sánchez	Officials	Municipality of Curaco de Vélez	Meeting
06/11/2025	Sergio Rivera	Officer	AC Redes Ltda. Riles Plant	Curaco de Vélez community workshop
06/11/2025	Luis Riveros	Representative	Curaco de Vélez Environment and Tourism Committee	Curaco de Vélez community workshop
06/11/2025	Gloria Hernández	President	Curaco de Vélez Neighborhood Council Union	Curaco de Vélez community workshop
06/11/2025	Roxana Mansilla	Representative	Curaco de Vélez Environment and Tourism Committee	Curaco de Vélez community workshop
06/11/2025	Daniela Ruiz, Juan Vera Valdéz	Team	Ecorumbo Environmental Solutions Consulting Ltda.	Curaco de Vélez community workshop
06/11/2025	Daniela Bize	Professional	SEREMI Los Lagos – Ministry of Environment	Curaco de Vélez community workshop
06/12/2025	Vicente	Environmental Advisor	Municipality of Curaco de Vélez	Quinchao Public Services workshop
06/12/2025	Francisco Chávez	Professional	Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG)	Quinchao Public Services workshop
06/12/2025	Diego Miranda	Harbor Master	General Directorate of Maritime Territory (DGTM) – Chilean Navy	Quinchao Public Services workshop
06/12/2025	Claudio Castro	Professional	SEREMI Los Lagos – Ministry of Environment	Quinchao Public Services workshop
06/12/2025	Alejandra de la Fuente	Regional Secretary MMA	SEREMI Los Lagos – Ministry of Environment	Quinchao Public Services workshop

06/12/2025	Juan Muñoz Chavarriga	Educator	Rural School Teresa Cárdenas de Paredes	Quinchao community workshop
06/12/2025	María Eugenia	Representative	Communal Environmental Committee	Quinchao community workshop
06/12/2025	Carlos Enrique Carvajal	Officer	Insular High School of Achao	Quinchao community workshop
06/12/2025	Andrés Vivar	Productive Development Officer	Municipality of Quinchao	Quinchao community workshop
06/12/2025	Ingrid Contreras	Productive Development Officer	Municipality of Quinchao	Quinchao community workshop
06/12/2025	Alejandra Oyarzún	Head of Productive Development	Municipality of Quinchao	Quinchao community workshop
06/12/2025	Miguel Calbucoy	Representative	Indigenous Community Los Maitenes Villa Quinchao	Quinchao community workshop

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
CAF	GET	Chile	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,101,835.00	189,165.00	2,291,000.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**2,101,835.00**	**189,165.00**	**2,291,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

100000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

9000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
CAF	GET	Chile	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**100,000.00**	**9,000.00**	**109,000.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
CAF	GET	Chile	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,400,000.00
Total GEF Resources					**2,400,000.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-2	GET	2,101,835.00	5000000
Total Project Cost		**2,101,835.00**	**5,000,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	MMA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Recipient Country Government	SBAP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2000000
Civil Society Organization	AUDUBON	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
GEF Agency	AFI/CAF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Total Co-financing				**5,000,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The mobilized co-financing comes from national public contributions (MMA, SBAP, Regional Governments, and municipalities) and from private/local stakeholders linked to birdwatching tourism and certified biodiversity-friendly productive practices. It encompasses investments in institutional strengthening, bird-friendly infrastructure, improvements to wastewater treatment systems, and conservation, restoration, and monitoring activities in the Rocuant–Andalién Wetland System and the Quinchao Island Wetland System.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Ignacio Lorenzo	10/8/2025	Director	+59899180424	ilorenzo@caf.com
GEF Agency Coordinator	Sebastian Rodríguez	10/8/2025	Main Executive	+573105060516	srodriguez@caf.com

GEF Agency Coordinator	René Gómez García	10/15/2025	Coordinador AF-GEF	59896181288	rgomezgarcia@caf.com
Project Coordinator	Oscar Guevara	10/8/2025	Main Executive	+56999708615	oguevara@caf.com

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
MIguel Ernesto Stutzin Schottlander	Office of International Affairs.	Ministry of the Environment	10/13/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

The project will be implemented in the Rocuant–Andalién Wetland System in the Biobío Region and the Quinchao Island Wetland System in the Los Lagos Region.

GeoNames Fulltextsearch : Quinchao Island

Location Name *Required field*	Latitude *Required field* *(Decimal Degrees WGS84 format)*	Longitude *Required field* *(Decimal Degrees WGS84 format)*	Geo Name ID *Required field if the location is not an exact site*	Location & Activity Description *Optional text field*
Humedal Rocuant–Andalién	-36.7400	-73.0700	N/A	Critical urban–peri-urban coastal estuarine complex for shorebirds and waterbirds; proposed actions are focused on conservation, reduction of threats to enable the recovery of wetlands and bird habitats and other species, management under the Urban Wetlands Law, and strengthening municipal capacities
Isla Quinchao	-42.4700	-73.4200	N/A	Island of the Chiloé Archipelago with key coastal and marine wetlands, such as the Curaco de Vélez and Quinchao wetland systems, which constitute important habitat for migratory and resident birds. Conservation actions, local governance strengthening, and biodiversity monitoring will be implemented at this site.

Isla Quinchao, Chile

Isla Quinchao, Chile - T ISL 3874040

Isla Quinchao ca. 168 m
3874040
T ISL island
Chile CL » Los Lagos Region 14

-42.46913, -73.51465
S 42°28′09″ W 73°30′53″

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title
Formato safegaurds gef 11

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	X		
Stakeholders	X	X	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	X	X	
Gender Equality	X	X	
Focal Area/Theme	X	X	X