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

**Review PIF and Make a recommendation**

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**
12104
**Countries**
Chile
**Project Name**
Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Chilean Wetlands to Protect Migratory Birds through the Implementation of SBAP Conservation Tools
**Agencies**
CAF
**Date received by PM**
10/17/2025
**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**
Sarah Wyatt
**Focal Area**
Biodiversity
**Project Type**
MSP

## GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

**1. General Project Information / Eligibility**

**a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?**

**b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's CommentsWe thank the Secretariat for the comments and for confirming eligibility. The project is confirmed to meet the criteria for GEF financing and the General Project Information table is correctly populated, and will therefore remain unchanged.

**2. Project Summary**

**Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?**

Secretariat's Comments
3/3/2026

Yes.

1/8/2026

No. Please make the central focus of the summary what the activities of this project will be. The core indicators should come at the end.

Agency's CommentsThe GEFSEC comment was addressed by revising the Project Summary so it primarily explains what the project will do and how it will be implemented (activities, approach, and intervention logic), rather than leading with indicators. In the updated version, the GEF Core Indicators and quantified targets are presented at the end of the summary as a closing element. This improves clarity by ensuring the intervention is understood first (governance, SBAP/MMA capacity strengthening, Law 21.600 instruments, pressure-reduction measures, and pilot-site actions) and then its measurable contributions through core indicators.

**3 Indicative Project Overview**

**3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?**
**b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**

Secretariat's Comments
6/12/2026

Yes.

During PPG, please address the following:

- Retribution is not the correct English translation. Please review and revise.

3/3/2026

No.

During the description of the work of the project and specific outputs, it is not necessary to discuss alignment with programming strategies or the KMGBF. This is something that should be for the project as a whole. Limiting the justification and alignment text would help identify where there is too little description of the work to be done.

Location of activities - It is unclear where the project is going to take place. The introduction talks about the Rocuant?Andali?n Wetland System as specifically the actual wetlands of about 2,000 ha. Therefore, how the project activities read is as limited to just that area (and the other small wetland) such as in the description of 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 as limited to just those 2,000 ha. It seems like perhaps there should be differentiation between the wetland areas themselves and a broader watershed (85,182.72 ha). We would expect things like water treatment to often occur outside of the core 2,000 ha.

b. Please remove the box around the outcomes in component 1.

Outcome 1.3 - Please state what will actually be accomplished (i.e. Payments for ecosystem services program designed and implementation begun). Rather than providing the justification for this and telling me what this will unlock, please focus on the actual content of the work. What are the instruments to be implemented? Are these activities specifically aimed at private landowners?

Output 1.3.1 - How is this different than the activities of 1.3.2 and 1.3.3? It seems like this should be the description of 1.3 leaving just two outputs, though iii doesn't seem to be covered elsewhere. 1.3.2, which is developing the operational model, seems like it should come before application of it.

Ecosystem compensation - Compensation is used for offset programs and, therefore, the language is confusing. Is this an offset program? If so, more detail is needed on the program to ensure that the GEF is not just allowing for environmental destruction. If not, please use Payments for Ecosystem Services if that is approach being taken.

Certification - This term generally used in relation to eco-labeling, so without more specification it's confusion (e.g. minimum standards or standards might be more appropriate). What is it certification of or for? Is the idea to create standards for what types of practices and land uses can receive payments for ecosystem services and how they will be monitored? If so, please use different language and clarify the purpose of the activities in 1.3.3. Is this for national parks or other lands specifically designated for conservation? For the last sentence, is the purpose of the work here to generally support good biodiversity practices or specifically to support meeting the standards required to receive payments for ecosystem services?

2.1.1 - Will this be based on the results of 2.1.2? What is the purpose of the green infrastructure? Green infrastructure can mean a lot of different things and may have little biodiversity benefit. Green water management infrastructure would be logical, but it would make sense for it to be guided by the results of 2.1.2.

2.1.1 - Will other ministries be involved in this and how? Will it relate to 1.1.1?

2.1.4 - What and where are the pilot sites? Are they demonstration sites?

3.1.3 - Who are the target audiences for this? How will it relate to other project activities?

1/8/2026

No. Please put the project objective not a summary.

Please remove the decimals from all numbers in the Indicative Project Overview Table.

b.

1.3.2 and 1.3.3 - More information is needed to understand how these activities relate to other initiatives outside of the project.

1.3.3, 2.1.4, 3.1.2 - This seems to cover a lot of activities from something related to the offsets program to an eco-certification label and likely should be split up. For the eco-labeling, please refer to the guidance provided by STAP on the topic. It's unclear what the product is to be labeled, whether there is a market for it, who will manage and maintain it, and how it will contribute to the conservation of the site. "Biodiversity contribution certification in wetlands" sounds like someone is measuring how biodiversity contributes to wetlands.

2.1.1 - Please clarify these activities as they do not currently appear to be GEF eligible.

2.1.3 - Is this for the wetlands or for the migratory birds? What about other species in the area? Which "key areas" will be covered (e.g. a particular sector, municipality)?

2.2.2 - This is not eligible for GEF support as it should yield local benefits so there is no incremental cost to the global benefits.

3.1.5 - This language is confusing. Please revise.

Restoration is described in the core indicators but not in the description. Please include.

During PPG,

Please address the following issues:

1.1.1 - As written, it seems as though the project will create several platforms with the potential for excessive bureaucracy. Who will manage these activities? How will they continue after the life of the project? (noting that some need revitalization so there have been challenges in maintaining them in the past)

Capacity building - Please ensure that there are provisions for maintaining the capacity built within organizations.

2.1 - It will be important to make sure that any monitoring program is well connected to enforcement and action on the ground. While data is important, there needs to be a result from it.

2.1.4 - Is this about the collection of good practices which will then be systematized in component 1 activities so there is a need to do a stock take type of exercise AND testing and revising of the PES standards after they are developed? Or is it only to test and revise the standards? The italics text sounds like only the first part while the normal text talks about both aspects.

Agency's Comments
a. Duly addressed.

The paragraph stating that ?This issue is aligned with the priorities set forth in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the commitments under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)? has been removed from the Environmental Problem and Justification section.

Within the rationale section, a general description of the project landscapes has been incorporated. For the Rocuant?Andali?n system, the document now describes the Rocuant?Andali?n wetland complex (2,995.74 ha) and the Andali?n River watershed (79,408 ha), which supports the ecological functioning and hydrological dynamics of the wetland system. For Quinchao Island, the document describes the Bah?a de Quinchao Nature Sanctuary (102.3 ha), the Bah?a Curaco de V?lez Nature Sanctuary (59.7 ha), and the productive landscape of Quinchao Island (5,774.72 ha).

In addition, a summary table has been included in Annex C: Project Location, providing a detailed description of the wetlands, associated landscapes, geographic location, area, and contribution to the relevant GEF Core Indicators.

b. Duly Noted. We have revised Outcome 1.3 to focus on the concrete result to be achieved rather than the rationale or expected enabling effects. The outcome now refers explicitly to the enhanced implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments under Title III of Law 21.600 by SBAP.

To improve clarity, the accompanying description specifies that the project will support the operationalization of two instruments established under the Law: (i) the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Certification System (Article 51), and (ii) the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) instrument (Article 52). The revised text also clarifies that these instruments are intended to engage 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.

In addition, we agree that the former Output 1.3.1 overlapped with Outputs 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 and was more appropriately framed at the outcome level. Accordingly, Output 1.3.1 has been removed from the results framework and its content incorporated, where relevant, into Outcome 1.3, which now reflects the operationalization of biodiversity conservation instruments under Title III of Law 21.600 by SBAP.

Output 1.3.2 has been revised to focus exclusively on the design of the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) instrument. The output now supports the development of the conceptual and operational model for the RSE programme, including its incentive, registration, monitoring, and verification mechanisms, which are required for future implementation by SBAP. In addition, references to ?compensation mechanisms? have been removed to avoid confusion with biodiversity offset schemes. The revised wording refers explicitly to Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) agreements between ecosystem service beneficiaries and ecosystem stewards, consistent with Article 52 of Law 21.600.

Output 1.3.3 We agree that the original wording did not sufficiently clarify the purpose of the certification-related activities. The output does not aim to develop a generic eco-labelling scheme, nor is it linked to the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) instrument described under Output 1.3.2. Rather, the output supports the operationalization of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Certification System established under Article 51 of Law 21.600. This voluntary system is intended to certify, or recognize existing certifications of, activities, practices, or sites that contribute to biodiversity conservation and the maintenance or recovery of ecosystem services. To clarify this objective, the output has been revised to explicitly refer to the development of standards, criteria, procedures, and operational protocols required for the implementation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Certification System. The output will focus on productive practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation in priority wetlands and their buffer zones, including actions undertaken by private landowners, producers, Indigenous communities, and local small-scale producers.

Output 2.1.1 We agree that the term ?green infrastructure? was too broad and could lead to different interpretations. The output has been revised to clarify that the project will support the development of pre-investment studies, technical designs, and project profiles for priority wetland conservation interventions identified through the Rocuant?Andali?n Wetland Master Plan. These interventions may include ecological buffer areas, restoration measures, nature-based solutions, ecological connectivity measures, and other conservation investments aimed at reducing pressures on wetlands and biodiversity.

The purpose of this output is to strengthen municipalities? and regional governments? capacity to mobilize public and private resources for larger-scale conservation investments beyond the scope and duration of the project. The resulting project portfolios will facilitate access to future financing through regional, municipal, and sectoral investment mechanisms. These activities will be coordinated through the dialogue and governance mechanisms established under Output 1.1.1 and will involve municipalities, regional governments, SBAP, and relevant sectoral institutions responsible for territorial planning, water management, public works, housing and urban development, and environmental management. Output 2.1.2 remains complementary, focusing specifically on identifying gaps and investment needs in wastewater treatment systems, the results of which may inform future conservation investment priorities and project design.

Output 2.1.4 -The pilot sites correspond to productive landscapes within the Andali?n River watershed and productive areas associated with the Quinchao and Curaco de V?lez wetland

systems. In the Andali?n River watershed and the productive landscapes of Quinchao Island, activities will focus on sustainable livestock and agricultural practices. In the bays of Quinchao and Curaco de V?lez, activities will focus on sustainable aquaculture, seaweed farming, and shellfish harvesting practices. These sites are intended to function as demonstration sites where sustainable productive practices can be applied and assessed under real production conditions. They will also be used to test the applicability of the standards, procedures, and methodologies developed under Output 1.3.2 and to inform the future implementation of SBAP economic instruments. The output description has been revised to clarify both the location and purpose of the demonstration sites.

Output 3.1.3 The description has been revised to clarify the target audience and the relationship of this activity with other project interventions. The environmental awareness and education programme will target local communities, Indigenous Peoples, schools, local authorities, productive sectors, tourism operators, and visitors in the project landscapes. The programme will increase awareness of the ecological importance of wetlands and migratory birds, the threats affecting these ecosystems, and the benefits they provide to local communities. It will complement the project's governance, conservation, sustainable production, and nature-based tourism activities by supporting participation in local conservation initiatives, promoting sustainable practices in productive and tourism sectors, and strengthening public support for wetland conservation and restoration efforts in the project landscapes.

**3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?**

Secretariat's Comments
3/3/2026

Yes.

1/8/2026

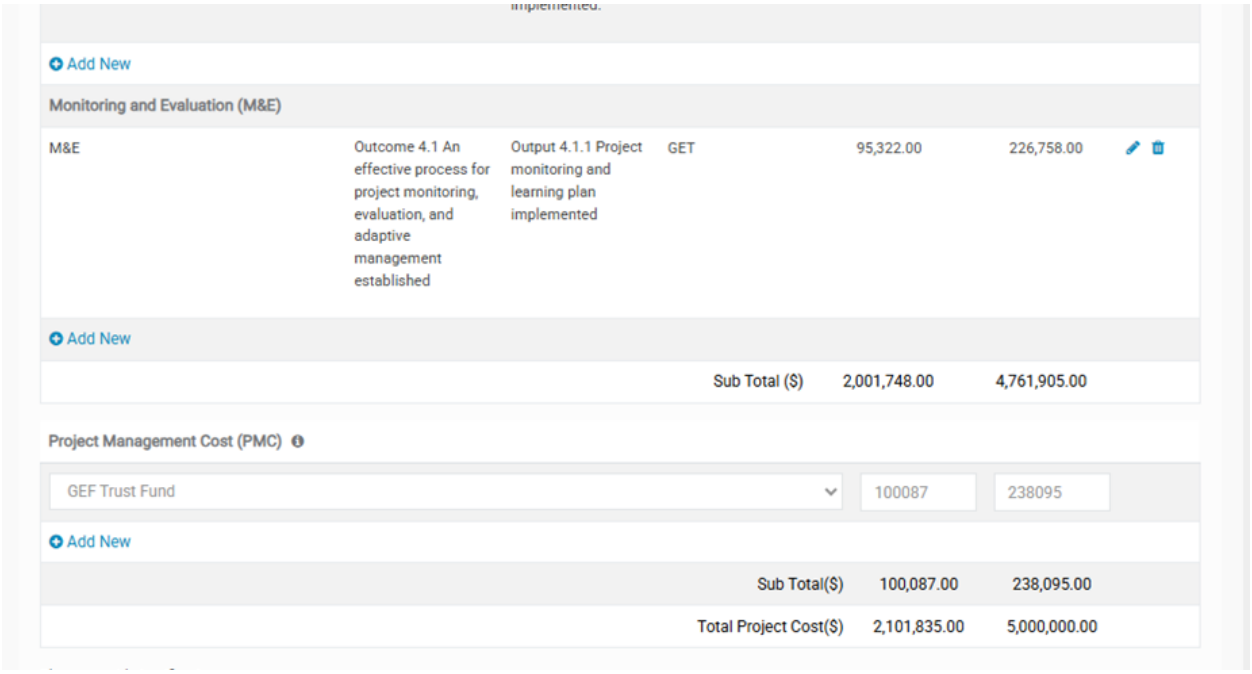
No.

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Component(in green rectangle) is empty, while the M&E information (title / type / outputs / outcomes) are part of the project's components (in red rectangle) - please ask the Agency to move the information from the red rectangle to the green.




Agency's Comments

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) budget table was adjusted to correct the table structure: values were not properly placed in the corresponding fields/columns. This has been fixed, and the corrected layout and amounts are reflected in the updated table shown in the second image.




**3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?**

**b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**

**c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?**

Secretariat's Comments

1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's CommentsYes, thank you. The components are adequately funded; the GEF project financing and co-financing contributions to PMC are proportional, and the PMC remains within the applicable cap, in accordance with GEF guidelines and policies.

**4 Project Outline**

**A. Project Rationale**

**4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS**

**a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?**

**b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?**

Secretariat's Comments
5/4/2026

Yes, thank you.

1/8/2026

No.

- Myers et al 2000 is a long outdated reference. The Biodiversity Hotspots are not countries but ecosystems and some, but not all, of Chile is included. It's not necessary to cite for a project summary.

- Are these sites KBAs?

- What species of global significance other than birds are found there?

- Does land use outside of the wetlands influence the wetlands (such as agrochemical use)? Will the project seek to address this?

b. Barrier 5 is not a barrier. Please revise. It seems like ecotourism more broadly and not just bird tourism should be the focus on the project.

Agency's Comments
The Secretariat?s comments have been addressed, and the Project Summary wording has been revised accordingly. Outdated or potentially confusing references were removed, and the rationale was strengthened from a systems perspective, better linking the drivers of wetland degradation with impacts on biodiversity and the project?s responses under Law 21.600 (SBAP). In addition, the sustainable use approach is now presented more comprehensively by incorporating inclusive ecotourism (beyond bird tourism), and the global environmental benefits, GEF Core Indicators, and priority sites are stated more clearly.

As textual evidence of the shift toward a systemic, integrative framing, the revised summary explicitly states: ?the project?s transformative character is grounded in its capacity to integrate ecological, institutional, social and territorial dimensions??. This wording directly reflects the

intent to connect ecological, institutional, and social/territorial dimensions to operationalize conservation instruments and reduce anthropogenic pressures on wetlands.

With these changes, the Summary is more closely aligned with GEF guidelines and the feedback received, presenting more clearly the project?s intervention logic, expected outcomes (governance, institutional capacities, pressure reduction, an ecotourism-based local economy, and social engagement/monitoring), and its contribution to global environmental benefits in the selected focal sites.

**4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT**

**a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?**

**b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?**

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

**d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

6/16/2026

Yes. Thank you for the revisions and noting where they were done.

6/12/2026

No, the Agency did not address the comment on stakeholder engagement. Agency should provide some information related to any identified stakeholder risks in the risk table, the indicated roles of different stakeholders related to project objective and components, as well as a brief summary of findings of stakeholder consultation in project design, and better highlight which Indigenous Peoples, local communities and CSOs that have been consulted.

As requested previously, please note where these comments have been addressed as only the first one was addressed previously.

5/4/2026

No. The navy is missing from the list of stakeholders. If that's DIRINMAR, please include that information.

Please note where these comments were addressed. The request is more than just a list -

Considering the project?s focus on governance and multi-stakeholder mechanisms, please ask agency to elaborate further of the role of different stakeholders related to project objective and components. In additional, please ask agency to provide some information related to any identified stakeholder risks in the risk table, i.e. facilitating ownership and inclusion around a renewed shared vision for wetland conservation and sustainable use. Moreover, please ask agency to provide a brief summary of findings of stakeholder consultation in project design, and to better highlight which indigenous peoples, local communities and CSOs that have been consulted.

1/8/2026

No.

c. Please provide more information here.

d. The Chilean navy's role in restoration is surprising. Please clarify. Please expand this section to explain the expected roles of different groups within the project, including relevant Indigenous organizations.

Considering the project?s focus on governance and multi-stakeholder mechanisms, please ask agency to elaborate further of the role of different stakeholders related to project objective and components. In additional, please ask agency to provide some information related to any identified stakeholder risks in the risk table, i.e. facilitating ownership and inclusion around a renewed shared vision for wetland conservation and sustainable use. Moreover, please ask agency to provide a brief summary of findings of stakeholder consultation in project design, and to better highlight which indigenous peoples, local communities and CSOs that have been consulted.

## Agency's Comments

Duly Noted. The stakeholder profile of the Chilean Navy ? Directorate for Maritime Interests and Aquatic Environment (DIRINMAR) has been expanded.

15/june/2026

The stakeholder engagement comment has been addressed in three locations of the PIF. First, a dedicated "Stakeholder Engagement" risk row was added to the risk table in Section B (Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation), identifying specific risks?limited ownership of conservation instruments, insufficient participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, competing conservation?production interests, and coordination challenges?together with concrete mitigation measures under Outcome 1.1, including FPIC with Mapuche-Huilliche Peoples. Second, the Stakeholder Engagement section in Section A (Project Rationale) now sets out the roles of each stakeholder in relation to the project objective and components, supported by a Stakeholder Engagement Table mapping every actor to specific Outcomes and Outputs. Third, Section D (Policy Requirements) incorporates a "Summary of Stakeholder Consultations," describing consultation methods, findings, and how they shaped project design, and explicitly naming the Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and CSOs consulted. All additions are visible as tracked changes dated 15 June 2026.

Duly addressed.

The project documentation has been revised to comprehensively address the Secretariat?s comments regarding stakeholder engagement.
First, the Stakeholder Engagement section in the Project Description (Section B) has been expanded to further elaborate the roles of key stakeholders in relation to the project objective, outcomes and components. This includes national institutions, regional and local governments, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, academia, private sector actors and the Chilean Navy through the Directorate for Maritime Interests and Aquatic Environment (DIRINMAR), which has now been explicitly included in the stakeholder analysis.
Second, a Stakeholder Engagement Table has been incorporated into Section B, identifying stakeholder categories, consultation findings and their contributions to project outcomes and outputs. This provides a clearer description of stakeholder participation in governance arrangements, biodiversity conservation instruments, territorial planning, sustainable tourism, biodiversity monitoring and environmental education activities.
Third, the Stakeholder Engagement section in Section D has been strengthened through the inclusion of a Summary of Stakeholder Consultations, highlighting the main findings emerging from consultations undertaken during project preparation. These findings include the need to strengthen multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms, improve interinstitutional coordination for the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments under Law 21.600, strengthen biodiversity monitoring and environmental education systems, address anthropogenic pressures affecting wetlands and migratory bird habitats, and promote sustainable tourism and biodiversity-friendly productive practices.
In addition, Section D now explicitly identifies the Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society organizations consulted during project preparation, including representatives of the Indigenous Community Los Maitenes Villa Quinchao, local communities from Concepci?n, Talcahuano, Hualp?n, Penco, Curaco de V?lez and Quinchao, as well as organizations such as 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). A detailed consultation record has also been included.
Finally, the Stakeholder Engagement risk category in the project risk table has been revised to describe potential risks associated with stakeholder ownership, participation and coordination among actors with different interests and mandates. Corresponding mitigation measures have been incorporated through inclusive governance mechanisms, participatory decision-making processes, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), culturally appropriate engagement approaches and stakeholder capacity development activities under Outcome 1.1.
These revisions collectively address the Secretariat?s request to strengthen stakeholder engagement analysis, stakeholder risk assessment, consultation findings and the identification of consulted Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society organizations.

Duly Noted.
The stakeholder profile of the Chilean Navy ? Directorate for Maritime Interests and Aquatic Environment (DIRINMAR) has been expanded.

**5 B. Project Description**

**5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE**

**a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?**

**b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?**

Secretariat's Comments
5/4/2026

Yes.

1/8/2026

No.

There are issues raised in other sections also relate to the ToC.

During PPG, please focus on a specific theory of change related to increased economic opportunities from ecotourism and how these efforts will translate into conservation outcomes.

Agency's CommentsDuring the PPG phase, the Secretariat?s comment will be addressed by expanding and sharpening the Theory of Change on ecotourism-driven economic opportunities, explicitly describing the causal pathway through which increased income and employment strengthen community empowerment and local organizations? engagement, leading to improved conservation and sustainable use of wetland systems and their biodiversity.

**5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING**

**Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's CommentsThank you to the Secretariat for the review and the positive feedback. The incremental/additional cost reasoning (Section 5.2) is considered adequately described and is fully consistent with the Guidelines set out in GEF/C.31/12, ensuring alignment with GEF policies and requirements.

**5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

**a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?**

**b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).**

**c) is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area**

**d) are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments
6/12/2026

Yes.

5/4/2026

No. What is described in the agency response does not seem to appear in the text of the PIF?

The paragraphs are just repeated.

1/8/2026

No.

c. Please expand on this.

## Agency's Comments

Duly Noted:

The duplicated paragraph has been removed and its content has been integrated into the section on Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects.
The following narrative has been incorporated: 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 Biob?o Region aimed at improving urban planning and infrastructure project development through technological and participatory tools. CityLab is implemented by the Universidad San Sebasti?n, with funding from the Regional Government of Biob?o, in partnership with the Chilean Chamber of Construction and Corporaci?n 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?Andali?n 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.

**5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?**

**b) Are the project?s indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?**

Secretariat's Comments

6/12/2026

Yes. Thank you for the clarification.

5/4/2026

No.

2.1.3 - This says that the project will support the design of strategies but does not mention their implementation. Please focus on the activities and work being done in the description of outputs rather than their results and linkages. Focusing the text can help identify gaps such as these. 2.1.4 goes on to talk about doing basically a knowledge management product, so overall the component seems to stay in the planning phase of the work.

?the reduction of anthropogenic threats in the pilot sites will restore ecological functions and habitat quality in wetlands,? This does not explain what will be done but rather the purpose of it and does not explicitly state the restoration mechanism. The mechanism would be what actions are actually being taken.

Please explain where the number 85,182.72 ha comes from. Is that the entire area? Right now, it appears as though maybe that is the intended area for payments for ecosystem services in 1.3.2 so is only the area that is anticipated to receive payments for ecosystem services?

Please see my comments on location under question 3.1 to understand my confusion.

1/8/2026

No.

a. It is unclear where or how the restoration hectares will be achieved as there is no mention of restoration in the description of project activities. It's also not clear what type of mainstreaming is occurring and how.

Please include an ExACT excel sheet so we can review the calculation of the carbon benefits.

## Agency's Comments

Duly Noted. We agree that the previous wording placed too much emphasis on the design of strategies rather than on the actions that will be implemented. The description has been revised to focus on the concrete interventions that will be supported by the project in priority wetland sites within the Rocuant?Andali?n and Curaco de V?lez wetland systems.

The revised text now explicitly includes the implementation of waste management measures, nature-based solutions for runoff filtration and retention, zoning and enforcement measures to reduce impacts from domestic animals, vehicle access restrictions, visitor management infrastructure (including boardwalks, viewing platforms, signage, and designated access routes), livestock exclusion measures, and passive restoration and natural regeneration actions in degraded wetland habitats.
The description also clarifies that these interventions will be coordinated through site-specific action plans and implemented in collaboration with municipalities and local stakeholders. This revision better reflects the implementation-oriented nature of the output and clarifies the mechanisms through which anthropogenic pressures on wetlands and biodiversity will be reduced.

Output 2.1.4. We agree that the previous wording of Output 2.1.4 placed excessive emphasis on validation and documentation activities, which could give the impression that the output was primarily a knowledge management product. The output and its description have been revised to clarify that the project will establish and support demonstration sites in productive landscapes within the Andali?n River watershed and the Quinchao and Curaco de V?lez wetland systems.
These demonstration sites will implement and assess sustainable productive practices in livestock, agriculture, aquaculture, seaweed farming, and shellfish harvesting under real production conditions. The sites will be used to apply the standards, procedures, and methodologies developed under Output 1.3.2 and to support the future implementation of SBAP economic instruments. The revised wording therefore emphasizes practical field implementation rather than knowledge generation alone.

The figure of 85,182.72 ha corresponds to the total area of productive landscapes where improved management practices benefiting biodiversity are expected to be promoted under the project and reported under Core Indicator 4, Sub-indicator 4.1.

This area does not represent the area expected to be covered by the Ecosystem Services Retribution (RSE) instrument under Output 1.3.2. Rather, it reflects the broader landscapes where sustainable productive practices and biodiversity conservation measures will be promoted through project interventions.

Of the total area, 79,408 ha correspond to the Andali?n River watershed. The remaining 5,774.72 ha correspond to productive landscapes on Quinchao Island located outside the Quinchao and Curaco de V?lez Nature Sanctuaries, where sustainable productive practices will be demonstrated and promoted.

To improve clarity regarding the geographic scope of project interventions and indicators, the project document will be revised to include a summary table in Annex C (Project Location) describing the project landscapes, intervention areas, associated activities, and the basis for the calculation of the relevant Core Indicators.

**5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's CommentsNot applicable. This project is not an NGI operation and does not use GEF non-grant financial instruments; therefore, a justification of financial structure and concessionality levels is not required under Section 5.5.

**5.6 RISKs**

**a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category?**

**b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?**

**c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's CommentsRisks are clearly assessed across relevant categories, with appropriate mitigation measures identified for each.

**5.7 Qualitative assessment**

**a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?**

**b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?**

**c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?**

Secretariat's Comments
5/4/2026

Yes.

However, please note that many of these statements to little to address the issues raised. As an example, ?paradigm shift that positions wetlands as a structuring axis of human well-being,? is a nice goal but not actually an explanation of how the change will happen and what activities this project is undertaking to do so.

1/8/2026

No.

a. Please expand on approaches to support durability.

b. Please discuss how this project will encourage scaling up from its limited geographical scope.

c. Please provide information on this.

Agency's CommentsThe document was adjusted to strengthen the response to Section 5.7 by adding a clearer explanation of transformation, innovation, scaling, durability, and policy coherence, as developed in the ?Transformation, innovation and scaling? paragraph. It specifies that the transformative dimension addresses ?structural drivers of biodiversity loss? through integrated solutions? and promotes a ?paradigm shift that positions wetlands as a

structuring axis of human well-being,? combining multi-level governance, institutional strengthening, and a conservation-based economy. Innovation is grounded in ?interoperable monitoring systems integrating ecological, social and economic indicators,? governance arrangements such as ?associations of municipalities for integrated wetland management,? and ?financial instruments? towards green infrastructure investments and Nature-based Solutions,? improving effectiveness and creating conditions for replication. Scaling is supported through ?demonstration pilots and the generation of replicable models,? including methodologies and instruments ?under Law 21.600,? and through SBAP-led ?vertical scaling? into sectoral policies and national regulatory frameworks.? Durability is reinforced through ?a clear institutional ownership strategy? and the ?incorporation? into the operational frameworks of SBAP and the Ministry of the Environment,? while policy coherence is addressed by ?integrat[ing]? objectives into national policies and plans? and aligning with international commitments such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

**6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities**

**6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?**

Secretariat's Comments
5/4/2026

Yes.

1/8/2026

No.

- BD 1-2 is for sustainable use. This project should be BD 1-1 (protected areas) and BD 1-4 (mainstreaming).

Agency's CommentsThe Secretariat?s recommendation was accepted and incorporated into the document: the Indicative Focal Areas table was updated by replacing BD 1-2 (sustainable use) with BD 1-1 (protected areas) and BD 1-4 (mainstreaming), which better reflects the project?s area-based conservation and policy integration focus. This is consistent with the narrative that ?The project aims to protect the ecosystem functions and services provided by wetlands and their biodiversity? (protected areas/effective management) and that ?the project will directly support the implementation of environmental regulations under SBAP? (mainstreaming and institutional strengthening), demonstrating that the comment was acted upon.

**6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)**

Secretariat's Comments
6/12/2026

Yes.

At PPG, please include specific aspects of the NBSAP that are supported by this project.

5/4/2026

No.

Minor: Please use the NBSAP acronym to make this information searchable as well as ensure that the text in this section is fully translated.

1/8/2026

No. Please provide specifics on how this project relates to the NBSAP.

Agency's Comments Duly Noted. Adding the acronym in the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP 2017?2030).

**6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?**

Secretariat's Comments
5/4/2026

Yes.

1/8/2026

No. Please provide a justification for each of the targets named for the KMGBF. (for future reference, the goals are not necessarily to include)

Agency's Comments The Secretariat?s comment under item 6.3 has been accepted and addressed, and the PIF has been revised to include a specific justification for each KMGBF target cited, clearly explaining how the project contributes through its components, outputs, and indicators. For example, the contribution to Target 3 is linked to the 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? and to quantified results such as ?2,955.5 hectares of wetlands conserved or restored? and ?85,182.72 hectares of landscapes under improved management practices benefiting biodiversity?. Likewise, for Target 14, the justification is strengthened by demonstrating policy integration and capacity-building through commitments to ?implement sectoral public policy instruments? and for SBAP to adopt ?mechanisms? to implement the conservation instruments established under Title III of Law 21.600?.

**7 D. Policy Requirements**

**7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments Policy Requirements: Completed as requested;

**7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's CommentsThe list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including consultation dates, is provided

**8 Annexes**

**Annex A: Financing Tables**

**8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments
**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments
**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
**SCCF A (SIDS)?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
**SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
**8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments
**8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments
**Annex B: Endorsements**

**8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country?s(ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's Comments
**8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
**Annex C: Project Location**

**8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project?s intended location?**

Secretariat's Comments
5/4/2026

Yes.

1/8/2026

No.

Please include a map and georeferences for Rocuant?Andali?n Wetland System. In addition, where will the mainstreaming and restoration activities take place?

Agency's CommentsPreliminary georeferenced information has been included for the project sites. For Isla Quinchao (Los Lagos Region), coordinates are provided (e.g., -42.46913, -73.51465; S 42?28'09" / W 73?30'53"), as shown in the attached reference image. The corresponding web links to the mapping sources are annexed for verification and consultation.

**Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating**

**8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?**

Secretariat's Comments
6/12/2026

Yes.

6/12/2026

No.

o CAF attached Social and Environmental Screening Form has not been completed yet. Please provide a complete screening document including 1) who prepared the screening form, 2) date of preparation, and 3) comment.

o Please clarify the project will obtain FPIC for project design from Indigenous Peoples during PPG and throughout project implementation.

5/4/2026

No.

o Please provide a complete screening document including 1) who prepared the screening form, 2) date of preparation, and 3) comment.

o Please clarify the project will obtain FPIC for project design from Indigenous Peoples during PPG and throughout project implementation.

1/8/2026

No.

1. We note that CAF attached Social and Environmental Screening Form, and an overall ESS risk is classified as Low. However, the screening document has not been completed yet.

1. Please provide a complete screening document including 1) who prepared the screening form, 2) date of preparation, and 3) comment, and clarify development of environmental and social management plan or other actions during PPG.

2. Please clarify how the project will ensure FPIC for project design and project implementation from Indigenous Peoples during PPG.

3. Please consider recognizing and integrating traditional and local knowledge and indigenous governance into project design particularly in Component 1, 2 and 3.

Agency's CommentsIn line with the Secretariat?s suggestions and the project context, we have revised this section of the PIF and updated the stakeholder consultation checkboxes

accordingly. Following a review of the documented consultations (including names, dates, and stakeholder type), the selections now reflect only those stakeholder groups that were effectively consulted during the project identification phase, and the remaining engagements will be addressed through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (and FPIC procedures, as applicable) during PPG. As a result, the stakeholder tags/checkboxes are now correctly marked.

**Annex E: Rio Markers**

**8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?**

Secretariat's Comments
6/12/2026

Yes.

During PPG, if the project can provide a justification on how project design has been shaped by CCA considerations including the Rio Marker for this would be welcome.

5/4/2026

No. There is not justification for CCA 1. Adaptation is mentioned only once in the project text. Counting mentions is not the metric to use but shows how the project was designed.

1/8/2026

No. BD should be 2, but there is not enough information to justify the other choices at this time.

Agency's CommentsDuly Noted. Following a review of the project rationale and results framework, the CCA 1 classification has been removed. The project is now reported exclusively under BD-2, consistent with its biodiversity-focused objectives and outcomes.

**Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet**

**8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?**

Secretariat's Comments
1/8/2026

Yes.

Agency's CommentsThank you. We acknowledge the Secretariat?s confirmation that the project has been properly tagged with the appropriate keywords.

**Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes**

**8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's CommentsNot applicable. This project does not include NGI or concessional/non-grant instruments; therefore, an indicative term sheet, reflow table, and eligibility assessment for administering concessional finance are not required.

**9 GEFSEC Decision**

**9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?**

Secretariat's Comments
6/16/2026

Yes.

6/12/2026

No. Please address the request on stakeholders that was not addressed previously.

5/4/2026

No. Please revise and resubmit.

1/8/2026

Not at this time. Please revise and resubmit.

Agency's CommentsReceived with thanks. We will revise the PIF/PPG accordingly and resubmit as requested.

**9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval**

Secretariat's Comments

1. Given the required engagement with other ministries we expect to see substantial co-financing contributions from those ministries particularly in the areas of water treatment and management.
2. In the PPG phase where a detailed gender analysis is expected to be conducted, and a Gender Action Plan developed, please elaborate on what the terms "a gender and indigenous people perspective" or "gender and indigenous people sensitive..." "gender-

responsive" mean in terms of outputs and activities. Please ensure that in the development of the results framework, gender-specific indicators are included to facilitate monitoring and reporting. In the development of the Gender Action Plan, please indicate measures to facilitate and support its implementation (e.g., budgets, staff support, regular monitoring, adaptive management, etc.). Under M&E, please make a reference to include in PIRs, MTRs and TE, reports on gender-specific results, including the implementation of the Gender Action Plan

For all future projects, please leave the full response history to comments and provide dates as is done with GEF Sec comments. It is hard to understand if responses are for the latest set of comments without that.

## Agency's Comments

The Secretariat?s guidance has been fully taken on board. The revised PIF moves beyond general wording and translates ?gender-responsive? and ?Indigenous Peoples?inclusive/sensitive? commitments into concrete results within the project logic (outcomes, outputs, and implementation arrangements), while ensuring that these considerations will be further operationalized during the PPG phase through a detailed gender analysis and a Gender Action Plan (GAP).

This is reflected, for example, in Component 1, where Outcome 1.1 explicitly commits to improved governance ?with a gender-responsive and Indigenous Peoples-inclusive approach,? and Output 1.1.1 specifies the establishment/strengthening of multi?stakeholder convergence mechanisms designed to build consensus on wetland and migratory bird conservation using a gender- and Indigenous?responsive approach. Likewise, Component 2 frames the conservation economy through Outcome 2.2 and Output 2.2.1, which require an inclusive tourism strategy developed with a gender and Indigenous perspective?turning inclusion into a verifiable deliverable rather than a narrative statement.

During PPG and prior to CEO endorsement/approval, the project will further specify what ?gender-responsive? means in practice by embedding gender-specific indicators in the results framework, defining clear responsibilities, budgets, and staff support for GAP implementation, and establishing regular monitoring and adaptive management measures. Gender-related results and GAP implementation progress will be explicitly reported through the project?s M&E system, including in PIRs, the MTR, and the TE.

**Review Dates**

| | PIF Review | Agency Response |
|---|---|---|
| **First Review** | | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | | |