

Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10866

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Countries

Argentina

Agency(ies)

CAF

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing Partner Type

GEF Focal Area

Land Degradation

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Productivity, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Pasture Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Fire Management, Drought Mitigation, Sustainable Livelihoods, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Communications, Stakeholders, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Local Communities, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation

Sector

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

236,104.00

Submission Date

9/14/2021

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-1-1	GET	650,667.00	6,158,029.00
LD-1-2	GET	650,666.00	6,160,526.00
LD-1-4	GET	650,664.00	6,160,526.00
LD-2-5	GET	671,380.00	6,492,651.00
	Total Project Cost (\$)	2,623,377.00	24,971,732.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To strengthen the territorial implementation of actions that simultaneously increasing climate resilience and improving productivity, guaranteeing social equity and environmental quality in forestry and agri-food systems in 3 water basins of the Argentine Republic.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
1. Strengthening comprehensive land management governance within a LDN framework and in synergy with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Consolidation of the institutional political structure in charge of land-use planning and management at national and sub-national level, within a LDN framework and in synergy with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>1.1.1 Number of regulatory proposals ready to be submitted to legislative bodies for approval and/or updating.</p> <p>Target: At least three (3) proposals (one per province)</p> <p>1.1.2 Actions and contributions agreed upon in six identified</p>	<p>1.1.1 Provincial and local regulatory framework linked to land-use planning and management developed and/or updated with LDN and climate change concepts</p> <p>1.1.2 Strengthened participation mechanisms for the co-production and advice to comprehensive land management in multi-stakeholder spaces (national, interjurisdictional and Provincial inter-institutional), within a LDN framework and in synergy with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change</p> <p>1.1.3 Provincial Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAP in its Spanish acronym) for the provinces of Entre Ríos and Santiago del Estero are drafted as instruments for the environmental management of the territory with a focus on LDN</p>	GET	416,803.00	5,618,259.00

<p>multi-stakeholder spaces (CAN, ONDTyD, Salí-Dulce River Basin Committee, Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River Basin Committee, PIECAS-DP, and DP RAMSAR Site Management Committee)</p>	<p>and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and the implementation of Tucumán's PAP is supported</p>
<p>Target: at least ten (10) actions agreed within multi-stakeholders spaces</p>	<p>1.2.1 Design and implementation of a Communication Strategy (CS) that improves the population's access to quality information regarding LD, LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change</p>
<p>1.1.3 Provincial multisectorial meetings for the preparation of PAPs in the provinces of Entre Ríos and Santiago del Estero, and for the implementation of Tucuman's PAP</p>	<p>1.2.2 Professionals and technicians who intervene in the territories and the community in general, trained in LD, LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change</p>
<p>Target: at least six (6) multisectorial meetings</p>	<p>1.2.3 Institutional/organizational arrangements reflecting the incorporation of LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change into the integral management of lands in the 3 provinces</p>
<p>1.2 Development of local capacities promoting community appropriation of the concepts of LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; technical assistance;</p>	<p>1.3.1 Definition of baselines and zoning for LDN and its monitoring</p>
	<p>1.3.2 Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems developed and articulated in partnership with the private sector, INTA, the ONDTyD and research centers to provide timely and reliable advice to farmers</p>

intersectoral
articulation; and
knowledge dialogue

Indicator:

1.2.1 Proportion of the
target population
reached by
communication
actions

Target: no less than
50%

1.2.2 Proportion of
target audience
participating in training
activities

Target: no less than
25%

1.2.3 Number of
modifications,
adjustments and
incorporations in the
organizational
structures of the
institutions/organiza-
tions involved

Target: at least (3)
institutional
organizational
arrangements

1.3 Strengthened
active policies in
science, technology
and innovation, and
knowledge
management

1.3.3 Research lines for
technological innovation for
sustainable production incorporated
into public and private projects

regarding LD, LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change

Indicator:

1.3.1 Number of hectares categorized and monitored by type of land

Target: At least 15% of the intervention hectares

1.3.2 Number of multi-hazard early warning systems put in place/strengthened

Target: at least three (3) EWSs

1.3.3 Number of public and private projects that incorporate lines for technological innovations

Target: at least six (6) projects

2.1 Increased resilience of ecosystems affected by LD to climate variability and extreme weather events

Indicator:

2.1.1. Area of forest restored (hectares)

Target: 21.011 hectares

2.1.2 Number of investment plans in green infrastructure and sustainable mechanization

Target: no less than three (3) plans

2.1.3 Community-Based Adaptation principles applied, identifying and executing adaptation measures that reduce the community's vulnerability to climate change

Target: at least one (1) community per province

2.2 Improvement of land productivity and ecosystem service provision in the intervention watersheds, contributing to the improvement of the population's quality of life

Indicator:

2.2.1 Area of production systems under sustainable land management (hectares)

Target: 78.449 hectares

2.2.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored (hectares)

Target: 15.805 hectares

2.2.2 Number of EbA measures identified, prioritized, implemented and articulated with planning policies

Target: no less than one (1) measures per protected area

3.1 Innovative financial mechanisms designed and implemented

Indicator:

3.1.1 New public and private participants brought to the table, with specific commitments within the Resource Mobilization Strategy,

classified by
jurisdiction
(national/subnational)

Target: no less than
ten (10) new
participants

3.1.2 Number of
economic instruments
for

the promotion of
productive activities
aligned with LDN and
climate change
resilience guidelines

Target: at least one (1)

3.1.3 Number, gender
and type of
beneficiaries that go to
market within
sustainable production
models

Target: at least 1000
beneficiaries (of which
50% women)

2. Sustainable management actions in forest and agri-food systems that contribute to LDN and to increase the resilience to impacts of climate change	Investment	2.1 Increased resilience of ecosystems affected by LD to climate variability and extreme weather events	2.1.1 Integration of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) measures into land use planning systems to avoid, reduce and reverse LD	GET	1,885,405.00	16,231,626.00
		Indicator: 2.1.1. Area of forest restored (hectares)	2.1.2 Design and execution of investment plans (e.g. green infrastructure, sustainable mechanization)			

Target: 21.011
hectares

2.1.2 Number of
investment plans in
green infrastructure
and sustainable
mechanization

Target: no less than
three (3) plans

2.1.3 Community-
Based Adaptation
principles applied,
identifying and
executing adaptation
measures that reduce
the community's
vulnerability to climate
change

Target: at least one (1)
community per
province

2.2 Improvement of
land productivity and
ecosystem service
provision in the
intervention
watersheds,
contributing to the
improvement of the
population's quality of
life

Indicator:

2.2.1 Area of
production systems
under sustainable land

2.1.3 Execution of Community-based
Adaptation (CbA) actions in native
forests, wetlands and natural
grasslands with significant carbon
contents, guaranteeing care for
vulnerable population

2.2.1 Implementation of SLM in agri-
food systems, integrated into land
use planning systems

2.2.2 Execution of Ecosystem-based
Adaptation (EbA) actions in
protected natural areas

management
(hectares)

Target: 78.449
hectares

2.2.1 Area of degraded
agricultural land
restored (hectares)

Target: 15.805
hectares

2.2.2 Number of EbA
measures identified,
prioritized,
implemented and
articulated with
planning policies

Target: no less than
one (1) measures per
protected area

3. Development and implementation of innovative finance and mobilization of resources for the sustainability of the intervention	Technical Assistance	3.1 Innovative financial mechanisms designed and implemented Indicator: 3.1.1 New public and private participants brought to the table, with specific commitments within the Resource Mobilization Strategy, classified by jurisdiction (national/subnational)	3.1.1 Resource Mobilization Strategy designed and implemented 3.1.2 At least one incentive mechanism developed and available to producers 3.1.3 Promotion of markets that integrate the entire value chain of sustainable local production models	GET	196,246.00	1,748,021.00
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Target: no less than ten (10) new participants

3.1.2 Number of economic instruments for the promotion of productive activities aligned with LDN and climate change resilience guidelines

Target: at least one (1)

3.1.3 Number, gender and type of beneficiaries that go to market within sustainable production models

Target: at least 1000 beneficiaries (of which 50% women)

	Sub Total (\$)	2,498,454.00	23,597,906.00
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Project Management Cost (PMC)			
	GET	124,923.00	1,373,826.00
	Sub Total(\$)	124,923.00	1,373,826.00
	Total Project Cost(\$)	2,623,377.00	24,971,732.00

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (MAyDS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,047,877.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (MAyDS)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2,821,253.00
Recipient Country Government	MAyDS - Administración de Parques Nacionales (APN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	715,338.00
Recipient Country Government	MAyDS – Servicio Nacional de Manejo del Fuego – (SNMF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	870,833.00
Recipient Country Government	MAyDS – Servicio Nacional de Manejo del Fuego – (SNMF)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2,750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca (MAGyP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,858,351.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca (MAGyP)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,673,556.00
Recipient Country Government	MAGyP - Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria – (INTA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,628,204.00
Recipient Country Government	MAGyP - Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria – (INTA)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,720,119.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio de Obras - Instituto Nacional del Agua (INA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	27,221.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministerio de Obras - Instituto Nacional del Agua (INA)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	110,425.00

Recipient Country Government	Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos – Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas – (INAI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	114,797.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of the Province of Tucumán	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	349,044.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of the Province of Santiago del Estero	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,073,622.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of the Province of Entre Ríos	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,211,092.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	24,971,732.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS in its Spanish acronym) provides co-financing funds 1) through its Secretary of Environmental Policy for Natural Resources, in: 1.a) conducting environmental planning (Incorporation of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land Management in development planning; UNDP ARG 19/G24); and 1.b) conducting environmental protection of native forests (National Program for the Protection of Native Forests; National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests, FNECBN in its Spanish acronym; Native Forests and Community, IBRD 8493-AR & UNDP ARG/15/004; Cooperative Fund for Forest Carbon, IBRD TF019086; National Plan for the Management of Forests with Integrated Grazing, PNMBGI in its Spanish acronym); inter-institutional articulation agreement between MAyDS and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing, MAGyP in its Spanish acronym; exp. 0008734/2015 Conv. 32/2015; National Program for the Restoration of Native Forests, SAyDS Resolution 267-2019; Comprehensive Community Plans, PICs in its Spanish acronym, for indigenous and peasant communities and sustainable forest management at the basin level); 2) through its Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation, in: 2.a) support for the implementation of national contributions on sustainable development and climate change (UNDP ARG/19/007); 2.b) implementation of the Law of Minimum Budgets for Adaptation and Mitigation to Global Climate Change, Law 27520; and 2.c) support for the design of the National Adaptation Plan (UNDP ARG/19/003); 3) through its Interjurisdictional and Interinstitutional deputy Undersecretary, conducting interjurisdictional and interinstitutional coordination and the development of social and territorial policies. The counterpart contribution in mobilized investment for the 4 years of the project will be US \$ 2,821,253. The National Fire Management Service (SNMF in its Spanish acronym; Law 26,815) is an independent agency under the MAyDS in charge of coordinating the resources required to fight forest, rural and interface wildfires. The SNMF is responsible for coordinating the federal Fire Management System, made up of the SNMF itself, the National Parks Administration, the provinces, and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. In 2021, with the creation of a trust funded with an aliquot of three per thousand of insurance policies, with the exception of those of the life branch, the financing of the SNMF's National Fire Management Fund amounts to 3 billion pesos. The counterpart contribution in mobilized investment for the 4 years of the project will be US \$ 2,750,000. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP) provides co-financing 1) from the "Program of policies for increasing production and productivity in agroindustrial chains in a sustainable way", which seeks to plan and execute public policies related to the agricultural sectors, livestock, dairy and fishing, seeking the proper balance between productivity, sustainability and territorial distribution, through: the regime for the recovery, promotion and development of goat activity (Law No. 26,141); the regime for the promotion of bovine livestock in arid and semi-arid zones (Law No. 27,066); the

regime for the promotion of investments in cultivated forests (Law No. 25,080); the National Program of Environmental Sustainability and Insurance (PROSAS in its Spanish acronym); the Algarrobo National Plan (PNA in its Spanish acronym); its Industrial Forestry Development Plan; the Forest Sustainability and Competitiveness project (IDB 2853-AR); the program Productive Reconversion for the Agricultural SME (Rural Change); actions for the industrial forestry development plan; 2) from the "Policy Formulation Program for Family Agriculture and Productive Development" of its Secretariat of Family, Peasant and Indigenous Agriculture, which aims to strengthen the role of peasant and indigenous family agriculture by promoting tools that facilitate life and production systems that preserve biodiversity and sustain productive transformation processes; its contribution to food security and sovereignty in compliance to Law N ° 27,118: socio-economic inclusion in rural areas (PISEAR; IBRD 8093-AR); its program for economic insertion of small producers in the value chains of northern Argentina (FID 642-AR); and through the formulation of policies for the development of family agriculture and territorial development; and 3) from the "Productive Infrastructure and Agricultural Services" program whose primary objective is to develop regional economies with a focus on small-scale rural producers, mainly through investment in infrastructure, for which it develops projects, both at the national and provincial level, and both in the public sphere and supporting private initiatives. The counterpart contribution for the 4 years of the project will be US \$ 1,673,556. The National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) will carry out activities of research, development and planning; extension and transfer; and information and communication technologies. The counterpart contribution for the 4 years of the project will be US \$ 1,720,119. The National Water Institute (INA) will accompany the execution of this project with research, development and provision of services in water resources, taking into account the watershed approach. The counterpart contribution for the 4 years of the project will be US \$ 110,425. In the PPG stage, new co-financing could be included, such as from the Ministry of Productive Development; the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security; National Directorate of Roads; Provincial Road Services; universities and private equity partners, among others.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
CAF	GET	Argentina	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,623,377	236,104	2,859,481.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					2,623,377.00	236,104.00	2,859,481.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

91,743

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

8,257

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
CAF	GET	Argentina	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	91,743	8,257	100,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					91,743.00	8,257.00	100,000.00

Core Indicators

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
249,850.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
249,850.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Parque Nacional Islas de Santa Fé	555577542	National Park	4,096.00						
Parque Nacional Pre Delta	97554	National Park	2,608.00						
Sitio Ramsar Delta del Paraná	555624186	Others	243,146.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
36816.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
15,805.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
21,011.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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

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)
78449.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
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78,449.00

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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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 ₂ e (direct)	7151.507	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	7,151.507			

Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	
Anticipated start year of accounting	2023
Duration of accounting	24

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 ₂ e (direct)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)
Anticipated start year of accounting
Duration of accounting

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

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

Target Energy Saved
(MJ)

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	6,366			
Male	6,228			
Total	12594	0	0	0

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

Achieving the expected objective in Core Indicator 1, and therefore strengthening management effectiveness in the involved PAs, will enable contributions to Aichi Targets 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, and 20, or to equivalent CBD post-Aichi targets. Regarding the goals that are expected to be achieved in the Core Indicators in the PIF, they were defined as follows: Core Indicator 1, the number of hectares is the total number of the area correspond to the sum of the Ramsar Site and Pre Delta and Santa Fé Islands National Parks; Core Indicator 3, the expected hectares to be restored at PIF stage where estimated on the 5% of the total of the forest and agri-food systems areas selected for the three watersheds; Core Indicator 4, the expected hectares of landscapes under improved practices at PIF stage where estimated on the 10% of the total of the production systems areas selected for the three watersheds; Core Indicator 6, was estimated based on data from the National Action Plan for Forests and Climate Change elaborated by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in 2017. The Plan seeks to understand the current state of the country's native forests and outline a scenario for its development to the year 2030. To do this, in the first place, establishes a series of strategic axes and measures and actions aimed at reducing deforestation and degradation of native forests, and promoting their restoration and recovery. Second, it delineates the path to implement mitigation measures proposals to reduce GHG emissions from the sector. Based on the total emissions corresponding to Argentina for 2014, the percentage contributed by the native forest sector is estimated, due to deforestation, burning and changes in biomass as 57,4 MtCO₂e corresponding to 185.606 ha. Then, Core Indicator 6 is estimated from a conservative value of approximately 1,5% of the total hectares of the interventions sites of the project under restoration or under improve sustainable practices in forest and agri-food systems, contributing to carbon sequestration and/or emissions avoided for at least twenty years. Reinforcing this analysis, information was crossed with the MAGyP resolution (RESOL-2020-116-APN-SAGYP#MAGYP) which establishes the costs of implantation and silvicultural treatments annually. Core Indicator 11 value was defined from the population data of the National Population and Housing Census of 2010 (CENSO 2010 by its Spanish acronyms). Out of the total population that inhabits the localities that are in the intervention sites of the three (3) selected water basins, it is estimated that 5% will be direct beneficiaries of the project. These beneficiaries are 48,9% male and 51,1% female.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) Environmental and/or global adaptation problems. Root causes and barriers to be addressed (system description)

1.1 National context

Argentina is the second largest country in South America and the eighth in the world with just over 2.7 million km² of continental surface and a large latitudinal range, which is expressed territorially in 18 varied ecoregions that include Antarctic environments, tropical forests, arid and semi-arid ecosystems, steppes and temperate grasslands. The heterogeneity in terms of availability of resources correlates with the productive structure of the country, with the insertion of different export sectors (particularly the agri-food sector) in global and regional value chains as a highlight. Thus, the subnational geographic, climatic, demographic and institutional circumstances explain the main economic activities and their territorial ordering (MAyDS, 2020a).

Availability of these resources, their use and distribution, and the benefits they provide, is particularly conditioned by different processes of land degradation, and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

According to data from the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAN in its Spanish acronym, 2019), 40% of the Argentine continental territory (100 million hectares) is affected by different processes of land degradation (LD). This is evident both in agricultural areas of the humid and sub-humid region, and in the semi-arid and arid zone populated with native dry forests and grasslands, which advances at a pace of almost two million hectares per year.

Some of the main driving causes of LD are: industrial development; urban expansion; changes in land use and the lack of sustainable forest management, overgrazing, and inadequate management of agriculture and livestock; unsustainable management of water for irrigation; extreme rainfall or droughts; anthropic activities using unsustainable techniques such as continuous tillage of agricultural lands; deforestation to advance the agricultural frontier, simplification of crop rotation; and grassland fires.

These processes also cause an increase in the vulnerability of ecosystems and the population to climate change, which occurs through variations in temperature and rainfall. In most of the non-Patagonian Argentine Republic, there is an increase in the average temperature of around 0.5 °C during the period 1960-2010 and of more than 1 °C in maximum temperature in various areas of Patagonia. On the other hand, based on the information reflected in the 2019 National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan, for the period 1960-2010, increases in average annual rainfall were observed for most of the

Argentine territory; being the most significant percentage increases in semi-arid areas. This change brought important consequences in the water balance and hydrology of the region. The impacts of LD, deepened by the effects of climate change, end up being evidenced in the decrease in the productive capacity of agricultural systems; the decrease in the delivery of forest and wetland ecosystem services (provision, support, regulation and cultural) and an increase in the vulnerability of ecosystems and the population to climate change.

These consequences, in turn, have a stronger impact in the context of a pandemic outbreak. In this sense, Argentina is not exempt from redoubling efforts to provide responses to the health situation and, simultaneously, join the post-pandemic global reconstruction effort by reaffirming its commitments assumed in the UNCCD, the UNFCCC and the CBD, and contributing to their objectives in an ambitious way and in the shortest possible time.

1.2 Context of subnational and intervention sites

Taking into account the different territorial realities that occur in the country, intervention areas are selected in three representative dry and sub-humid watersheds, in which the existence of specific, but widespread LD processes are known. These sites are the Upper Salí-Dulce River Basin (Province of Tucumán); the middle basin of the Paraná River, the Paraná Delta (Entre Ríos Province); and the middle basin of the Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River (Santiago del Estero Province).

Salí - Dulce River Basin (Province of Tucumán): it is an interjurisdictional basin that extends over the territory of the provinces of Catamarca, Salta, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero and Córdoba. It covers about 57,000 km² and approximately 2.5 million people live there. In this project, the sub-basin of the Salí River (upper region) will be addressed, in the area located in Tucumán province corresponding to the region of the semi-arid Chaco (PAN, 2019).

In this area, three economic development zones coexist:

- 1) The one with the highest development, which includes three production cores. These are fruit and vegetable production, which extends from the capital's area of influence to the department of Famaillá; the sugar mill area, which runs along the central corridor where most of the sugar mills are located; and the lemon tree area, territorially associated with the departments of Capital, Tafí Viejo, Cruz Alta and specific areas in the departments of Famaillá and Burruyacú.
- 2) A medium-development zone characterized by less intense agro-industrial integration processes and dairy production.
- 3) The zone with the greatest primarization of the economy, made up of a grain production area in an eastern provincial strip, as well as the far north and mountainous areas to the west.

The area of the Salí-Dulce Basin is 70% in a critical environmental condition and in a process of degradation, while the remaining 30% is vulnerable territory. Its evaluation showed that the east-south region of the province shows important signs of degradation such as increased soil erosion, decreased fertility, reduced biodiversity, and contamination of water resources, negative balances of nutrients and carbon, and desertification in marginal areas. This is reflected in the Provincial Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation for Tucumán province (PAP in its Spanish acronym, 2021), where Serious and Very Serious threats are evidenced for this region.

These agroecosystems of depressed saline plains and Chaco-Pampean plains lack precise land use regulations and norms on productive practices that would guarantee their sustainability. The regulatory areas in which the province of Tucumán presents significant deficiencies is in relation to land use planning within its rural landscape. The only instrument related to this issue is the Law N° 8304 which concerns exclusively limited areas with presence of native forest. For the rest of the agro-ecosystems, like valleys and pockets with irrigated agriculture, depressed plain, Chaco-Pampean plain, Yungas foothills, rural-urban interface areas, etc., there are no precise regulations for land use and productive practices that would guarantee the sustainability of the agro-ecosystems.

For this reason, the Tucumán PAP, through the Multisectoral Committee (MSC), identifies the need for land use planning and control of desertification and land degradation plans for the defined ecoregions, an activity to which this project can contribute substantially.

Middle Paraná River Basin - Paraná Delta (Entre Ríos Province): This area corresponds to the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use in the Paraná Delta (PIECAS-DP) territory, with a total area of 2,300,326 ha (364,232 ha to the province of Buenos Aires, 1,757,500 ha to the province of Entre Ríos and 178,594 ha to the province of Santa Fe). The Paraná Delta, due to its location adjacent to the sector with the highest population density in the country and due to its essential functions as a highly complex wetland, is an important provider of environmental services that make for the quality of life, safety and health of more of fifteen million people. The territory is formed by a portion of islands of the Paraná River in its middle section, from the cities of Paraná and Santa Fe to the south, and the Paraná River Delta, including the upper, middle and lower delta. For this project, the area corresponding to the province of Entre Ríos in the upper Delta is selected, mainly the Diamante department, where land degradation processes converge with important areas destined for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources delimited in national parks and a RAMSAR site.

The Paraná Delta constitutes an extensive mosaic of wetlands with unique ecological characteristics. It has high environmental heterogeneity and provides a wide variety of habitats for biological diversity and ecosystem services, such as the provision and improvement of water quality, flood regulation, erosion control, flood protection, food provision and retention carbon and sediment, among others.

These ecosystem services are strongly threaten by both human activities and natural events. The delta of the Paraná River has suffered recurrent fire episodes in recent decades, especially in 2008 and 2012. In 2020, fires returned to a significant extent. The area affected by fires between January and September 2020 was 328,995 ha, which represents 14.3% of the total PIECAS-DP territory. 86% of the burned area is concentrated in the province of Entre Ríos.

The region is going through a context of historical low volume in the Paraná River. The lack of rainfall (extraordinary drought) in the Plata Basin and in the delta in particular, added to the occurrence of winter frosts that dried up the biomass generating a large amount of combustible material generate favorable conditions for fires. However, the onset of fires is highly probable of anthropic origin, due to management practices of natural pastures for cattle forage (burning for regrowth), irregular hunting activities, recreational activities and vandalism.

Other problems that the area presents are linked to the lack of productive diversity that, since the mid-1980s, has been mainly concentrated in forestry, fishing, livestock, beekeeping and tourism. The advance of humid pampa crops, supported by high profitability, puts pressure on the region and has prompted the construction of numerous illegal embankments and pipelines for the development of intensive agriculture, which represents a strong environmental risk. Likewise, many small and medium-sized producers are affected by the modification of water bodies and the hydrological regime in general. The increase in the number of animals in the islands can lead to contamination of water, air and soil, degradation and impoverishment of pastures and displacement of native fauna.

In this context, PIECAS-DP recommends moving forward with interjurisdictionally agreed guidelines for the environmental planning of the territory, which regulate the development of productive activities, maintaining degrees of human intervention at levels compatible with the maintenance of the functions and ecosystem services of these wetlands.

Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River Basin (Santiago del Estero Province): The Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River comprises an important river system that develops over a length of 1,500 km, from the northwestern limit of the country to its mouth in the river Paraná, in front of the city of Santa Fe. Its contribution basin found mainly in the provinces of Salta, Santiago del Estero and Santa Fe and, to a lesser extent, the provinces of Catamarca and Tucumán. Within the province of Santiago del Estero, the Salado River runs within a uniform general course, with a straight channel of 530 km in length. For the project, an area to the northwest of the province is defined where the river enters from Salta.

Given the arid or semi-arid conditions for a large part of the provincial territory of Santiago del Estero, productive activities, especially agricultural activities and demographic growth, have been developed in areas where the availability of water is more abundant and it is regularly distributed (area of influence of the Dulce and Salado rivers). Both rivers have salinization problems. Forestry, livestock and agriculture are the most important productive activities in the province, within five productive regions: the forestry-livestock zone, which extends to the northeast of the province; the rainfed agriculture zone, which occupies the northwest; the mixed agricultural-livestock zone, which covers the southwest; the area of intensive agriculture under irrigation that occupies the center; and two livestock areas, which comprise the south and southeast of the province.

In the last quarter of a century, soybeans have had an unprecedented evolution, with sustained increase. In the province, the area devoted to this crop increased significantly between 1988 and 2003, ranking among the five provinces of Argentina with the highest production of this oilseed. This increase in the rate of production is produced mainly through the increase in area sown and, to a much lesser extent, to the incorporation of technologies. The greatest

increase in cultivated area during the period 1988-2003 occurred in the Northeastern departments of the province. However, during the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 campaigns, there is a marked growth in the provision of land for this crop in the central and eastern part of the province (INDEC, 2002; Moscuza et al., 2005).

The expansion of the agricultural frontier is led by the cultivation of soybeans, and accompanied by corn,, wheat and to a lesser extent cotton. This process, whose main protagonists are businessmen from other provinces (especially Santa Fe and Cordoba) and other countries, has generated a very high pressure on the ecosystems existing in the province and consequently on the local population.

With regard to livestock production, Santiago del Estero is the province with the highest development of this activity in the northwestern region of Argentina, with 50% of the regional livestock headcount, and presents the best rearing potential after the Pampas region.

The decrease in forest heritage, as well as the irrationality observed in the use of the territory due to the expansion of the agricultural frontier, suggest that the overexploitation of natural resources is the most important environmental problem.

1.3 Root causes and stakeholders involvement

In spite of the common main root causes for land degradation in Argentina, which includes both human activities and natural events, for each project site it is possible to find specific threats associated to its own territorial reality.

In Salí - Dulce River Basin (Tucumán province) the root causes of land degradation are primarily results of human activities like industrial development, agricultural exploitation and urban expansion. Underlies these activities the use of inappropriate technologies that generate deterioration of ecosystems; the scarce knowledge, awareness and commitment of social actors and public organizations; the absence of public policies that guarantee community participation and the strengthening of governance; as well as the lack of monitoring and technical support of the actions initiated within the framework of programs implemented by government agencies. In this sense, the Multisectoral Committee, responsible of the elaboration of the Provincial Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation establishes the need of a more precise regulation, added to the strengthening of the enforcement capacities of the entities that act as law enforcement authority.

The Ministry of Productive Development of Tucuman, National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA in its Spanish acronym), National University of Tucuman, indigenous communities, and small producer cooperatives integrate the Multisectoral Committee. However, it is important that this Committee articulates with the Salí Dulce River Basin Interjurisdictional Committee in order to integrate actions and optimize financial resources within the framework of

the PAP and the Management Plan of Salí Dulce Basin.

In Middle Paraná River Basin - Paraná Delta (Entre Ríos Province), the root causes of land degradation are extreme weather and climate events, unsustainable agricultural/livestock management, deforestation, agricultural use of fire and agricultural intensification.

In the islands of the Paraná Delta, fire has been a tool used systematically for the removal of vegetation with little or no forage value. This practice is carried out on land destined for livestock rearing, mainly at the end of winter, to favor the regrowth of tender grasses with greater palatability. These practices often lead to uncontrolled fires. The number of fire starts, added to the conditions of drought recorded for the years 2008, 2012 and 2020, determined the unleashing of fires of significant intensity and extension. The described scenario motivated in 2008 the intervention of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation through the Fire Management National Service in articulation with Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos and Santa Fé provinces, INTA, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries of the Nation, National Park Administration and National Water Institute. This interinstitutional articulation allowed the identification of coincidences and minimal consensus regarding the opportunity and convenience of moving forward towards the definition of a regional plan, the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use in the Paraná Delta (PIECAS-DP). A High Level Interjurisdictional Committee conducts this Plan.

Another material theme is the identification of a relatively recent phenomenon by means of which the perception of the territory that makes up the PIECAS-DP has changed. This means going from the precedent view that identified it as a marginal area, with severe limitations, to become an attractive space in which agricultural activities characteristic of the humid pampas biome can find fertile ground. These are being displaced from that central area, due to the generalization of others with greater profitability and greater inflows of foreign currency. This phenomenon is known as “pampeanization” of wetlands.

In Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River Basin (Santiago del Estero province), the root causes of land degradation are land use change, overgrazing, deforestation, unsustainable forest amangement, unsustainable agricultural/livestock management and excessive water irrigation.

Forestry, livestock and agriculture are the most important productive activities in the province, but in an analysis of the environmental and socioeconomic situation of the province, it is reveal that unsustainable agricultural and forestry activities have intensified the processes of environmental degradation and have had a negative influence on the economic and social development of the region. Unsustainable forest management has damaged 70% of productive forests. The agricultural area is currently six times greater than it was twenty-five years ago, while the livestock headcount has not changed significantly in that period. Environmental deterioration in productive areas is mainly due to overexploitation of forests, inadequate management of agriculture and livestock, and unsustainable management of water for irrigation (Moscuzza et al., 2005).

The advance of the crops of the humid pampas, supported by their high profitability, puts pressure on the region and has prompted the construction of numerous illegal embankments and canalizations for the development of intensive agriculture. Small and medium-sized producers are harmed by the modification of the bodies of water and the hydrological regime in general.

1.4 Long-term solutions and current existing barriers

The present project aims to contribute to enhanced national and subnational institutional capacity for the incorporation of Land Degradation Neutrality in strategies, policies and governance in synergy with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. In addition, the intervention will contribute to Argentina's voluntary LDN targets and NDC voluntary commitments to promote resilient socioecosystems, food security and enhanced quality of life in a framework of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

This could be achieved if the barriers that currently exist can be overcome. These barriers are:

Barrier 1: Weak and uncoordinated planning and oversight of land use at landscape scale

The issue of desertification, land degradation and drought, with the incorporation of the LDN approach, must be approached in a comprehensive manner, therefore, the weak inter-institutional links that do not promote dialogue and the articulation of public policies, hinder the coordination of the actions and, consequently, their effective impact on the territory. Insufficient opportunities for inter-institutional and inter-sectorial exchange and, therefore, for debate, discussion and obtaining consensus for a comprehensive approach to the territory, generate gaps, overlap of actions and ineffective management of resources, and impede the design of specific public policies on land degradation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

It is necessary to deepen the dialogue and consensus between the ministries and national organizations, between the Nation and the provinces on public policies regarding the protection of natural resources associated with the land degradation desertification and drought problem. These dialogue difficulties prevent the development of consensus for the design and adoption of regulatory frameworks and planning and management instruments, leveraged with resources that strengthen their sustainability. At the sub-national level (provincial and local), the specific objectives and emergencies do not have defined and institutionally consolidated articulation spaces to join forces that tend to increase the resilience of the land and the inhabitants who depend on it. Finally, the lack of articulation is not exclusive to the government sector; it also arises between the public sector and the private sector, within the academic and scientific community and in different sectors of civil society.

Finally, the ineffective transfer of knowledge generated by the scientific-technical sector to the government sector at different levels has a direct impact on the design, implementation, monitoring and subsequent evaluation of LD-related public policies with an LDN approach. The public sector often urges decision-making that does not find technical/scientific support in the short term. The scarce articulation promotes that both spaces (government sector and science sector) end up operating according to their own objectives in a disconnected way and with partial approaches, which do not consider the establishment of clear goals and indicators contributing to mutual understanding and long-term monitoring.

Barrier 2: Inertia of the population to continue replicating unsustainable production, consumption and marketing practices

A factor that deserves to be highlighted for its potential influence on decision-making processes, is that for the vast majority of Inhabitants of 'tierra firme' (mainland) in the Rosario-La Plata Industrial Fluvial axis, it is not clear that the Paraná Delta Region is a wetland ecosystem, in fact one of the most important in the Argentine Republic, and that as such it supplies essential environmental services for the exercise of daily life and for human development to more than 15,000,000 people who live in its area of direct influence. This cultural factor maintains the historical idea according to which the region the Paraná Delta constitutes a marginal area, certainly wasted, that should be colonized and intervened both by productive undertakings and by urban settlements and their infrastructures.

Based on this widespread belief, attitudes and concrete actions keep being aligned within a frontier approach to wetlands, in which the existing ecosystem features are but an obstacle to overcome instead of assets to be preserved and sustainably used.

Barrier 3: Mismatch between terms and perceived costs and returns of needed actions (long term) and their financing (short and medium term, if any)

In the absence of adequate regulation and its enforcement, of easy access to state-of-the-art knowledge, and of financial mechanisms that would provide financial sustainability to responsible land uses, landscape actors are submitted to the short-termism and immediate profit mindset brought by capital not bound to the landscape and its requirements of short term benefits, which drives frontier expansion, mismanagement of water resources, the use of fire and other practices that have been identified as problematic above.

Furthermore, the lack of dedicated economic instruments means that, where the drive to transit to more sustainable practices exist, it is thwarted by the financial realities of short-term financial pressure and long-term financial benefits of these practices.

Once such instruments exist, they would generate a virtuous circle of results, money flows and knowledge that would sustain the project outcomes after its end.

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The baseline is made up of three categories of programs and resources, all of which represent Argentina's baseline effort to fight land degradation, desertification and drought and improve the resilience to climate change effects: A- Programs planned and financed within the framework of national environmental laws; B- National sectoral programs and C-Executed and ongoing projects.

These programs, projects and actions are already executed or were executed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Argentina Republic and by the institutions that are proposed as partners in the implementation of this project.

A) Programs planned and financed within the framework of national environmental laws:

Law 26,331 on Native Forests that establishes minimum standards for conservation and sustainable use and management of native forests and ecosystem services. The law established the National Fund for the Enrichment and Conservation of Native Forests which applies seventy percent (70%) to compensate the owners of the lands on whose surface native forests are conserved, whether public or private, according to their conservation categories; and b) thirty percent (30%) for institutional strengthening of National and Subnational native forests authorities. For Tucumán, Santiago del Estero y Entre Ríos provinces it is estimated for 2021 around US \$ 3,569,013.

National Plan for Native Forests Restoration of (PNRBN by its Spanish acronyms). Its objective is to reach twenty thousand hectares per year under restoration by 2030 and contribute to the National Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change. This Plan has antecedents of implementation in the south of Tucumán province and near Dulce River in Santiago del Estero province that is why this project is gonna to complement this interventions.

National Forest Management Plan with Integrated Livestock (MBGI by its Spanish acronyms) proposes achieve profitable production of meat and timber and non-timber products, in a compatible manner with the conservation of the native forest, its biodiversity and its ecosystem services, in a framework of environmental, economic and social sustainability. This Plan has antecedents of implementation in a few sites in Santiago del Estero province.

National Monitoring System for Native Forests provides up-to-date information on the country's native forest resources and allows monitoring the implementation of the Native Forest Law (Law No. 26,331), collaborating with compliance with the international agreements assumed by the country on climate change and providing information to society about the importance of native forests.

Other laws in direct relation to LD are Law 27,520 on Climate Change; Law 22,351 Parks, National Reserves and Natural Monuments; Law 23,919 Approves the Convention Relating to Wetlands; and Law 26,562 Minimum Budgets for Control of Burning Activities. These legal bodies provide the institutional and regulatory framework in which fight against land degradation and drought is currently being carried out by the Ministry and provincial partners.

Law 26,815 Creation of the Federal Fire Management System: establishes the minimum budgets of environmental protection in the matter of forest and rural fires in the scope of the national territory. Create the National Fire Management Service and the National Fire Management Fund. This 2021, constitution of the trust for the administration of the National Fire Management Fund The creation of the aforementioned trust increases the financing of the National Fire Management System (SNMF) by \$ 2,640 million, which is added to the 2021 national budget. The financing of this fund will be destined specifically to the acquisition of necessary goods and services; the hiring, training, and training of temporary personnel to act in the extinction of forest and rural fires; Infrastructure works necessary for better prevention, control and execution of the tasks related to the actions of the personnel.

Likewise, it will serve for the dissemination and knowledge of the causes and consequences of forest and rural fires; conducting courses, studies and research; Personnel expenses, general expenses and investments that the operation of the Federal Fire Management System demands, and to solve the logistics in the extinction of claims. This is very important for the interventions sites. Specifically for Delta del Paraná site where in the period between January to September 2020, 328,995 Ha were burned, representing approximately 14% of the PIECAS-DP territory; 86% of which correspond to Entre Ríos province.

B) National sectoral programs:

Ministry of Agriculture (MAGyP in its Spanish acronym) national programs: Formulation of Extensive and Intensive Agriculture Policies; Regime for the Promotion of Bovine Livestock in Arid and Semi-arid Zones Law 27.066; Sustainability and Forest Competitiveness (IDB 2853/OC-AR); Productive Reconversion for Agricultural SMEs (Rural Change); Regime for the Recovery, Promotion and Development of Goat Activity (Law 26,141); Regime for the Promotion of Investments in Cultivated Forests (Law 25,080); Formulation of Policies for the Agricultural Information System: Actions for the Industrial Forestry Development Plan; Socio-Economic Inclusion in Rural Areas - PISEAR (IBRD 8093-AR); Economic Insertion of Small Producers in the Value Chains of Northern Argentina - (IFAD 642-AR); Formulation of Policies for the Development of Family Farming and Territorial Development; Comprehensive Risk Management in the Rural Agroindustrial System - GIRSAR- (IBRD 8867-AR): Development of Agroproductive Areas (CABEI); Provincial Agricultural Services, IDB PROSAP V. US \$ 3,531,907 are the baseline during the 4 years of the project.

The National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA in its Spanish acronym), through its extension, research and development activities, will contribute a baseline of US \$ 6,348,323 million in the 4 years of the project. Its contribution to the project coincides with the diversity of its field of action, which ranges from the survey of environmental and productive indicators, research and a wide coverage capacity throughout the country for the transfer of technology.

To carry out the public policies and sectoral projects mentioned above within the framework of current legislation there exists solid national institutional base for fight LDDD providing a floor of inter-institutional articulation, and administration and coordination of resources. Institutions, bodies and instruments for the planning and management of the fight against LD: National Directorate of Planning and Environmental Management of the Territory (DNPYOAT in its Spanish acronym) is the administrative unit of the Argentine Government (MAyDS) responsible for the formulation and implementation of a national policy of promotion of environmental land use planning and of conservation and sustainable management of soils. In addition, it is the focal point for PAN and UNCCD; National Advisory Commission for the Fight against Desertification (CAN) is created by SAyDS (later MAyDS) Resolution 302/2003 to advise the Argentinean UNCCD Focal Point; the National Action Program to Combat desertification, land degradation and to mitigate drought (PAN) is updated to 2030 (Resolution SAyDS 70/2019); Provincial Action Programs to Fight Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (PAPs): currently the provinces of La Rioja and Tucumán have their PAPs, while Mendoza, Salta, San Juan and Catamarca are in advanced stages of elaboration; Multisectoral Committee to Fight Desertification, Drought and Land Degradation in the province of Tucumán (CMS Tucumán - 2017). PRAIS Reports and National Voluntary Goals for LDN: the National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification (ONDTyD in its Spanish acronym) is an inter-institutional network of organizations throughout the country, chaired by the Ministry of the Environment and led by a directive commission made up of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET in its Spanish acronym), the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA in its Spanish acronym), the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires and the Argentine Institute for Research in Arid Zones (IADIZA). National System for the Evaluation and Monitoring of Land Degradation and Desertification in Argentina: developed by the ONDTyD and Infodesert, it is a web platform designed for the publication of projects and activities related to soil conservation and the fight against desertification in Argentina, administered by and intended for technicians and academics. In spite of all of these national institutions and intersectoral advisory and research organisms, the subnational level (provincial and local), doesn't reflect the same. The LDDD continues to be a pending issue both in the institutional structure and with regard to budget allocation. This situation deepens the weak and uncoordinated planning and oversight of land use at landscape scale.

That is why, interjurisdictional, multilevel and multisectorial articulation in the intervention sites gets really important. The 3 basins selected for the execution of the project have intersectoral and interprovincial coordination bodies created 50 years ago in the case of the Salí-Dulce River and Pasaje-Juramento River Basin Committees, and more than 10 years ago for the High Level Interjurisdictional Committee of PIECAS - DP; which implies experience and local knowledge for the implementation of actions. These are the bodies in charge of carrying out the Management and/or Strategic Plans to achieve the sustainable development of the basins. Also in the Paraná Delta, the Intersectoral Committee for the Management of the Ramsar Site of the Paraná Delta, formed in 2017 as an advisory body to the administrators and authorities of the Site, is made up of institutions and organizations from the governmental and non-governmental realms.

Spaces for inter-institutional articulation and monitoring and evaluation systems at the national level, linked to the planning and management of the fight against LD: they function as operational support and political technical complement since it includes spaces for multisectoral participation that allow the articulation of the themes of the 3 Rio conventions in a context of federalism. These are: the Federal Council for the Environment (COFEMA in its Spanish acronym); the National Cabinet for Climate Change and the National Advisory Commission for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity

(CONADIBIO in its Spanish acronym). Likewise, some specific intersectoral spaces such as the National Technical Committee of the National Plan for the Management of Forests with Integrated Grazing (MBGI) - (CTN-MBGI) made up of technicians from MAYDS, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Nation and INTA.

Regarding monitoring and evaluation systems, Argentina has the Climate Change Risk Maps System (SIMARCC), an interactive tool that identifies the risks derived from climate change; the National Forest Monitoring System of the Argentine Republic; the Soil Information System - INTA; the Environmental Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDE Ambiental) within the framework of the National Environmental Information System (SIAN in its Spanish acronym).

C) Executed and ongoing projects:

Argentina has experience in executing projects related to LD, of which a list of the main ones follows: 1. Global project "Decision Support for the Expansion and Integration of Sustainable Land Management" in which the country has participated since 2015; 2. Project "Sustainable Land Management in the Dry Zones of NOA and Cuyo" (MST NOA - Cuyo); 3. the Project "Alignment of the National Action Program with the UNCCD Ten-Year Strategy" (GCP/ARG/027/GFF); 4. the UNDP Project ARG/06/008 "Construction of Strategic Financial Alliances for the Consolidation of the PAN". 5. The Native Forests and Community project (2015-2021) promotes the rational use of forests and strengthens communities so that they can remain in their territories with the support of the goods and services they offer. Through a loan of 58.7 million dollars granted by the World Bank (BIRF 8493 - AR), together with a national investment of 2.5 million dollars, it seeks to promote productive use through the implementation of sustainable forest management plans that benefit small producers, native and peasant communities of Chaco, Santiago del Estero, Salta, Jujuy and Misiones. The project will reach some 150,000 beneficiaries who will have access to works, goods, equipment, training and information and its implementation will be carried out through five areas of investment and application. The implementation agency is PNUD. Component 1: Sustainable Livelihoods - Rooting of Communities, Component 2: Native Forest Management and Civil Society, Component 3: Skills development and technology transfer, Component 4: Forest monitoring and Component 5: Project management and impact control. In Santiago del Estero province, the project is implementing actions on Alberdi, Copo and Pellegrini departments. 6. An important program is actually implementing in PIECAS-DP territory by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development calls "Conservation Lighthouses Network Program" which are a comprehensive political response to the delta's environmental problem. This proposal consists of establishing nodes of a network of protected areas in different parts of the delta, to strengthen the institutional and operational presence in the territory, and radiate protection over the wetland. Up to date, there are five (5) Conservation Lighthouses and one of them is near Pre Delta National Park in Entre Ríos province. This network allows, through the allocation of resources, environmental and communication monitoring equipment, and the permanent presence of park rangers and brigade members of the National Parks Administration, to deploy a plan for early detection, prevention and deterrence of fires that enables, through air, land and river patrols, detect, report and combat outbreaks. This program must be articulated with the Federal Fire Management System in order to implement an effective prevention plan in the Delta. The MAYDS will have the financial resources necessary to meet the expenses that demand the location, equipment and operation of each Conservation Lighthouses and the system.

A relevant initiative from the international cooperation is the project "Management and restoration of forests in productive environments in the Great American Chaco". This EUROCLIMA+ project is carrying out since 2019 by the National Institute of Agricultural Technology of Salta, together with the Paraguayan Institute of Agricultural Technology, the Brazilian Company of Agricultural Research and the Bolivian Nature, Earth and Life institution, with Expertise France as the European agency designated for the implementation. The aim of the project is to improve the socio-ecological resilience of local populations through the strengthening of forest management devices and territorial governance. For this, sustainable management approaches for forests and associated ecosystems are promoted through proposals for the compatibility of production and conservation on a multiple scale.

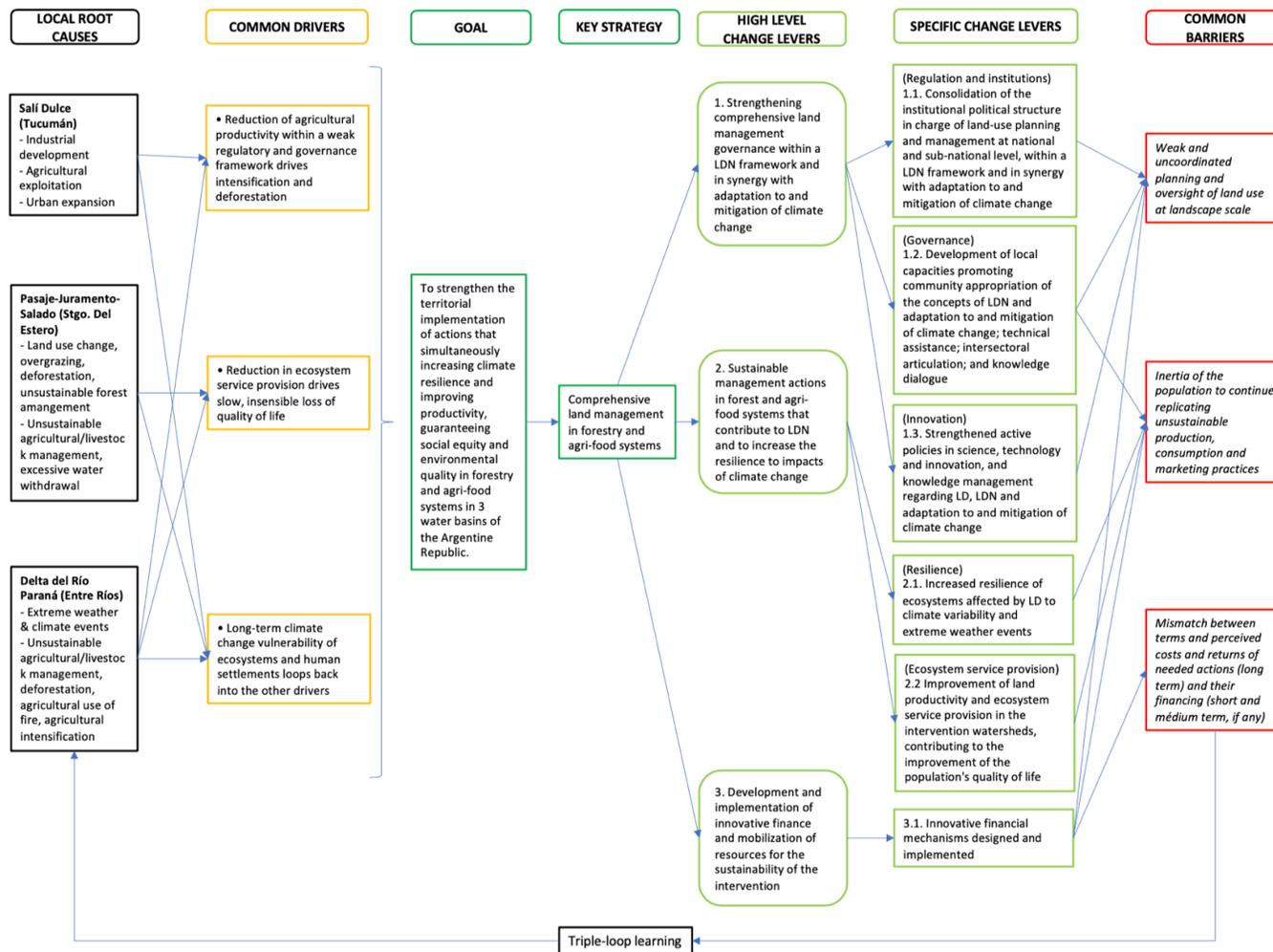
The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the inter-American agency specialized in agriculture with the mission to "stimulate, promote, and support the efforts of the Member States to achieve their agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence" includes the Climate Change and Natural Resources Program which has carried out multiple projects in this realm in cooperation with the Government, offering the contribution of its technicians and coordination with specialists from all of the Headquarters and Country Offices in the countries.

3) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of the expected results and project components

In this baseline context, the government of Argentina is committed to face the challenges to achieve comprehensive planning and management of land use at the landscape scale that imply a real response to LD and climate change (Barrier 1) and break the inertia by part of the population to continue replicating unsustainable production, consumption and marketing practices (Barrier 2), among other measures by providing mechanisms for the financial sustainability of land use and productive activities that take into account the externalities of current and desired practices (Barrier 3).

For this final aim to occur, it was needed to select suitable intervention sites in which to pilot an innovative, comprehensive approach. Two methods were applied for this. In first place, potential intervention sites were identified and prioritized, following both the PAN's identified national priorities and site-specific analysis of the problematics and the existing institutional capacities, resulting in the final selection of the three project sites. In these sites, both land degradation process and their root causes were identified.

Then a Theory of Change was developed from the intended goal, developing the needed outcomes and outputs to overcome the current barriers and achieve the goal while generating triple-loop learning to provide sustainability and self-amplifying potential to the intervention (See ToC graphic below).



The three intervention sites are experiencing reduction of agricultural productivity, reduction in ecosystem service provision and long-term climate change vulnerability of ecosystems and human settlements loops back into the other drivers respectively. That is why the main goal of this project is to strengthen the territorial implementation of actions that simultaneously increasing climate resilience and improving productivity, guaranteeing social equity and environmental quality in their forestry and agri-food systems. To achieve this goal, Sustainable Land Management is proposed as a key strategy, and includes to working on strengthening comprehensive land management governance, sustainable management actions in forest and agri-food systems and development and implementation of innovative finance and mobilization of resources for the sustainability of the intervention. These high level change levers (Components 1, 2 and 3) are proposed to address the root causes of land degradation in the forest and agro-food systems selected while overcoming the current existing barriers. The project work in regulation and institutions, governance, innovation, resilience, ecosystem services provision and innovative financial mechanisms (project Outcomes) will be the specific change levers to achieve this goal.

Component 1. Strengthening comprehensive land management governance within a LDN framework and in synergy with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change (to overcome Barriers 1 and 2).

GEF support for this component, under Objective 2 of the LD Focal Area Strategy, is intended to strengthen the institutional capacity for good governance of land management by strengthened participation mechanisms for the co-production and advice to comprehensive land management in multi-stakeholder spaces at national and interjurisdictional level: CAN, ONDTyD, Salí-Dulce River Basin Committees, Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River Basin Committee, PIECAS-DP, Parana Delta RAMSAR Site Management Committee and by strengthened the articulation and coordination between these levels and provincial and local governments, for effective policy coordination and sustained articulation that fosters synergies and consolidates long-term strategies for on-site implementation.

It is equally important to enforce simultaneously provincial and local levels in LDDD and in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change effects developing and/or updating regulatory framework linked to land-use planning and management with LDN and climate change concepts. Provincial Actions Plans to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAP in its Spanish acronym) are a good example for this (Barrier 1). In addition, the GEF funds will make it possible to formulate and establish a Communication Strategy (Barrier 2) among the key stakeholders involved, to strengthen information platforms with the generation of communication mechanisms integrating science and academia, decision makers, and the productive sector at all levels (small, medium and large producers), creating the necessary capacity to restore and sustainably manage the degraded land to maintain functional landscapes. The Communication Strategy is part of the knowledge management actions as well as the training of professionals, technicians and the community in general who intervene in the territories.

The proposed GEF financing for this component also includes the construction of baselines and the zoning for LDN and its monitoring. These activities will be carried out based on protocols or methodological guides that allow for the identification and classification of priority sectors or regions for DLDDD, which will be elaborated during the PPG stage. Likewise, the component includes the development and articulation of multi-hazard Early Warning Systems to provide timely and reliable advice and information to producers in alliance with the private sector, INTA, ONDTyD, and research centers; and lines of research for technological innovation for sustainable production to be incorporated into public and private projects. Knowledge management will be a constant and indivisible feature of project governance and implementation, developing and strengthening national and territorial capacities (local governments, basin committees, producer organizations, private sector, academia, among others) for decision-making, as well as to promote participation in change processes within territories, and developing and providing content to the PAPs. GEF funds will be used to establish the national baseline and LDN targets (updated PAN 2030, National Voluntary Goals 2030), the LDN baseline and target, and SLM indicators and monitoring at the landscape scale for the selected watersheds. The financing amount is US \$ 416.803 with a reference cofinancing of US \$ 5.618.259

Component 2 . Sustainable management actions in forest and agri-food systems that contribute to LDN and to increase the resilience to impacts of climate change (for overcome Barriers 2 and 3)

This component aims to overcome barriers 2 and 3 and it is closely related to the results of Component 1 because a consolidated institutional political structure at the national and subnational level in charge of the planning and management of LDDD local capacities develop promoting the appropriation by the community of the concepts of LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; technical assistance; intersectoral articulation and dialogue of knowledge; the strengthening of active policies in science, technology and innovation and knowledge management regarding LDDD, LDN and adaptation to

and mitigation of climate change; are key outcomes for overcome inertia of the population to continue replicating unsustainable production, consumption and marketing practices (Barrier 2) and to strengthen the territorial implementation of sustainable management actions in forest and agri-food systems that contribute to LDN and to increase the resilience to impacts of climate change (Component 2). GEF funds will be used for the implementation of SLM and SFM in forestry and agri-food systems; for the design of investment plans; to foster innovation in market institutions and production chains; to the execution of Ecosystem based Adaptation and Community based Adaptation actions; and for the strengthening of actions aimed at preventing or mitigating forest fires. Carrying out these actions in the territory will result in the reduction of the vulnerability of the ecosystems affected by LDDD in the face of climatic variability and extreme climatic events (LD-1-4 and LD-1-2); and in improving the productivity of the land and other ecosystem services in the intervention watersheds, which contributes to the improvement of the population's quality of life (LD-1-1). For this component, GEF financing of US \$ 1.885.405 is planned, that will maximize the baseline cofinancing of US \$ 16,231,626.

Component 3 Development and implementation of innovative finance and mobilization of resources for the sustainability of actions in the territory (for overcome Barriers 1, 2 and 3)

Fighting desertification, land degradation and drought is a long-term process, requiring both financial and technological resource planning. The weakness of the inter-institutional coordination mechanisms (barrier 1) results in the dispersion of economic instruments destined to promote activities that have an impact on the subject, especially in the sustainable management of lands. This results in a suboptimal allocation of resources and, in some cases, generates inconsistencies between the productive models promoted and adequate environmental management. Progress towards the neutrality of land degradation and, whenever possible, the restoration of degraded lands requires harmonizing the objectives of productive development with the sustainability of the resource, in line with the commitments assumed in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally This will make it possible to optimize public investment and improve the socio - environmental impact of public policies. (PAN, 2019).

The challenges posed by the effective implementation of the National Action Program exceed the availability of public funds. Indeed, a diversified panorama opens with mixed financing, through innovative financial instruments and mechanisms. These new tools will make it possible to leverage public resources by mobilizing additional resources from the private sector, bilateral and multilateral cooperation and credit organizations, and thus overcome some barriers and market deficiencies.

Incremental GEF funding will support Component 3, which includes designing and implementing a Resource Mobilization Strategy and the development of at least one incentive mechanism. This component is essential to face barriers 1 and 2 and to promote the sustainability of the actions carried out within the framework of the project over time. The proposed GEF funds for this component are US\$ 196.246, which will complement the estimated cofinancing of US \$ 1,748,021.

A resource mobilization strategy will be developed with GEF funds, using existing and new financial mechanisms and creating at least one accessible incentive mechanism so that producers can implement sustainable management actions in forest systems and in agroecosystems that contribute to increasing the resilience against climate change impacts and LDN against DLDD processes to achieve results linked to Focal Area Strategy LD-1-1, LD-1-2, LD-1-4 and LD-2-5.

It is important to take into account that Innovative Financing Mechanisms (IFM) cover a wide range of methods to generate resources, and therefore, fully understanding the context in which the IFM is to be applied is key in selecting an effective IFM (FAO - IUCN, 2021). When thinking about innovative finance, key issues for consideration are: additionality, potential for scale, sustainability, equity, local ownership and accessibility. Some of these mechanisms like payments for ecosystem services, are already implemented in Argentina in Law 26.331 of Native Forest, which establishes a promotion regime and criteria for the distribution of funds for the environmental services provided by native forests. But it is not enough. For this reason, it is necessary to determine new specific mechanisms for the interventions sites that complement and reinforce existing initiatives.

Potential financing mechanisms to be analyzed in the project include: a) Another Payments for Ecosystem Services (eg, reduce the tax burden of rural property to producers who use sustainable land management practices); b) Sustainability standards (products that certify good practices in their elaboration); c) Rural Eco-tourism (rural eco-tourism based on model plantations in estancias that offer hotel services and visit to the plantations that implement good practices); d) Corporate Social Responsibility (companies that promote sustainable land management as part of their corporate social responsibility strategy); e) Risk mitigation schemes (based on the development that already exists in Argentina of climate insurance for agriculture, widened to insurance against erosion or loss soil fertility. Insurance would cost less if practices that promote soil conservation are implemented).

To generate this Resource Mobilization Strategy, the experience of CAF Green Business and Energy Efficiency program for financial entities will be instrumental. The program focuses on stimulating the expansion of the Green Business and Energy Efficiency segment, offering green credit lines; promoting the reduction of CO₂ emissions as a direct and indirect result of the operations of financial institutions; promoting the valuation of natural capital and the mitigation of impacts on ecosystems; and promoting a financial sector committed to sustainability and productive transformation in the region.

With the optimization of governance for integrated land management (Component 1) and the development of innovative finance and resource mobilization (Component 3), the project will contribute to achieving food security in the face of LD processes and the impacts of climate change (Component 2). The proposed intervention will therefore initiate a comprehensive approach to the territory at the watershed level, fostered by strengthened governance of land management and by the design and implementation of innovative financial mechanisms. Through the SLM and SFM practices, the design of investment plans, and the execution of EbA and CbA actions, the project will make it possible to restore forest and agri-food systems and increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change, providing a response to the growing global demand for food within a context of environmental care. The project will also kickstart improved coordination between different institutions, civil society, science and academia and promoting participatory mechanisms. In addition, it will contribute to facilitate the integration of sustainable land management techniques (soil, water and biological resources) to promote food security, as well as sustainable and efficient processes that contribute to the restoration, prevention and arrest of degradation trends. The integrated intervention of the project is expected to demonstrate the synergies between the objectives of the Rio conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD).

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

The objectives, results, outputs and activities of the project are aligned with the objectives of the GEF-7 Land Degradation Focal Area of:

1) Improving the field implementation of SLM using the LDN tool (Component 2 and 3). Specifically the project will contribute to the Focal Area elements (LD-1-1, LD1-2, and LD 1-4) as follows (reference numbers correspond to Outcomes (X.Y) and Outputs (X.Y.Z):

- LD-1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM): The proposed project specific change lever to accomplish the contribution to LD-1-1 is Output 2.2 Improvement of land productivity and ecosystem service provision in the intervention watersheds, contributing to the improvement of the population's quality of life.

This outcome will be achieved by the follow outputs: 2.2.1 Implementation of SLM practices in agri-food systems integrated into land use planning systems and 2.2.2 Execution of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) actions in protected natural area.

- LD-1-2 Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The project's proposed specific change lever to accomplish the contribution to LD-1-1 is 2.1. Increased resilience of ecosystems affected by LD to climate variability and extreme weather events.

This outcome will be achieved by the follow outputs: 2.1.1 Integration of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) measures into land use planning systems to avoid, reduce and reverse LD, 2.1.2 Design and execution of investment plans (e.g. green infrastructure, sustainable mechanization) and 2.1.3 Execution of Community-based Adaptation (CbA) actions in native forests, wetlands and natural grasslands with significant carbon contents, guaranteeing care for vulnerable population.

- LD-1-4 Reduce pressures on natural resources LD from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape. The project's proposed specific change levers to accomplish the contribution to LD-1-4 is 2.1. Increased resilience of ecosystems affected by LD to climate variability and extreme weather events.

This outcome will be achieved by the follow outputs: 2.1.1 Integration of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) measures into land use planning systems to avoid, reduce and reverse LD, 2.1.2 Design and execution of investment plans (e.g. green infrastructure, sustainable mechanization) and 2.1.3 Execution of Community-based Adaptation (CbA) actions in native forests, wetlands and natural grasslands with significant carbon contents, guaranteeing care for vulnerable population.

2) Create an enabling environment to support voluntary implementation of LDN objectives (Component 1 and 3). Specifically the project will contribute to the Focal Area element (LD 2-5) as follows:

· LD-2-5 Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN. The project's proposed specific change levers to accomplish the contribution to LD-2-5 are 1.1. Consolidation of the institutional political structure in charge of land-use planning and management at national and sub-national level, within a LDN framework and in synergy with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; 1.2. Development of local capacities promoting community appropriation of the concepts of LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; technical assistance; intersectoral articulation; and knowledge dialogue; 1.3. Strengthened active policies in science, technology and innovation, and knowledge management regarding LD, LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; and 3.1 Innovative financial mechanisms designed and implemented.

These change levers will be implemented through the following outputs: 1.1.1 Provincial and local regulatory framework linked to land-use planning and management developed and/or updated with LDN and climate change concepts, 1.1.2 Strengthened participation mechanisms for the co-production and advice to comprehensive land management in multi-stakeholder spaces (national, interjurisdictional and Provincial inter- institutional), within a LDN framework and in synergy with adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, 1.1.3 Provincial Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAP in its Spanish acronym) for the provinces of Entre Ríos and Santiago del Estero are drafted as instruments for the environmental management of the territory with a focus on LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and the implementation of Tucumán's PAP is supported, 1.2.1 Design and implementation of a Communication Strategy (CS) that improves the population's access to quality information regarding LD, LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, 1.2.2 Professionals and technicians who intervene in the territories and the community in general, trained in LD, LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, 1.2.3 Institutional/organizational arrangements reflecting the incorporation of LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change into the integral management of lands in the 3 provinces, 1.3.1 Definition of baselines and zoning for LDN and its monitoring, 1.3.2 Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems developed and articulated in partnership with the private sector, INTA, the ONDTyD and research centers to provide timely and reliable advice to farmers, 1.3.3 Research lines for technological innovation for sustainable production incorporated into public and private projects, 3.1.1 Resource Mobilization Strategy designed and implemented, 3.1.2 At least one incentive mechanism developed and available to producers and 3.1.3 Promotion of markets that integrate the entire value chain of sustainable local production models.

5) Reasoning for incremental/additional costs and expected contributions from baseline, GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and co-financing.

Without the implementation of the project, the process of land degradation and its social impacts at landscape scale in the Argentine Republic, caused mainly by anthropic activities and deepened by natural processes such as droughts and floods exacerbated by climate change, will continue to occur in the territory. This causes a decrease in the productive capacity of agricultural systems; a decrease in the delivery of forest and wetland ecosystem functions (provision, support, regulation and cultural services) and an increase in the vulnerability of ecosystems and the population to climate change.

For this, it is proposed to strengthen the implementation of actions in the territory that simultaneously impact on increasing climate resilience and improving land productivity, guaranteeing social equity and environmental quality in forestry and agri-food systems in different regions of the country. The strategies are aimed at strengthening governance in comprehensive land management within the framework of the LDN and its synergy with the A&M to CC; to carry out actions for the sustainable and resilient management of agroecosystems that contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of LD processes and the impacts of climate change in a post-pandemic context and to the development and implementation of innovative finance and resource mobilization for the sustainability of actions in the territory.

In this context, it is essential to start by strengthening the capacities of the territorial actors themselves, both in government institutions at different levels and in the scientific, technical and academic sectors, so as to multiply the project impact on direct users, either as individuals or within community organizations (Component 1). This implies adapting and developing the regulatory framework that guides and structures actions in the territory; strengthening national, interjurisdictional and provincial spaces for inter-institutional articulation; implementing a permanent Communication Strategy that guarantees access to quality information regarding LD, LDN and climate change for the entire population; and developing research lines on innovation in technology for sustainable production to be incorporated in projects both public and private.

Strengthening governance for LDN and climate change adaptation and mitigation (Component 1) involves consolidating the institutional political structure at the national and sub-national levels in charge of the planning and management of land use in a LDN framework and considering its synergy with climate change mitigation and adaptation (result 1.1); the development of local capacities promoting the appropriation by the community of the concepts of LDN, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, technical assistance, and the intersectoral articulation and dialogue of knowledge (result 1.2); and the strengthening of active policies in science, technology and innovation and knowledge management regarding DLDD, LDN and climate change (result 1.3).

The implementation of sustainable management actions in forest systems and agroecosystems that contribute to increased resilience in the face of climate change impacts and LDN in the face of DLDD processes (Component 2) is expected to contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of DLDD processes and the impacts of climate change; increasing the resilience of ecosystems affected by DLDD in the face of climate variability and extreme weather events (result 2.1); and to improve land productivity and other ecosystem services in the intervention watersheds, which contributes to improving the quality of life of the population (result 2.2).

It is essential that all interventions in the territory can be sustained over time, for which the project fosters the development and implementation of innovative finance and the mobilization of resources (Component 3) through the design and implementation of innovative financial mechanisms (result 3.1).

The project is conceived as a strategic instrument to strengthen sustainable land management at the watershed scale in forestry and agri-food systems in 3 provinces of Argentina, which contributes to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The project will also contribute to promoting the measures and actions necessary for the fulfillment of the National Voluntary Goals of LDN within the framework of the PAN,

specifically contributing to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 15.3, and additionally to SDGs 2.4 and 6.5. It will also contribute to generating synergies to contribute to SDG 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 15, and 17, and will contribute to the commitments made in the Second Nationally Determined Contribution. Finally, all the activities that are developed within the framework of this project, as well as the lessons learned that emerge during its implementation, will provide inputs to enrich the approaches linked to the CBD and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

6) Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF)

GEBs will be provided in the territorial implementation of actions that will simultaneously impact on increasing climate resilience and improving land productivity, guaranteeing social equity and environmental quality in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins of the Argentine Republic. This will be achieved by strengthening governance in land management (Component 1); through the implementation of sustainable management actions that will contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of LD processes and the impacts of climate change in the post-pandemic (Component 2); and through the development and implementation of innovative finance and mobilization of resources to provide sustainability to future actions in the territory (Component 3).

The project directly contributes to reducing anthropic pressure on the use of natural resources due to the growing demand for food and agricultural commodities. For this, it is proposed to recover degraded surface in forest ecosystems and in agri-food systems through the implementation of sustainable forest management practices (SFM) (Output 2.1.1) and sustainable land management (SLM) (Output 2.2.1). The implementation of these practices will be in direct line with the proposed prioritization for Voluntary Goals to achieve LDN of avoid, reduce, reverse. In this context, for example it is propose Forest fire prevention to avoid deforestation and land use change with carbon loss; Forest Harvesting and Forest Management with Integrated Livestock to reduce LD and Restoration and Recovery of forest and agri-food systems to reverse. It is expected with the project to contribute to GEF Core Indicators with 36.816 Ha of degraded agricultural land (Indicator 3.1) and of forest and forest land restored (Indicator 3.2), and 78.449 Ha of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (Indicator 4.3) to halt the loss of soil productivity.

The project also aims at strengthening the resilience of forest and food systems and communities linked to the impacts produced by climate change. To the practices of SLM and SFM are added Execution of Community-based Adaptation (CbA) actions in native forests, wetlands and natural grasslands with significant carbon contents, guaranteeing care for vulnerable population (Output 2.1.3) and the Design and execution of investment plans (e.g. green infrastructure, sustainable mechanization) (Output 2.1.2).

The co-financing and incremental GEF funding will help strengthen governance at national and sub national level in Argentina, to integrate the concept of LDN and to consequently implement SLM and SFM. This will result in the creation of an enabling environment through effective public policies, pertinent regulatory frameworks (Output 1.1.1), capable institutions (Outputs 1.1.2; 1.1.3), and mechanisms for monitoring and sharing knowledge (Outputs 1.2.1; 1.2.2 and 1.2.3) that are a necessary condition for the subsequent implementation of SLM in an environment of LDN.

It will indirectly contribute to generating global environmental benefits through investment in the protection of ecosystems. The most important action in this way is the Execution of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) actions in protected natural area (Outcome 2.2.2). This actions will contributes to improved management for conservation and sustainable use in 249.850 Ha of the Delta del Parana Ramsar Site and Pre Delta and Santa Fe Islands National Parks.

The protection of ecosystems will be improved by supporting the restoration of agri-food systems and forest systems, with the subsequent carbon sequestration, food security and adaptation and resilience of environments, and the conservation of biodiversity will reduce the conversion of natural ecosystems and safeguarding agrobiodiversity. It will reduce the degradation of water resources for different consumptive uses, and will reduce deforestation and forest degradation with its GHG emissions, simultaneously improving the characteristics of agricultural soils with the consequent increase in (not estimated) soil carbon sequestration. All of these actions will impact in GHG emissions mitigated which are expected to be 29.412.308 TonCO₂e (Indicator 6.1). These benefits will positively impact local communities, expecting to directly benefit 12,594 people (Indicator 11) and indirectly 251,884 people in a gender-balanced fashion.

Finally, It is important to guarantee the sustainability over time of the results achieved by the project, so through the Resource Mobilization Strategy designed and implemented (Output 3.1.1), at least one incentive mechanism developed and available to producers (Output 3.1.2) and the Promotion of markets that integrate the entire value chain of sustainable local production models (Output 3.1.3) the impacts of the project may transcend in time, increasing the global environmental benefits.

Likewise, the project is expected to provide concrete progress in the implementation of the PAN and the country's Voluntary Goals to achieve LDN; as well as in the elaboration and implementation of the PAPs at the provincial level and the commitments assumed by Argentina in the NDC and in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

7) Innovation, sustainability and expansion potential

Innovation: the project is innovative given that: i) for the first time in Argentina, it will address a governance strategy to create an enabling environment to support the voluntary implementation of LDN objectives in the planning of large-scale production environments at the same time as it will provide tools to increase the resilience of forestry and agri-food systems. For this, it will involve in a single scope of articulation those responsible for national agricultural production, the enforcement authority in environmental matters, science and extension, incorporating the productive sector from the earliest stages. Likewise, through institutional arrangements in the organic structures of the intervening institutions, the project will result in innovations that reflect the incorporation of LDN and climate change concerns to the management of land use in the 3 provinces; ii) it will provide the implementation of LDN objectives with the improvement of SLM and SFM in productive landscapes at the watershed level; iii) it will strengthen the coherence and harmonization of policies with the integration of SLM with an LDN approach in territorial planning instruments linking production objectives, soil conservation and measures for adaptation to

and mitigation of the effects of climate change in an integrated manner; iv) it will enhance the generation and provision of reliable and timely risk information developed in strategic alliances to expand access to information by technicians, producers and decision makers; and v) it will support innovative financing mechanisms and the articulation of various sources to generate synergies.

Sustainability: the project will promote social, environmental and economic sustainability: socially, it will reduce the uncertainties of the institutional political planning of its productions, it will improve the access of producers to extension / information services, allowing them to make decisions about planning the use of land and the implementation of SLM and SFM practices. Additionally, it will strengthen the capacities of producer organizations promoting the integration of women and youth in the planning, promotion and implementation of SLM practices. Environmentally, the implementation of SLM and SFM practices will contribute to preventing and reducing land degradation and rehabilitating ecosystems in watersheds affected by degradation processes. Economically, the project will promote access by beneficiaries to innovative financing mechanisms to adopt / replicate SLM and SFM practices for key crop production systems and livestock and forestry systems. It will also provide assistance to improve the productive capacity of the land and to integrate sustainable food value chains, in order to strengthen entrepreneurial capacity in the areas of implementation and consequently increase the incomes of the beneficiaries.

Expansion potential: Strengthening inter-institutional governance for comprehensive land management to contribute to LDN and A&M to CC; facilitate the adoption of a socio-productive approach strategy (producers, cooperatives and other forms of private or community association and integration) for the implementation of SLM and SFM practices, which generate changes through the adoption and replication of methodologies, policies, instruments and practices clear, built and validated. In the same way, linking the progress of this project with initiatives at the country level that may be generated within the framework of the agreements and commitments assumed by Argentina in the next CC COP26, will allow scaling practices to the total surfaces of the basins and improvements in the governance of other watersheds and areas of economic interest for Argentina. The Communication Strategy (CS) will be key to promoting the potential to expand the project through the participatory construction of the content with the contribution from the different sectors for the co-production of knowledge, the dissemination of the actions carried out and the results obtained and the elaboration of communicational material that can be used for replication in other areas. Likewise, the country has a series of management instruments, Plans, Programs and Projects with national and international sources, with specific focuses on productive sectors or agroecological regions, which, based on integrated governance, will generate synergies and expansion of achievements through Communication Strategy that will design and execute the project.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Country: Argentina (ID 3865483*)

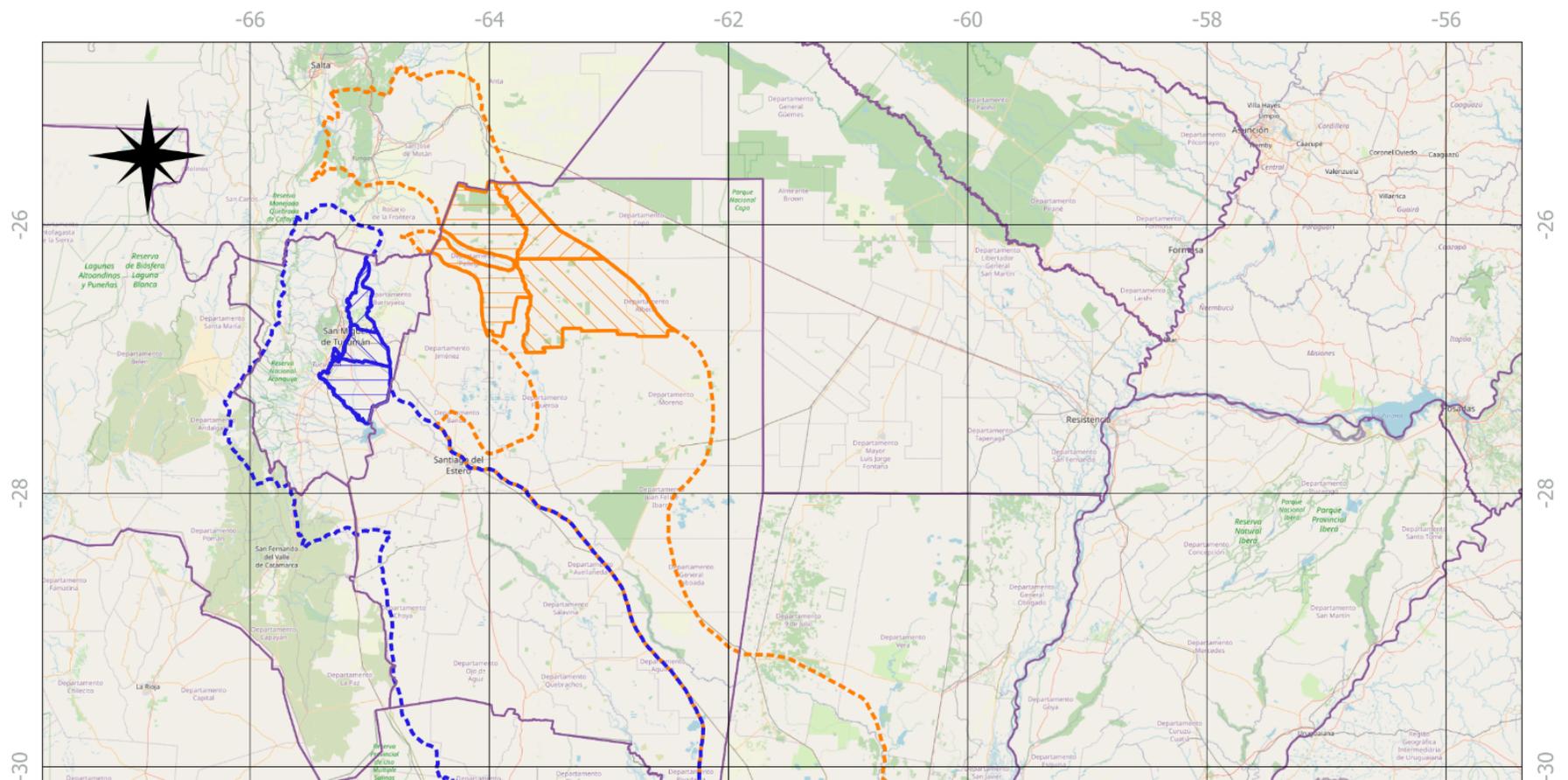
Watersheds included in Provinces and Departments:

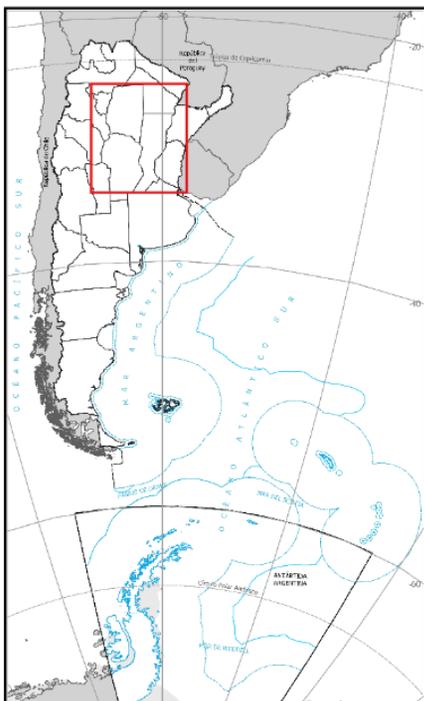
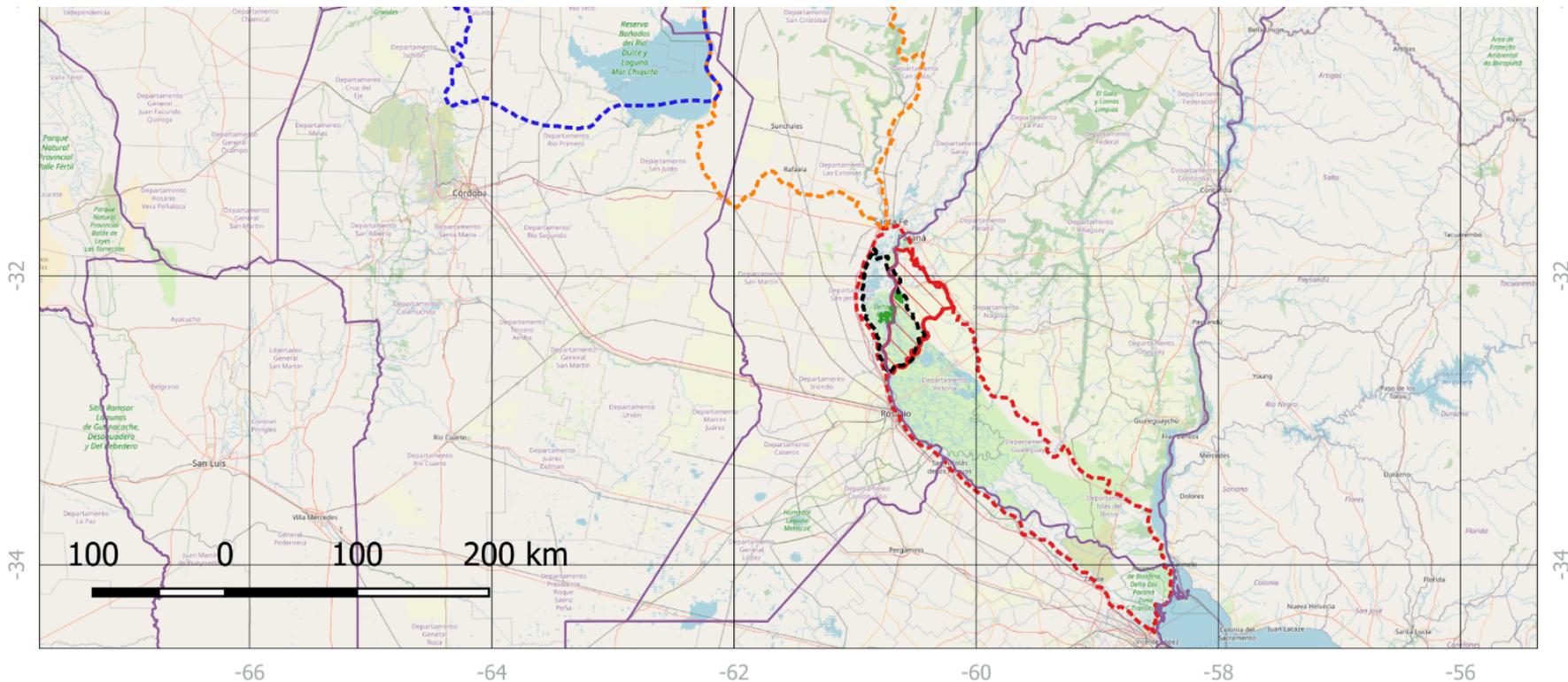
Santiago del Estero: Pellegrini Departament (ID 38416112*); Copo Departament (ID 3860289*); Alberdi Departament (ID 3866417*).

Tucumán: Cruz Alta Departament (ID 3859838*); Leales Departament (ID 3847102*)

Entre Ríos: Diamante Departament (ID 3859380*); Victoria Departament (ID 3832932*)

*: geonames.org ID



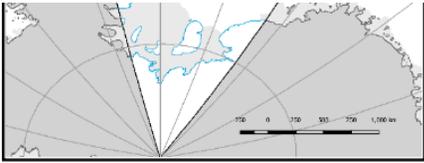


PROJECT: "Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change"

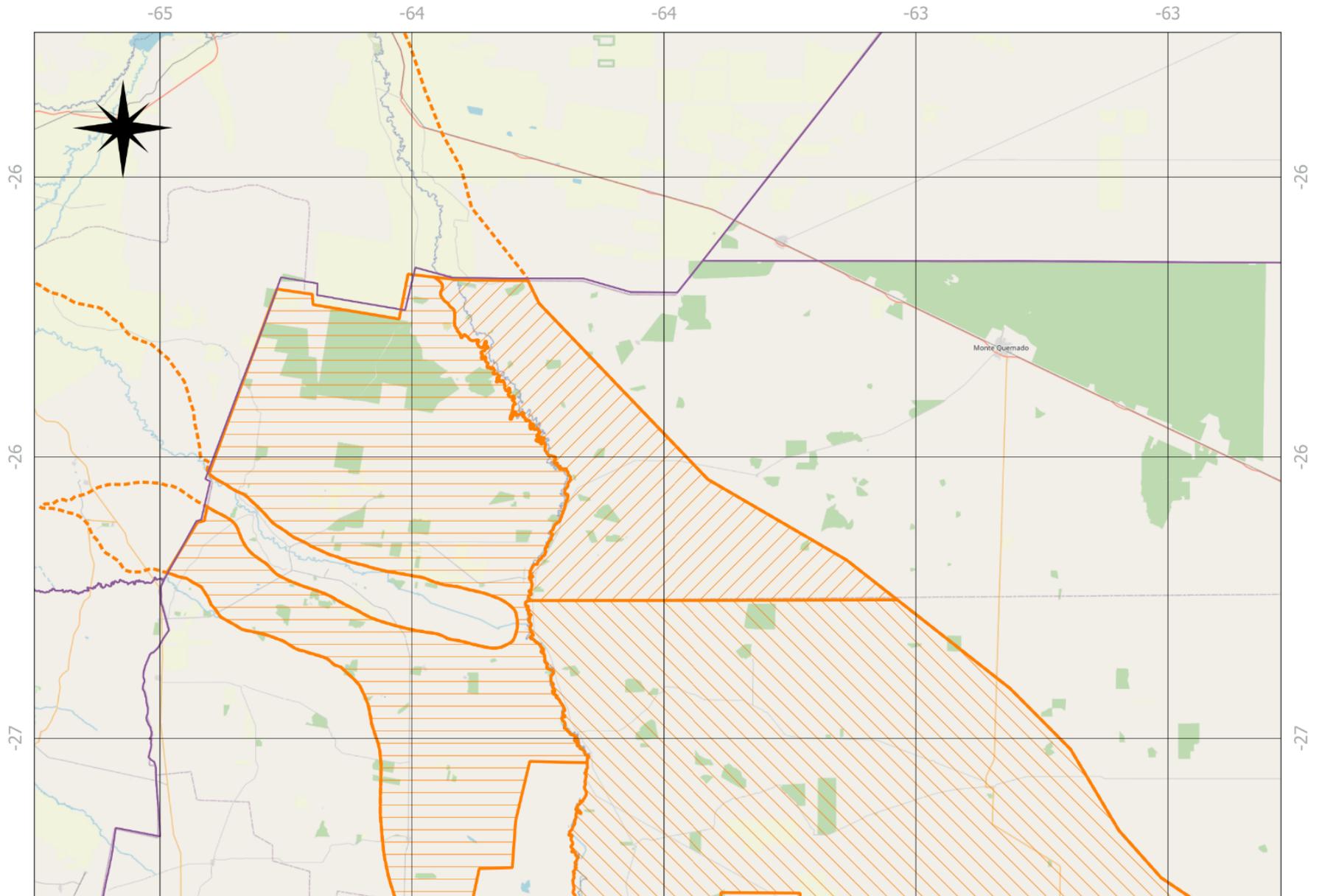
ARGENTINA - INTERVENTION SITES

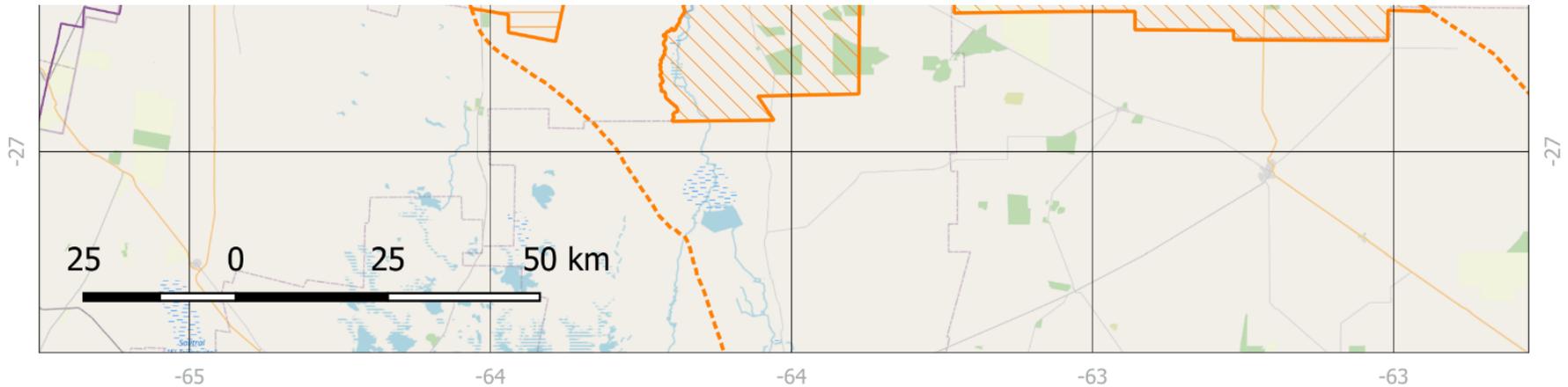
References

-  PROTECTED AREAS
-  RAMSAR SITE
-  PROVINCES
-  DELTA DEL PARANÁ BASIN (DdP)
-  DIAMANTE Department - (DdP)
-  DELTA DEL PARANÁ BASIN (DdP)
-  COPO Department - (PJS)
-  PELLEGRINI Department (PJS)
-  SALÍ-DULCE BASIN (SD)
-  BURRUYACU Department - (SD)
-  CRUZ ALTA Department - (SD)
-  LEALES Department (SD)



-  P. JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN (PJS)
-  LEALES Department - (SD)
-  ALBERDI Department - (PJS)

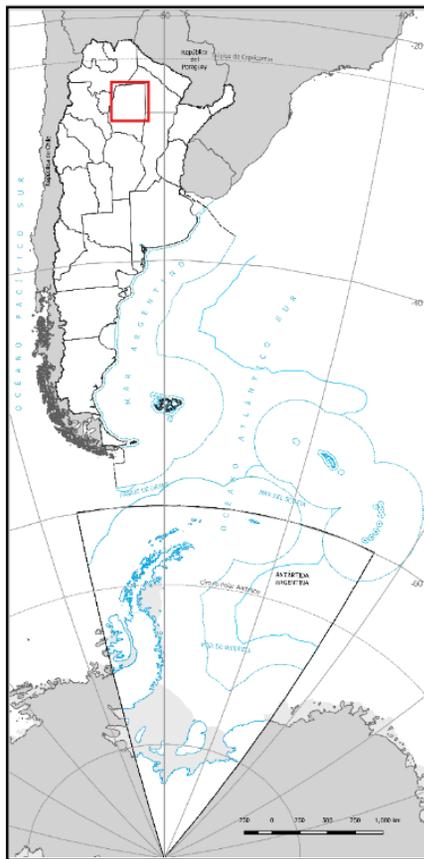




PROJECT: "Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change"

ARGENTINA - INTERVENTION SITES

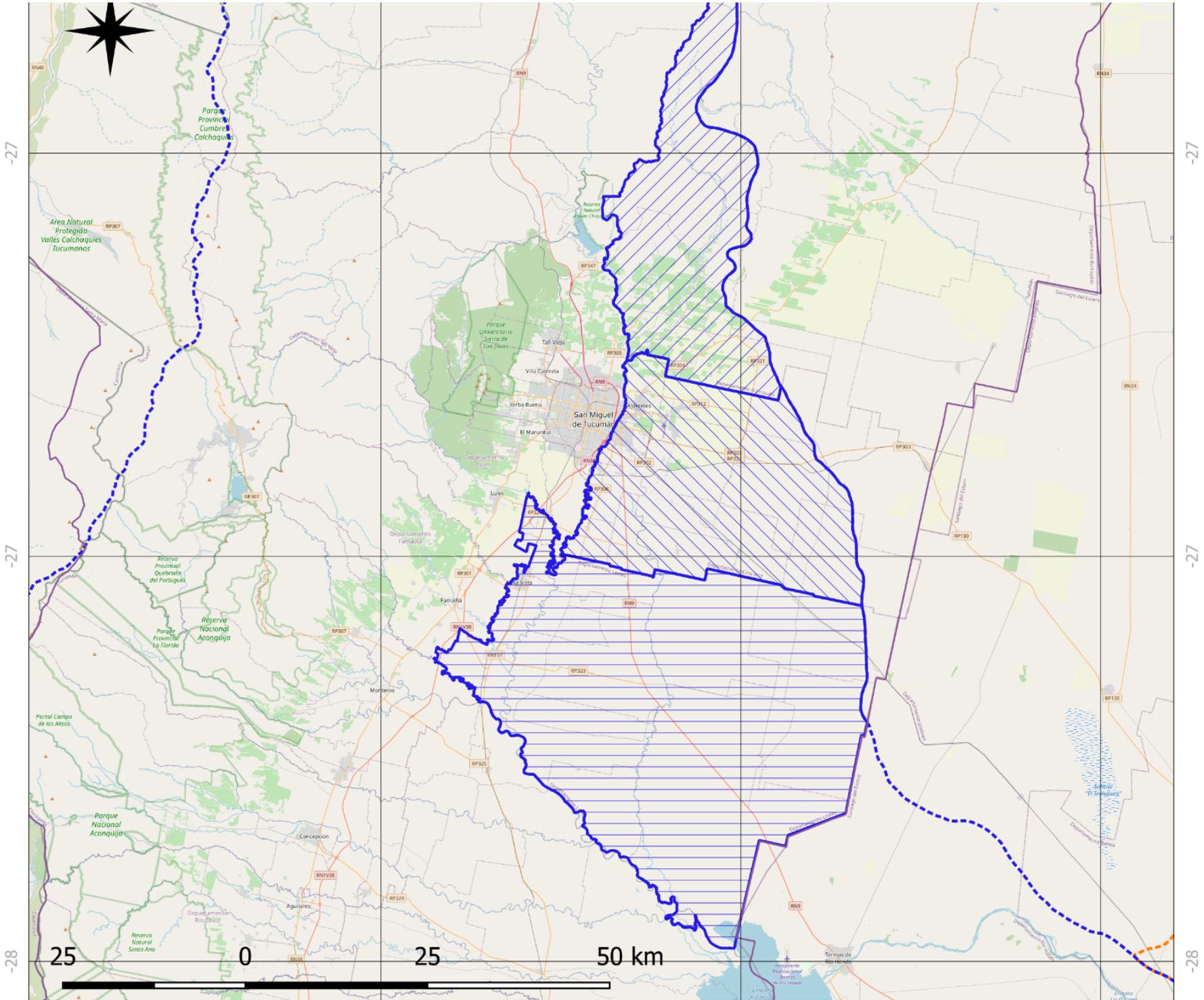
PASAJE JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN
SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO PROVINCE



References

-  PROVINCES
-  P. JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN (PJS)
-  COPO Department - (PJS)
-  ALBERDI Department - (PJS)
-  PELLEGRINI Department (PJS)





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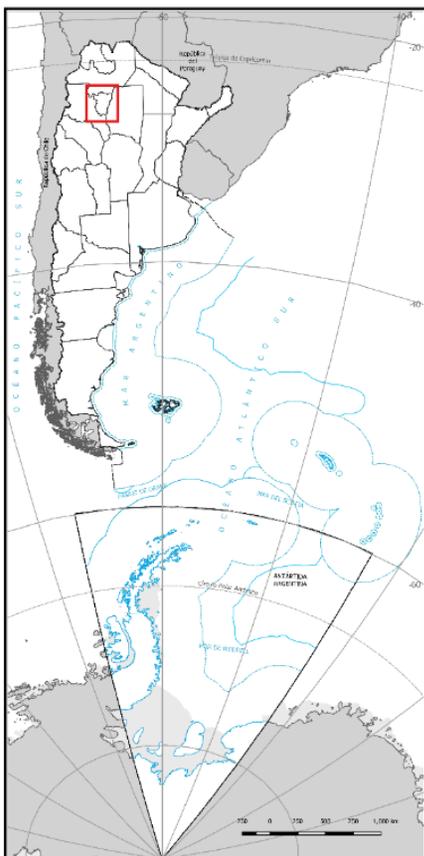
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PROJECT: "Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change"

ARGENTINA - INTERVENTION SITES

SALÍ DULCE BASIN -TUCUMÁN PROVINCE



References

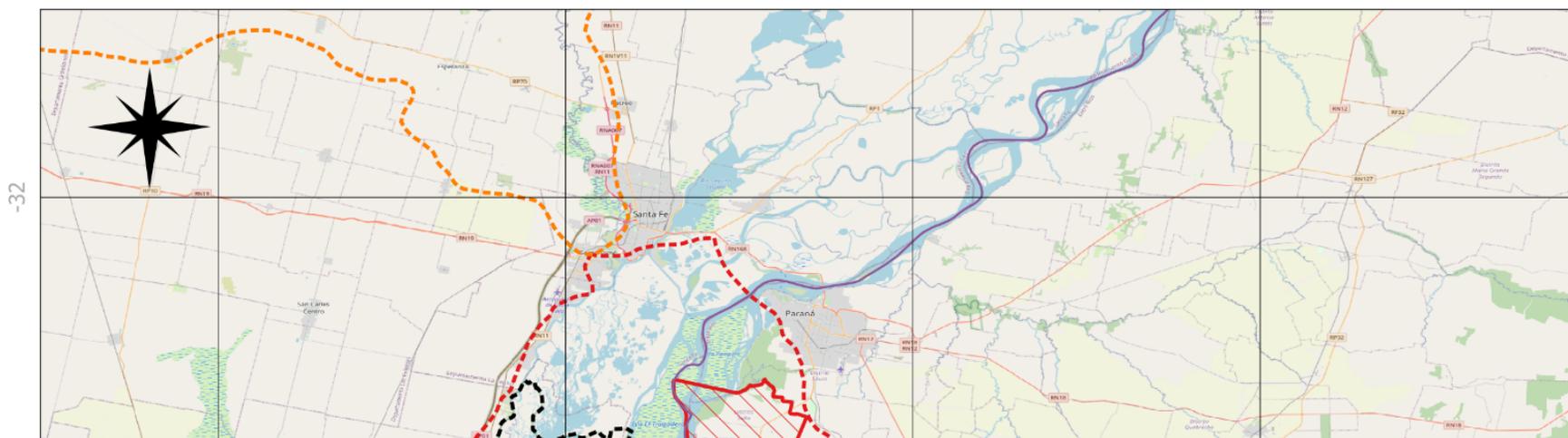
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-  P. JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN (PJS)
-  SALÍ-DULCE BASIN (SD)
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-  CRUZ ALTA Department - (SD)
-  LEALES Department - (SD)

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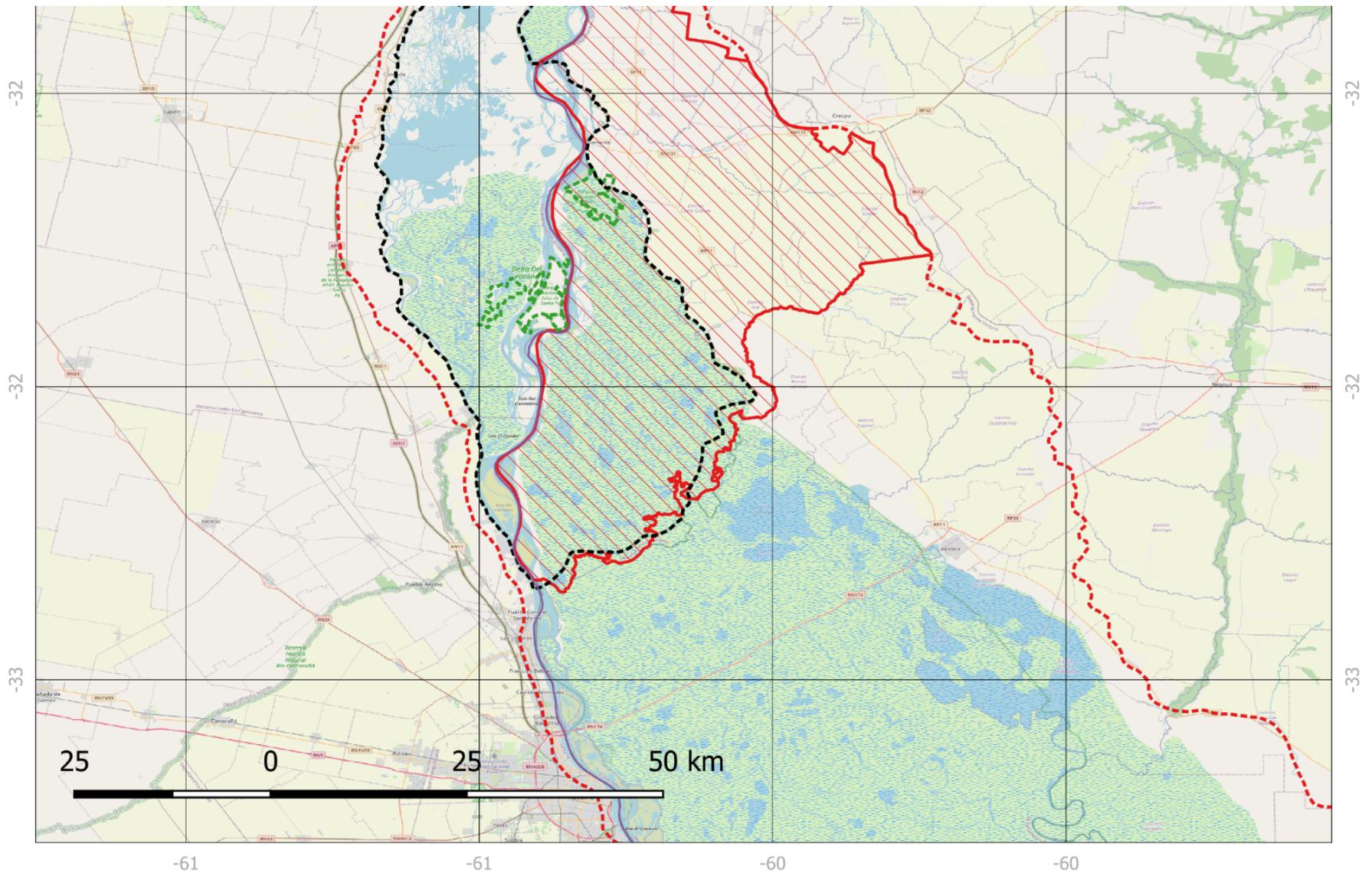
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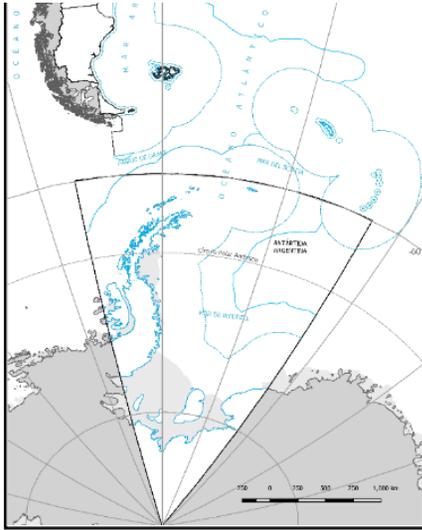
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PROJECT: "Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change"

ARGENTINA - INTERVENTION SITES

PIECAS - DELTA DEL PARANÁ BASIN



References

- PROTECTED AREAS
- RAMSAR SITE
- PROVINCES
- DELTA DEL PARANÁ BASIN (DdP)
- DIAMANTE Department - (DdP)

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why: No

The project is identified as the product of intense and sustained inter-institutional articulation work with broad participation carried out within the framework of the updating the National Action Program to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAN in its Spanish acronym) to 2030 (SAyDS, 2019a), formally approved by the CAN; the identification of the LDN baseline for Argentina (SAyDS, 2019); and the elaboration of the National Voluntary Targets for Land Degradation Neutrality (MAyDS, 2020b). Among these participatory instances, two workshops with technical groups, a comprehensive consultation with 190 local experts through the creation of a dynamic web consultation tool, a baseline validation workshop with more than 50 experts to raise a report to the CAN, and the establishment of a working group within the CAN must be underlined.

The process of updating the PAN contemplated instances of participation both intra- and inter-institutional, nationally as well as regionally. Among them, the internal participatory consultation with the work team of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and an inter-institutional workshop stand out. The results were presented in regional workshops (Chaco, NOA-Cuyo, NEA and Patagonia). Experts from the national government, provincial governments, universities and research centers (CONICET), NTA, CSOs and NGOs, and representatives of the agricultural sector participated.

The main results of these consultations can be summarised as follows:

Inter-institutional articulation spaces such as the PAN National Advisory Commission (CAN in its Spanish acronym) are very important. Prior to the PAN update, the CAN was paralyzed and a core consequence of this circumstance was the lack of a national, cross-sectoral strategy for the fight against soil degradation and desertification involving national and provincial agencies, civil society organizations, academia and local organizations.

A second key issue is intra- and inter-institutional articulation for the coordinated design and implementation of public policies in the field. This is so because public investment in instruments with impact on land use has been fragmentary, which has led to suboptimal results in means allocation and impact. Effective coordination is anticipated to improve the impact of public policies and avoid the generation of perverse incentives that threaten the sustainable management of land and economic activities.

Third, it is necessary to deepen the societal awareness of the problem of desertification and land degradation.

Finally, a significant limitation for the realization of the PAN strategic approach was 'The absence of a specific budget allocation that will ensure continuous and permanent development of the PAN. That is why, the participants suggest to work on innovative instruments that promote inter-institutional synergy and the mobilization of public, private and mixed financial mechanisms that allow to carry forward the planned actions.'

The project's targeted beneficiaries get characterised as follows:

In Tucuman province, in the departments comprised by the Northeast Region, the value chains for swine, poultry, cattle and sugarcane production are mainly integrated by small producers and family farming. The most important crops in this area are soybeans, a crop that grows in the strip of the isohietha of 700 - 800 mm (being marginal in this strip of territory), wheat (as winter cultivation and happening in rotation to soybeans), and sugar cane. Bovine farming is a complementary activity aimed at rearing and fattening. There are a significant number of small farms that breed cattle, while the largest do a complete cycle - total 90 agricultural holdings -.

As for the different strata of producers, the vast majority are of small and medium-sized who, in general, do not use salaried labor, have very little technology, precarious structure and inefficient handling, mainly due to lack of training. This majority sector is not associated or cooperative, so it does not have access to credit or state subsidies.

Santiago del Estero province has one of the largest peasant populations in the country; according to the Mesa de Tierras (Land Bureau) of Santiago del Estero, approximately 40% of the total population of the province is classified as rural.

In Delta del Paraná region (Entre Ríos province), the insular territories, the islands, and the mosaic of wetlands that make up the region, were and are a space of residence and work of family groups, in reduced numbers and with very low density. These groups are dedicated to river and rural activities, mainly fishing, hunting, beekeeping, fruit growing and livestock breeding, mainly for subsistence and with any surplus sold in urban markets in the mainland. Most of the inhabitants who live in the Delta and work in the productive activities of the region do so in precarious living conditions and with little infrastructure of services.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS): it will be responsible for the execution of the project and the coordinating entity for co-execution with other strategic partners. The MAyDS chairs the National Advisory Commission (CAN), which will be the governing body for inter-institutional governance. The MAyDS will also provide technical guidance for the preparation of the PAPs, and for the implementation of the project and the PAP Tucumán, the monitoring of results, as well as the presentation of project progress reports. MAyDS will lead the PPG phase of the project on behalf of the Argentine Government. Likewise, the MAyDS is the body that will be in charge of the permanent monitoring and evaluation of the progress in the execution of the project.

National Parks Administration (APN in its Spanish acronym): it will manage the operational implementation of the Conservation Lighthouses according to their geographic location and the existing National Parks and Reserves in the Paraná Delta area. Likewise, it will collaborate in the implementation of the project directly in the Pre-Delta and Santa Fé Islands National Parks.

National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification (ONDTyD in its Spanish acronym): constitutes the inter-institutional space shared by the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET in its Spanish acronym), the Argentine Institute for Arid Zones Research (IADIZA in its Spanish acronym), the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires (FAUBA in its Spanish acronym) and the MAyDS.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP): MAGyP will provide inputs and experiences from the National Agricultural Soils Plan (PNSA) in coordination with the provinces, to prioritize needs and define actions from the framework instances to those of the direct user of the resource. Within the framework of the PNSA, it will contribute through the Argentine Soil Information System (SISAR in its Spanish acronym) on a national scale, for the formulation of public policies aimed at the conservation of agricultural soils. MAGyP through the Office of Agricultural Risk (ORA) will provide information, analysis and tools for the evaluation and reduction of agricultural risk from a comprehensive perspective, helping to generate the appropriate framework for the expansion and diversification of insurance markets and coverage instruments for the agricultural and forestry sector. Through the National Observatory of Agricultural Soils, it will provide the national carbon stock map of agricultural soils and update it.

National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA): it provides support to activities in the territory based on a central headquarters, 15 regional centers, 52 experimental stations, 6 research centers and 22 research institutes, and more than 350 Extension Units. It will provide support in the information referred to the Scenarios of the Argentine Agri-Food System to 2030. INTA also reports the NDVI trend indicator, formulates and updates the Soil Map and the National Crop Map. Likewise, it collaborates in the Extension and Support to Rural Development and Applied Research, Innovation and Technology Transfers.

National Water Institute (INA in its Spanish acronym): the INA plays an important role for the comprehensive approach at the water basin scale, contributing with an active role in the social installation of highly relevant water issues; contributing to the development of special studies of water systems for the sustainable use of the resource and evaluating the quality of water resources and the risks associated with contamination; in other aspects.

Provincial Governments: the provincial governments will contribute and receive the benefits of the governance of the project. They will be the local actors of environment and production.

Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River Basin Committee: created by the Secretariat of Water Resources of the Nation in 1971 and ratified by the provincial governments of Salta, Santiago del Estero and Santa Fe. Later, the provinces of Catamarca and Tucumán were added. It is a space for interprovincial management of water resources created with the purpose of reaching agreements for the establishment of basic operational guidelines in a joint and comprehensive manner.

The Salí - Dulce River Basin Committee: made up by the provinces of Córdoba, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán, Salta and Catamarca, one of its priority objectives is the solution of environmental problems. To name a few: reduce industrial and urban pollution that affects the water resources of the Salí Dulce river basin; control erosion and sedimentation processes in the Salí Dulce river basin; recover the environmental conditions of the Río Hondo reservoir and preserve the Bañados del Río Dulce, the Mar Chiquita lagoon and other bodies of water and minimize the risks associated with excess or lack of water, throughout the basin.

High Level Interjurisdictional Committee - CIAN-PIECAS-DP: it is the space formed for the coordination and monitoring of the necessary actions to be carried out to achieve the objectives set out in PIECAS. In this sense, its purpose is to support the implementation of the Project activities and promote the effective participation of the actors involved.

Intersectoral Management Committee of the site RAMSAR Delta del Paraná: it is the space of articulation, discussion and decision-making for the implementation of the Site Management Plan. Issues related to conflicts related to the site are addressed as well as the design and presentation of projects to access external financing. The site also includes two national parks in its area and is of great contribution to analyze activities in a context of sustainability, education and promotion of economic activities such as tourism.

Federal Environmental Council (COFEMA in its Spanish acronym): it provides political scope for the concertation of interests of the different sectors of society among themselves, and of these with the public administration, as well as for interjurisdictional coordination between municipalities and provinces, and of these and the city of Buenos Aires with the Nation.

National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI in its Spanish acronym): the INAI will contribute to the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples approach during the execution of the project, favoring inter-institutional articulation, but especially providing the frameworks to integrate communities from the most important stages. early and supporting them and the provinces involved throughout the execution period, to build sustainable processes.

Civil society: Producer organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs): They represent the partners, allies, protagonists of the project execution. They provide knowledge of the territory and experience in the efficiency of implementation or not of certain productive practices . Likewise, they become the main beneficiaries of the project and its replicators in time and space.

Private sector: Associations of agronomic and forestry professionals will be trained and sensitized to incorporate LDN and SLM criteria in their exercise, thus promoting over-scaling in the areas where these professionals develop management plans.

These inter-institutional and intersectoral articulation mechanisms will continue to be maintained and strengthened throughout the project cycle and will be strengthened by the implementation of the EoC that promotes interaction from the earliest stages and the construction of associations that generate and promote policies, practices and communication. In addition, the EoC as a knowledge management instrument has among its objectives to disseminate relevant information in a timely manner, easily accessible and in a culturally appropriate format. This strategy will consider the contributions of each sector and will promote active and inclusive participation throughout the project.

The participation mechanisms will be appropriate to each sector in order to guarantee a sustained intervention during the execution of the project. These mechanisms will include face-to-face instances of workshops, meetings, field trips and also virtual instances. Other participatory bodies such as interviews, surveys, consultations, focus groups (be promoted focus group) which, together, contribute to eliminate barriers that hurt those often excluded from the process of engagement, ensuring that their voices are heard at all the stages of the process.

This stakeholder mapping will be updated during the PPG stage with further analysis and a gender perspective in each of the basins, so as to adjust their known stance and their engagement opportunities near project kick-off.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

In the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (2021), the Regional Working Group on Gender and Environment exposed that gender differences, and roles traditional considered as belonging to women, affect all areas of sustainable development. Affect women's rights, decisions and access to water, energy, food security, forests, sustainable consumption and production, among others. Available data confirm that women are at a disadvantage relative to men in terms of regarding land rights and tenure, technical assistance and education. At regional level, less than 18% of landowners are women so the gap is extremely wide.

For Argentina, according to the National Agricultural Census (CNA by its Spanish acronyms, 2018), the percentage is up to 20% of those who manage farms are women. In addition, women agricultural workers are in informal employment, which increases their vulnerability in the face of disasters, due to their limited capacity for economic autonomy, the increased possibility of job loss and limited access to credit. Specifically for the three provinces, where the areas to be intervened by the project are located, of the total of the producers in Tucumán, Santiago del Estero and Entre Ríos, the 83,8, 70 and 83 per cent respectively are men. Beyond of legal property, women are also discriminate against in access, use, transfer and inheritance from the land. Rural women are often characterized by their overload, caused mainly by the traditional division of labor by gender. In addition to working the land, they are usually the only responsible for the care of children, the sick and the elderly, which makes it difficult for them to participate in education, recreation, community organization, or any political participation.

Within the framework of current regulations, Argentina has developed social policies with a gender perspective that have directly impacted on the increase in the educational level of women, the increase in their economic income, the development of new capacities and the consolidation of social relations and stronger communities, providing greater empowerment and autonomy in decision-making. In addition, by adopting the 2030 Agenda, Argentina committed to implementing the gender approach, especially taking into account the needs of people who are in a situation of greater vulnerability. Indeed, in recent decades, the activity rate of women in the labor market in Argentina has grown significantly from 29.9% in 1994 to 39.8% in the first quarter of 2019. According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2020, of the World Economic Forum, Argentina ranks number 30 out of 153, ascending 6 positions compared to 2018.

Even so, much work remains to be done and the project will contribute in this sense.

Three main strategies will be used: 1) mapping and analysis of women's organizations, an awareness-raising campaigns at local, regional and national level on the importance of equal participation to empower and guarantee women participation, 2) capacity building and women economic empowerment to strengthening the skills of vulnerable women and 3) legal protection framework.

In the "Overview of gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the Convention: 1998–2018" (UNCCD, ICCD/COP (13)/CRP.1), most reports identify women's participation as the main challenge that was addressed in the context of their NAPs. In some cases, specific indicators were set up by Parties to increase the participation of women, for instance 30 per cent; while in others the percentage go up to 50 per cent. In this context, the project aim to contribute

to empower women participation to achieving the 50 per cent in all participation instances, guaranteeing no less than 30 per cent women beneficiaries or stakeholders, both separately and together in mixed groups. Take in account, that the number of beneficiaries of the Project, it is estimated will be around 12,594 people; 50.5% will be women as per data from the last National Census (INDEC 2010).

First of all, within the framework of the updating of actor mapping (PPG stage), it is planned to carry out a Gender Analysis that includes, among other aspects, a study at the local level of land rights, the division of labor in the home and in the field, profit sharing, as well as knowledge and incentives (MM & UN Women, 2020). This analysis will help to identify limitations and opportunities for the activities of the project, which will achieve better results and greater sustainability. In addition, it determines effects and risks differentiated according to gender; factors that limit or facilitate equitable participation of women and men and specific gender differences; this includes the difference in rights, roles, needs, priorities, capacities and vulnerabilities among women and men, relevant to the intervention or planned activity. During the elaboration of the Gender Analysis, a mapping and analysis of women's organizations (associations, cooperatives, self-help groups and so on) will be done because they are powerful mechanisms for correcting gender inequalities and to better assess their needs and to be able to make the calls for participation more efficient through their organizations and their key referents.

All this information will contribute to the design and implementation of the Communication Strategy (CS) (Output 1.2.1) that improves the population's access to quality information regarding LD, LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. This CS, will develop an awareness-raising campaigns at local, regional and national level on the importance of equal participation and will promote women participation in all the participatory instances of the Project such as trainings (Output 1.2.2), design of Santiago del Estero y Entre Ríos PAPs and support to execution of Tucumán PAP (Outcome 1.1.3), workshops and multi-sectoral meetings (Outcome 1.1.2).

With women duly informed with the CS and actively participating in each space for training and co-production of knowledge of the project, their capacity building will be increase and they will have the necessary tools to optimize their territorial work and empower themselves economically. Capacity building will focus on introduce sustainable land management (SLM) and sustainable forest management (SFM) concepts with a LDN and A&M of CC aspects during the training, and the implementation of these practices in the territory (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.2.1). In addition, for the concept and implementation of Community-based Adaptation (CbA) actions in native forests, wetlands and natural grasslands with significant carbon contents, guaranteeing care for vulnerable population (Output 2.1.3). Specifically for natural protected areas in Entre Ríos, the concept and on the ground implementation, of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) will also be develop (Output 2.2.2).

Likewise, the implementation of the practices in the territory will be with permanent support and advice in supply chain perspective, with a view to training women in each production process from the beginning to their sail in the markets in a business and investment plan context (Output 2.1.2 and Output 3.1.3). A key strategy is to improve existing women organizations and promote new associations that provide legal protection framework, recognition and identity. Finally, women capacity building will be strength with the Resource Mobilization Strategy designed and implemented (Output 3.1.1) that will contemplate specific lines for women empowerment.

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

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

One of the lessons learned in the process of updating the PAN was to show that the resolution of the complex problem of the LDDD is unachievable purely through state action. This reality makes it necessary to develop strategies to achieve greater involvement of the private sector and build public-private partnerships. The commitment of the private sector represents a key element for the implementation of public policies in the territory. Either small producers, SMEs or companies of national or international level; all play a strategic role in the territorial, productive and environmental dynamics of the country. The SMEs are key actors for achieved outcomes 2.1. Increased resilience of ecosystems affected by LD to climate variability and extreme weather events and 2.2 Improvement of land productivity and ecosystem service provision in the intervention watersheds, contributing to the improvement of the population's quality of life.

Producer associations are equally important, such is the case of the Agricultural Regional Coop. Ltda. Foundation. The Foundation will be part of the work in Delta del Paraná Ramsar Site, participating in project Outcome 2.2.

Producer associations have been consulted in the validation stage of the Baseline for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Argentina. During the PPG stage, participation strategies will be activated that involve these producers and companies and their associates to invest in their participation on the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, programs and techniques of sustainable production and implement restoration actions with their members.

For this reason, from the project, in order to implement a transformative intervention in the territory such as comprehensive land management incorporating the LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of CC, the associated work of the public and private sectors will be promoted; calling for multisectoral alliances to develop, harmonize and implement sustainable practices that promote environmental objectives.

A table showing the main participative instances and private stakeholders follows. Stakeholder mapping will be updated during the PPG stage in all and each of the basins, so as to further fine-tune the stakeholders' known stance and specify engagement ways and means.

Project Stakeholders

ID	Stakeholder	Responsibility	Proposed role in the project
	Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River Basin Committee	Interjurisdictional and interinstitutional space for Integrated Water Management	Created by the Secretariat of Water Resources of the Nation in 1971 and ratified by the provincial governments of Salta, Santiago del Estero, Santa Fe, Catamarca and Tucumán

1		gement of Pasaje-Juramento-Salado River Basin	man. It will provide the project with a space for exchange and consensus on the distribution and interprovincial use of water, propose and evaluate hydraulic works, will provide information on the monitoring stations present in the system and conduct baseline biophysical studies if necessary.
2	The Salí - Dulce River Basin Committee	Interjurisdictional and interinstitutional space for Integrated Water Management of Salí - Dulce River Basin	Integrated by Córdoba, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán, Salta and Catamarca provinces, one of its priority objectives is the solution of environmental problems. For example: reduce industrial and urban pollution that affects the water resources; control erosion and sedimentation processes; recover the environmental conditions of the Río Hondo reservoir and preserve the Bañados del Río Dulce, the Mar Chiquita lagoon and minimize the risks associated with excess or lack of water throughout the basin. The Committee will contribute to the project in the Management Plan of SALÍ Dulce River Basin framework. This Plan is based on the concept of sustainable development and the objective of achieving a substantial improvement in the quality of life of the population of the basin. That is, ensure the development of productive activities, within a framework of equity and sustainability of the environmental aspects involved.
3	High Level Interjurisdictional Committee of the (CIAN by its Spanish acronym) of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use in the Paraná Delta (PIECAS-DP by its Spanish acronym)	CIAN is an interjurisdictional space formed for the coordination and monitoring of the necessary actions to be carried out to achieve the objectives set out in PIECAS-DP	Integrated by the MAyDS and Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos and Santa Fe provinces, will be supporting the implementation of the project activities and promote the effective participation of the actors involved.
4	Intersectorial Management Committee of the RAMSAR site of Delta del Paraná	It is the space of articulation, discussion and decision-making for the implementation of the Management Plan	Issues related to conflicts related to the site are addressed as well as the design and presentation of projects to access external financing. The site also includes two national parks in its area and is of great contribution to analyze activities in a context of sustainability, education and promotion of economic activities such as tourism.
5	Indigenous Communities	Key actors of the territory that contributes to the intercultural dialogue of knowledge guarantying the participation in the decision-making processes of the State and the adoption of measures that respect their collective rights	The indigenous peoples approach integrates CPLel mechanisms, the basic principles of self-determination, respect for indigenous knowledge, traditional cultures and practices that contribute to sustainable and equitable development. During the PPG stage, it will be relevant to explore ways, through formal CPLel processes, for the different worldviews of indigenous peoples and rural communities, among other actors in the territory, to be taken into account, in order to maximize the local effectiveness of project activities, including its delivery of benefits to these actors.
6	Civil society	Producer organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	They represent the partners, allies, protagonists of the project execution. They provide knowledge of the territory and experience in the efficiency of implementation or not of certain productive practices. Likewise, they become the main beneficiaries of the project and its replicators in time and space.
7	Associations of agronomic and forestry professionals	Involvement of the private sector	It will be trained and sensitized to incorporate LDN, SFM and SLM criteria in their exercise, thus promoting over-scaling in the areas where these professionals develop management plans. The Associations of agronomic and forestry professionals are key actors for achieve outcome 1.2. Development of local capacities promoting community appropriation of the concepts of LDN and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; technical assistance; intersectoral articulation; and knowledge dialogue.
8	Small and Medium Enterprises-SMEs- (PyMES by its Spanish acronym)	Involvement of the private sector	The role of SMEs will be fundamental to carry out actions that contribute to a post-pandemic regional and national agenda. The SMEs are an important engine of the productive network, producing wealth and employing labor. They are strategic actors in which

			in to build capacities that allow to identify, develop, promote and implement good practices and production technologies, use of resources and occupation of appropriate territory to prevent processes of desertification and mitigate its effects, reaching the LDN and the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
9	The Agricultural Regional Coop. Ltda. Foundation (LAR by its Spanish acronym)	Involvement of the private sector	Created in 1910, it operates in more than 25 different activities in the field of consumption, production, industry and services, positioned as one of the most important multi-sector cooperatives in the country. It is a jointly owned company democratically controlled by more than 5,000 associates, represented by a Board of Directors, and managed by a general management.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

	CLASSIFICATION	MITIGATION MEASURES
Pandemic or Epidemic situations make field activities difficult	MEDIUM	<p>Some areas of Argentina suffer epidemics of diseases transmitted by mosquitoes such as Dengue, for which critical times can be known and activities adapted. Clothing protocols, gadgets, repellants are applied.</p> <p>Likewise, if the current Covid-19 pandemic conditions persist, national and provincial protocols and WHO regulations are adopted.</p>
Variations in the exchange rate and macroeconomic conditions	MEDIUM	The institutional political articulation with the participation of the private sector will be able to generate overcoming synergies to create productive integration chains and / or value chains. The GoA has special assistance programs for small producers according to their specific activities with which they can be assisted.
The weak financial capacity of large groups of producers reduces their ability to access financing to adopt SLM practices	MEDIUM	The project will develop a financial strategy that strengthens the availability of access to incentives and other financial mechanisms for beneficiaries with low financial capacity. The GoA has special assistance programs for small producers according to their specific activities, with which they can be assisted. The project's Component 3 will consider these mechanisms and their learnt lessons.
Lack of adoption of the provided financial mechanisms by the beneficiaries	LOW	The project's Component 3 responds to the root causes of the present financial mechanisms not supporting the enhanced resilience of both the ecosystems and the population. In doing so, it will include an identification of the necessary change levers within the economic and financial aspects of the current activity, including lack of collateral, unbankedness, financial exclusion, or other known sources of lack of participation in innovative financial mechanisms for sustainability.
The visualization of the restoration / recovery of soils exceeds the project execution time and the confidence of the producers is lost	LOW	<p>An intersectoral intervention in productive landscapes is promoted, incorporating from the earliest stages (PPG) producers and producer organizations, local governments and the private sector in the tasks of Planning, Management and Management.</p> <p>Strengthening inter-institutional governance favors ownership by institutions, helping to maintain, replicate and expand SLM techniques beyond the life of the project</p>

		maintain, replicate and expand SLMI techniques beyond the life of the project.
Lack of commitment from the private sector	LOW	For this reason, it is proposed to achieve a territorial alliance between the private sector, the government sector at the national, provincial and local levels and civil society according to the diagnosis in the PPG stage.
Institutional changes at the national and provincial levels	LOW	The Communication Strategy (EoC in its Spanish acronym) favors the connection of all the key actors of the project, contributing to their articulation during periods of change of authorities.
Climate variability and CC reduce the effectiveness of the practices implemented by the project	LOW	<p>The project strengthens a sustainable land management (MST in its Spanish acronym) approach within and indirectly beyond the intervention sites, with the expected impact of increasing the resilience to climate variability and climate change in both ecosystems and population, and in front of both droughts and floods, which are the main identified risks stemming from the climate scenarios. Therefore, project interventions will be designed with these features of future climate in mind, and precisely with the objective of having them incorporated in governmental and private planning.</p> <p>As per lower time frames, the GoA has special assistance programs for emergencies and agricultural disasters that will be enhanced through project activities, thus increasing the resilience of target populations. These project activities cannot be thwarted by climate variability.</p>
Low participation of women and indigenous peoples	LOW	Spaces will be created and tools will be provided so that women and community members can be actively involved in the interventions envisaged by the project in a culturally appropriate way. This will be promoted mainly from the Free and Informed Prior Consultations (CPLI in its Spanish acronym) where all the pertinent information about the project will be provided and opportunities will be created that favor intergenerational and gender inclusion so that communities can express themselves.

In Argentina, the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic deepened the situation of social vulnerability that the country's disadvantaged population was already experiencing. The crisis triggered by the pandemic affects the whole society, but it has a greater impact in households that were already in a vulnerable situation. In the first half of 2020, the government implemented monetary transfers relying on the strengths of the existing social protection system, to the most vulnerable families (those with children, already on social programs, the elderly). Although the emergency transfer policies were central to face the degradation in the living conditions of citizens, they were not enough for the most vulnerable. In this context, risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have been analysed to ascertain how they can affect important elements of the project.

Risk and mitigation measures: The potential re-instatement of COVID-19 containment measures has been considered, and in the case of such occurrence, there exists capacity for the PPG works to be carried out remotely, this being enacted by the re-direction of travel budget lines to supporting the remote participation of underprivileged stakeholders. The role of local partners will be fundamental in such contingency, as they remain closer to the beneficiaries to provide support for their participation in case face-to-face meetings are not possible.

Opportunities provided by the Project to mitigate the risks: Although economic growth is a necessary condition to overcome this crisis, it is necessary to underpin growth with specific policies and measures that address the various dimensions of the social situation including deficits in access to education, a quality habitat and jobs with good conditions. In this context, the project will provide opportunities for the adoption of sustainable practices with special focus on marginal and underprivileged communities, giving a central role to good quality employment that will be created for vulnerable groups as these groups are the ones closer to the opportunities, and to enhance the impact of employment policies and the recovering social and popular economy. In addition, the project will contribute to women empowerment, decreasing the tension between labor market participation and unpaid care within households. The project will also enhance structural support to these opportunities through supporting enhanced institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement, fostering early warning mechanisms, and promoting local, circular value chains. With respect to co-financing availability and price increases, the analysis does not identify remaining risks, as they have already been considered in the final stages of the identification process.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Argentina has a solid institutional structure at the national level for the execution of this project. Coordination from the DNPYOAT (its acronym in Spanish) of the MAYS is foreseen in close relationship with the National Advisory Commission (CAN in its Spanish acronym) as an advisory body and with the ONDTyD as an evaluation and monitoring body.

A Steering Committee for the project will be formed, made up of: the MAYS; the representatives of the provincial governments; IICA representatives; representatives of the partners or other parties responsible for the project. the Implementing Agency CAF will sit in this Committee with no vote. This Steering Committee will provide general guidance to the Project Coordinator; evaluate project risks and progress, and provide recommendations to achieve the expected results.

The Project Executing Unit (PEU) will be made up of the National Director of the project (Secretary of Environmental Policy in Natural Resources of the MAYS), an Alternate Director (National Director of Planning and Environmental Management of the Territory); a Project Responsible Consultant (General Coordinator), the technicians designated by the DNPYOAT, and an accounting and finance team that will work under the modality and guidelines of the Directorate of External Financing Projects (DIPROFEX) of the MAYS. The PEU will be supported by consultants and facilitators temporarily hired to execute sequential activities within each of the components. The provinces will each designate a focal point who will be a counterpart in the project. The DNPYOAT of the MAYS will carry out the responsibility of coordinating the Project.

CAF will act as the Implementing Agency before the GEF, and as such, it will be responsible for providing technical support and carrying out supervision missions during project implementation.

Likewise, under the orbit of the MAYS are the three main areas related to the different environmental conventions as National Directorates (DN): (i) DN of Planning and Environmental Ordering of the Territory (Focal Point of the UNCCD); (ii) DN of Biodiversity (implementation of the CBD), (iii) DN of Climate Change (implementation of the UNFCCC); and the (iv) National Forest Directorate. This institutional organization facilitates the implementation of an integrated approach to project execution.

Regarding inter-institutional coordination, it is proposed that the main space for articulation between the National State and the provinces be within the organizations already established such as: the Pasaje-Juramento - Salado Basin Committee; Salí Dulce River Basin Committee; High Level Interjurisdictional Committee of PIECAS-DP. It should be noted that approaching a project related to DLDD in a NDT framework and with impacts on the AyM al CC, necessarily

implies the articulation with other areas of government that are authority for the application of related issues such as: the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing, which intervenes in Agroindustry, CC sector impacts through the Agricultural Risk Office -ORA-, agricultural insurance and relevant plans such as the National Agricultural Soil Plan (PNSA), the Argentine Agricultural Soil Information System (SISAR); the Ministry of Security responsible for the operational response tasks of the fire fighting; as well as with different organisms of the technical scientific sector; academic and civil society. In this sense, the DNPYOAT of the MAYDS has vast experience in joint work with other areas, institutions and organizations at the national, provincial and local levels; as well as in the design and implementation of social participation methodologies, which represents an added value for the execution of this project.

Other projects in execution or to be executed (implementing agency UNDP):

- (GEFID 9583) Project Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (MST) in development planning: operationalize environmental land use planning (ELUP) in Argentina (2017-2023) has funded the Focal Areas/Programs DL-3, P-4 and DL-4, P-5 with US \$ 3.7 million of funding and US \$ 15.7 million in cofinancing. Among the results and expected products of the project are key elements for the environmental planning of the territory that may be adopted for the definition of neutral environments, as well as the expansion of knowledge and experiences in SLM that will then be incorporated into the Component 2 of the current proposed project. Regarding institutional strengthening and governance, the project is working on the development of a bill of minimum budgets in the area of environmental management of the territory, which is expected to facilitate the identification of the main spaces and key references in the legislative field.

- (GEFID 5044) Project Sustainable management of the drylands of the Argentine Northwest (2014-November 2020) The project works in eight provinces of the NOA (Argentinian Northwest in its Spanish acronym) and Cuyo (Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja, San Juan, Mendoza, San Luis), encompassing the ecoregions of the puna, mountains and plains and plateaus (about a quarter of the surface of Argentina). It has destined for the Focal Areas / Programs LD-1 and LD-3 US \$ 3.3 million of funding and 18.7 million in cofinancing contributions. It is estimated that the balance of both projects to generate synergies with the present will be US \$ 15 million plus a continuity of the strengthening that will continue to be in force, contributing important counterparts in kind. Within the framework of this project, the provinces of Mendoza, Tucumán, Salta, San Juan and Catamarca are in an advanced stage of elaboration of their PAPs; meanwhile the province of Jujuy, is beginning the elaboration. The project has developed and systematized a participatory methodology for the design of the PAP, with exercise and implementation in 7 provinces, which lays the foundations for the design of the governance mechanisms of component 1 of the project proposed here, based on schemes of multisectoral committees, designed by this project. It has also made progress in the establishment of provincial environmental information nodes and implemented MST under the same conceptual framework that is proposed here in a wide region of the country complementary to the one that is intended to be developed within the framework of this project proposal.

- PIECAS-DP, in turn, takes part of Result 4 of the project "Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Fluvial Wetlands of the Paraná and Paraguay Rivers" (Argentine Republic - ARG// 10/003) that includes as goals to count with: 1) a regulatory framework and the formulation of policies for the continental fishery, harmonized and based on an ecosystem approach; 2) strengthened institutional capacity for fisheries and wetlands management; 3) a

reduction of the impacts on biodiversity, through the development of pilot initiatives of alternatives to fishing and the optimization of the uses of fishing resources; and 4) the Strategic Plan in the Paraná Delta, as a pilot experience of intersectoral spatial planning also based on an ecosystem approach and capable of being replicated in the rest of the La Plata Basin.

In all cases, the project implementation agency was the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Project summaries can be found in:

- <https://www.ar.undp.org/content/argentina/es/home/projects/pi-incorporacion-de-la-conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad.html>
- <https://www.ar.undp.org/content/argentina/es/home/projects/management-sustainable-de-tierra-en-zona-secas-del-noa.html>
- https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/nivel_2._corredor_paraguay_parana.pdf

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

The project is consistent, in first place, with the commitments assumed within the framework of the UNCCD, since the activities that are proposed to be carried out to achieve the expected results correspond directly with the Goals and objectives proposed in the National Voluntary Goals for LDN, contemplating the established priority of Avoid- Reduce-Restore. Likewise, the indicators proposed for monitoring correspond to those presented in the DLDD National Action Plan updated to 2019 in its 5 Components. Regarding consistency with national strategies against Climate Change; The project contributes directly to the reduction of emissions agreed by Argentina in its Second Nationally Determined Contribution (2020) and bases some action proposals on the provisions of the National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change. Finally, from the strengthening of the management of protected areas; The project is expected to contribute, within the framework of the Aichi Goals and beyond, to the strategies and commitments that arise from the meetings of the member states in UNFCCC COP 26 and CBD COP 15.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

1) How existing lessons informed the project concept and plan

The main reference that guides the project concept and plan is the actualization process of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAN) in 2019. As the result of this federal participatory process that involved key stakeholders of public and private sector, civil society and academia among others, many lessons were learned.

These lessons were identified in three main subjects:

A) Institutional aspects and public policy framework:

The devitalization of the CAN resulted in a weakening of the effective implementation of the PAN. A core consequence of this circumstance was the lack of a strategy cross-sectional national fight against soil degradation and desertification involving national and provincial agencies, civil society organizations, academia and local organizations. This atomization of involvement of key actors resulted in a fragmentary vision, lacking an integral and strategic projection that will facilitate synergies and optimize the realization of the PAN.

Another key issue is intra- and inter-institutional articulation for the coordinated design and implementation of public policies in the field of fight against desertification and land degradation. This is so because public investment in instruments with impacts on handling of the land has been fragmentary, which has led to suboptimal results in the allocation of means. Effective coordination is anticipated to improve the impact of public policies and avoid the generation of perverse incentives that threaten the sustainable management of the land.

B) Strategic considerations for the implementation of the National Action Program

The complexity and multiple dimensionality of the problems associated with degradation and desertification processes require an interdisciplinary approach.

Another important element of the complexity of this problem is the insufficiency of purely state action. This reality makes it necessary to develop strategies to achieve greater involvement of the private sector and build public-private partnerships. Thus, it will be possible to find efficient and effective solutions, build consensus and generate synergies between the sectors involved. In this framework, it is important to define a participatory, flexible and dynamic approach, which is established in the different territorial and sectorial levels.

From a macro perspective, although the PAN contemplated the sensitization of the society through communication campaigns, there were limitations in the implementation of these measures. Based on this experience, it is necessary to deepen actions in terms of raising awareness of society on the problem of desertification and land degradation.

Finally, a significant limitation for realization of the strategic lines of the PAN was the absence of a budget specific allocation that will ensure continuous and permanent development of the different areas of the PAN.

C) Elements for the design and execution of Projects.

A first consideration to take into account is the importance of designing projects with realistic criteria regarding scope, products and results. On the other hand, it is necessary to attend to the institutions arrangements for implementation, since it is necessary to have provincial and local strong organizations for the successful implementation of the actions.

A direct beneficial impact is the strengthening of local capacities, through the training of suitable human resources that remain in the respective provinces once the project is completed. Likewise, the monitoring and evaluation that will be carried out by CAF is key to allow timely adjustments that make it possible to correct the course when necessary. The proposed knowledge management outputs include the development of accessible materials for participants. In recent years, the National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification (ONDTyD by its Spanish acronyms) took the initiative to create a digital repository of publications, multimedia and projects that has significantly improved the availability of technical documents. Infodesert has made it possible to have a web platform designed for the publication of projects and activities linked to soil conservation and the fight against desertification throughout the national territory, that will be used and strengthened by the project.

The project advances the aligned PAN framework of replicability of results and post-project sustainability of the actions carried out. The experience of these years shows that local ownership and Post-EOP technical support that will be provided by the Ministry is critical. Likewise, it provides scalability to evolve from specific pilot actions towards more comprehensive initiatives in order to have a greater impact on the dynamics of land use at the regional and national levels.

2) Plans to learn from ongoing relevant projects and initiatives

Both MAyDS and CAF are institutions that carry out projects that are linked thematically and/or complement the topics of this project. In this sense, they play an active role in the exchange of experiences from ongoing relevant projects and initiatives. Furthermore, these projects are implemented together with institutional partners from different sectors, which facilitates the exchange of information regarding other projects or initiatives that these institutions carry out. The intersectoral and inter-institutional spaces with which the project works, such as the Basin Committees, facilitate the exchange of knowledge of those actions that are being carried out in their territories.

3) Proposed tools and methods for knowledge exchange, learning and collaboration

The Knowledge Management approach will be implemented through the Component 1 Outputs: mechanisms for the co-production (Output 1.1.2), the design and implementation of the Communication Strategy (Output 1.2.1), the professionals and technicians training (Output 1.2.2) and the institutional/organizational arrangements (Output 1.2.3).

The updating of knowledge on LDN implementation process in planning, SLM and SFM practices and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change is managed through a pre-existing interinstitutional and interjurisdictional network, which will be strengthened. These spaces are the National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification (ONDTyD), the National Advisory Commission (CAN), the River Basin Committees; COFEMA, CIAN and the Intersectorial Management Committee of the RAMSAR site of Delta del Paraná where the referents can meet their knowledge in a knowledge co-production process.

The formulation of the Communication Strategy will contribute to the generation and transmission of knowledge by linking science, academia and the extension of policies and practices in the territory in a harmonized message from the different levels of the state. To do this, it will integrate participation and a sociocultural approach, integrating the professional perspective by linking with sociologists and rural sociologists from different parts of Argentina, with different institutional memberships, theoretical approaches and research themes to create and promote transversal instances of articulation of efforts, debate of ideas, exchange of results, and systematization of participation in planning and implementation. In this way, it will allow directing efforts and resources to design focused content that includes views and voices with which these groups could be identified and sensitized, thus motivating their interest and promoting the acceptance of management measures necessary for soil conservation, favoring the resilience of the system, and adapt and mitigate the effects of Climate Change.

Multi-stakeholder platforms, established at the appropriate local, national or regional level, can bring together indigenous and local knowledge, as well as ensure that stakeholders participate in the decision-making process. Such platforms also promote knowledge sharing and mutual learning and can support readjustment of LDN policies and measures. The CS that promotes interaction from the earliest stages and the construction of associations that generate and

promote policies, practices and communication. In addition, the CS as a knowledge management instrument has among its objectives to disseminate relevant information in a timely manner, easily accessible and in a culturally appropriate format.

This strategy will consider the contributions of each sector and will promote active and inclusive participation throughout the project. The participation mechanisms will be appropriate to each sector in order to guarantee a sustained intervention during the execution of the project. The methodologies will include interviews, surveys, consultations, focus groups (be promoted focus group) which, together, contribute to eliminate barriers that hurt those often excluded from the process of engagement, ensuring that their voices are heard at all the stages of the process.

The professionals and technicians training will include face-to-face instances of workshops, meetings, field trips and also virtual instances.

All the knowledge acquired and the lessons learned during the project cycle will be used to define institutional innovations in the organisms in charge of the management, research and control of sustainable land management, LDDD and A&M to climate change.

In Component 2, the Knowledge Management approach will be implemented through actions like share and display best practices between associations of agronomic and forestry professionals, innovative technologies in Small and Medium Enterprises-SMEs and lessons learned developed by civil society and indigenous communities to increase their capacity to implement Community based Adaptation (CbA), Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA), SLM and SFM (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2).

4) Proposed knowledge outputs to be produced and shared with stakeholders

The proposed knowledge outputs to be produced are both the result and part of the communication Strategy. These products are: publications, newsletters, press briefings, press releases, social media, website texts, videos and infographics. The content of these outcomes will be elaborated in "Approval workflows" which are developed for the production and approval of the communication tools.

5) Discussion on how knowledge and learning will contribute to overall project impact and sustainability

The most important positive loop contributing to overall project impact and sustainability is the "triple-loop-learning" where the first learning loop can lead to incremental changes in routine actions, the second leads to revisiting underlying assumptions, and the third may influence underlying values and core beliefs (Stafford Smith *et al.*, 2009).

Information from interim monitoring should lead to refinements in integrated land use planning decisions and associated LDN interventions (first learning loop), revisiting underlying assumptions drawn from the preliminary assessments (second loop), and, where necessary, influence underlying values that frame the context and enable an environment conducive to achieving LDN (third loop) (A.L. Cowie *et al.* 2017). This triple loop adaptive learning mechanism strengthens the generation of a virtuous cycle of changes introduced in the territory that can be efficiently replicated for amplification.

6) Plans for strategic communications

Both CAF and M_AyDS are institutions with vast experience in the design and execution of projects with their respective communication and dissemination components. Therefore, they have a track record at the regional and national levels, respectively, of generating exchanges of experiences, positive incentives, and learning opportunities through communication. Based on this background, the strategic communication plans will be based on connecting the institutions, promote the exchange of intersectoral and inter-institutional experiences and strengthen co-production based on the dialogue of knowledge between the different sectors.

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF

CEO Endorsement/Approval MTR

TE

Medium/Moderate

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

The preliminary Environmental, Social and Climate assessment made by CAF’s specialist’s team the categorized the Project as 2C, “Low Environmental and Social Risk”. However, the project activates CAF’s safeguard S06 – Ethnic groups and Cultural diversity[1]; Therefore, CAF will make all the efforts in order to guarantee that the indigenous peoples approach integrates FPIC mechanisms, the basic principles of self-determination, and respect for indigenous knowledge, traditional cultures and practices that contribute to sustainable and equitable development.

During the PPG stage, it will be relevant to explore ways, through formal FPIC processes, for the different worldviews of indigenous peoples and rural communities, among other actors in the territory, to be taken into account, in order to maximize the local effectiveness of project activities, including its delivery of benefits to these actors.

Besides, from the climate risk’s analysis’s perspective, the project reduces the vulnerability of both ecosystems and population to the expected impacts of climate change and contributes to build adaptive capacities. The measures supported by the project would only turn from preventive to mitigative in an accelerated-change scenario, but its financial, environmental and social performance and production of GEB are unlikely to be affected except marginally by that change during the design period.

The specific analysis of climate risk provides two main recommendations for the wider project. First, it reinforces the general project approach of providing focused attention, in a positively discriminated way, to the most vulnerable members of its beneficiary populations. Indigenous peoples, and/or women, and/or other excluded members of local communities (children, elder, the physically handicapped, LGBTI+), must be provided with enhanced opportunities to participate in the project activities and enjoy their benefits. In doing so, the project will ensure that resilience is optimized. In the same way, the project must ensure that all and every of its procedures, structures, activities, and deliverables are embedded within a risk prevention & reduction culture, and that it supports its beneficiaries and stakeholders in the wide and deep building of societal capacities, both public and private, for disaster response at all levels.

[1] <https://www.caf.com/media/3381440/manual-caf-gef-safeguardsfinal.pdf> See page 86.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
ANNEX D - Climate risk screening summary 04102021	
ES risk preliminar assessment LD Argentina	

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Florencia María Gloria Gomez	Secretariat of Environmental Policy and Natural Resources	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	9/13/2021

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

Country: Argentina (ID 3865483*)

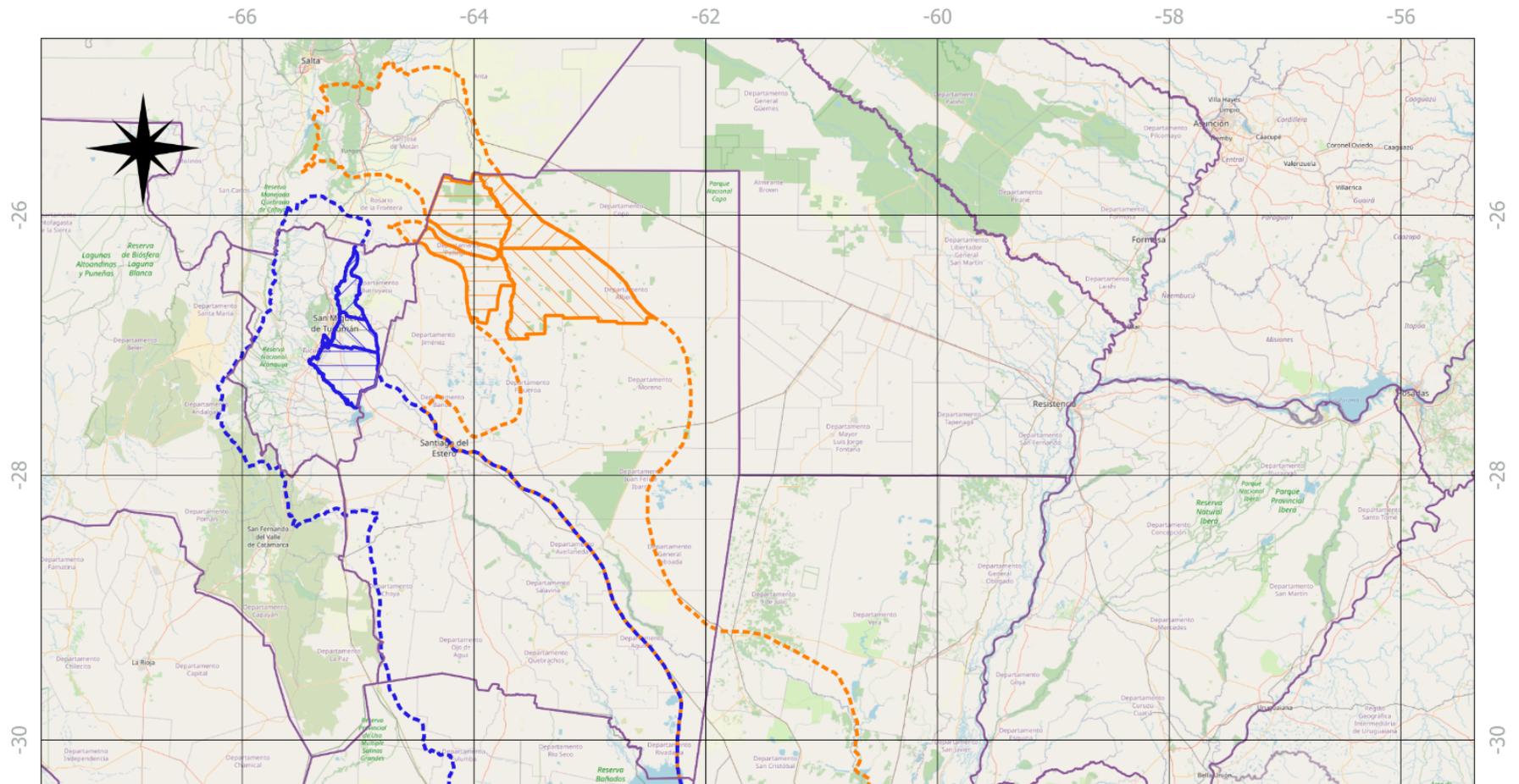
Watersheds included in Provinces and Departments:

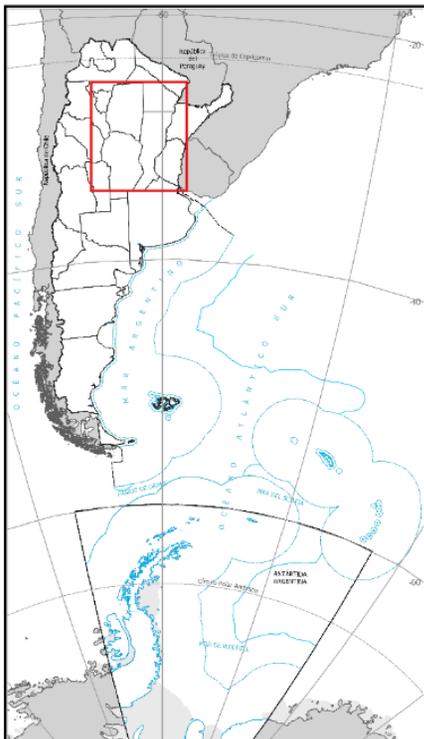
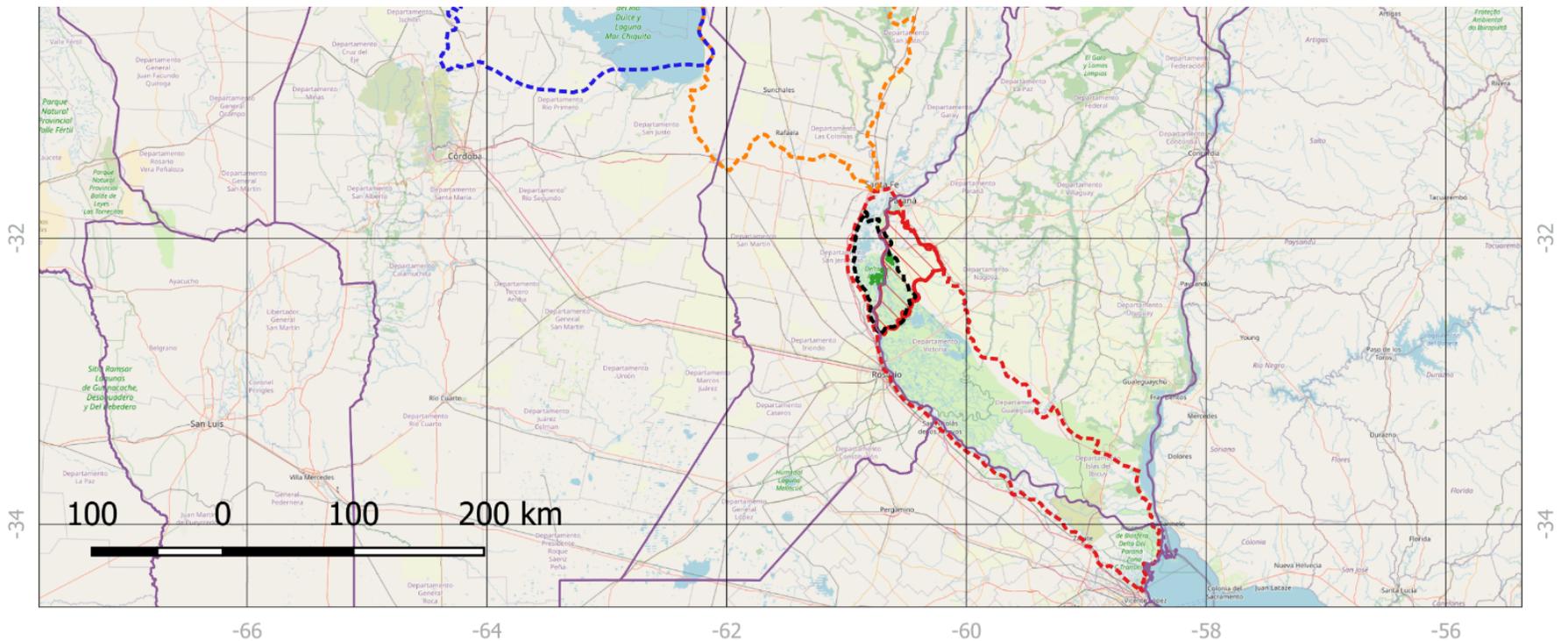
Santiago del Estero: Pellegrini Department (ID 38416112*); Copo Department (ID 3860289*); Alberdi Department (ID 3866417*).

Tucumán: Cruz Alta Department (ID 3859838*); Leales Department (ID 3847102*)

Entre Ríos: Diamante Department (ID 3859380*); Victoria Department (ID 3832932*)

*: geonames.org ID



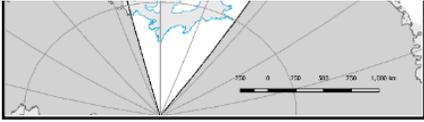


PROJECT: "Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change"

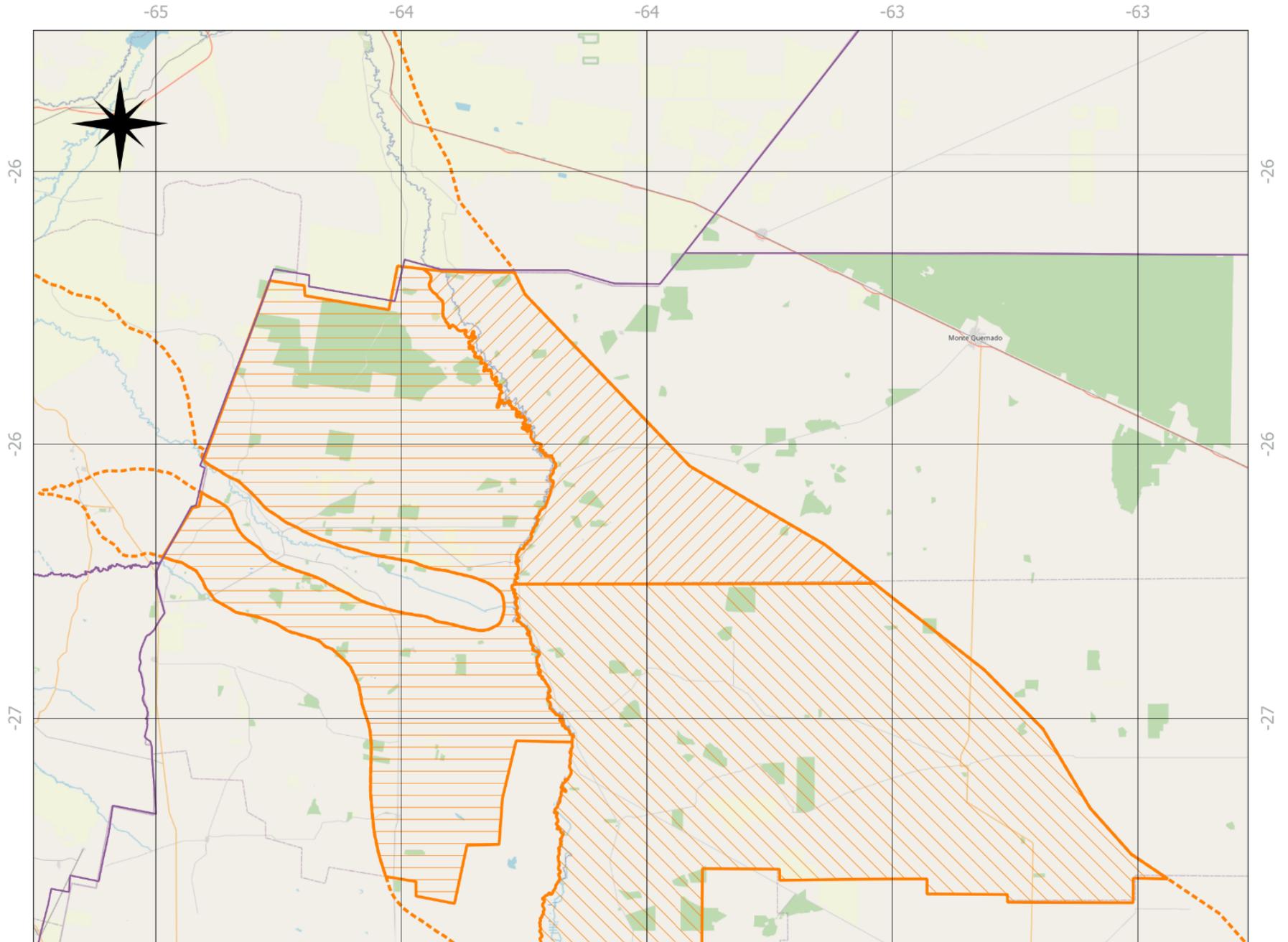
ARGENTINA - INTERVENTION SITES

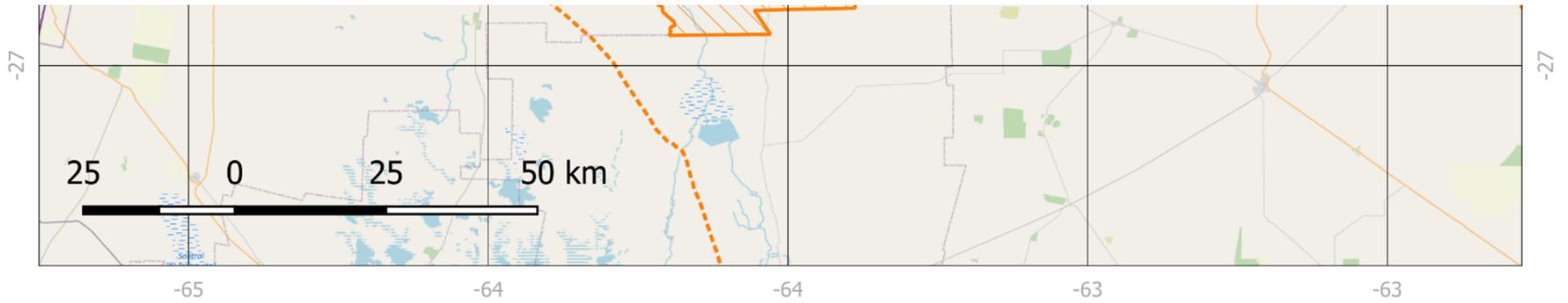
References

- | | |
|---|---|
|  PROTECTED AREAS |  COPO Department - (PJS) |
|  RAMSAR SITE |  PELLEGRINI Department (PJS) |
|  PROVINCES |  SALÍ-DULCE BASIN (SD) |
|  DELTA DEL PARANÁ BASIN (DdP) |  BURRUYACU Department - (SD) |
|  DIAMANTE Department - (DdP) |  CRUZ ALTA Department - (SD) |
|  P. JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN (PJS) |  LEALES Department - (SD) |



 ALBERDI Department - (PJS)

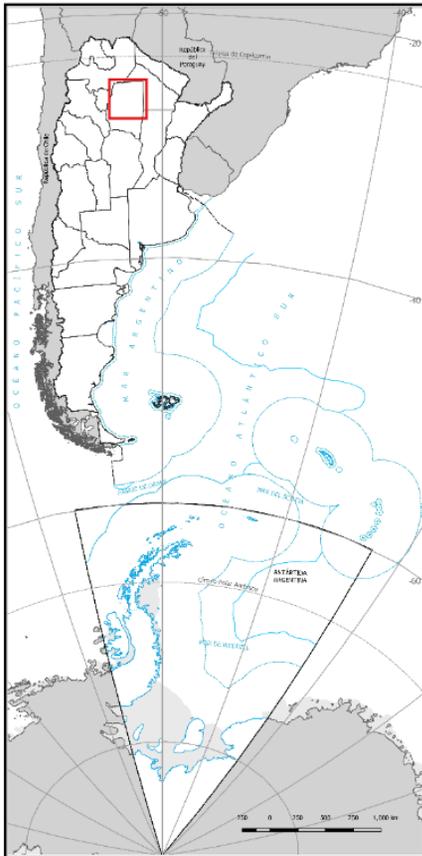




PROJECT: "Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change"

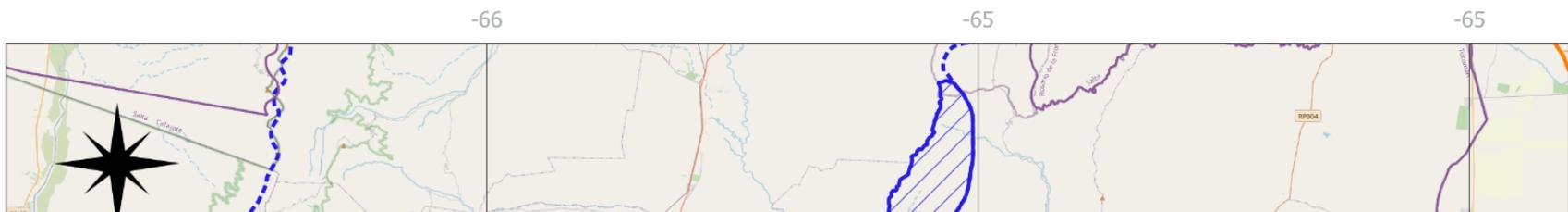
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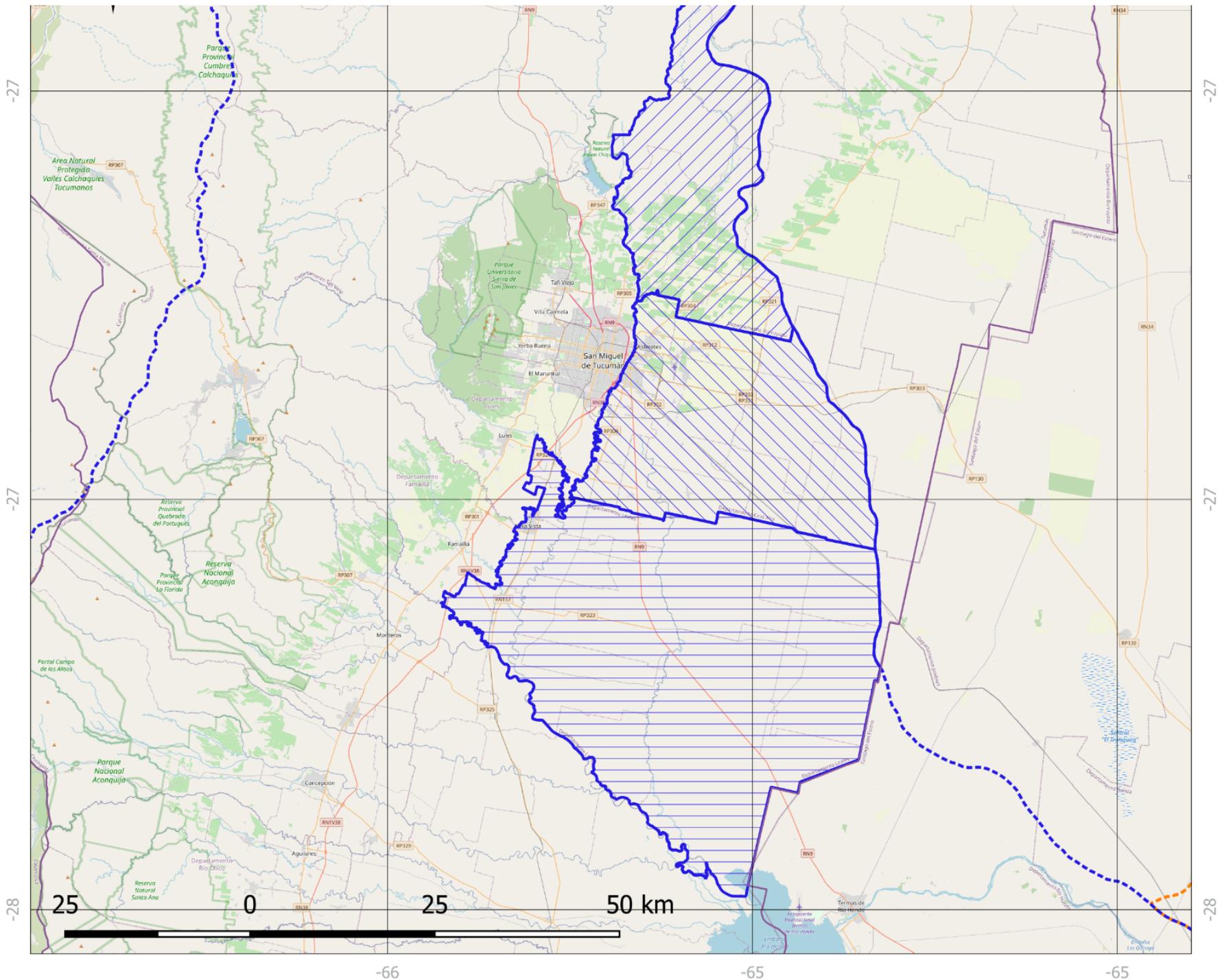
PASAJE JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN
SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO PROVINCE



References

-  PROVINCES
-  P. JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN (PJS)
-  COPO Department - (PJS)
-  ALBERDI Department - (PJS)
-  PELLEGRINI Department (PJS)



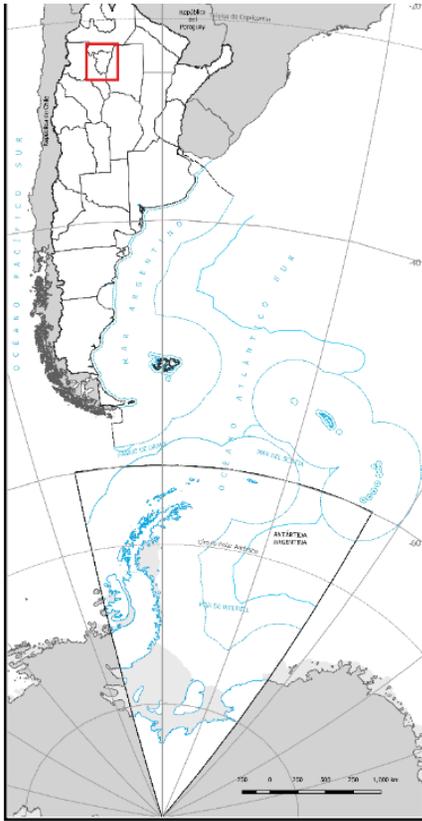


PROJECT: "Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food"

systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change"

ARGENTINA - INTERVENTION SITES

SALÍ DULCE BASIN - TUCUMÁN PROVINCE



References

- | | |
|---|---|
|  PROVINCES |  BURRUYACU Department - (SD) |
|  P. JURAMENTO SALADO BASIN (PJS) |  CRUZ ALTA Department - (SD) |
|  SALÍ-DULCE BASIN (SD) |  LEALES Department - (SD) |

