

# GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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## General Project Information

Project Title

Strengthening management to combat threats from Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in Venezuela

Region

Venezuela

GEF Project ID

11115

Country(ies)

Venezuela

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

FAO

GEF Agency Project ID

744373

Project Executing Entity(s)

Ministry of People's Power for Eco-socialism (MINEC)

Project Executing Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Biodiversity

Submission Date

6/28/2024

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

6,000,000.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

570,000.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

6,570,000.00

Total Co-financing

35,940,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

150,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

14,250.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

6,734,250.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Coral Reefs, Biomes, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Sea Grasses, Invasive Alien Species, Species, Tourism, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Livelihoods, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Influencing models, Beneficiaries, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Community Based Organization, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Education, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Information Dissemination, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Private Sector, Large corporations, Capacity Development, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Theory of change, Learning, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Demonstrate innovative approach, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making

#### Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

#### Project Summary

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

The project “Strengthening management to combat threats from Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in Venezuela” will be developed in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a country that is located at the intersection of the Amazon, Caribbean and Guyana biogeographic regions and is considered as one of the ten places with the greatest biological diversity on the planet, with an outstanding representation of both terrestrial and marine (Aguilera et al., 2000) and with a wide presence of aquatic ecosystems of the two main categories: marine and continental (or inland waters). Within marine environments, there are those of open or oceanic waters, and those of coastal waters that include marshes, coral reefs, mangroves and estuaries. Within the interior, we differentiate between lotic or flowing water and lentic or still water, which comprise a great diversity of environments associated with lakes and lagoons (Mago, 1978, Miloslavich et al., 2003).

One of the main threats to biodiversity is the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) (IPBES, 2023, IUCN, 2023), therefore, the National Action Plan of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity 2010 -2020 of Venezuela (PAN-NSCBD), in its Strategic Plan Line 5, establishes actions for the identification, prevention and control of IAS or potentially invasive species. However, its implementation has been conditioned by insufficient human, regulatory, information and financial resources, with limited coordination between institutions, authorities and local communities. Currently, the country is facing the invasion of new species, especially aquatic IAS, which at a global level have been identified as one of the most critical environmental risks that species, aquatic habitats and biodiversity currently face in general (Hopkins, 2001); therefore, it is necessary to create protocols and control actions that have not yet been established, especially in these aquatic environments mentioned, which present additional challenges in terms of controlling the introduction and dispersal routes. To identify those key elements necessary for the development of these protocols, a pilot experience is proposed in an aquatic IAS that has expanded greatly in recent years in the country.

In this sense, the project aims to reduce the loss of biodiversity and the impact of ecosystem services of global importance, strengthening institutional and community capacities in the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of exotic aquatic invasive species in Venezuela, with emphasis on the coastal marine; considering gender equity and implementing a results-based knowledge management approach. For this, the

Project will be implemented with the financial support of the Venezuelan Government and the Global Environment Fund (GEF), and will be made up of four components: Component 1) *Institutional and community strengthening for the management of aquatic IAS with a gender perspective*; Component 2) *Monitoring and control system for aquatic IAS developed with community participation*; Component 3) *Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security*; and 4) *Knowledge management, information dissemination and project learning with a gender perspective*.

The positive impacts of this project translate into the improvement of management to combat the threats of IAS in the Coastal Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) of the country, through the development of a National System for Monitoring and Control of Invasive Exotic Species (SNCIAS), with emphasis on coastal marine aquatic IAS, financially sustainable and with the participation of local communities. Therefore, the Project will contribute to the generation of global environmental benefits, the prevention, control and monitoring of aquatic IAS, the economic sustainability of local communities and the strengthening of capacities at different levels, achieving important quantifiable objectives: at least 164,709.29 ha Area of protected terrestrial areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 1.2), at least 121,866.71 ha of marine protected areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 2.2) (both results will be incorporated into the governing instruments of all national CMPAs, scaling up to the 6,847,720.43 ha, which make up the CMPA of Venezuela); at least 19,400 beneficiaries (9,253 women and 9,647 men), corresponding to officials from national, regional and local public institutions, local residents and the private sector, who will participate in capacity-building processes, participation in the network of environmental brigades, in the recovery of the reef ecosystem and in the development of the proposed sustainable socio-productive alternatives, such as ecotourism activities, aquaculture and the processing of fishery products, among others (GEF Core Indicator 11). The prevention, early detection, containment, control and eradication policies of aquatic IAS, and EPI in Venezuela will have a positive impact throughout the region, particularly for the waters and coasts of the Caribbean Sea, considering the enormous capacity for dispersion of these species. Consequently, the project will help strengthen the management of IAS, mitigate the effects of climate change by contributing to improving the health and integrity of reef systems, and will contribute to improving the socioeconomic conditions and food security of the residents of the CMPAs.

Particularly, notable efforts will be made to combat the presence of the IAS, *Unomia stolonifera*, an Indo-Pacific octocoral, which has been reported in the CMPAs: Mochima, Morrocoy, San Esteban and Henri Pittier National Parks and Cuare Wildlife Refuge (MINEC, 2021a). This IAS, generates alterations in the reef ecosystem, with potential consequences in the “biodiversity hotspot of the Antilles or Caribbean islands”, in the ecosystem services provided by reefs and benthic communities, and in economic, tourist and fishing activities, which they are the main livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations present in these CMPAs. It is within these coastal marine ecosystems, where the project will specifically address actions in a coordinated manner to identify invasion pathways and control the expansion of *Unomia stolonifera*, and in this context, a pilot will be implemented with the participation of communities for control of this IAS, whose results will in turn contribute to the generation of information and lessons for the development and implementation of public policies at the national level aimed at the management of aquatic IAS, with emphasis on coastal marine IAS, at the national and regional levels and global.

For the development of the project, four (4) spatial levels of intervention have been defined, which includes level 1 with the five (5) Coastal Marine Protected Areas (CMPA): Cuare Wildlife Refuge, Morrocoy National Park, San Esteban National Park, Henri Pittier National Park, and Mochima National Park, level 2 with a specific area within each CMPA for the control and containment of the IAS, *U. stolonifera* pilot, level 3 with a specific area within the CMPA for the active restoration of corals affected by the IAS, *U. stolonifera* and level 4 with a specific area (communities), within each CMPA, for the implementation of the pilot program of sustainable socio-productive practices.

## Project Description Overview

### Project Objective

Reduce the loss of biodiversity and the impact of ecosystem services of global importance, strengthening institutional and community capacities in the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of exotic aquatic invasive species in Venezuela

### Project Components

#### 1. Institutional and community strengthening for the management of IAS with a gender perspective (TA)

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,025,058.00	6,140,097.00

Outcome:

##### Outcome 1.1

Generated the conducive institutional environment to reduce the threats of IAS and PIAS and improve the management of the CMPAs of Venezuela

Indicators:

*At least 164,709.29 ha Area of protected terrestrial areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 1.2)*

*At least 121,866.71 ha of marine protected areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 2.2)*

##### Outcome 1.2

Improved skills of the technical teams of government institutions and local communities in the management of aquatic IAS with a gender perspective

Indicators

Number of officials from national and regional public institutions and local residents benefited from the training and awareness processes in prevention, detection and control activities of aquatic IAS to integrate environmental brigades in management of aquatic IAS, in restoration of coral environments and in the implementation of sustainable productive practices, disaggregated by sex and age (Core indicator 11)

Output:

1.1.1 Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) with a gender approach promoted

1.1.2 Standards for the prevention and control of aquatic IAS updated and harmonized with other relevant sectoral standards at the national level, subject to approval by the executive body competent in environmental matters (Strategic Line 5 of the NSCBD and its NAP-NSCBD action plan)

1.1.3 Updated Master Plan of the Coastal Marine Protected Area System, incorporating the management of aquatic IAS and the restoration of coral environments in the guidelines of this instrument

1.1.4. MPUR of five key CMPAs with an update proposal that incorporates the management of aquatic IAS, the restoration of coral environments and the implementation of sustainable production practices

1.1.5 Economic analysis of the effect of aquatic IAS on the five key CMPAs

1.1.6 Financial feasibility proposal for the management of aquatic IAS in key CMPAs, prepared and submitted to the competent authorities for approval

1.2.1. Training and institutional awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented

1.2.2. Community training and awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented

## 2. Monitoring and control system for aquatic IAS and PIAS developed with community participation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
727,634.00	4,358,528.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1 Improved management of aquatic IAS and NSCBD compliance

Outcome 2.2 Integrated local actors and others related to marine activities in the prevention, detection and control of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the level 2 project, contributing to the conservation of biological diversity

Output:

2.1.1. National Monitoring and Control System for Aquatic IAS and PIAS (SINCIAS), designed and operational

2.1.2 List of IAS and PIAS, with special emphasis on aquatic ones, updated and presented to the competent authority, in compliance with the provisions of the CBD and the NSCBD

2.2.1 Network of environmental brigades and community organizations strengthened to contribute to the prevention, early detection and control of aquatic IAS, articulated with the National System for Monitoring and Control of IAS and PIAS (SINCIAS), with a gender perspective

## 3. Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS, with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,050,658.00	18,273,441.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1 Control methods improved and transferred to the actors involved in the control and eradication of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the level 2 project

Outcome 3.2 Generated community experiences of restoration of aquatic ecosystems degraded by U. stolonifera

Outcome 3.3 Productive alternatives implemented in local communities to mitigate the impact of aquatic IAS

Output:

- 3.1.1 Scientifically developed and validated protocols for the control and containment of *U. stolonifera*
- 3.1.2 Proposal for a standard with control and containment protocols for *U. stolonifera* prepared and submitted to the competent authority for consideration
- 3.1.3 Pilot experience of control of *U. stolonifera* with community participation, based on scientifically validated experimental management methods, designed and implemented in the intervention area of the level 2 project
- 3.2.1 Pilot program for the restoration of coral ecosystems with native species designed and implemented in the level 3 project intervention area
- 3.3.1 Community sustainable productive practices with a gender perspective implemented, which improve livelihoods and contribute to the management of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the level 4 project.

## Component 4. Knowledge management, information dissemination and project learning with a gender perspective

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
633,300.00	3,793,467.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 4.1** Knowledge management driven by a strategic alliance between different sectors, to improve understanding, knowledge and dissemination of the importance of aquatic IAS in order to protect biodiversity, livelihoods and food security

Output:

4.1.1 Communication and awareness strategy aimed at key actors related to the introduction and dispersal of aquatic IAS and PIAS

4.1.2 Project results and lessons learned in relation to community and participatory action and good socio-productive practices with a gender perspective, published and disseminated

## M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
281,550.00	1,686,485.00

Outcome:

M&E Project monitoring and evaluation system developed to provide systematized information on progress towards project results and achievement of outputs  
M&E Project monitoring and evaluation system developed to provide systematized information on progress towards project results and achievement of outputs

Mid-term review and final evaluation of the project implementation carried out

Output:

## Component Balances



Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Institutional and community strengthening for the management of IAS with a gender perspective (TA)	1,025,058.00	6,140,097.00
2. Monitoring and control system for aquatic IAS and PIAS developed with community participation	727,634.00	4,358,528.00
3. Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS, with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security	3,050,658.00	18,273,441.00
Component 4. Knowledge management, information dissemination and project learning with a gender perspective	633,300.00	3,793,467.00
M&E	281,550.00	1,686,485.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,718,200.00</b>	<b>34,252,018.00</b>
Project Management Cost	281,800.00	1,687,982.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>6,000,000.00</b>	<b>35,940,000.00</b>

Please provide Justification

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

The Venezuelan geographical space has a land surface of 916,445 km<sup>2</sup> and more than 500,000 km<sup>2</sup> of aquatic extension, including the territorial sea, the contiguous zone and the projection of the exclusive economic zone (MINEC, 2013). The estimated population of the country is 33,360,238 inhabitants, mainly urban (88.88%) and concentrated mostly in the central-northern region of the country (INE, 2022). The nation is based on an economy based mainly on the extraction and refining of hydrocarbons and minerals, as well as on multiple agricultural and industrial activities, including fishing, aquaculture, production of fertilizers, cement, electrical and electronic components, processed foods and beverages, manufacturing, construction, transportation, as well as forestry production, which are developed in transition to a post-oil economy (MPPRE, 2022). Its location gives the country a wide diversity of ecosystems across 27 climatic zones. 72.05% of the country's surface is under the figure of Areas Under Special Administration Regime (AUSAR<sup>[1]</sup>), with a total of 408 officially decreed areas, subdivided into three categories: i) areas strictly for protection, education, research and recreation (27,593,609.24 ha, 28.14% of the AUSAR); ii) areas for protection purposes through regulated

uses (29,795,175.40 ha, 30.39% of the AUSAR); and iii) productive and geostrategic areas (40,660,401.13 ha, 41.47% of the AUSAR) (MINEC, 2021). Venezuela has, in its large territorial extension, both marine and continental environments. Fresh aquaculture environments occupy seven large hydrographic basins or hydrographic complexes: Orinoco Basin, Cuyuní Basin, Negro River Basin, Maracaibo (Magdalénica) Basin, Caribbean Basin, Gulf of Paria Basin, and Lake Valencia Basin. (Mago-Leccia, 1970). The marine area is located in the Caribbean Sea and is divided into 13 ecoregions, with highly diverse and productive ecosystems such as mangrove forests, coral reefs, seagrass meadows, sandy beaches, rocky platforms and estuarine ecosystems, which place Venezuela among the 10 countries with the greatest marine biological diversity in the world, highlighting that 99 Coastal Marine Protected Areas (MCPA) were declared in these ecosystems, covering 6,847,720.43 ha (MINEC, 2021). The coastal marine area is the main tourist and recreational attraction of the country, also supporting an entire national, regional and local economic system for the sustainable use of other resources, such as hydrobiological resources. The population settled in this area represents 18% of the national level (4,222,831 inhabitants) (MINAMB, 2008). However, CMPAs face a worrying situation because important drivers of threats to the environment have been reported, due to anthropogenic activities related to tourism, unplanned growth of population centers, overexploitation of hydrobiological resources, physical alteration of the environment and the oil and mining industry, which have caused destruction, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems, unsustainable use of resources, pollution and introduction, establishment and expansion of invasive alien species (IAS).

According to the “Report on the current situation of exotic species in Venezuela” of 2001, within the framework of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), measures were proposed to avoid the negative effects of invasive species on biological diversity of the country (Ojasti et al., 2001), considering that the introduction of IAS is one of the main causes of loss of biological diversity worldwide, and that the severity of this process has intensified with global climate change. It is highlighted that the vast majority of activities related to the management of IAS in Venezuela have been aimed at preventing the entry of IAS that affect public health and the agricultural, livestock and forestry productive sectors, while introductions harmful to biodiversity, in particular, those of aquatic origin, such as the aquarium trade, aquaculture or ballast water in maritime transport, have received less attention.

The first version of the National Strategy for Conservation of Biological Diversity (NSCBD) (2010-2020) included the issue of invasive alien species (IAS) as part of national public policy. In compliance with the country's international commitments, the National Action Plan was prepared for the implementation of the NSCBD 2010-2020, which included 'Strategic Line 5', with measures for the prevention, control and eradication of IAS. Subsequently, to advance in compliance with the NSCBD, the ministerial entity was reorganized, now called the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC), within which is the General Directorate of Biological Diversity and subscribed to it, the Directorate for the Prevention of Threats to Diversity Biological, created to carry out monitoring and supervision, both at the level of species and ecosystems, of any activity that may generate adverse impacts on biological diversity throughout the national territory. Additionally, these organizations are in charge of the regulation and authorization processes for the introduction and management of exotic species, complying with the contents of the National Action Plan of the NSCBD 2010-2020 and in coordination with other units attached to MINEC and relevant institutions.

These actions are based on a compendium of regulations, including the Organic Law of Territorial Planning (1983), Organic Environmental Law (2006), Environmental Criminal Law (2012), Biological Diversity Management Law (2008), Protection Law of Wildlife (1970), Regulations of the Wildlife Protection Law (1999), Regulations for the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (2016) and the instrument 'Rules to regulate the introduction and propagation of exotic species of wild and aquatic flora and fauna' (1992). Added to these regulations is the Comprehensive Agricultural Health Law (2008) executed through the National Institute of Comprehensive Agricultural Health (INSAI), attached to the Ministry of Popular Power for Productive Agriculture and Lands (MPPAPT). The INSAI is responsible for the

surveillance, prevention, control and eradication of diseases and pests that affect agricultural health, as well as the epidemiological, phytosanitary and zoonosanitary surveillance of the import, export and movement of animals, plants, products and by-products of both origins. The Ministry of the Popular Power for Fisheries and Aquaculture (MINPESCA), through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law (2014), regulates the issuance of permits for the import and export of fresh, live, frozen and processed hydrobiological resources in any of their presentations and regulates the activities related to living specimens of fish fauna with ornamental value and species for aquaculture production purposes. The Ministry of the Popular Power for Transport (MPPT), through the National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA), is in charge of ensuring compliance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78), and the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ballast Water and Sediment Generated by Ships (BWM/CONF/36), for treatment of ballast water and biofouling. All these institutions must ensure compliance with the national public policy contained in the Law of the Nation Plan 2019-2025, in the Historical Objective "Preserve Life on the Planet", as one of its Strategic Objectives.

From the financial point of view, the national government assigns annually, through the 'Fiscal Year Budget Law ordinary funds for the execution of activities related to its powers: programs, projects, diverse actions and activities. On the other hand, there are national funds, such as the one established in the Organic Law of Science, Technology and Innovation (LOCTI) and its Regulations, administered by the National Fund for Science, Technology and Innovation (FONACIT) with the purpose of financing productive, educational, dissemination, research and technological innovation projects that strengthen the scientific, technological and industrial apparatus of the country; their contributions come from private or public entities, domiciled or not in the country, that carry out economic activities in the territory. The country is also supported by international cooperation funds (GEF, UNEP, UNDP, FAO), with the respective coordination of a wide range of agreements and institutions, for the execution of non-reimbursable cooperation projects in the area of biological diversity. In the last decade, recurring budget allocations to the public sector, including the environmental sector, have decreased<sup>[2]<sup>2</sup></sup>. This has affected the availability of resources to face the challenges of climate change and the responsible management of environmental factors capable of degrading the country's ecosystems. An evaluation of the main impacts of the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UMC) on the MINEC's powers included the lack of financing for the control and monitoring of the environmental impacts of activities that could degrade the environment and the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those related to the management of exotic species (MINEC, 2021).

Given the wide range of regulations and entities associated with the prevention, early detection, containment, control and eradication of IAS, it is necessary to develop an inter-institutional coordination mechanism, update and harmonize regulations and financing sources, in order to strengthen the country's capacities for the management of IAS. In 2016, as established in the action plan of the NSCBD, the General Directorate of Biological Diversity of the MINEC coordinated jointly with INPARQUES and other relevant institutions, the implementation of this Strategy, through the formation of a cross-sectoral coordination group, particularly for the control of terrestrial IAS such as the bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) and the African snail (*Lissachatina fulica*), whose experiences generated lessons learned applicable to another IAS. However, the control of aquatic IASs presents an additional challenge in terms of identifying introduction and dispersal pathways, since aquatic environments are particularly vulnerable due to surface and underground currents, because IASs can move large distances, both autonomous movement as fish as well as those that do not move on their own such as algae or plants, and because of the particular difficulties involved in the detection and effective management of IAS in this type of environment. Particularly in the marine environment, Venezuela shares with other countries in the Caribbean Sea and in its jurisdictional waters with numerous islands and archipelagos that present high biological diversity. These coastal-island systems are linked naturally to the

rest of the Caribbean areas through marine currents and artificially through maritime trade and navigation. In a context of climate change, continually observing historical records of surface water temperature, as well as an increase in the incidence of hurricanes and other catastrophic events, it is urgent to prioritize the prevention, monitoring and control of IAS in these aquatic spaces, especially in coastal marine environments that include several specific ecosystems, in order to contain the threats posed by these species. Taking into account that the Caribbean Basin is considered among 35 Biodiversity Hotspots on the planet (CEPF, 2011) and that marine-coastal environments are the link between continental aquatic ecosystems and the Caribbean Sea, the results achieved through this project will necessarily have a high impact on the conservation of regional-national biodiversity and will serve as a model to additionally promote prevention, early detection, control and eradication of IAS in other environments.

In the continental aquatic environments of Venezuela there is a history of the introduction of several exotics species for aquaculture purposes. The rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in 1937 (Coché, 1992) and the tilapia (*Oreochromis spp.*) in 1964 (Carrasquel et al., 1997, Solórzano et al., 2001), which have caused serious damages to the native fauna of the basins where they were introduced. Other accidental or intentional introductions have taken place in coastal marine environments, such as that of the lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), reported for the first time in 2009; the *Ulva reticulata* and *Kappaphycus alvarezii* seaweeds, the first introduced in the 80s and the second in 1996; the angiosperm marine *Halophila stipulacea*, registered in the central zone of Venezuela since 2012, among other exotic species registered in the country and currently there is an invasion of an EE with a growing impact, which affects the coral ecosystem and related biodiversity, which play an important role in the sustainability of the CMPA ecosystems, which corresponds to a soft coral of the family Xeniidae, subclass Octocorallia, initially called *Xenia sp.*, and more recently rectified as *Unomia stolonifera*, that is native of the Celebes Sulawesi Islands, Indonesia. It is presumed to have been introduced into northeastern Venezuela through the illegal aquarium trade between 2000 and 2005 and has expanded rapidly, severely affecting coral communities (Ruiz-Allais et al., 2021). This EE generates changes in both the hard reef substrate and the seagrass beds, altering the function of stabilizing sediments, acting as nutrient and carbon sinks, and attenuating wave action, thereby interrupting the protective action of beaches that serve as nesting sites and breeding for many species, including those in danger of extinction such as sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, *Caretta caretta*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*). These grassland and reef habitats also serve as protection and breeding areas for economically important fish, which in turn support the livelihoods of coastal populations. It should be noted that the control of this IAS is a challenge for the country, since the invasion was reported for the first time in Venezuela and recently in Hawaii (Bolic and Lee, 2023) and Cuba (SPAW-RAC et al., 2024); therefore, its dispersion towards the Caribbean reef ecosystems is a real threat if actions are not taken for its containment and control sexual and asexual reproduction by fragmentation, with high population growth rates and rapid colonization of substrates; in addition to not having biological controllers recognized in the country (Ruiz-Allais et al. 2014).

The invasion of *U. stolonifera* has tangible and potential effects on five important CMPAs in the country: Mochima National Park (MNP), San Esteban National Park (SENP), Henri Pittier National Park (HPNP), Morrocoy National Park (MorrocoyNP) and Cuare Wildlife Refuge (CWR), so it is imperative to take urgent measures against this threat. The largest invasion is found in the MNP, a protected area with an area of 94,769 hectares, of which 52% is marine (77,481 ha). It is one of the main tourist attractions in Venezuela, provides important environmental services, offers recreation and leisure facilities, and is home to rural agricultural and fishing. It is estimated that the MNP houses a population of 49,690 inhabitants (INE, 2011). Among the biodiversity affected by this EE, which has been classified as devastating, several species of global importance are identified, such as the endangered species of sea turtles: cetaceans: long-beaked dolphin *Steno bredanensis*, short fin dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, the spotted dolphin *Stenella frontalis*, the spinner dolphin *Stenella longirostris*, the bottle nose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* and the fin whale *Balaenoptera edeni*; and the corals:

*Colpophyllia natans, Pseudodiploria strigosa, Montastraea cavernosa, Orbicella annularis, Orbicella faveolata, Porites astreoides, Siderastrea siderea, Millepora alcicornis, Madracis decactis and Acropora palmata*

In the last eight years, national authorities and NGO have collected ecological information to understand the dynamics of IAS, and in particular, the situation of the invasion of *U. stolonifera* and the possibilities of management, control and eradication (Ruiz-Allais et al., 2014). The first incidence was reported in 2014, in the coral communities of eastern Venezuela. Between February and December 2016, MINEC and INPARQUES implemented the “Control and monitoring program for the invasive exotic coral *Xenia sp.*, in the Mochima National Park”, to monitor and map affected areas, and raise awareness among park residents and visitors, to prevent its vegetative spread (MINEC-INPARQUES, 2021). By 2021, the La Tortuga Foundation and the La Salle Foundation showed that, in the Valle Seco area, which borders the MNP, 80% of the existing coral reefs had been covered (Ruiz-Allais et al., 2021). In 2022, MINEC with the technical support of the Pílares Marinos Foundation, an NGO specialized in aquariums, carried out a trial on the coast of Patanemo Bay, Carabobo State (northern central coast of the country), with manual removal in an area of 621 m<sup>2</sup>, for eight weeks (Alvarado et al., 2022). Likewise, in 2023 the organization Unomia Solutions proposed using a suction or turbine system that sucks up the invasive coral, without affecting the native species that may be in the environment. This methodology is based on those used in Hawaii to control the invasive red alga *Kapaphycus alvarezii* by suction, and the control of the invasive anemone species *Rhodactis howessi* in the Indo-Pacific, using water at high temperatures.

On the other hand, the Ministry of the Popular Power for Science and Technology (MINCYT) has financed, since 2023, three studies in different universities and other scientific centers, which are presented below: 1) 'Pilot research project, monitoring and remediation of marine ecosystems affected by invasive exotic species: *Unomia stolonifera* case in the Mochima National Park and coast of the Gulf of Cariaco in the State of Sucre' by the East University, 2) 'Toxicity of bioactive compounds synthesized by marine mollusks of the genus *Aplysia* (Mollusk: *Heterobranchia: Aplysiidae*), against the growth of the invasive octocoral *Unomia stolonifera* (Alcyonaceae: Xeniidae), with focus on chemo-ecological' by the Maritima del Caribe University and 3) “Ecological Control Plan of the invasive species *Unomia stolonifera* (Octocorallia: Alcyonacea) to face the national environmental emergency Part I: Biology, ecology and chemistry' by the Central University of Venezuela and the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (SPAW-RAC et al., 2024). As described, the invasion of *U. stolonifera* constitutes, at the same time, a threat to the biodiversity and livelihoods of the inhabitants of coastal communities in Venezuela and throughout the Caribbean Sea, and a valuable opportunity to carry out a pilot experience on this IAS in order to identify the best solutions with the purpose of overcoming the barriers that currently exist in the prevention, monitoring and control of IAS in the country and contribute to the development and adaptive adjustment of public policies aimed at the effective management of aquatic IAS, especially those that affect the national coastal marine environment. Before the evident advance and effects of the environmental threat posed and to have a long-term solution that promotes the control of aquatic IAS, especially coastal marine ones, and in turn, generates global environmental benefits (GEB) in these critically national ecosystems affected, the country must overcome the following obstacles or barriers:

**Barrier 1: Limited legal, institutional and financial framework to promote the integrated management of aquatic IAS in the country.**

In Venezuela there is a national regulatory framework that addresses the introduction of exotic species, which requires updating because the application and compliance of standards and programs for the prevention, monitoring and control of IAS have been inconsistent, especially with regard to its impact on biological diversity. Although Strategic Line 5 of the NSCBD National Action Plan 2010-2020 defines specific actions to carry out the prevention, detection and control of exotic species, its implementation has been limited by the insufficient integration and harmonization of legal regulations and the authorization processes (import permit

for exotic species) carried out by the institutions involved in the issue, which are related to control or quarantine activities. In this sense, procedures vary significantly between the different sectors, since other intra-institutional mechanisms have been established (agricultural sector, fishing, health, aquatic spaces, customs and the Public Ministry) to act on vectors and routes of introduction of IAS. There is limited institutional and budgetary operational strength to address surveillance and control functions. In the last decade, the country has had a drop in income, with a consequent decrease in budget allocations to public institutions, including the MINEC. This impact has been increased by the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the country and by other political and economic factors, which has hindered the powers of the MINEC to carry out its activities of prevention, control and monitoring of environmental impacts, including those related to IAS, as well as compliance with other commitments that include those established in the 2030 Agenda. In addition, organizational changes within national environmental authorities made it difficult for the State to develop alliances with public universities to promote research on IAS. Therefore, it is necessary to opt for additional financing mechanisms to carry out management and control actions for IAS that represent a risk to biodiversity and ecosystem services. There is a need to create awareness on this issue among all stakeholders, especially policy makers, institutions and communities, for collective national management.

### **Barrier 2: Limited national and local knowledge and capabilities on aquatic IAS management.**

Measures to address the control of the introduction and spread of IAS are considered the responsibility of the government and not always of society at large, especially in local communities in protected areas, which are the most vulnerable to the threats posed by IAS. Information on the presence of IAS is often inaccessible to stakeholders whose actions have consequences on the spread of these species; or it is not disseminated in a practical and relevant way so that these actors can use it and support biodiversity management; as a result, public support and participation in IAS management is very limited. The NSCBD 2010-2020 contemplates the creation of the IAS transit Surveillance and Control System, in ports, airports, customs or other control points, as a joint work between the MINEC organizations in charge of environmental protection and territorial environmental management policy with other state bodies and entities, local authorities, networks of environmental guardians and community councils or other forms of national citizen organization, to support early warning plans. However, its implementation has been conditioned on the collaboration of what is available in the areas, both in institutional support and from the communities, who are not adequately trained and equipped to undertake any measure to contain the introduction of exotic species. The biological and ecological knowledge of IAS is often insufficient, and there is no technical capacity for risk analysis or knowledge of the socioeconomic repercussions of the effects; therefore, the impacts of IAS that simultaneously affect biodiversity, production of various sectors, including human health and local livelihoods, are unknown. The official list of IAS and PIAS is not updated, and an inventory of the most affected areas has not been prepared. Although the MINEC has a platform called the Venezuelan Biological Diversity System (SVDB), it is barely operational, and does not have a mechanism to disseminate the impacts and propagation trajectory of IAS. Furthermore, the design of protected area management plans generally does not address IAS management and, in cases where IAS management activities have been tested, lessons learned are rarely systematized and shared between institutions. Therefore, there is a lack of practical experience in preventing the entry, control and management of IAS and knowledge about the degradation they cause in ecosystems, especially in the aquatic environment.

### **Barrier 3: Insufficient strategies to control aquatic IAS and limited competencies of local communities to adopt sustainable socio-productive alternatives in the face of environmental threats**

The health of the CMPA ecosystems and the biological diversity present in these areas of the country are the fundamental basis for the sustenance of local communities, recognizing that fishing, tourism and related activities sustain the local economy and generate multiplier effects in other adjacent sectors. Therefore, the degradation of marine ecosystems and the consequent impact on fish populations due to the introduction

and spread of IAS is a major threat to the livelihoods of fishermen and local communities in general. Although the environmental authority has taken recent actions to address this problem, its actions have been limited due to insufficient technical knowledge, as well as scarce resources and capacity to control and contain the spread of IAS, such as the case of the invasion of *U. stolonifera* in the five CMPAs mentioned above. Knowledge about the biology and ecology of *U. stolonifera* as an IAS is limited. As mentioned above, its presence as an invasive has been recorded to date in Venezuela, and more recently, in Cuba and Hawaii (SPAW-RAC et al. 2024); the majority of studies being carried out in their native environment by foreign experts. Its ecology and interactions with local biodiversity along with the role of local communities is the subject of research in the country, identifying dissemination vectors that are critical for its control and that could explain its rapid expansion. Similarly, national institutions, academy and NGOs are studying the impacts of *U. stolonifera* on the environment and local economies. Incipient studies are being carried out on mechanisms for its control and eradication, based on experiences in other countries with similar species, but the initiatives have been isolated and are not part of a comprehensive strategy that incorporates an analysis of cost-effective alternatives and the identification from financial sources, in the context of the decrease in income in the country mentioned in Barrier 1. On the other hand, it is necessary to update information on various aspects of the ecosystem condition within the affected areas, make a diagnosis of the invasion of the EE and the level of impact on native or endemic species and promote feasibility studies for the implementation of restoration programs, among others, since this will contribute to defining the priorities for action on the situation. Likewise, all those control mechanisms or mitigation actions that are feasible to apply to this IAS must be scientifically validated to achieve the expected success in all threatened areas. The contingency also affects the livelihoods of local communities, where there is a weak identification of the effects of environmental problems on the daily activities of the inhabitants. Communities in coastal areas are often very vulnerable to climate change and the consequences of EE invasions on native species, which provide sustenance through activities such as fishing or tourism. The focus of community participation, in addition to intervening as part of the local management of IAS, must be to articulate their productive work with sustainable socio-productive alternatives that support the control of aquatic IAS and counteract the impact of invasions.

In view of the above, the purpose of this project is to transform and expand the current scope of management of aquatic IAS, particularly coastal marine ones. Although there has been inter-institutional work in the country and recently, the MINEC promoted a management program for exotic species to control the bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) and the African snail (*Lissachatina fulica*), gaps persist in updated scientific information on the presence of aquatic IAS and PIAS, as well as limited knowledge of the ecological and socioeconomic impacts associated with them. Therefore, a common national vision for the coordination and allocation of resources must be promoted, in addition to institutional responsibilities that must be reinforced to strengthen capacities and competencies for the management of aquatic IAS.

MINEC will coordinate the preparation and execution of the project, through which the Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) will be activated, which includes other national organizations such as INSAI-MPPAPT, CENIPA-Minpesca, MINCYT, MINEDU, MINES, INPARQUES, INEA-MPPT<sup>[3]</sup>, universities and non-governmental organizations. The General Directorates of the MINEC, recently reorganized, will actively participate in the collective construction of the priorities of this project, among them: General Directorate of Biological Diversity, Strengthening and Defense of Biodiversity, Adaptation to Climate Change, Mitigation of Climate Change, Monitoring Climate Change, Ecosystem Management and Conservation Policies, as well as INPARQUES and FUNDAMBIENTE (Foundation for Environmental Education). Inter-institutional coordination is also promoted with the MPPAPT, within the national programs developed by the INSAI, in matters of epidemiology, phytosanitary surveillance, animal health control, animal and plant quarantine, and lessons

learned from the risk analysis system implemented by this organism. MINPESCA will support programs related to the management of native species subject to cultivation; with the health, surveillance and control capabilities of this organization, present in ports and airports; as well as the lessons learned from the programs with community organizations of fishermen, known as Councils of Fishermen, Fisherwomen and Aquaculturists (CONPPA) and the knowledge that CENIPA, an organization attached to MINPESCA, has on research carried out in the sector. With the INEA, actions will be agreed to, to facilitate the management of information from the baseline studies developed by this entity for the management of ballast water in the different areas where maritime activities are carried out. With the Ministry of the Popular Power for Defense (MINDEFENSA), we will continue to have its support in the environmental daycare service and the control of access routes in ports, airports and key control points for the introduction of IAS into the national territory. With the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, academic environmental education programs with the topic of IAS will be strengthened; in addition to contributing to the development of capacities in local communities and at the national level; and exchange and cooperation with universities will be promoted.

The Ministry of the Popular Power for Science and Technology will coordinate, with universities and other research centers, the studies required to strengthen aspects of knowledge and control of aquatic IAS, which are key to promoting their effective management, assisted by the National Fund of Science, Technology and Innovation (FONACIT). With the Ministry of the Popular Power of Economy, Finance and Foreign Trade, through the National Integrated Customs and Tax Administration Service (SENIAT), the protocol for the entry of merchandise that threatens national biodiversity, the current tariff regime and the design of the financing mechanism for the sustainability of IAS management. With the Ministry of the Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality (MINMUJER) and the Ministry of the Popular Power for Communes and Social Movements, the learnings from the experiences that both entities have in the organization for local production and for the empowerment of women, the implementation of gender equality and equity policies. In addition, protection measures against gender violence will be incorporated, which are largely aligned with the FAO policy on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse - PSEA. These experiences and policies will strengthen the capacities for making up environmental networks and brigades. The lessons will be incorporated into all components of the project, ensuring a comprehensive and safe approach. The Ministry of the Popular Power for Tourism (MINTURISMO) will work closely with organized communities and the private sector to support the initiatives of the local population and improve the sustainability of their livelihoods; they will also participate in the financing mechanism that will promote the IAS integrated management. NGO and other environmental groups will contribute with their knowledge on the management of natural resources to participate in the collective construction of the new regulations as part of Component 1; they will participate in raising awareness and disseminating information within Components 3 and 4, and will collaborate with the results of the trials that have been carried out with the support of MINEC in the areas most threatened by *U. stolonifera*. Other private sector actors will contribute to the financing mechanism and the dissemination of information about the project products.

The project is innovative for the country because it is part of the GEF-8 strategic change, as it adopts an area management approach, using multiple tools to respond to the boosters of biodiversity loss, with the aim of developing a comprehensive system for the detection, control and management of aquatic IAS, considering the strengthening of the institutional framework and national technical capacities, updating national standards and developing practical, cost-effective and scientifically based protocols to avoid possible unwanted risks. Furthermore, the project guarantees a transversal approach, where numerous ministries with different governmental responsibilities will be articulated to contribute with harmonized solutions in combating the threat of aquatic IAS, positively impacting prevention and early detection actions. The pilot experience aimed at the effective management of *U. stolonifera* will be carried out by integrating the communities from the design phase, and in the implementation and monitoring of these actions, as part of the complementation of traditional training, awareness-raising and knowledge exchange activities with a



gender perspective, to develop a practical appreciation of IAS management. It is proposed to develop a financing program that supports the sustainability of the project results over time and, by reaffirming inter-institutional integration, the project will not start from scratch, since it will use the platforms present in the organizations, both on organizational terms as well as their capabilities. At the end of the project, Venezuela will have a new system for the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of aquatic IAS and coordination mechanisms between public institutions, academy, NGO and communities, with updated technical information, a better understanding of the mechanisms of entry and dispersal of IAS, and proven protocols that will strengthen national capacity to monitor and provide adaptive solutions that address potential changes in the boosters of biodiversity loss due to IAS.

[1] AUSAR are defined as geographic spaces, sites and environmental elements with unique biophysical characteristics or with other socio-cultural qualities and potential, which merit effective and permanent protection from the State under an administrative regime that guarantees their physical integrity without diminishing their values, through a use in accordance with the objectives of protection and management appropriate to those characteristics.

Plan for the Development and Integrated Management of Coastal Zones (POGIZC) of Venezuela (public presentation). Caracas Venezuela.

[2] Venezuela points out that the country has suffered for more than 10 years from the imposition of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UMC) and other restrictive or punitive measures, which have reduced recurrent budget allocations to public entities.

[3] National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health (INSAI), Ministry of the People's Power for Productive Agriculture and Lands (MPPAPT), The Ministry of People's Power for Fishing and Aquaculture (MINPESCA), National Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture Research (CENIPA), The Ministry of Transportation (MPPT), National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA), The Ministry of Science and Technology (Mincyt), Ministry of Education (Minedu), People's Ministry of Higher Education (Mines), National Parks Institute (Inparques)

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

The purpose of this project is to support national efforts to strengthen the institutional framework for the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and Potentially Invasive Alien Species (PIAS), emphasizing those that threaten environments aquatic species, and implement the National Action Plan of the NSCBD 2010-2020, in its strategic Line 5, which recognizes exotic species as one of the direct causes of the loss of biological diversity. In particular, it will complement the investments made by the Venezuelan Government to address this complex problem. To achieve this, the key actions of the project are developed in order to overcome the identified barriers and achieve short, medium and long-term changes (Figure 1).

The project will be approached with a gender perspective, taking into account the FAO Gender Equality Policy (2013, 2021), the central indicators of the GEF-8, and the GEF guidelines (2018), which identify three gender gaps relevant to GEF projects and programs, which are: 1) unequal access to control of natural resources; 2) unequal participation in decision-making in environmental planning and governance; and 3) unequal access to ecosystem benefits and services. The Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan for this Project intervenes on the three dimensions described above with the objective of contributing to: (i) include the unique skills, knowledge and experiences of women, by incorporating their functions as main users and administrators of many natural resources; (ii) support the role of women to change the causal chain of environmental degradation, from their participation in the management of IAS and in the public and private sectors, and iii) promote their access to financing, training and information. In particular, the project will follow the FAO methodological guide 'Towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development. A handbook in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context

of Food Security and Poverty Eradication'. This guide offers a comprehensive framework to incorporate the gender perspective in all stages of the small-scale fishing value chain. In addition, a Protocol for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) adapted to FAO policy will be proposed, promoting a safe and equitable environment in fishing communities.

In the absence of the development of this project, the country will face a persistent and growing threat to its biological diversity from the introduction of exotic species, particularly in aquatic environments; due to the weakness present in the mechanisms for its management. Potentially, important reef ecosystems located in the Caribbean area, both in Venezuela and in the rest of the countries in the region, and the ecosystem services they provide would be affected; furthermore, a large area of the Venezuelan coast will continue to be highly vulnerable to extensive degradation and loss of biodiversity with its consequent impact on the living conditions and food security of local populations. The project is designed to provide solutions with a system vision, a multidisciplinary and gender approach, encompassing the dynamics and operability of local communities, society, commerce, fishing, tourism and other productive alternatives in the regions. affected, contemplating four (04) Components: (i) Institutional and community strengthening for the management of IAS with a gender perspective; (ii) Monitoring and control systems for aquatic IAS, developed with community participation; (iii) Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS, with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security; and (iv) Knowledge management, information dissemination and project learning with a gender perspective.

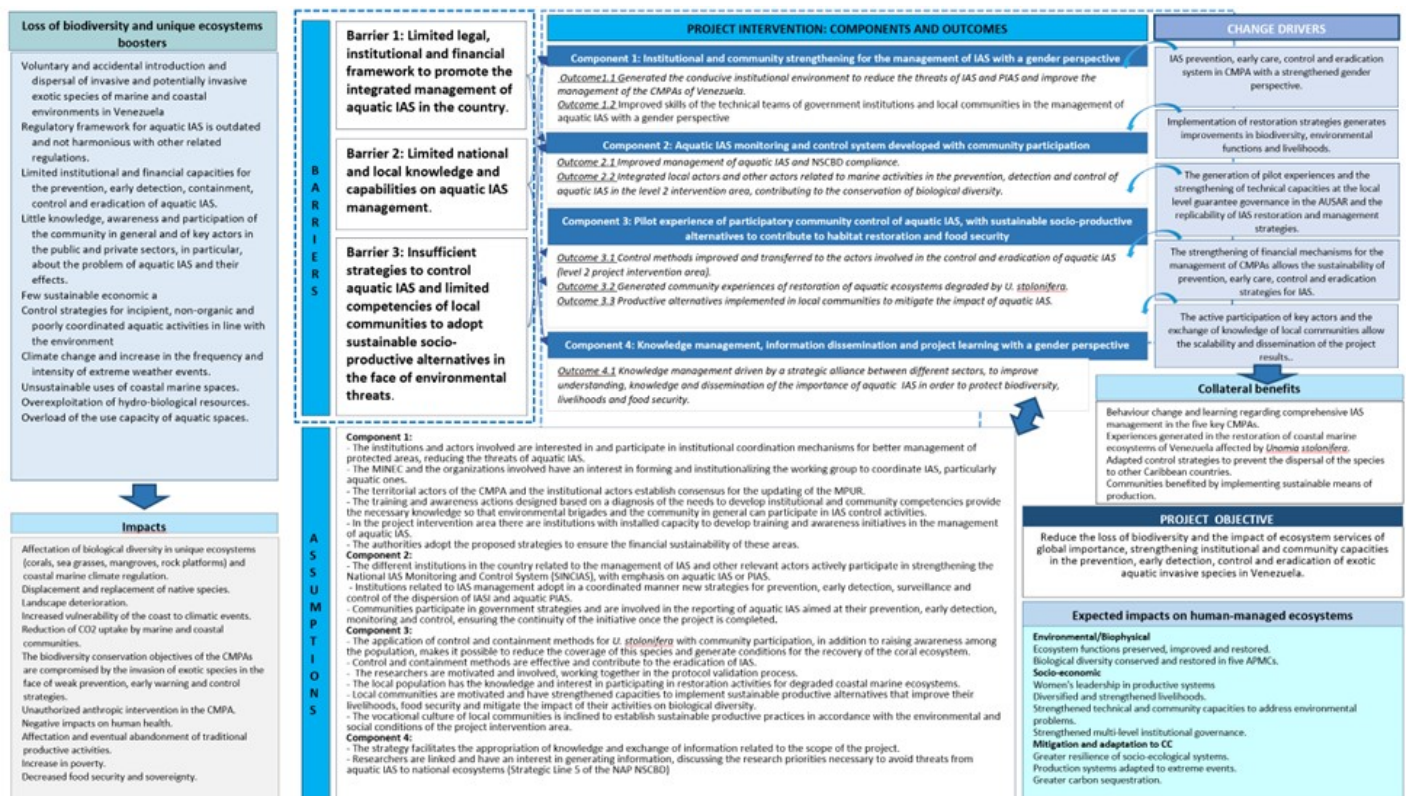


Figure 1. Theory of change (diagram also provided as Annex)

Component 1 aims to review the existing gaps in the legal, regulatory and methodological framework in relation to the NSCBD National Action Plan 2010-2020 (in the process of updating), and its Strategic Line 5, on prevention, control and eradication of exotic species (Output 1.1.1 and Output 1.1.2); generated the conducive institutional environment to reduce the threats of IAS and PIAS and improve the management of the CMPAs of Venezuela (Outcome 1.1). In this way, efforts are initiated to strengthen the mechanisms for addressing the management of IAS and PIAS. At the institutional level, the Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) will be activated, creating a section on IAS and PIAS, with emphasis on aquatic species. The main function of this group is to be in charge of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coupling, in terms of review, harmonization and updating of national legal regulations and those applied by state institutions for the management of aquatic IAS and PIAS. It also has among its functions to carry out consultations and maintain the exchange of information between ministries and other interested parties, to carry out validation processes.

By promoting the new legal framework, a real and effective inter-institutional link will be promoted in the authorization procedures, risk analysis, quarantines and protocols that will be applied for the management of aquatic IAS, according to the legal framework and functions of each institution. Prevention, early detection and control activities of IAS and PIAS, and border control of IAS trafficking, among others, will be addressed; in addition, all national standards related to IAS management will be thoroughly reviewed with the purpose of updating them with respect to international standards (Output 1.1.2, Outcome 2.1).

An innovation will be the institutional coupling of MINEC to work with the System of Coastal Marine Protected Areas (SCMPA) incorporating the management of aquatic IAS, within the Master Plan for the development and management of the SCMPA and in the respective management plans, existing regulation and use (MPUR) of the five (05) key CMPAs, which will be updated through the actions developed within the framework of the project (Output 1.1.3 and 1.1.4). It should be noted that this SCMPA has a baseline study of these protected areas, so the CMPAs with the highest threat will be identified as a priority to be addressed, and relevant strategies will be established to control the introduction and expansion of IAS, as a priority threat for the conservation of biodiversity and local livelihoods, synergistic with the effects of global climate change.

An economic analysis of the effects of the introduction of IAS in the five (05) key CMPAs will be promoted, in terms of damage to ecosystems and the consequences in terms of loss of productivity of tourism and other sources (Output 1.1.5). Additionally, a financial viability proposal will be designed to channel the necessary budgetary resources to guarantee the long-term sustainability of the actions linked to the integrated management of aquatic IAS (Output 1.1.6). In response to this matter, international references of economic studies prepared to know the effect of IAS on the decrease in the biological diversity of a country will be used; likewise, the replacement value method mentioned by Field (1995), Azqueta (1996) and Cotler (2011) will be used for eight of the nine ecosystem services mentioned. Likewise, the project will evaluate the technical-economic feasibility of a variety of financial options and calculate the establishment of possible proposals for other ecosystem services (Output 1.1.6).

In order to promote a change in attitude and behavior of the different actors or groups interested in exercising environmental citizenship, to improve the management of IAS and PIAS, Outcome 1.2 of Component 1 seeks to promote the effective participation of interested parties to achieve change, through strengthening their skills. For this, an important institutional and social dimension will be incorporated, where the capabilities of the authority that has environmental competence will be strengthened and actions that modify their level of awareness, risk perception, or values will be promoted from local communities on biological diversity. Therefore, activities will be incorporated to encourage knowledge about the prevention, early detection, surveillance and control of IAS and PIAS, among others, ensuring that men and women are equally involved and that their experiences and perspectives are considered for an inclusive approach and equitable (Output 1.2.1 and 1.2.2). Likewise, issues related to coral restoration, improvement of their livelihoods with sustainable socio-productive alternatives, climate change and its mitigation will be addressed in the areas of

project intervention, giving continuity and coordination to the policies formulated for the protection of biological diversity from the country.

The assumptions associated with this first component include that the institutions and actors involved are interested in and participate in institutional coordination mechanisms for better management of protected areas, reducing the threats of IAS and aquatic EIPs. Likewise, in the project intervention area there are institutions with installed capacity to develop training and awareness initiatives, so these actions will be designed based on a diagnosis of training needs, they will provide the necessary knowledge so that the environmental brigades and the community in general can participate in IAS control activities. On the other hand, the CMPAs improve their management and address the management of aquatic IAS through increasing their income, strengthened through the financial viability proposal delivered to the authorities. A risk associated with the implementation of the project is the lack of coordination of the proposed legal and institutional reforms, which may result in a limited or weak financial and institutional framework for the prevention and control of IAS and PIAS.

Component 2 focuses on improving the operational management of IAS or PIAS in the country, in relation to prevention, early detection, surveillance and control associated with the different routes and vectors of introduction and dispersal, as provided by the Strategic Line Number 5 of the NSCBD and its Action Plan. Border control, as well as mechanisms to authorize the entry into the country of exotic species, improved risk analysis adapted to international standards and early detection mechanisms for the management of IAS will be strengthened through the implementation of the National System of Monitoring and Control of IAS (SINCIAS). This is in addition to what has already been implemented by the different national institutions related to the introduction of exotic species, which have advanced processes, routes and pathways associated with the entry of said species (Output 2.1.1). This first step will contribute to updating the Venezuelan Biological Diversity Information System (SVDB), incorporating the information, monitoring and evaluation module of aquatic IAS, following the standards of international organizations specialized in IAS such as the Global Invasive Species Database (ISSG, 2000), the database on exotic species of concern for the European Union (MITECO, 2019), the database developed in Argentina and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on IAS (InBiAr, 2021, [www.uns.edu.ar/inbiar](http://www.uns.edu.ar/inbiar)) and others that exist at a global and regional level with a similar structure. The SVDB will contain scientific, technical and social information associated with IAS and their effect on ecosystems, in addition to national or global geographic distribution (Output 2.1.1, linked to Outputs 4.1.1 and 4.1.2).

Likewise, it is proposed to design a cell phone application (APP) to promote groups of key observers to report IAS observations in real time, reporting key data, such as the site where the observation is made and the abundance of the species, so that the technical personnel linked to SINCIAS can make decisions on risk analysis, prevention, early detection and control. Within the Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG), the committee to update the official list of IAS, with emphasis on aquatic exotics, will be composed of representatives of each of the government institutions involved in the introduction of exotic species, as well as experts, academics and specialists from private organizations (formation of a Technical Table), to define the taxonomic groups and ecological characteristics of the exotic species that are detected, which leads to the updating and preparation of new lists annually (Output 2.1.2, linked to Output 4.1.1). Through this component, SINCIAS will be linked to the network of environmental brigades, which will be composed of organized communities and other interested parties, created as a result of the participatory process promoted in the country constitutionally and through the people's power law, with Gender approach. The purpose of this network of environmental brigades is to intervene in the early warning actions designed and cover the areas of incidence of aquatic IAS. To this end, the objectives of the network will be defined based on the early warning plans developed by the relevant authorities and in collective construction with all the entities involved; likewise, organized groups will be identified, to which training courses will be given with environmental protection (Output 1.2.2), with important scientific information on the approaches to the control of the IAS,

the legal regulations for the control of the entry of exotic species and the functioning of the early warning system (Output 2.2.1).

The assumptions associated with this Component are based on the fact that the different institutions in the country related to the management of IAS and other relevant actors actively participate in strengthening the National IAS Monitoring and Control System (SINCIAS), with emphasis on IAS or aquatic IAS, including women, youth and children as a replacement generation, who will ensure the continuity of the actions, once the project is completed, and get involved and participate in government strategies for the management of IAS.

In order to identify relevant actions for the development of Components 1 and 2, a pilot experience will be carried out for the control of *U. stolonifera*, introduced and established in the five (05) key CMPA, and given the impact that its dispersion in the reef ecosystem and related biological diversity, as well as in the livelihoods of the residents of the surrounding coastal communities, and considering the value of this case to guide, develop and adjust the more general public policies described in the preceding points, it is proposed to carry out pilot experiences to control aquatic IAS and restoration of coral ecosystems with community participation and the implementation of sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security in the project intervention area (Component 3 ).

A containment approach for *U. stolonifera* will be validated in the five (05) key CMPAs, designing removal protocols that are scientifically validated and applicable in CMPAs. These protocols seek to control the proliferation of the IAS and generate environmental conditions for the recovery of biological diversity, which has been affected in recent years (Output 3.1.1). For the definition of these *U. stolonifera* removal protocols through developed, scientifically validated and implemented control methods, a roadmap has been established that begins with the establishment of a technical table that integrates authorities, researchers, technologists, experts in the area of control and management of IAS and foundations or non-governmental environmental organizations. This table is formed within the framework of the Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS defined in Component 1 (Output 1.1.1). Given that the interventions (IAS control and restoration of ecosystems affected by the invasion) on the five CMPAs are considered high risk and that the ESIA contemplates a short-term environmental characterization, as part of Output 3.1.1, it has been considered the generation of basic reference information from the ecological, environmental and socioeconomic point of view of the five key CMPAs. This information gathering will provide a detailed understanding of the present biodiversity, its current state and the possible impacts that could be generated after an intervention in key CMPAs. This study facilitates the identification of critical areas that require urgent attention and prioritization. Likewise, by documenting the conditions of biological diversity and ecosystems, a reference framework is established to measure the success of control and restoration actions over time. Ultimately, this informed and systematic approach contributes to the sustainable conservation of aquatic ecosystems, preserving their ecological value for future generations.

The different control methods for *U. stolonifera*, designed by universities and national research centers, will be validated based on an experimental design under criteria of representativeness and reproducibility to obtain technically valid results (Output 3.1.1). Once the control methods have been validated, a detailed protocol will be developed that specifies the procedures for the removal of *U. stolonifera*, based on the selected mechanical, chemical or biological control mechanisms. This protocol must include information on the planning and logistics of operations, necessary equipment, monitoring and evaluation methods, and safety and environmental protection considerations based on risk management. Finally, training and communication teaching materials will be prepared to disseminate the protocols among relevant actors.

The national environmental authority, in order to strengthen the national legal framework on IAS, will promulgate the control protocols for *U. stolonifera*, based on a proposed technical standard prepared by the Project team (Output 3.1.2); in this way, the criteria and methodologies obtained during their validation process are approved. This action will contribute to the implementation of authorized practices that have as their principle

the protection of native biodiversity, preventing the alteration of food webs and natural habitats, which has an impact on the mitigation of negative economic impacts, such as the impact on fisheries and the degradation of ecosystems for tourist use. For the development of the proposed standard, it is proposed to begin with the formation of the multidisciplinary work team. As part of the strategy to achieve the product, the developed protocols will be reviewed, both nationally and internationally in order to ensure the use of updated information from a scientific point of view, hoping to have at that time the protocols described in the Output 3.1.1. The Legal Consultancies of MINEC and INPARQUES will be present throughout the process to ensure coherence and compliance with current national legislation, following international guidelines and standards for the drafting of technical regulations.

From a social perspective, the pilot control experience of *U. stolonifera*, based on scientifically validated experimental management methods, will be implemented in the project intervention area with community participation and a gender approach (Output 3.1.3). This activity contemplates the realization of the previous products in order to achieve the reduction of the coverage of the invasive coral *U. stolonifera* in the invaded areas and thus, generate conditions for the recovery of the ecosystem services of the five key CMPAs. It is expected that this pilot experience will serve as an example for the implementation of control methods in other areas of the country. For the successful achievement of this activity, it has been proposed to convene the Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (Output 1.1.1), to ensure the participation of relevant actors. To prepare the plan, the lessons learned in obtaining the previous products of Component 3, the updating of technical information and the social and environmental risks previously identified will be considered. In order to involve the local community, fishermen, scientists and authorities in planning and execution; training courses will be held on the activities to be undertaken during control and eradication, using educational material previously designed in accordance with the provisions of Outputs 1.2.2 and 4.1.1. It is planned to measure the effectiveness of the interventions through indicators such as the reduction in the coverage of *U. stolonifera*, environmental impact of the control activities, recovery of the intervened ecosystems and number of people participating in the control activities, broken down by sex and age. Also, lessons learned and areas of improvement for future interventions will be identified in order to adjust technical aspects during the next intervention days for the control and eradication of the species.

The restoration of the ecosystem degraded by *U. stolonifera* will be developed as a pilot experience in the project intervention area, based on community participation and gender equity (Outcome 3.2). A pilot program for the restoration of coral ecosystems with native species will be designed to revitalize and rehabilitate natural coral reefs that have been damaged or degraded due to various threats, in this case the invasion of the IAS *U. stolonifera* (Output 3.2. 1). During the design of the program, it is important to consider experiences obtained in other Caribbean countries, because in the country there are few experiences in the restoration of coral ecosystems. This type of program involves the implementation of specific strategies aimed at improving the health and biological diversity of coral reefs through active restoration actions that seek to recover the ecological functions of coral reefs, promoting the growth and regeneration of corals and other associated species. The experience will be documented according to what is established in Component 4.

Additionally, the project proposes to design and implement, in a participatory manner, guidelines and best practices for productive activities that minimize the risk of introduction and dispersal of aquatic IAS, using the case of *U. stolonifera* as a pilot. Similarly, socio-productive alternatives will be identified and promoted aimed at mitigating or compensating for the impact of this and other IAS on the livelihoods of local communities, contributing to habitat restoration (Outcome 3.3). Sustainable productive alternatives will be implemented in local communities with a gender perspective, which will contribute to mitigating the impact of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the Level 4 project (Output 3.3.1). This product will be linked to Output 1.2.2, where the training program in sustainable production practices related to aquaculture will be implemented (floating algae culture, fish breeding in cages and pens with multi-trophic systems and, bivalve mollusks culture in fixed parks), agricultural activities (breeding of birds fed with insect supplements and organic farming), product

processing (extraction of coconut oil and transformation of cocoa, as well as salting, smoking, cutting and marinating of fishery and aquaculture products), ecotourism (knowledge and identification of coastal marine fauna, flora, snorkelling and hiking) and business management (activity transversal to any productive activity). Once the diagnosis has been prepared in those places where these activities could be undertaken and following the criteria of location in permitted areas in accordance with what is established in the MPUR of the key CMPAs, presence of the IAS, relative accessibility and permanent human presence, the location of the pilot experiences will be selected. All these pilot projects will be evaluated considering the results of the environmental baseline, conceived in Outcome 3.1.

The main assumptions aimed at fulfilling the scope of this third component include that the application of control and containment methods of *U. stolonifera* with community participation results in the reduction of the coverage of this species and the generation of recovery conditions for the coral ecosystem, in addition to raising awareness among the population about the problem of IAS. Likewise, there must be motivation among local residents to exchange knowledge and implement pilot experiences for IAS control, restoration of degraded ecosystems, and proposed sustainable socio-productive alternatives.

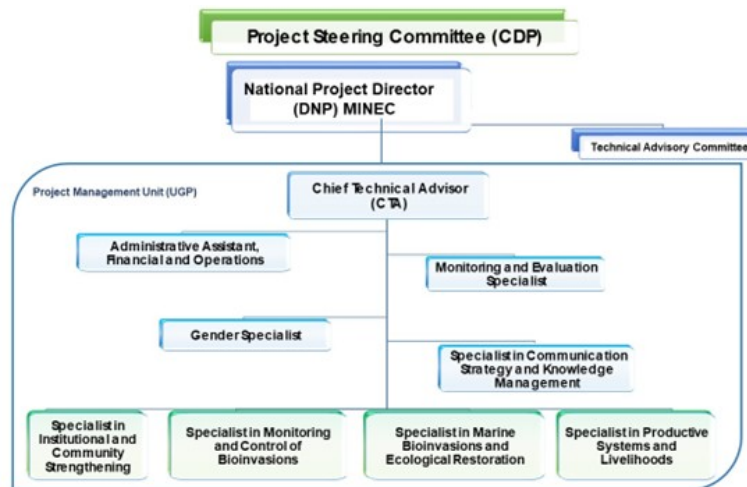
Regarding knowledge management, dissemination of information and learning of the project with a gender perspective (Component 4), the communication and dissemination strategy of project information will be implemented, as a contribution to national and international conservation purposes of biological diversity. By virtue of the direct link that will be had with research institutions, experts and academy, a communication strategy is proposed that results in the development and publication of a Good Practices Manual to prevent the introduction and spread of Invasive Exotic Species (IAS)) potential or present aquatic species in Venezuela and Voluntary Codes of Conduct for different productive sectors related to the prevention, control and management of IAS and PIAS; as well as, guidelines are proposed to promote the establishment of a “Venezuelan Network of Researchers with a gender perspective”, which enhances knowledge of aquatic IAS at the national and international level (Output 4.1.1). For the dissemination of results and lessons learned from the project, the project website will be developed, accessible from the MINEC web portal, with updated information, results, experiences and learning generated. The project website will contain a link to the courses available at FAO Campus. During implementation, it will consider incorporating new self-learning courses developed by the Project Management Unit (UGP), with the advice and support of the FAO Training team, ensuring that they meet the required criteria of quality, scalability and sustainability. National exchanges will be carried out with the communities on experiences in IAS management issues and knowledge in sustainable productive practices implemented by local communities; it is proposed to carry out international exchanges on the management of aquatic IAS and restoration of coral environments and to prepare a regional workshop on the management of aquatic IAS within the scope of RedParques, in order to promote the exchange of knowledge within this important organization (Output 4.1.2). In this sense, the communication and knowledge management strategy will facilitate the appropriation of knowledge and the exchange of information related to the scope of the project with all interested parties.

#### Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

MINEC will act as the lead implementing agency and will be responsible for the daily management of project results. As the Executing Entity of the project, MINEC is responsible to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, the operational supervision of the implementation activities, the submission of

timely reports and the effective use of GEF resources for the purposes planned and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements. Figure 2 shows the project organization chart:



**Figure 2. Organization Chart of the Project**

The Minister of MINEC will appoint a National Project Director (DNP). Located in MINEC, the DNP will be responsible for coordinating activities with all national organizations related to the different components of the project, as well as with project partners. He/She will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator on government policies and priorities.

MINEC will chair the Project Steering Committee (CDP), which will be the main governing body of the project. The CDP will approve Work Plans and Budgets annually and provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and all implementing partners.

The CDP will be composed of representatives of the following institutions: MINEC, INPARQUES, MINCYT, MINTUR, MINPESCA and a member of the FAO Representation in Venezuela. Each of the CDP members will ensure the role of Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. As focal points in their agency, interested CDP members will: (i) technically supervise activities in their sector; (ii) they will ensure a fluid and two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) they will facilitate the coordination and linkage between project activities and their agency's work plan; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

It is important to consider during the design of the baseline study, the experience obtained during the assistance provided through a FAO technical cooperation program, for the design and implementation of a framework protocol for the evaluation and monitoring of control and eradication methods of invasive species, which allows combating the expansion of the species *U. stolonifera* in protected marine coastal areas of Venezuela; other complementary activities include the development of an analysis matrix to compare and evaluate the different approaches and results and the identification of knowledge gaps and priority research areas.

FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (AI) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF implementing agency, FAO has overall responsibility to the GEF for the delivery of results. In its AI role, FAO will use GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex J for details):

The person responsible for the budget;

- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO, will provide supervision/support to the technical work of the project in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;



GEF Funding Liaison Officers and Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will oversee and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and implemented in accordance with FAO's minimum fiduciary and technical standards and the GEF.

The responsibilities of FAO, as a GEF agency, will include:

- Manage GEF funds in accordance with FAO standards and procedures;
- Monitor project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, agreements with operational partners and other FAO standards and procedures;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities involved;
- Carry out at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Inform the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the Annual Review of Project Implementation, the Mid-Term Review, the Final Evaluation and the Project Closing Report about the progress of the project;
- Financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

At the request of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and as documented in the GEF OFP letter of support presented in the PIF, FAO will provide execution support by administering the full GEF Grant portion, providing financial management, procurement of goods and contracting of services, following FAO rules and procedures, under the guidance of the MINEC as Executing Agency. MINEC assumes executing responsibilities and project guidance and as such, it is the main decision-making body on the use of all resources allocated to the projects, with supervision from FAO as implementing agency. FAO will not charge any cost on the project budget to perform the administration of resources as requested by Venezuela GEF OFP.

To ensure adequate firewalls between implementation and execution roles, FAO office in the country provides the execution support role, while the implementing role is guaranteed by a project task force, with the participation of a Lead Technical Officer, Funding Liaison Officer and GEF Technical Officer, located in FAO's regional office and headquarters. FAO internal control frameworks are also designed to provide adequate oversight to project execution, with the Regional Office, the Finance Division, Office of Evaluation, Office of Inspector General, and Office of Climate Change and Environment monitoring the GEF portfolio.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Currently, in Venezuela, various initiatives are being implemented addressing the focal area of Biodiversity and the improvement of conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural ecosystems, which are significant for the country:

Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Project (GBF-EAS), implemented by UNDP, to integrate national biodiversity policy with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), providing the required technical and financial support. In this sense, it is planned to update Line 5, relating to the prevention and control of IAS in the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity for the period 2024-2030.

GEF Project ID 1678 “Integrated management of multiple-use landscapes with high conservation value for the sustainable development of the Venezuelan Andean Region”, which seeks to reduce and reverse forest degradation in productive landscapes of the Venezuelan Andean Region to create a favorable environment for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with emphasis on Simultaneous Agroforestry Systems (SAF) and Forest Systems (SF) that contribute to the sustenance of local populations and global environmental benefits (project in progress). Coordination will be promoted between both projects to exchange experiences regarding the adoption of resource management and land use practices to improve the conservation of biological diversity, specifically in activities related to restoration strategies and incorporation of concepts and practices of sustainable management.

Finally, the Project “Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Caroní River basin of the State of Bolívar” GCP/VEN/023/GFF is presented, which has technical assistance from FAO and financing from the Fund for Global Environment. This initiative seeks to promote the management, governance and promotion of institutional and community capacities for the sustainable use of the landscape, the preservation of biological diversity and the provision of ecosystem services, in order to generate socioeconomic and environmental benefits in the Caroní river basin as well as global environmental benefits. This project began its implementation in March 2024 and it is expected that the lessons learned will be useful for this and other environmental projects.

## Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

### Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
155147	164709.29	0	0

### Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
155147	164709.29	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
Henri Pittier	323	National Park	99,199.00	99,199.00					

Mochima	324	National Park	17,288.00	17,288.00					
Morocco		National Park							
Refugio de Fauna Silvestre Cuare	68319			9,562.29					
San Esteban	10767	National Park	38,660.00	38,660.00					

### Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
119576	121866.71	0	0

### Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
119576	121866.71	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Henti Pittier	323	National Park	8,242.00	8,242.00			53.00		
Mochima	324	National Park	77,481.00	77,481.00			58.00		
Morocco	2247	National Park	28,789.00	28,789.00			51.00		
Refugio de Fauna Silvestre Cuare	68319	Others		2,290.71			48.00		

San Esteban	10767	National Park	5,064.00	5,064.00			53.00		
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### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	9,553	9,753		
<b>Male</b>	9,447	9,647		
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>19,400</b>	0	<b>0</b>

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

The project will be implemented in five (5) key CMPAs (Morrocoy, Mochima, San Esteban and Henri Pittier National Parks and Cuare Wildlife Refuge), comprising a total of 286,575.99 ha (164,709.29 terrestrial ha and 121,866.7 marine ha). The management protocols and control and surveillance mechanisms derived from the pilot areas will also be incorporated into the governance instruments of all the country's coastal marine protected areas, which will allow the improvement in management to be expanded to 6,847,720.43 ha registered by the MINEC. Through the implementation of the project, within the CMPA, the removal of U. stolonifera was proposed in 500,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the Level 2 project intervention area and the ecological restoration of 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> of the area affected by this IAS in the Level 3 project intervention level.

In addition, technical competencies will be developed in government institutions, local communities and other stakeholders involved in the project. It also seeks to improve the effectiveness of control measures, sustainable livelihoods and work with a gender equity approach, which guarantees equal opportunities to access the benefits of the project. According to the 2011 national census, the population of the five (05) key CMPAs is 77,859, of which 49.72% are women and 50.28% are men. However, the project's target population is around 19,400 inhabitants (9,647 men, 9,253 women). Table 3 shows the distribution by Outcome of the project beneficiaries. This population will be incorporated into activities related to the formation of the network of environmental brigades to carry out early warning plans. They will also receive training to participate in IAS elimination activities, in the recovery of the reef ecosystem and in the development of some of the alternatives proposed sustainable socio-productive activities, such as ecotourism activities, aquaculture and the processing of fishery products.

### Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	In general, biological invasions are favored by environmental disturbances. The spread of IAS considered in this project is also promoted by increasing alterations in the balance of the reef ecosystem due to climate change. The IAS and the GCC result in interactions and synergies that enhance the effects of each of these processes on biodiversity, the provision of ecosystem

		<p>services, sustainable productive activities and the quality of life of people. For this reason, this topic is included within the substantive activities developed by the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC) through the National Climate Change Information System and the National Climate Crisis Observatory (ONCC), which promotes the development of knowledge about climate change, co-responsible participation of various actors, reduction of greenhouse gases, adaptation to climate change and monitoring of adverse effects. The project will be linked to these systems to strengthen strategies for prevention, early detection, and control of the dispersion of aquatic IAS or PIAS, implemented in the different introduction routes (Outcome 2.1). In addition, capacities for early warning and control of aquatic IAS will be strengthened, as well as the active participation of the community in general in activities that support SINCIAS (Outcome 1.2). Similarly, the environmental baseline will be prepared for the five (05) key CMPAs. As mitigation measures, the pilot experiences of control and eradication of <i>U. stolonifera</i> and the restoration of coral ecosystems affected by this IAS will contribute to the fixation of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Outputs 3.1.3 and 3.2.1). Annex I presents a detection of the risk of climate change in more detail and the Climate Risk report is attached, which is classified as “Moderate with Modulation”, as a result of the actions that are planned to be carried out throughout the implementation of the Project.</p>
<p>Environmental and Social</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>During the implementation of the project, risks may be generated for the environment and local communities, but at the same time, there are risks of this nature that may jeopardize the fulfillment of the project's objectives. In the first case, several risks have been identified that include ecological alterations of other non-target populations, decrease in fishing productivity and dispersion and increase in resistance of the IAS in the reef system of the five CMPAs during the pilot experiences of control of <i>U. stolonifera</i>. Additionally, other potential risks have been identified such as the recolonization of <i>U. stolonifera</i> in restored sites, the development of zoonotic diseases in the pilot areas, conflicts of interest in the management and use of exotic species, deepening inequalities and discrimination existing gender differences, as the activities contemplated in the project are not addressed with a gender perspective and contribution to climate change in the case that the biomass extracted in the selected IAS control processes is incinerated. . In the case of agents external to the project that may jeopardize the fulfillment of the project's objectives, we can mention the dependence of the actors to obtain the expected results, conflicts of interest due to the management and use of exotic species, rejection of the socio-productive alternatives proposed by local communities, low effectiveness of IAS control strategies and ecological restoration due to the effect of climate change and the occurrence of large-scale natural events, increase in the dispersion rate of <i>U. stolonifera</i>, as mitigation measures, it has been proposed to carry out environmental impact studies that allow these risks to be assessed and actions to be proposed for their control. Other actions include gathering environmental baseline information to establish environmental control measures adapted to</p>

		<p>local conditions, monitoring climatic conditions in the area of influence of the project, planning pilot experiences according to local environmental conditions. The accompaniment of the communities, through the pilot program, that provide practical tools for the implementation of sustainable productive initiatives. incorporation of specialists from the national science and research sector, as well as international cooperation, in early phases of the project, the establishment of coral cultivation and restoration protocols that consider the control of diseases and risks of mortality of corals for different causes, the adequate disposal of U. stolonifera waste derived from the pilot control to prevent its dispersion, training and awareness of local communities and other actors, and mainstreaming of the gender approach in all project activities.</p>
<p>Political and Governance</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Changes in institutional authorities throughout the life of the project and limitations in cooperation and coordination between different public institutions in IAS management would lead to inefficiencies in project implementation. Therefore, the creation of the Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) (Output 1.1.1) will allow adequate coordination between government institutions for the progress of the project in line with the country's priorities. All relevant institutions participated in the project formulation stage, and government measures have been taken to address the issue of the introduction of IAS in an inter-institutional manner. On the other hand, the lack of adequate consultation and participation of communities can generate social conflicts, protests and legal actions that hinder the development of the project. In this sense, early integration of relevant actors and the establishment of solid relationships with local communities, constant monitoring of political and regulatory changes through an inter-institutional platform, and proactive commitment have been proposed as mitigation strategies with environmental and social sustainability.</p>
<p>INNOVATION</p>		
<p>Institutional and Policy</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Risks related to strategies and policies include that actions of certain public organizations can promote the introduction and spread of IAS without the necessary control mechanisms. Other risks are resistance in public sectors in the implementation of actions for the management of aquatic IAS that could generate social or economic impacts on local communities, lack of coordination between different government agencies, non-governmental organizations and private actors that can hinder effective implementation of policies and strategies for the management of IAS with the application of inefficient measures and waste of resources. The Office of the Attorney General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (PGR) is the entity that reviews the legal regulations at national level designed by any executive body of the country, so it must plan the availability of its staff to review jointly with MINEC and INPARQUES Legal Consulting Firms the legal instruments that are developed within the framework of the project, for their final promulgation. Through the IASICG, which will be formed within the framework of the project, work will be carried out to keep the Legal</p>

		<p>Consultancies and the PGR informed about the importance of compliance with the country's commitments to the international organizations of which Venezuela is a part. In addition to making them aware of the importance of actions related to legal regulations and their updates, since the necessary agility is required on their part to be able to make timely decisions regarding invasions by aquatic EE in the AUSAR of the country (Outcome 1.1). To mitigate the identified risks, it is planned to promote the inclusive participation of all interested parties in the formulation and implementation of policies and strategies for sustainable development. In addition, strong accountability, transparency and governance mechanisms will be established to ensure that resources are used efficiently and equitably for the benefit of all beneficiary actors.</p>
Technological	Moderate	<p>Regarding the pilot experience, the control of <i>U. stolonifera</i> is experimental and, therefore, its control is proposed as a pilot experience. A risk associated with project activities is the disinterest or lack of participation of key actors in the development of project activities. To mitigate this risk, training and awareness-raising of key actors and their incorporation in early phases of the project have been considered. Additionally, participatory monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be established to supervise the progress of the project and make adjustments according to requirements.</p>
Financial and Business Model	Substantial	<p>The risk for the Venezuelan economy is its dependence, to a large extent, on oil production and, in turn, on the price per barrel in international markets. Since 2022, the national economy has improved after approximately 10 years of economic emergency, so the national entity in charge of the budget allocation required for the recurring actions of the ministries and public institutions involved in the project will channel the requested contribution for those activities that potentially contribute to strengthening the control and supervision actions addressed by the project (Output 1.1.5, Output 1.1.6). However, risks have been considered such as volatility in the prices of equipment, supplies and services required for the execution of the project, fluctuation in exchange rates, inflation and changes in fiscal policies. To mitigate these macroeconomic risks, the feasibility of each of the proposed actions was evaluated and achievable objectives were established. Additionally, establishing strong relationships with local communities and regional government is considered to reduce exposure to these risks and improve long-term sustainability.</p>

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	<p>Limitations in the capacity of human, financial and technical resources of MINEC and other public organizations involved condition the implementation of project activities. The government is committed to allocating human resources from these relevant public institutions to ensure the successful implementation of project activities and future sustainability, as outlined throughout all activities in this document. The development of technical capacities and community promotion of the institutional actors involved in these mechanisms will contribute to improving participatory</p>
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		management and dissemination of information among the different representatives and levels (central, state, municipal) improving coordination.
Fiduciary	Moderate	There is a significant fluctuation of the local currency. To mitigate this risk, the country typically requests FAO to manage the resources (fiduciary support). On the other hand, the acquisition of materials required by the project is carried out in some cases in the international market. The agency will provide support in managing resources, disbursing only when MINEC requires it as the GEF Operational Focal Point, for which it is responsible for achieving project results and the appropriate use of resources. Disbursements will be made in line with the plans and budgets validated by the Project Steering Committee, and it is estimated that the largest volume of inputs required by the project can be acquired from national suppliers.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Local communities perceive that access to their livelihoods and areas that they have always freely occupied may be hindered by the development of the pilot experience in the selected sites within the five (5) keys CMPAs. Therefore, livelihood assessments will be carried out and associated impacts taken into account, in full consultation with communities. Training and awareness programs will be generated so that community members can participate in the control of aquatic IAS and in the restoration of the reef ecosystem, having the appropriate information available. Agreements are also established between the government sector and other interested parties in the private sector who work in favor of activities related to biodiversity conservation. Another additional measure includes the incorporation of key actors in the early phases of the project
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	

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

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

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

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project is aligned with Objective 1 of the Biodiversity Focal Area of the GEF-8 programmatic guidelines, mainly related to the Prevention, Control and Management of Aquatic Exotic Invasive Species, since it will strengthen the National IAS Monitoring and Control System from Venezuela, with emphasis on aquatic species. It will also contribute to improving the effectiveness of the management of Venezuela's Coastal Marine Protected Area System, and will work with local communities to promote the sustainable use of



biodiversity. This action is aligned with the programs and initiatives of the FAO-GEF alliance, especially regarding the restoration of ecosystems, generating ecosystem services on which people, food systems and biodiversity depend.

The project is also consistent with national priorities and plans, framed in the Simón Bolívar National Project, which considers the commitments acquired by the country within the framework of the CBD, ratified by Venezuela on September 13, 1994, and to which carried out six regular reports, the last in June 2019. The national biodiversity goals were adopted in the commitment of the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, which were reflected in the NSCBD 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan, which contains the strategic guidelines of the alternative development model proposed in the country, which is aimed at promoting the new ecosocialist ethics through the conservation and sustainable use of Biological Diversity. Under this scenario, to address the threats posed by the introduction of IAS to the country, the project is designed to implement “Strategic Line 5 of the National Action Plan of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (NSCBD 2010-2020)”, which establishes a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to IAS management. For this reason, institutional technical capacities, national regulations and financial mechanisms for the management of aquatic IAS in Venezuela will be strengthened, incorporating the other competent institutions within the National System for Surveillance and Control of Aquatic IAS (SINCIAS), coordinated by MINEC.

It should be noted that the country began the process of adapting and updating the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity 2021-2030 (NSCBD), which from now on will take into consideration the contents of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This Agreement will guide global actions on biological diversity until 2030, with the Goals involved in this Agreement and to which this Project will be linked: Goal 2: Degraded ecosystems, Goal 3: Protected areas, Goal 6: Eliminate, minimize, reduce or mitigate the impacts of IAS, Goal 10: sustainable use of biological diversity in productive activities, Goal 20: Capacity Development, Goal 21: Access to Knowledge, Goal 22: participation of local communities in decision-making and Goal 23: Gender Equality. These goals are materialized in the project through the restoration of aquatic ecosystems and improvement of biodiversity, effective management of protected area systems, reduction of invasive exotic species and mitigation of their impacts on biodiversity, strengthening and development of capacities, access to technology, development of scientific research programs, effective and equitable governance and integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and the use of a gender perspective approach in the development of these actions.

Regarding climate change policies, the project plans to implement activities to mitigate the effects of climate change by contributing to improving the health and integrity of reef systems, reinforcing their resilience to climate alterations and extreme environmental events associated. All of this is in line with the path outlined by the Paris Agreement, and fulfilled by our country in the Update of the Nationally Determined Contribution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the fight against Climate Change and its effects presented in 2021 (RBV, 2011), where the country's contributions in adaptation and mitigation are presented, covering actions and policies towards fair and sustainable development.

Regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the project is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to gender equality, climate action, underwater life and life in terrestrial ecosystems, specifically in the following goals: **5.5.** Ensure the full and effective participation of women and equal leadership opportunities at all decision-making levels in political, economic and public life; **5.a.** Undertake reforms that give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control of land and other assets, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws; **13.2.** Incorporate measures related to climate change into national policies, strategies and plans; **13.3.** Improve education, awareness and human and institutional capacity regarding climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning; **14.2.** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect

marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take measures to restore them to restore ocean health and productivity; **14 a.** Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Criteria and Guidelines for the Transfer of Marine Technology of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, to improve the health of the oceans and enhance the contribution of biodiversity marine to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries; **15.8.** By 2020, adopt measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and significantly reduce their effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species.

## Alignment TO FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and COUNTRY Programming Framework

The project is framed in the provisions of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 (FAO, 2021) as a support mechanism for the 2030 Agenda in agri-food systems. In this sense, through the project we seek to reduce the loss of biodiversity and the impact of ecosystem services of global importance, strengthening institutional and community capacities in the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of exotic aquatic invasive species in Venezuela (Best environment –BE 3-); considering gender equity and implementing a knowledge management and results-based approach that contributes to community-based sustainable production alternatives, adding options to their traditional livelihoods, thereby increasing the economic resilience of communities and reducing negative impacts on their communities. livelihoods (Better production – BP 2 and BP 3BP 3-, Better nutrition –BN 2-, A better life –BL1 and BL5-).

Likewise, this Project is aligned with the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2023-2026 FAO-Venezuela; specifically with the following result: Priority 3 of the MPP related to Biodiversity and Climate Change and with Direct Effect 2.3., of the UN Venezuela Strategic Cooperation Framework 2023-2026: “By 2026, it will have adapted, reduced vulnerability and mitigated the effects of climate change, particularly of the most vulnerable population, together with the application of measures for the conservation of biodiversity, as well as urban and rural environmental management and recovery, as the basis of development that respects nature” (United Nations Venezuela, 2022).

The implementation of the project activities will be guided by the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) (FAO, 2009) and compliance with the Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and the Eradication of Poverty (SSF Guidelines, 2015) (FAO, 2018), which promote a human rights-based approach to poverty eradication, highlighting the promotion of non-discriminatory participation of small-scale fishing communities in decision-making processes. of transparent and responsible decisions, to guarantee the right to adequate food and equitable socioeconomic development of fishermen and fishing communities, especially in the management, conservation and development of artisanal fishing, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda.

The execution of the project is also framed in the objectives and goals of the Blue Transformation proposed by FAO (2023b) to transform aquatic food systems (aquaculture, fishing and value chains), which promotes, among other aspects, “the application of effective management systems to achieve ecological, social and economic sustainability, support biodiversity conservation, strengthen adaptation to climate change and promote resilience to adverse factors.

## Lessons learned from past projects

The project will also draw on experiences and lessons learned from other GEF-funded projects, such as:

- 'Strengthening the Financial Sustainability and Operational Effectiveness of the National Park System of Venezuela' (GEF ID 3609), implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), from which the actions of commitment acquired by local communities in the management of the AUSAR and their buffer areas.
- "Strengthening the System of Coastal Marine Protected Areas (CMPA)" (GEF ID 3865), executed between 2011 to 2016, where the System of Coastal Marine Protected Areas was consolidated, and a Master Plan for the Management of the CMPA was obtained, with a database of environmental and social information, which will be used as a baseline for the five (05) key CMPAs and will use the tide gauge stations installed by this project for real-time monitoring of environmental conditions. In addition, co-management agreements were reached with the local communities of the CMPAs, together with INPARQUES, to form the "Local Networks of Environmental Guardians", which will be taken into account to support the early warning plans that will be designed in this proposal. The results of the management effectiveness analysis will also be used to design the financing mechanism that will promote integrated IAS management in the country.
- "Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Modern Biosafety" (GEF ID 5290): lessons learned regarding the establishment of a platform of legislative, regulatory, social and infrastructure measures to implement the Cartagena Protocol in Venezuela, in order to contribute to the global conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. There are also lessons learned from the trials carried out by the MINEC (through the Directorate of Biological Diversity, INPARQUES) and a group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in small control units, where the extraction of IAS was experimented with methods of mechanical and chemical removal, with the support of interested parties. The pilot experiences of repopulating marine areas with possible biological controls of IAS (sea cucumbers and algae, both species of native fauna) are an important step forward in the promotion of approaches and alternatives for IAS control.
- 'Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Conservation in the Ecosocial Perspective' (GEF ID 5410), which was implemented by FAO, to improve sustainable forest management, from which references will be taken from practices regarding participatory governance, community empowerment and innovations in information management.
- "Conservation of the malacho fish (*Albula vulpes*) for sustainable use, in the Guarida del sol community, in the state of Nueva Esparta", carried out in collaboration with the GEF Small Donations Program (GEF SGP), with support from the UNDP. The lessons learned related to strengthening the capacities of young people in the fishing community will be considered, to give added value to artisanal fishing products and the use of social technologies to understand the importance of social networks in the promotion and sale of the product, and thus, generate safe and sustainable livelihoods for your family group.

In the design of the project, experiences from other GEF projects on national IAS strategies in the region have been considered, such as GEF ID 4768 in Argentina and GEF ID 4771 in Mexico.

The project will establish coordination with the MINCYT, which will contribute to the project the experiences and results of the recent research carried out regarding the invasive coral, and learn other generalities of its behavior in the Mochima National Park area.

With MINTUR, MINPESCA and MINMUJER, the project will have close cooperation, in order to learn about activities related to ecotourism, fishermen's councils, experiences of fisheries management and the cultivation of marine species, in addition to the link with programs with a perspective of gender that are advanced in the country.

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

## Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Yes

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

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Yes

**Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or**

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

## Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

**Select what role civil society will play in the Project**

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; **Yes**

Co-financier; **Yes**

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

Executor or co-executor; **Yes**

Other (Please explain)

## Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

### Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
High or Substantial	High or Substantial		

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

### Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

The project has been designed and developed considering the four fundamental pillars of the concept of decent rural employment promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). These pillars are essential for the promotion of dignity and well-being in rural areas. The project is aligned with the FAO initiative to promote decent rural employment, in the areas of fishing and aquaculture, agroforestry, processing of fishery products, aquaculture, agriculture, coral restoration and ecotourism. Through training and awareness at both the institutional and community levels, the aim is to improve the working conditions of local producers and officials and strengthen their technical and management skills. The project also promotes the inclusion and active participation of local communities in the prevention, early detection and control of aquatic IAS.

Under this approach, the project is structured around four pillars: 1.- Job creation and business development: This will be achieved through capacity building through training activities and implementation of pilot programs with productive alternatives to diversify livelihoods of small producers encouraging the participation of

women and young people. Sequentially, ventures based on agribusiness will be formed supported by access to markets, training and financial services. 2.- Social protection. This project will support policies to extend social protection coverage to small producers, as well as promote social protection schemes to encourage productivity in the businesses to be implemented. 3.- Labor standards and rights. Production will be supported in the various productive areas mentioned above in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, reducing discrimination based on gender and youth and, 4.- Governance and social dialogue. The project will encourage the participation of local producers in dialogue processes for decision-making and governance mechanisms, as well as the empowerment of groups of women and youth to get involved in these processes from their initial stages. Additionally, FAO guidelines are designed to ensure that sustainable small-scale fisheries promote gender equity and the full participation of women at all stages of the value chain. These guidelines provide a comprehensive framework to address the underlying causes of gender inequalities and foster an inclusive and fair environment.

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Venezuela	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	6,000,000.00	570,000.00	6,570,000.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>6,000,000.00</b>	<b>570,000.00</b>	<b>6,570,000.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Venezuela	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>14,250.00</b>	<b>164,250.00</b>
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Please provide Justification

### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Venezuela	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,570,000.00
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>6,570,000.00</b>

### Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-5	GET	6,000,000.00	35940000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>6,000,000.00</b>	<b>35,940,000.00</b>

### Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of the Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	12620000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of the Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	9500000
Recipient Country Government	UTEC SUCRE - Ministry of the Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Civil Society Organization	Fundación Ecociudadanos	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	820000
Recipient Country Government	National Foundation of Zoological Parks, Zoo breeders and Aquariums (Funpzza)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2500000
Recipient Country Government	National Foundation of Zoological Parks, Zoo breeders and Aquariums (Funpzza)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7500000

Recipient Country Government	Pilares Marinos	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>35,940,000.00</b>

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The investment mobilized from the MINEC and its affiliated entities INPARQUES, Funpzza and the Tree Mission to awaken the inhabitants' interest in protected areas, promote ecological balance and the recovery of degraded areas, while Funpzza regulates the registration and operation of national zoos and aquariums.

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
Project Coordinator	6/26/2024	Lorenzo Campos		lorenzo.camposaguirre@fao.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Miguel Serrano	Director of Integration and International Affairs	Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism	4/10/2023

## ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<b>Project objective and project indicators:</b> Reduce the loss of biodiversity and the impact of ecosystem services of global importance, strengthening institutional and community capacities in the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of exotic aquatic invasive species in Venezuela.							
<b>Component 1: Institutional and community strengthening for the management of IAS with a gender perspective</b>							
<u>Outcome 1.1</u> Generated the conducive institutional environment	<i>At least 164,709.29 ha Area of protected terrestrial areas under</i>	METT:  CMPA Mochima	METT:	METT:	GEF Monitoring: METT and capacity building Quarterly	The institutions and actors involved are interested in and participate in institutional	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and



Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
to reduce the threats of IAS and PIAS and improve the management of the CMPAs of Venezuela	<p><i>improved management (GEF Core Indicator 1.2)</i></p> <p><i>At least 121,866.71 ha of marine protected areas under improved management (GEF Core Indicator 2.2)</i></p> <p>Number of institutions integrated into institutional coordination mechanisms to reduce IAS and PIAS threats and improve management of CMPAs</p> <p><i>Number of inhabitants of the communities (by sex and age), who benefit from the processes of updating territorial planning in CMPA, which incorporate the management of aquatic IAS, the restoration of coral environments and the implementation of sustainable productive practices (Core indicator 11)</i></p>	<p>National Park: 58</p> <p>CMPA Morrocoy National Park: 51</p> <p>CMPA San Esteban National Park: 53</p> <p>CMPA Henri Pittier National Park: 53</p> <p>Cuare Wildlife Refuge: 48</p> <p>Only four state institutions (MINEC, MINPESCA, INEA and INSAI) participate in isolation in reducing the threats of IAS and PIAS, while the management of the CMPA is carried out by INPARQUES and the MINEC.</p> <p>Universities and research centers generate knowledge about IAS; However, they do not participate jointly in the</p>	<p>CMPA Mochima National Park: 65</p> <p>CMPA Park</p> <p>Morrocoy National: 60</p> <p>CMPA San Esteban National Park: 60</p> <p>CMPA Henri Pittier National Park: 62</p> <p>Cuare Wildlife Refuge: 58</p> <p>At least ten institutions are integrated into institutional coordination mechanisms to reduce IAS and PIAS threats and improve the management of CMPAs</p> <p>At least 17,270 inhabitants participate in the territorial planning update</p>	<p>CMPA Mochima National Park: 72</p> <p>CMPA Morrocoy National Park 68</p> <p>CMPA San Esteban National Park: 71</p> <p>CMPA Henri Pittier National Park: 71</p> <p>Cuare Wildlife Refuge: 68</p> <p>At least 20 institutions are integrated into institutional coordination mechanisms to reduce IAS and PIAS threats and improve the management of CMPAs</p> <p>At least 17,270 inhabitants benefit from the territorial planning update processes in CMPA, which incorporate the management of aquatic IAS, the</p>	<p>reports on the progress of products to be developed</p> <p>Technical documents</p> <p>List of participants in technical meetings (by sex, age and institution)</p> <p>Documents with agreements established between institutions</p> <p>Photographic record</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p>	<p>coordination mechanisms for better management of protected areas, reducing the threats of aquatic IAS.</p>	<p>Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
		management of IAS with state institutions.	processes in CMPA	restoration of coral environments and the implementation of sustainable productive practices (at least 6,900 women)			
<p><u>Output 1.1.1</u></p> <p>Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) with a gender approach promoted</p>	Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) with a gender perspective created and promoted	There are specific commissions to address specific IASs, however, there is no broad intersectoral approach strategy.	IASICG with a gender perspective created and promoted		<p>Partial progress reports and legal framework of the IASICG.</p> <p>List of participants in technical meetings (by sex, age and institution)</p> <p>Documents with agreements established between institutions</p> <p>Creation document of the IASICG with a gender perspective</p> <p>Photographic record</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p> <p>Minutes of formation of the IASICG (Ministerial Agreement)</p>	The MINEC and the organizations involved have an interest in forming and institutionalizing the working group to coordinate IAS, particularly aquatic ones.	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>
<p><u>Output 1.1.2</u></p> <p>Standards for the prevention and control of aquatic IAS updated and harmonized with other relevant national sector standards, subject to approval by the executive body competent in environmental matters (Strategic Line 5 of the NSCBD and its PAN - NSCBD action plan</p>	<i>Number of standards for the prevention and control of aquatic IAS, updated and harmonized with other relevant sectoral standards at national level.</i>	In the country there is a compendium of legal instruments related to the management of AS. These laws or regulations are mostly prior to the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (1999) and require adjustment, both in the	At least one standard for the prevention and control of aquatic IAS, updated and harmonized with other relevant national sectoral standards	At least two standards for the prevention and control of aquatic IAS, updated and harmonized with other relevant national sector standards	<p>National standards related to the management of aquatic IAS updated and sent to the executive body competent in environmental matters</p> <p>Quarterly reports</p> <p>Attendance lists for proposal discussion</p>	The MINEC authorities are interested in establishing standards for the management of the IAS	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
		legal and biological spheres.			meetings (by sex, age and institution)  Substantiation report for modification of the legal instrument  Photographic record of the meetings  Explanatory memorandum reports  Preliminary drafts of updated standards.		and Ecological Restoration  Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods  Specialist in communication strategy and awareness  MINEC  INPARQUES
<b>Output 1.1.3</b>  Updated Master Plan for the Coastal Marine Protected Area System, incorporating the management of aquatic IAS and the restoration of coral environments in the guidelines of this instrument	<i>Number of updated strategic lines of the Master Plan of the System of Coastal Marine Protected Areas that incorporate the management of aquatic IAS</i>	The country has a Master Plan for the management of CMPAs, however, it does not incorporate the management of aquatic IAS, despite the threat they represent to biological diversity, especially in marine and coastal habitats. The Plan consists of seven strategic lines without specific actions aimed at the management of IAS.	At least three updated strategic lines of the Master Plan of the Coastal Marine Protected Area System that incorporate the management of aquatic IAS.	Seven updated strategic lines of the Master Plan of the Coastal Marine Protected Area System that incorporate the management of aquatic IAS	Quarterly reports  Attendance lists for discussion meetings (by sex, age and institution)  Substantiation report for modification of the CMPA System Master Plan  Photographic record of the meetings	The country has an updated Master Plan for the management of CMPAs that allows managing the threat posed by the presence of aquatic IAS to biological diversity and human well-being.	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening  Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions  Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration  Specialist in Productive Systems and livelihoods  Specialist in communication strategy and awareness  MINEC  INPARQUES

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 1.1.4.</u></p> <p>MPUR of five key CMPAs with an update proposal that incorporates the management of aquatic IAS, the restoration of coral environments and the implementation of sustainable production practices</p>	<p>Number of Management Plans and Use Regulations (MPUR) with a proposed update of the five key CMPAs, incorporating the management of aquatic IAS, the restoration of coral environments and sustainable production practices</p>	<p>All five key CMPAs have their MPURs, however, these are more than 15 years old without being reviewed. They need to adapt to the new socioeconomic needs of their inhabitants and the threats posed by the arrival of IAS and climate change.</p>	<p>At least one MPUR of a key CMPA updated, incorporating the management of aquatic IAS, the restoration of coral environments and sustainable production practices</p>	<p>Five MPURs of key CMPAs updated, incorporating aquatic IAS management, restoration of coral environments and sustainable production practices and submitted to authorities</p>	<p>Quarterly reports Attendance lists at the discussion meetings (by sex, age and institution) Photographic record of the meetings Document of the 5 updated MPURs are sent to the authorities</p>	<p>The territorial actors of the CMPA and the institutional actors establish consensus for the updating of the MPUR</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 1.1.5</u></p> <p>Economic analysis of the effect of aquatic IAS on the five key CMPAs</p>	<p><i>Economic analysis study of the impact of aquatic IAS that addresses the five key CMPAs</i></p>	<p>In Venezuela, several analyzes of the economic viability of the management of Protected Areas have been carried out, especially in one of the most iconic CMPAs in Venezuela such as Los Roques National Park; However, none have been evaluated with the focus on the impact of Invasive Exotic Species on the ecosystem and its services.</p> <p>As there are no national references, studies carried out internationally will be taken into account to conduct the collection of the required information and carry out the study.</p>	<p>An economic analysis study of the impact of aquatic IAS developed, which addresses the five key CMPAs developed</p>	<p>An economic analysis study of the impact of aquatic IAS developed, which addresses the five key CMPAs developed</p>	<p>Quarterly reports</p> <p>Attendance lists for discussion meetings (by sex, age and institution)</p> <p>Photographic record of the meetings</p> <p>Document of the economic analysis study of invasive IAS in the five CMPAs</p> <p>Press releases</p> <p>Newsletters and posts on social networks</p>	<p>Government authorities and the governing body are interested in knowing the economic impact that aquatic IAS have on biological diversity and socio-productive activities in CMPAs, to conduct policies that counteract the effects on the ecosystem services of these environments.</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor</p> <p>Specialist in Environmental Economic Valuation</p> <p>Specialist in Environmental Financing Plans</p> <p>Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 1.1.6</u></p> <p>Financial feasibility proposal for the management of aquatic IAS in key CMPAs, prepared and submitted to the competent authorities for approval</p>	<p><i>Financial viability proposal for the management of aquatic IAS in the CMPAs formulated for presentation to the competent authorities for approval</i></p>	<p>The country has made financial viability proposals for the management of CMPAs, however, there are no experiences to promote a monitoring and control system for exotic species in aquatic areas.</p> <p>Limited investments were made, mainly government, for the management of the African snail and the bullfrog (6th Venezuela Report for the CBD)</p>	<p>A financial feasibility proposal for the management of aquatic IAS in CMPAs prepared and presented to the competent authorities for approval</p>	<p>A financial feasibility proposal for the management of aquatic IAS in CMPAs prepared and presented to the competent authorities for approval</p>	<p>Monthly progress reports</p> <p>Financial viability proposal document prepared and delivered to the governing body</p>	<p>Knowing the potential that CMPAs have, to achieve the objective of managing aquatic IAS, the authorities adopt the proposed strategies to ensure the financial sustainability of these areas.</p>	
<p><u>Outcome 1.2</u></p> <p>Improved skills of the technical teams of government institutions and local communities in the management of aquatic IAS with a gender perspective</p>	<p><i>Number of communities that have improved their skills for IAS management, restoration and sustainable production practices, with a gender perspective.</i></p> <p><i>Number of officials from national, regional and local public institutions (differentiated by sex and age) with knowledge in aquatic IAS management (Core indicator 11).</i></p> <p><i>Number of residents with knowledge of prevention, detection and control activities for aquatic IAS, broken down by sex and age</i></p>	<p>Government institutions and local communities have actors who have limited capacities in the knowledge of aquatic IAS management and the general population is unaware of aquatic IAS.</p>	<p>At least 10 communities improve their skills for IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices, with a gender perspective</p> <p>At least 80 officials from national, regional and local public institutions with knowledge in aquatic IAS management (at least 40% women)</p>	<p>At least 15 communities improve their skills for IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices, with a gender perspective</p> <p>At least 150 officials from national, regional and local public institutions with knowledge in aquatic IAS management (at least 40% women)</p>	<p>Training and awareness program designed</p> <p>Report on lessons learned. Lists of training attendance with data on age, sex and institution.</p> <p>Results of surveys before and after the training to know its effectiveness</p> <p>Photographic records</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p>	<p>The different government institutions, communities, local population and private sector, are involved in the management of aquatic IAS</p> <p>and know the importance of the impacts, environmental, social and economic consequences of IAS</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<p><i>(Core indicator 11)</i></p> <p><i>Number of residents with knowledge of sustainable productive activities (Core indicator 11)</i></p> <p><i>Number of residents with knowledge of coral ecosystem restoration activities, broken down by sex and age (Core indicator 11)</i></p> <p><i>Number of residents from community organizations and other interested parties, with knowledge to integrate environmental brigades in aquatic IAS management (Core indicator 11)</i></p>		<p>At least 50 residents with knowledge of prevention, detection and control activities for aquatic IAS, broken down by sex and age</p> <p>At least 150 residents with knowledge of sustainable productive activities (of which at least 40% are women)</p> <p>At least 20 residents with knowledge of coral ecosystem restoration activities (at least 40% women)</p> <p>At least 180 residents from community organizations and other interested parties, with knowledge to integrate environmental brigades in aquatic IAS management (40% women)</p>	<p>At least 100 residents with knowledge of prevention, detection and control activities for aquatic IAS, broken down by sex and age</p> <p>At least 300 residents with knowledge of sustainable productive activities (of which at least 40% are women)</p> <p>At least 50 residents with knowledge of coral ecosystem restoration activities (at least 40% women)</p> <p>At least 300 residents from community organizations and other interested parties, with knowledge to integrate environmental brigades in aquatic IAS management (40% women)</p>			

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 1.2.1</u> Training and institutional awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented</p>	<p>Number of training courses developed for MINEC officials and other institutions in prevention, control and monitoring of aquatic IAS</p>	<p>The MINEC and other state institutions have few professional and technical officials trained in aquatic IAS management.</p>	<p>At least three training courses for MINEC officials and other institutions in prevention, control and monitoring of aquatic IAS</p>	<p>At least five training courses for MINEC officials and other institutions in prevention, control and monitoring of aquatic IAS</p>	<p>Document with the training and awareness program</p> <p>Training reports</p> <p>Report on the application of the training program and lessons learned.</p> <p>Training attendance lists with age, sex and institution data</p> <p>Results of surveys before and after the training to know its effectiveness</p> <p>Photographic records</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p>	<p>The MINEC and other state institutions have trained officials, women and men, who participate in the management of aquatic IAS.</p> <p>In the project intervention area, there are institutions with installed capacity to develop training and education initiatives in the management of aquatic IAS.</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>
<p><u>Output 1.2.2</u> Community training and awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented</p>	<p>Number of training courses developed on activities for the prevention, detection and control of aquatic IAS</p>	<p>To date, no formal IAS training program has been developed; However, research groups, environmental foundations and companies related to the design of IAS control methods have held awareness</p>	<p>At least five training courses in activities for the prevention, detection and control of aquatic IAS</p>	<p>At least ten training courses in activities for the prevention, detection and control of aquatic IAS</p>	<p>Lists of attendees (by sex and age), certificate records, invoices for expenses incurred during the program</p> <p>Results of surveys before and after the training to</p>	<p>Training actions designed based on a diagnosis of training needs provide the necessary knowledge so that environmental brigades and the community in general can participate in IAS control activities.</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions</p>



Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Number of training courses in sustainable production practices (lines: aquaculture, agricultural activities, product processing, ecotourism, business management and coral cultivation)	talks in some communities within the AMPCs.  There are few experiences in the restoration of coral ecosystems in the country, so it is necessary to consider the knowledge and experiences obtained in other Caribbean countries.	At least 10 training courses in sustainable production practices carried out (thematic line: aquaculture, agricultural activities, product processing, ecotourism, business management and coral cultivation)	At least 15 training courses in sustainable production practices carried out (lines: aquaculture, agricultural activities, product processing, ecotourism, business management and coral cultivation)	know its effectiveness  Photographic record  Audiovisual records  Didactic material generated for training.		and Ecological Restoration  Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods  Gender specialist  Specialist in communication strategy and awareness  MINEC  INPARQUES
	Number of training courses in coral ecosystem restoration activities	In the project intervention area there are institutions with installed capacity to develop training and education initiatives.	At least 8 training courses in coral ecosystem restoration activities	At least 15 training courses in coral ecosystem restoration activities			
	Number of training courses for environmental brigade members in aquatic IAS management		At least eight training courses for environmental brigades in aquatic IAS management, of which at least three will be aimed at young people and children (Little Park Rangers)	At least 15 training courses for environmental brigades in aquatic IAS management, of which at least six will be aimed at young people and children (Little park rangers)			
<b>Component 2: Monitoring and control system for aquatic IAS and PIAS developed with community participation</b>							
<u>Outcome 2.1</u>  Improved management of aquatic IAS and NSCBD compliance	Number of specific objectives of Strategic Line 5 of the NSCBD, related to the strengthening of the SINCIAS achieved	In the Sixth Country Report (2017) delivered to the CBD, it was indicated that less than 50% of the general objectives of Strategic Line 5 had been achieved, so greater efforts are required to implement	At least 2 of the Specific Objectives of Line 5 of the NSCBD, related to the SINCIAS achieved	At least 3 of the Specific Objectives of Line 5 of the NSCBD, related to the SINCIAS achieved	Progress Reports  Annual Management Report of the General Directorate of Biological Diversity  National Report for CBD	The different institutions in the country related to the management of IAS and other relevant actors actively participate in strengthening the National IAS Monitoring and Control System (SINCIAS), with emphasis on aquatic IAS or PIASs.	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions  Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration  Specialist in communication strategies and awareness

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
		<p>the ENCBD Action Plan. Strategic line 5 of the NSCBD contains two strategic objectives and 11 specific objectives, of which five are linked to SINCIAS.</p> <p>With the achievement of these five specific objectives, 45% of what is established in this Strategic Line is contributed.</p>				SINCIAS contributes to improving the management of aquatic IAS in the country.	<p>Computer systems design specialist</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>
<p><u>Output 2.1.1</u> National Monitoring and Control System for Aquatic IAS and PIAS (SINCIAS), designed and operational</p>	<p>Number of strategies for prevention, early detection, surveillance and control of the spread of aquatic IAS and PIASs, developed and implemented</p>	<p>The System is proposed in Strategic Line 5 of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity 2010-2020, assuming itself as a technical management unit, with clearly defined functions to carry out Prevention, Early Detection, Monitoring and EE control, linked to a technological platform for early warnings (APP) and the SVDB; However, its implementation has been limited to the conditions of</p>	<p>At least two strategies for prevention, early detection, surveillance and control of the dispersion of aquatic IAS and PIAS, developed and implemented</p>	<p>At least four strategies for prevention, early detection, surveillance and control of the spread of aquatic IAS and PIASs, developed and implemented</p>	<p>Quarterly reports Attendance lists for discussion meetings (by sex, age and institution) Photographic record of the meetings Document with the four strategies for prevention, early detection, surveillance and control of the dispersion of aquatic IAS and EPIs  SINCIAS organizational structure documents and</p>	<p>Institutions related to IAS management adopt in a coordinated manner new strategies for prevention, early detection, surveillance and control of the dispersion of IAS and aquatic EIPs</p> <p>The SVDB is updated in relation to aquatic IAS and can be consulted "online" and in the APP that will be developed for mass use.</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Computer systems design specialist</p>
	<p>Venezuelan Information System on Biological Diversity (SVDB) updated and articulated with the SINCIAS and participation of the IASICG</p>		<p>Design of the IAS module, structure of the species systematization sheets according to international standards)</p>	<p>Venezuelan Information System on Biological Diversity (SVDB) with the IAS module updated and articulated with SINCIAS and with the participation of the IASICG, operational and in operation.</p>			<p>MINEC</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Application (APP) of IAS that allows the reporting of early warnings and articulated with the SVDB	the country's situation.	IAS application (APP) developed, operational and articulated with the SVDB, allowing the reporting of early warnings	IAS application (APP) developed, operational and articulated with the SVDB, allowing the reporting of early warnings	procedure manual  Record of delivery of the APP in operation to MINEC  Press releases  Newsletters and posts on social networks.		
<u>Output 2.1.2</u> List of IAS and PIAS, with special emphasis on aquatic ones, updated and presented to the competent authority, in compliance with the provisions of the CBD and the NSCBD	Updated list of Exotic Species, with special emphasis on aquatic IAS, including a synthesis of their biological and ecological characteristics presented to the competent authority (linked to Output 1.1.1. and Output 2.1.1)	Although in Venezuela there is a list of exotic species that was published in 2001, as well as publications on some IAS, there is currently no official list that incorporates the new findings of IAS introduced into the country, of which the aquatic ones stand out for their its rapid expansion	List of Exotic Species, with special emphasis on aquatic IAS and PIAS, including a synthesis of their biological and ecological characteristics developed and delivered to the competent authority	Updated list of Exotic Species, with special emphasis on aquatic IAS and PIAS, including a synthesis of their biological and ecological characteristics, delivered to the competent authority	Progress reports  List of participants of the technical tables (by sex, age and institution)  Proposed and updated list of IAS and PIAS with emphasis on aquatics updated and delivered to the competent authority  Database	Institutions with duties in EE are actively involved in updating the official list of AS, and incorporate it to improve their management.	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions  Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration  MINEC  INPARQUES
<u>Outcome 2.2</u>  Integrated local actors and others related to marine activities in the prevention, detection and control of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the level 2 project, contributing to the conservation of biological diversity	Number of community organizations and others related to marine activities (unions, marines, diving operators and clubs) that report to the National System for Prevention, Early Detection, Monitoring and Control of IAS, especially aquatic ones	In the intervention area of the level 2 project there are approximately 30 community organizations, defined within the Constitutional Framework of Popular Power, while there are at least five organizations related to marine activities, such as clubs, marinas, diving	At least 10 community organizations, and others related to marine activities (guilds, marinas, diving operators and clubs) that report to the National Aquatic IAS Monitoring and Control System (SINCIAS)	At least 30 community organizations and others related to marine activities (guilds, marinas, diving operators and clubs) that report the National Aquatic IAS Monitoring and Control System (SINCIAS)	Progress reports  List of participants from community organizations and others related to marine activities that report to the system (by sex and age)  Report on prevention actions.	Community organizations participate in various government strategies and are especially involved in the reporting of aquatic IAS aimed at their prevention, early detection, monitoring and control. This guarantees the continuity of the initiative once the project is completed.	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions  Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration  Gender specialist  Production and livelihood specialist  Specialist in communicatio

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<p>Number of residents who make up the environmental brigades (by sex and age) and report to the System (<i>Core indicator 11</i>)</p> <p>Number of children and young people (by sex and age) who make up the Small Park Guard crews and report to the System (<i>Core indicator 11</i>)</p>	<p>operators and guilds.</p> <p>They are currently articulated in different government strategies.</p>	<p>At least 180 residents participating in the environmental brigades and reporting to the System, of which at least 40% are women</p> <p>At least 45 children and young people make up the Little Park Rangers teams and report to the System, of which at least 40% are girls.</p>	<p>At least 300 residents participating in the environmental brigades and reporting to the System, of which at least 40% are women</p> <p>At least 60 children and young people make up the Little Park Rangers teams and report to the System, of which at least 40% are girls.</p>	<p>detection and control</p> <p>Cooperation agreements between local organizations and MINEC and INPARQUES.</p>		<p>n and awareness strategy</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>
<p><u>Output 2.2.1</u></p> <p>Network of environmental brigades and community organizations strengthened to contribute to the prevention, early detection and control of aquatic IAS, articulated with the National System for Monitoring and</p>	<p>Number of environmental brigades that make up the network and report to the System</p>	<p>The figure of environmental brigades exists as a means of organizing communities for conservation work, however, their operation is incipient.</p> <p>INPARQUES has environmental brigades and teams of small</p>	<p>At least four environmental brigades making up the network and reporting to the System</p>	<p>At least ten environmental brigades making up the network and reporting to the System (of which at least 4 are led by women)</p>	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>List of participants in the environmental brigades and small park ranger brigades that report to the system (by sex and age)</p>	<p>The community in general is aware of the problem of IAS and is actively involved in an organized manner to contribute to the management of aquatic IAS.</p> <p>Children and young people as a replacement</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Control of Aquatic IAS and PIAS (SINCIAS), with a gender perspective	Number of brigades of small Park Rangers that make up the network and report to the System	park rangers in the CMPAs.  The young people of the CMPA are potential participants in the environmental brigades	At least three brigades of small Park Rangers formed and integrating the network and reporting to the System	At least five brigades of small Park Rangers formed and integrating the network and reporting to the System		generation ensure the continuity of actions that combat the threats of IAS.	Gender specialist  Specialist in Production Systems and Livelihoods  Specialist in communication and awareness strategy  MINEC  INPARQUES
<b>Component 3 : Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS, with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security.</b>							
<u>Outcome 3.1</u>  Control methods improved and transferred to the actors involved in the control and eradication of aquatic IAS in the Level 2 project intervention area	Number of effective experiences of control or containment of the IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i>  Number of communities that participate in the pilot experiences and apply the control protocols for <i>U. stolonifera</i>	Although there are work teams developing methodologies for the control and eradication of <i>U. stolonifera</i> , which are still in the validation phase, there are no experiences in Venezuela with community participation that generate lessons learned to address the control of IAS in marine areas. coastal areas of the country. However, lionfish fishing days have been held with the participation of fishermen in order to control its population and raise awareness among communities about its consumption.	Five effective experiences of applying any of the control or containment protocols for the IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i>  <i>At least 5 communities participate in pilot U. stolonifera control experiences from the planning stage</i>	20 effective experiences of applying any of the control or containment protocols for the IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i>  At least 5 communities participate in the pilot experiences and apply the control protocols for <i>U. stolonifera</i>	Progress reports  Lists of participants in the removal and control strategies (differentiated by sex and age)  Monitoring forms and databases Photographic record  Audiovisual records	The application of control and containment methods of the IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i> with community participation, in addition to raising awareness among the population, makes it possible to reduce the coverage of this species and generate conditions for the recovery of the coral ecosystem.  Control and containment methods are effective and contribute to the eradication of IAS	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration  Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions  Gender specialist  Production and livelihood specialist  Specialist in communication and awareness strategy  INPARQUES  MINEC

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 3.1.1</u></p> <p>Scientifically developed protocols and validated for the control and containment of <i>U. stolonifera</i></p>	<p>Number of validated protocols for the mechanical, chemical or biological control and containment of <i>U. stolonifera</i></p>	<p>Currently, universities and national research centers are developing and validating the effectiveness of control methods that have not been formally published. Considering that the area of intervention of the project is high risk and with the purpose of ensuring greater effectiveness in the development of IAS control protocols, as well as the restoration of coral ecosystems and implementation of sustainable socio-productive alternatives, an update is required of ecological, environmental and socioeconomic baseline information related to the effects of climate change, mass diseases and invasion of exotic species.</p>	<p>At least three protocols for the control and containment of <i>U. stolonifera</i> in the process of validation</p>	<p>At least three validated protocols for the control and containment of <i>U. stolonifera</i></p>	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>Databases</p> <p>Photographic record</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p>	<p>During the obtaining of the product, new removal or control methods may arise, which require going through the validation process.</p> <p>The researchers are motivated and involved, working together in the protocol validation process. Control methods lead to the eradication of IAS.</p> <p>The information generated is sufficient and relevant for the control of IAS, the restoration of ecosystems and the improvement of livelihoods. People are willing to provide the required information</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>
	<p>Percentage of progress of the ecological, environmental and socioeconomic reference baseline for the control and eradication of IAS in the coral ecosystems of the level 2 project intervention area</p>		<p>100% of the ecological, environmental and socioeconomic reference baseline for the control of IAS in the coral ecosystems of the Level 2 project intervention area</p>	<p>Reference ecological, environmental and socioeconomic baseline for the control of IAS in the coral ecosystems of the Level 2 project intervention area established</p>	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>Study document</p>		
<p><u>Output 3.1.2</u></p> <p>Proposal for a standard with control and containment protocols for <i>U. stolonifera</i> prepared and submitted to the competent authority for consideration.</p>	<p>Standard proposal with control and containment protocols for <i>U. stolonifera</i> prepared</p>	<p>In 2023, two technical standards were generated via resolution for the control of the exotic species lionfish <i>Pterois spp.</i> and the macroalgae <i>Kappaphycus alvarezii</i>, which creates a precedent for the regulation of other exotic aquatic species</p>		<p>Proposal for a standard with control and containment protocols for <i>U. stolonifera</i> prepared and presented to the competent authority</p>	<p>Standard proposal document with control and containment protocols for <i>U. stolonifera</i></p> <p>Progress reports</p> <p>Substantiation report for the creation of the legal instrument</p>	<p>Changes in authorities do not interfere with the generation of the standard proposal. The control protocols have been validated at the time of preparing the standard proposal. All relevant actors are committed</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in communication and</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
					Lists of attendance at work tables with technicians and specialists in IAS and legal issues (by sex, age and institution)	to preparing the proposal.  MINEC adopts and implements the standard	awareness strategy  Environmental legislation specialist  MINEC  INPARQUES
<u>Output 3.1.3</u>  Pilot experience of control of <i>U. stolonifera</i> with community participation, based on scientifically validated experimental management methods, designed and implemented in the intervention area of the Level 2 project	Area in which invasive coral has been removed  Number of people participating in control activities, broken down by sex and age ( <i>Core indicator 11</i> )	Universities and research centers have implemented control methods for the IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i> on an experimental scale. Additionally, companies in the country have proposed control methods that require validation and evaluation for massification.	Removal of <i>U. stolonifera</i> in 200,000 m <sup>2</sup>  <i>At least 75 people participating in U. stolonifera removal and control activities (at least 40% women)</i>	Removal of <i>U. stolonifera</i> in 500,000 m <sup>2</sup>  <i>At least 150 people participating in U. stolonifera removal and control activities (at least 40% women)</i>	Progress reports  Lists of participants in the removal and control strategies (differentiated by sex and age)  Monitoring forms and databases Photographic record  Audiovisual records	Universities are actively involved in the development and application of research methods.  control	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration  Gender specialist  Specialist in communication and awareness strategy  INPARQUES  MINEC
<u>Outcome 3.2</u> Generated community experiences of restoration of aquatic ecosystems degraded by <i>U. stolonifera</i>	Number of people participating in ecosystem restoration activities, disaggregated by sex and age in the project intervention area (level 3)  ( <i>GEF Core Indicator 11</i> )  Coral surface under restoration process (m <sup>2</sup> )	Currently, in the project intervention area there is interest in recovering coral ecosystems on the part of the local population.	50 people participating in ecosystem restoration activities, disaggregated by sex and age  ( <i>GEF Core Indicator 11</i> )  At least 40,000 m <sup>2</sup> of corals in the process of restoration	100 people participating in ecosystem restoration activities, disaggregated by sex and age  ( <i>GEF Core Indicator 11</i> )  At least 100,000 m <sup>2</sup> of corals in the process of restoration	Progress reports  Lists of participants in the different activities related to restoration (by sex and age)  Photographic records  Audiovisual records	The local population has the knowledge and interest in participating in restoration activities for degraded coastal marine ecosystems.	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration  Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions  Systems Specialist  Productive and Livelihood  Specialist in communication and awareness strategy  Gender specialist  INPARQUES  MINEC

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 3.2.1</u></p> <p>Pilot program for the restoration of coral ecosystems with native species designed and implemented in the Level 3 project intervention area</p>	<p>Percentage of implementation of the pilot program for the restoration of coral ecosystems with native species</p> <p>Number of nurseries of native species established</p>	<p>There are few experiences in the restoration of coral ecosystems in the country, so it is necessary to consider experiences obtained in other Caribbean countries.</p>	<p>At least 30% of the pilot program for the restoration of coral ecosystems with native species implemented</p> <p>At least two nurseries of native species established</p>	<p>At least 100% of the pilot program for the restoration of coral ecosystems with native species implemented</p> <p>At least four nurseries of native species established</p>	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>Attendance lists of program participants (by sex and age)</p> <p>Tracking forms and databases</p> <p>Photographic record</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p>	<p>The local population is interested in and participates in the restoration process of ecosystems affected by <i>U. stolonifera</i></p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in restoration of coral ecosystems</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication and awareness strategy</p> <p>INPARQUES</p> <p>MINEC</p>
<p><u>Outcome 3.3</u></p> <p>Productive alternatives implemented in local communities to mitigate the impact of aquatic IAS</p>	<p>Number of local residents who implement sustainable productive practices (by sex and age) ( <i>Core indicator 11</i> )</p>	<p>There are institutions and organizations that have expertise and trained personnel to design and implement sustainable activities and there is experience in the country of sustainable productive practices in coastal marine communities.</p>	<p>At least 50 local residents implement sustainable production practices (40% women)</p>	<p>At least 150 local residents implement sustainable productive practices (40% women)</p>	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>Attendance lists of program participants (by sex and age)</p> <p>Tracking sheets</p> <p>Photographic record</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p>	<p>Local communities are motivated and have strengthened capacities to implement sustainable productive alternatives that improve their livelihoods, food security and mitigate the impact of their activities on biological diversity.</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Livelihood Specialist</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication and awareness strategy</p> <p>INPARQUES</p> <p>MINEC</p>



Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 3.3.1</u></p> <p>Community sustainable productive practices with a gender perspective implemented, which improve livelihoods that contribute to the management of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the Level 4 project</p>	<p>Amount of Pilot sustainable productive practices implemented (aquaculture, agricultural activities, product processing, ecotourism, business management)</p>	<p>In the CMPAs there is a history of work on sustainable production practices within the framework of pilot scientific experiences.</p>	<p>At least five pilot sustainable productive practices implemented</p>	<p>At least 15 pilot sustainable productive practices implemented</p>	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>Attendance lists of program participants (by sex and age)</p> <p>Tracking sheets</p> <p>Photographic record</p> <p>Audiovisual records</p>	<p>The vocational culture of local communities is inclined to establish sustainable productive practices in accordance with the environmental and social conditions of the project intervention area.</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Livelihood Specialist</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication and awareness strategy</p> <p>INPARQUES</p> <p>MINEC.</p>
<p><b>Component 4: Knowledge management, information dissemination and project learning with a gender perspectives</b></p>							
<p><u>Outcome 4.1:</u></p> <p>Knowledge management driven by a strategic alliance between different sectors, to improve understanding, knowledge and dissemination of the importance of aquatic IAS in order to protect biodiversity, livelihoods and food security</p>	<p>Knowledge management and information sharing strategy developed and implemented</p>	<p>0%</p>		<p>Knowledge management and information sharing strategy developed and implemented</p>	<p>Knowledge Management and Information Exchange Strategy Document</p> <p>Project management reports</p>	<p>The strategy facilitates the appropriation of knowledge and exchange of information related to the scope of the project</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 4. 1.1</u></p> <p>Communication and awareness strategy aimed at key actors related to the introduction and dispersal of aquatic IAS and PIAS</p>	<p>Manual of Good Practices to prevent the spread of potential or present aquatic IAS in Venezuela, with a description of their biological and ecological characteristics and control mechanisms, prepared and published</p>	0%	<p>Manual of good practices to prevent the spread of potential or present aquatic IAS in Venezuela, with a description of their biological and ecological characteristics and designed control mechanisms</p>	<p>Manual of Good Practices to prevent the spread of potential or present aquatic IAS in Venezuela, with a description of their biological and ecological characteristics and control mechanisms, prepared and published</p>	<p>Good practices manual document reviewed by specialists in the subject, MINEC and other organizations involved</p>	<p>The good practices manual is published and available for decision makers and local communities.</p>	<p>Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening</p> <p>Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions</p> <p>Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods</p> <p>Gender specialist</p> <p>Specialist in communication strategy and awareness</p> <p>MINEC</p> <p>INPARQUES</p>
	<p>Guidelines and proposals for the establishment of a Venezuelan Network of Researchers with a gender perspective, to promote their connection and enhance knowledge of aquatic IAS</p>	0%	<p>Defined guidelines for network establishment</p>	<p>The proposal was prepared with guidelines for the establishment of a Venezuelan Network of Researchers with a gender perspective to promote knowledge of aquatic IAS and presented to the authorities.</p>	<p>Document with the proposal</p>	<p>Researchers are linked and have an interest in generating information, discussing the research priorities necessary to avoid threats from aquatic IAS to national ecosystems (Strategic Line 5 of the PAN NSCBD)</p>	

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Voluntary codes of conduct for different productive sectors related to the prevention, control and management of IAS and PIAS	0%	At least two voluntary codes of conduct for different productive sectors related to the prevention, control and management of IAS and PIAS	At least four voluntary codes of conduct for different productive sectors related to the prevention, control and management of IAS and PIAS			
<u>Output 4.1.2</u>  Project results and lessons learned in relation to community and participatory action and good socio-productive practices with a gender perspective published and disseminated	Percentage of development of the project website accessible from the MINEC web portal with updated information, results, experiences and learning generated by the project.	0%	Project website designed, developed and 100% operational	Project website developed and 100% operational, accessible from the MINEC web portal with updated information, results, experiences and learning generated by the project.	Newsletters and publications of good practices and lessons learned  Semi-annual project reports  Project web page in operation on the MINEC web portal	The project generates good practices and lessons learned  Decision makers and local residents are sensitized in the management of aquatic IAS and improve their identification, prevention, control and monitoring	Chief Technical Advisor Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening  Specialist in Monitoring and Control of Bioinvasions  Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration
	Number of newsletters and publications with best practices and lessons learned related to the project systematized and published	0%	At least five newsletters and two publications  At least 50 Press Releases  At least 50 Audiovisual Microphones  At least 50 Post RRSS	At least ten newsletters and five publications  At least 100 Press Releases  At least 100 Audiovisual Microphones  At least 100 RRSS posts  Proposal for a serial documentary model for TV, 10 chapters	Organization of an international event on the advancement of experiences with IAS and the <i>U. stolonifera</i> pilot project	The communication strategy with a gender perspective generates a positive impact on citizens regarding the knowledge of the problem of aquatic IAS and contributes to improving the environmental conservation of the country.	Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods  Gender specialist  Specialist in communication strategy and awareness
	Number of national exchanges of local population with experience in IAS management issues, knowledge in sustainable productive practices, with a gender perspective, and comprehensive days for women implemented in local communities.	0	At least two national exchanges of local population with experience in EE management issues, knowledge in sustainable productive practices, with a gender perspective, and comprehensive workshops for women, implemented in local communities	At least six national exchanges of local population with experience in IAS management issues and knowledge in sustainable productive practices, with a gender perspective, and comprehensive days for women, implemented in local communities		By being informed and incorporated into activities to improve their livelihoods, women are empowered and participate in supporting the	MINEC  INPARQUES

Outcome chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term objective	Final target	Verification means	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Number of international exchanges on aquatic IAS management and restoration of coral environments	In February 2024, the AGRRA organization, together with the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention, held a webinar, where several presentations were presented by Venezuelan researchers on what has been progressed in research on <i>Unomia</i> and researchers from Cuba and Hawaii	At least one international exchange on aquatic IAS management and restoration of coral environments	At least two international exchanges on aquatic IAS management and restoration of coral environments		management of IAS.	
	Regional workshop on management of aquatic IAS within the scope of the RedParques marine protected areas working group in order to promote the exchange of knowledge	0%	Does not apply	At least one regional workshop on aquatic IAS management within the scope of the RedParques marine protected areas working group in order to promote the exchange of knowledge			
	Percentage of development of the project's communication strategy with a gender perspective	0%	At least 60% progress in the project's communication strategy with a gender perspective	Communication strategy with a gender perspective of the project developed 100%			

#### ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
PPG Coordinator	18,268.00	15,309.00	2,960.00
Specialist in Marine Biology, related to biodiversity conservation and with experience in biological invasions.	11,626.00	11,172.00	454.00

Specialist in production processes, stakeholder participation and livelihoods in fishing communities.	9,809.00	9,295.00	514.00
Social communication specialist with experience in social media management	5,086.00	4,678.00	408.00
Specialist in Management and Management of Marine Biological Invasions.	11,626.00	9,589.00	2,037.00
Senior Project Design Expert (GEF)	15,000.00	8,034.00	769.00
Expert in marine bioinvasions (Could not be hired and that amount was used for national consultancies and workshops)	15,000.00		
Inception workshop	7,325.00	8,209.00	
Design Socialization Workshop with Actors	7,000.00	1,924.00	
Validation Workshop	7,003.00	17,352.00	
Expendable goods		5,078.00	
Specialist in Gender Approach, with experiences in Fishing Communities	5,813.00	4,182.00	1,631.00
Operations assistant	7,084.00	785.00	5,514.00
Translator	4,000.00		10,000.00
National/local travel	21,000.00	25,747.00	
Specialist in environmental economics	4,360.00	4,360.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,257.00</b>	<b>30,107.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cuare Wildlife Refuge	10.9346	-68.3327	68,319

Location Description:

Official polygon of the Wildlife Reserve

Activity Description:

Update of the Planning Plan and Regulations of Use (MPUR).

Analysis of the economic cost of coastal marine IAS

Financial viability proposal

Community training

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Morrocoy National Park	10.8611	-68.2508	2,247

Location Description:

Official polygon of the National Park

Activity Description:

Update of the Planning Plan and Regulations of Use (MPUR).

Analysis of the economic cost of coastal marine IAS

Financial viability proposal

Community training

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Esteban National Park	10.3826	-67.9740	10,767

Location Description:

Official polygon of the National Park

Activity Description:

Update of the Planning Plan and Regulations of Use (MPUR).

Analysis of the economic cost of coastal marine IAS

Financial viability proposal

Community training

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Henri Pittier National Park	10.3948	-67.632	323

Location Description:

Official polygon of the National Park

Activity Description:

Update of the Planning Plan and Regulations of Use (MPUR).

Analysis of the economic cost of coastal marine IAS

Financial viability proposal

Community training

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mochima National Park	10.2957	-64.4603	324

Location Description:

Official polygon of the National Park

Activity Description:

Update of the Planning Plan and Regulations of Use (MPUR).

Analysis of the economic cost of coastal marine IAS

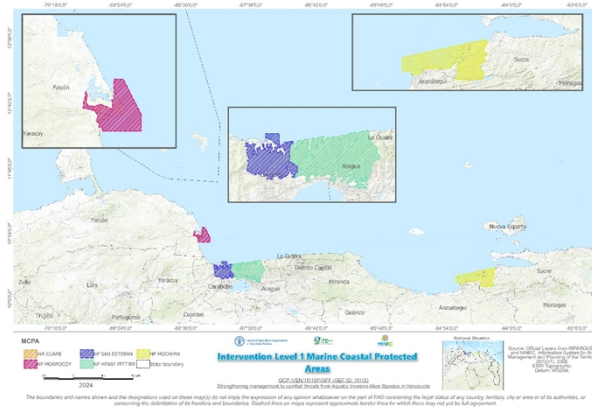
Financial viability proposal

Community training

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

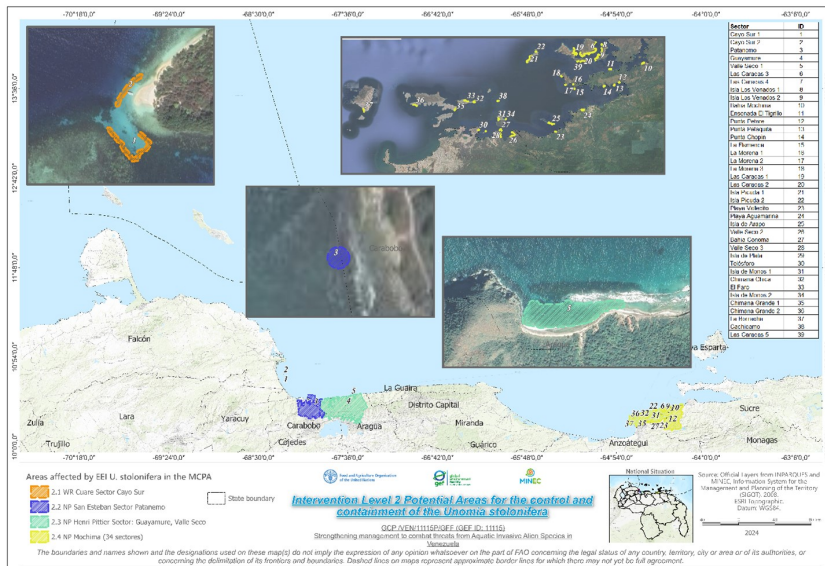
Table 6 presents the geographical coordinates (latitude, longitude) of the centroid of the polygons of the project intervention area at the following levels: Intervention Area Level 1 Coastal Marine Protected Areas (CMPA): Cuare Wildlife Refuge, Morrocoy National Park, San Esteban National Park, Henri Pittier National Park and Mochima National Park, Intervention Area Level 2 CMPA: control and containment of the IAS *U. stolonifera* pilot, Intervention Area Level 3 CMPA: Active Restoration of corals affected by the IAS *U. stolonifera* and Intervention Area Level 4 CMPA: Pilot Program of Sustainable Socioproductive Practices. Likewise, figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 show the geographical location of the intervention area at its different territorial levels.

**Table 6. Geographic coordinates of the project intervention areas > Please see uploaded table under Annex H Roadmap > Documents**



**Figure 4. Intervention area Level 1: Coastal marine protected areas (MCPA) -Cuare Wildlife Refuge, Morrocoy National Park, San Esteban National Park, Henri Pittier National Park and Mochima National Park\*.**

\*The boundaries shown and the names and designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its territories borders or limits. Dashed lines on the maps represent approximate boundaries on which there may not yet be full agreement.



**Figure 5. Level 2 intervention area: Potential areas for the control and containment of the IAS U. stolonifera\*.**

\*The boundaries shown and the names and designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its territories borders or limits. Dashed lines on the maps represent approximate boundaries on which there may not yet be full agreement.



**Figure 6. Level 3 intervention area: Potential areas for active restoration of corals affected by the IAS *U. stolonifera* \*. > Please see uploaded table under Annex H Roadmap > Documents**

*\*The boundaries shown and the names and designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its territories borders or limits. Dashed lines on the maps represent approximate boundaries on which there may not yet be full agreement.*

**Figure 7. Level 4 intervention area: Potential communities in CMPA for the implementation of a pilot program of sustainable socio-productive practices\*. > Please see uploaded table under Annex H Roadmap > Documents**

*\*The boundaries shown and the names and designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its territories borders or limits. Dashed lines on the maps represent approximate boundaries on which there may not yet be full agreement.*

**ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING**

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

Annex I\_EnvironmentalAndSocialSafeguards

Detection of climate risks

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

Project Risk Certification

**ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE**

Please upload the budget table here.

FAO Cost Categories	unit	№ of units	unit cost	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	M&E	PMC	Total GEF	Responsible Entity
				TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	Total	Total			
<b>5013 International Consultants</b>											
Coral Restoration Specialist	month	3	4,400.00	0.00	0.00	13,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,200.00	MINEC
Coral Cultivation Specialist	month	2	4,400.00	0.00	0.00	8,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,800.00	MINEC
EEl Risk Analysis Specialist	month	1	4,400.00	0.00	0.00	4,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,400.00	MINEC
<b>5011 Sub-total International Consultants</b>				<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,400.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,400.00</b>	
<b>5013 Consultants</b>											
Gender Specialist	month	60	2,750.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	60,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	MINEC
Specialist in Institutional and Community Strengthening	month	60	2,750.00	165,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	MINEC
Environmental Law Specialist	month	8	1,606.00	12,848.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,848.00	MINEC
Specialist in Management and Territorial Planning	month	6	1,606.00	9,636.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	MINEC
GIS Specialist	month	12	1,606.00	14,454.00	0.00	4,818.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,272.00	MINEC
Specialist in Environmental Economic Valuation	month	12	1,606.00	19,272.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,272.00	MINEC
Chief Technical Advisor	month	60	3,300.00	39,000.00	51,000.00	75,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	198,000.00	MINEC
Coordination, Administrative, Financial and Operations Support Specialist	month	60	2,530.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	151,800.00	151,800.00	MINEC
Specialist in Financial Viability Mechanisms of Protected Areas	month	8	1,606.00	12,848.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,848.00	MINEC
Specialist in Bioinvasion Monitoring and Control Systems	month	60	2,750.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	MINEC
Specialist in Communication Strategy and Knowledge Management	month	60	2,750.00	0.00	65,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	MINEC
Information Gathering Specialist (surveys-interviews)	month	4	1,606.00	0.00	6,424.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,424.00	MINEC
Specialist in Marine Bioinvasions and Ecological Restoration	month	60	2,750.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	MINEC
Specialist in Control of Exotic Marine Species	month	12	1,606.00	0.00	0.00	19,272.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,272.00	MINEC
Specialist in Experimental Design and	month	6	1,606.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	MINEC

Statistical Evaluation											
Environmental Safeguards Specialist	month	6	1,606.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	MINEC
Socioeconomic Study Assistant	month	6	1,606.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	MINEC
Underwater Photographer	month	6	1,606.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,636.00	MINEC
Specialist in Productive Systems and Livelihoods	month	60	2,750.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	MINEC
Marine Aquaculture Specialist	month	12	1,606.00	0.00	0.00	19,272.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,272.00	MINEC
Specialist in Sustainable Business for Fishing Communities	month	3	1,606.00	0.00	0.00	4,818.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,818.00	MINEC
Monitoring and Follow-up Specialist	month	60	2,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165,000.00	0.00	165,000.00	MINEC
Support Consultant for Personnel Hiring and Travel Logistics	month	15	1,320.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	7,500.00	1,300.00	0.00	0.00	19,800.00	MINEC
Translator	Global	1	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	MINEC
Mid Term Review	Global	1	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	FAO
Final report	Report	1	6,550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,550.00	0.00	6,550.00	FAO
Independent Final Evaluation	Global	1	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,000.00	0.00	70,000.00	FAO
<b>5013 Subtotal consultants</b>				<b>318,058.00</b>	<b>168,424.00</b>	<b>750,624.00</b>	<b>174,300.00</b>	<b>281,550.00</b>	<b>171,800.00</b>	<b>1,838,356.00</b>	
<b>5650 Contracts</b>											
Validation study for expansion of MCPA of Henri Pittier NP	Global	1	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	MINEC
IT product development services contract	Global	1	250,000.00	0.00	250,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250,000.00	MINEC
Socio-economic study to update the MPURs and socio-productive alternatives	Global	1	80,000.00	0.00	0.00	80,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80,000.00	MINEC
Institutional and community strengthening in IAS management	Global	1	48,000.00	48,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,000.00	MINEC
Formation and strengthening of Environmental Brigades	Global	1	90,000.00	0.00	90,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90,000.00	MINEC
Environmental baseline study	Global	1	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	MINEC
Environmental and Sociocultural Impact Studies	Global	1	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	MINEC
Diving equipment rental	Global	1	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	MINEC
Collection of social and economic information from	Global	1	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	MINEC

the communities in the 5 CMPAs												
Establishment and maintenance of aquariums	Global	1	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	MINEC	
Installation of multipurpose environmental stations	Global	1	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	MINEC	
Selection, validation and implementation of Unomia stolonifera pilot tests	Global	1	330,000.00	0.00	0.00	330,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	330,000.00	MINEC	
Pilot tests for the restoration of coral ecosystems	Global	1	320,000.00	0.00	0.00	320,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	320,000.00	MINEC	
Installation of coral nurseries	Global	1	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	MINEC	
Preparation of business plans for socio-productive activities	Global	1	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	MINEC	
Editing media resources for knowledge management	Global	1	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	MINEC	
Development of teaching and e-learning resources	Global	1	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	MINEC	
Adaptation of Inparques offices	Global	1	40,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	MINEC	
Documentary production lessons learned from the project	Global	1	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	MINEC	
Implementation of the algae cultivation pilot	Global	1	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	MINEC	
Implementation of the mollusk farming pilot	Global	1	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	MINEC	
Implementation of the fish farming pilot	Global	1	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	MINEC	
Implementation of the permaculture pilot	Global	1	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	MINEC	
Processing of fishery products	Global	1	90,000.00	0.00	0.00	90,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90,000.00	MINEC	
Processing of agricultural products	Global	1	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	MINEC	
Organization and strengthening of community ecotourism	Global	1	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	MINEC	
Design and editing of technical documents	Global	1	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	MINEC	
Design and editing of informative material	Global	1	58,600.00	58,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58,600.00	MINEC	
Audiovisual recording of life stories	Global	1	83,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	23,000.00	0.00	0.00	83,000.00	MINEC	
Publications	Global	1	45,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	MINEC	
Car Rental	Global	1	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	MINEC	

<b>5013 Subtotal contracts</b>				<b>241,600.00</b>	<b>360,000.00</b>	<b>1,771,000.00</b>	<b>293,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>	<b>2,725,600.00</b>	
<b>5021 Travel</b>											
Local travel	Global	1	367,500.00	60,000.00	110,000.00	172,500.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	367,500.00	MINEC
International travel	Global	1	60,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	MINEC
<b>5021 Subtotal Travel</b>				<b>70,000.00</b>	<b>120,000.00</b>	<b>212,500.00</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>427,500.00</b>	
<b>5023 Training</b>											
Workshops on knowledge exchange and leadership with women	Global	1	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	MINEC
Workshops to strengthen the value of women's work in artisanal fishing	Global	1	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	MINEC
Formation of Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) technical tables and review of regulations	Global	1	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	MINEC
Public consultation for validation of the 5 MPUR	Global	1	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	MINEC
Institutional training and awareness course on aquatic IAS management	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Training and awareness courses in aquatic IAS management for communities	Global	1	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in sustainable production practices	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Training courses for environmental brigades in management of aquatic IAS	Global	1	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	MINEC
Training courses for communication brigades (photography, illustration/comics, management of social networks) with a gender perspective.	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in support and coordination mechanisms with environmental brigades	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in risk analysis with Biological Diversity officials	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC

Training courses on apps, use of SVDB and risk analysis	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Technical workshop for the design of the SINCIAS organizational structure	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in coral ecosystem restoration activities	Global	1	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in algae cultivation	Global	1	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in mollusk farming	Global	1	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in fish farming projects	Global	1	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in processing of fishery and agricultural products	Global	1	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	MINEC
Permaculture training courses	Global	1	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	MINEC
Ecotourism training courses	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Training courses in sustainable business plans for fishing communities	Global	1	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Knowledge meeting with IAS scientists	Global	1	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	MINEC
Parks Network Workshop	Global	1	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	MINEC
Project kick-off workshop	Global	1	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	MINEC
Annual planning workshops/ round tables with actors and partners/ political advocacy and promotion of results	Global	1	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	MINEC
Project closing workshop	Global	1	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	MINEC
<b>5023 Subtotal Training</b>				<b>382,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>140,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>522,000.00</b>	
<b>5024 Acquisition of consumables</b>											
Construction materials for pilot practices	Global	1	44,003.00	10,400.00	12,510.00	21,093.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,003.00	MINEC
Furniture, accessories and office equipment	Global	1	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Office stationery	Global	1	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Other office and field supplies located in MCPAs	Global	1	10,000.00	3,000.00	2,500.00	3,500.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Food for farm and marine animals in pilot practices	Global	1	8,520.00	0.00	0.00	8,520.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,520.00	MINEC
Other field supplies	Global	1	37,283.00	0.00	0.00	37,283.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,283.00	MINEC

<b>5024 Subtotal Acquisition of consumables</b>				<b>13,400.00</b>	<b>15,010.00</b>	<b>70,396.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>119,806.00</b>	
<b>6100 Acquisition of non-fungible assets</b>											
Communications equipment	Global	1	26,316.00	0.00	10,000.00	16,316.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,316.00	MINEC
Computers, laptops and peripherals	Global	1	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	MINEC
Furniture, accessories and office equipment	Global	1	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	MINEC
Agricultural and gardening equipment for pilot practices	Global	1	18,380.00	0.00	0.00	18,380.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,380.00	MINEC
Laboratory and field equipment for environmental studies	Global	1	63,898.00	0.00	0.00	63,898.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,898.00	MINEC
Diving equipment	Global	1	32,776.00	0.00	10,000.00	22,776.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,776.00	MINEC
Equipment for Environmental Brigades	Global	1	44,200.00	0.00	44,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,200.00	MINEC
3D printed coral replicas	Global	1	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	MINEC
Kitchen and food processing equipment in pilot practices	Global	1	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	MINEC
Equipment for aquarium operation	Global	1	34,768.00	0.00	0.00	34,768.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34,768.00	MINEC
<b>6100 Subtotal of acquisitions of non-expendable goods</b>				<b>0.00</b>	<b>64,200.00</b>	<b>246,138.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>340,338.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>1,025,058.00</b>	<b>727,634.00</b>	<b>3,050,658.00</b>	<b>633,300.00</b>	<b>281,550.00</b>	<b>281,800.00</b>	<b>6,000,000.00</b>	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

## ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

### STAP Comments

Comment	Agency response
Summary: The main areas where such a review is recommended are: a review of the objectives for the management of the target species so that they are consistent with the status of the invasion (is it early detection or	Thanks for the comment. All corrections were incorporated into the PRODOC, throughout the document. All stages of IAS management are incorporated, socio-productive alternatives are justified to mitigate the social impacts of

<p>suppression?); a clearer articulation of the objectives of “socio-productive alternatives”; and greater consideration of lessons learned elsewhere in strategy development, which would include management of pathways of introduction and potential risk assessment.</p>	<p>coastal marine IAS on vulnerable local populations and lessons learned in other countries, both in Latin America and the Caribbean and other continents, are considered. .</p>
<p>Under Outcome 1.2, it is assumed that an economic cost analysis of IAS impacts, coupled with increased awareness, will result in greater and more effective resource allocation of public and private funds. However, evidence from other countries does not always support this assumption (e.g. see van Wilgen et al 2022, Biological Conservation 274) and will likely require a carrot and stick approach that includes regulated responsibilities along with increased awareness and access to information. The possibility that these activities may not release additional funds must be taken into account in the project design.</p>	<p>Thanks for the comment. National efforts are currently being made by both the government and the private sector to address the IAS situation in coastal marine areas. In fact, several NGO and the private sector have been interested in providing collaboration as part of their corporate social responsibility, when carrying out tourism or leisure activities in the areas of intervention. It is planned to review national legislation to identify potential actions to strengthen oversight or penalties, where applicable. Important efforts have also been contemplated to raise awareness and generate accessible information for the population and relevant actors. Likewise, the entity attached to MINEC, the National Parks Institute (Inparques), is involved in the Project to improve the Management of Exotic Aquatic Species in key areas, which adds to the strategy of supporting public policies in new legislation and voluntary instruments such as best practices and codes of conduct</p>
<p>For Outcome 3.1: As noted in the PIF, management of biological invasions generally involves prevention, early detection (and the potential for eradication during the early stages of the invasion), containment of established invasions to prevent spread and, where necessary and feasible, suppression of populations of invaders below levels at which they cause unacceptable ecological effects or have unacceptable impacts on ecosystem services (see Green &amp; Grosholtz 2020 for examples from aquatic systems, Frontiers in Ecology and the environment vol 19). The proposal identifies <i>Unomia stolonifera</i> as a recent introduction and, therefore, requires immediate actions to identify the route of introduction and contain its expansion. However, one of the references of the proposal (Ruiz- Allais et al, 2021) indicates that it is firmly established in reefs in Venezuela with a coverage of 30-80% and was already established in 2005. In this case, the most appropriate approaches appear to be the suppression of selected populations and this will require a different objective for community projects (i.e. from eradication or containment to suppression). It may also affect opportunities for expansion, as removal may not be appropriate at all invaded sites, but only at those where it is necessary to achieve particular ecological objectives.</p>	<p>Thanks for the comment. Given that the project's main objective is to strengthen capacities, the implementation of pilot IAS control experiences in the CMPAs is proposed as a mechanism to generate experiences in the country to address these situations, including scenarios with significant differences in the abundance of the species in search of protocols that allow the most appropriate actions to be applied in each case. In the case of <i>Unomia stolonifera</i>, the species has significant cover in only one of five coastal marine protected areas, Mochima National Park. In the case of the other four CMPAs, the feasibility of achieving local eradication will be evaluated because they are in the initial phases of the invasion process. Beyond that, and considering the difficulties for the effective control and even more so for the eradication of marine and coastal IAS, the fundamental emphasis of the entire project is the minimization of the risk of dispersal, prevention and early detection and early control.</p>
<p>For Outcome 3.3. It is not clear what is intended to be achieved through “socio-productive alternatives”. The invasive species was introduced through the aquarium trade and no evidence has been presented that current activities by local communities lead to further spread. So what is the purpose of “alternative” practices?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Sustainable socio-productive alternatives aim to mitigate the impact generated by IAS on traditional economic activities, such as fishing, and provide an economic alternative for affected populations. Additionally, the implementation of actions is sought that minimize the dispersion of said species in relation to productive activities (including fishing and</p>



	tourism) and that lead to the prevention and mitigation of their impacts.
Outcome 2.1. Based on experiences in other parts of the world, e.g. South Africa, the strategy should also consider some form of risk and impact assessment to inform management responses for different invasive species, with the understanding that it is not realistic to manage or suppress all invasive populations everywhere. For example, the Socioeconomic Impact Classification of Exotic Taxa (SEICAT) (Bacher et al 2017, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12844">https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12844</a> ).	Thanks for the comment. Currently, the environmental authority, which manages the entry of exotic species through different marketing channels, routinely carries out risk analyzes to authorize the entry of said species. This information was placed in the project baseline and will be strengthened through the implementation of the National System for Prevention, Early Detection, Monitoring and Control of IAS and PIAS (Output 2.1.1) where the risk analysis will consider the identification of action priorities against exotic species present in the country based on their invasion potential.
The general approach appears to focus relatively little on introduction and spread pathways, which should be included in the strategy. For the target species, the literature indicates that <i>U. stolonifera</i> invasions are associated with ports and could spread through ballast water and hull pollution and it is unclear how this links to project activities.	Thanks for the comment. The Prodoc emphasizes the identification and effective management of the vectors and pathways of introduction and dispersal of coastal marine IAS, both in general terms and in the specific case of <i>Unomia stolonifera</i> . In this regard, the National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA), which is the entity in charge of regulating the management of seaports, is incorporated as a key actor in achieving the project's objectives. Their active participation is contemplated in the National System for Prevention, Early Detection, Monitoring and Control of IAS and PIAS (Output 2.1.1).
The project provides a reasonable explanation of knowledge management, which is mainly addressed in a generic way with the ambition of bringing academics and professionals closer to a knowledge network. This is important, but project developers should look elsewhere for examples of knowledge systems that explicitly support actions related to prevention, early detection, containment and suppression. Each of these components requires different knowledge and information ranging from taxonomy and identification, distribution, biology, natural enemies and control options.	Grateful for the comment. These strategies were incorporated into the knowledge management and communication plan to provide relevant information for each group of actors.
The project correctly points out that having an integrated legislative environment, effective collaboration between departments and institutions, an agreed strategy for all stages of the invasion process and proven protocols for managing biological invasions should have a transformative impact on biological invasions and the reducing its negative effects on the environment.	Thanks for the comment. The same logic was maintained in the PRODOC.
Clarify the status of <i>U. stolonifera</i> and what is already known about invasion pathways. The literature implies that it is well established in the Caribbean and coastal areas of Venezuela and that at least some of the routes of introduction and spread are known. If so, several project components will need to be revised so that activities are appropriate for a well-established invasive species rather than an early-stage invasion.	Thanks for the comment. In preparing the PRODOC, a review of all available literature related to this IAS was carried out and experts were consulted to verify that appropriate activities were proposed according to the level of invasion.
Provide greater clarity on the purpose of “socioproductive alternatives” and what this really means. In particular, the proposal must point out how these socio-productive alternatives support the objectives of the project, that is, improving the management of invasive species.	Thank you for your comment. Sustainable socio-productive alternatives aim to mitigate the impact generated by IAS on traditional economic activities, such as fishing, and provide an economic alternative for affected populations. Additionally, the implementation of activities that do not cause the dispersion of said species and that

	lead to the mitigation of their impacts is sought. These aspects were developed in detail in the Prodoc.
<p>Examine the experiences of other countries where various strategies and approaches for managing biological invasions have been adopted and implemented, e.g. New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, as this will allow the project to overcome some of the obstacles that these countries have encountered. These include legislative frameworks as well as strategies to address the different phases of biological invasions. Some of the legislative challenges can be very technical, e.g. Are all introduced species regulated or only those that have been shown to be invasive? How do you address species that may be invasive but are economically important? Is it regulated by species, pathways or activities?</p>	<p>Thanks for the comment. A review of the experiences of other countries was carried out, with emphasis on Brazil, Argentina, New Zealand and the USA, to refine strategies for addressing invasions of exotic species. Answering your questions, specific actions will be established to regulate introduced species in general and invasive species, some of them will be through entry routes, others by species. However, during the implementation of the project, a diagnosis of the needs will be carried out for the development or updating of the regulatory framework that regulates IAS.</p>

Comments from the GEF Council	Agency Response
<b>England</b>	
<p>Project costs, including co-financing, are estimated to exceed \$42 million. Around 86% is expected to be contributed by state institutions as part of their recurring expenses or payments in kind. However, given Venezuela's limited financial resources (noted elsewhere in the proposal), it is unclear to what extent these budget commitments would be tied specifically to the project. More details would therefore better inform how co-financing would be obtained and spent in support of project outcomes.</p>	<p>We appreciate the comment. State institutions that have been identified as key actors in achieving the project objectives have committed to allocate human resources to ensure the successful implementation of project activities and future sustainability through letters of agreement. The commitment of the institutions was demonstrated with the collaboration of public officials with the consulting team during the preparation of the PIF and the PRODOC.</p>
<p>Unilateral coercive measures (UCM) are especially mentioned as one of the reasons why the public budget for environmental action has decreased. Economic mismanagement, corruption and dependence on oil have been among the main drivers of economic instability in Venezuela, which are not mentioned in the report. We encourage these to be added to the reasons for the decrease in the public budget.</p>	<p>We appreciate the comment. From a strategic point of view, it is mentioned that the decrease in the public budget for environmental action is due to multifactorial causes. However, the UCMs have been a fundamental cause.</p> <p>According to Report A/HRC/48/59/Add.2 of the United Nations General Assembly (2021), sectoral sanctions on the oil, gold and mining industries, the economic blockade, the freezing of assets of the Central Bank, the selective sanctions imposed on Venezuelans and nationals and companies from third countries and the excessive zeal in compliance by banks and companies from third countries have exacerbated the pre-existing economic and social crisis, aggravating the multiple factors that affect to the Venezuelan economy.</p> <p>Reference UN General Assembly 2021. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures</p>

	on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan. Retrieved on March 11 from <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/es/special-procedures/sr-unilateral-coercive-measures">https://www.ohchr.org/es/special-procedures/sr-unilateral-coercive-measures</a>
The participation of non-governmental organizations (NGO), local communities and academic institutions is welcome within the proposed system to detect, control and manage IAS in Venezuela. Their role should be clearer in the PIF, as the focus so far has been on public sector institutions. It is also imperative that the judicial system, particularly the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Attorney General's Office, be an active actor beyond simply being a recipient of information, given their role in the review and implementation of Venezuela's legal framework (such as noted in the risk entitled 'Strategies and policies'), especially to address cases of illegal introduction of IAS, such as <i>U. stolonifera</i> .	We appreciate the comment. In the PRODOC, especially in the description of the products of each component, non-governmental organizations (NGO), local communities and academic institutions were identified and the role they are expected to play in achieving the project objectives. Most of the regulatory proposals that arise during the project to update the legal framework for the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of IAS will be delivered to the MINEC Legal Consultancy to be disseminated via ministerial resolution.
Finally, the UK's experience with FAO's ability to deliver has focused on terrestrial rather than aquatic ecosystems. Previous GEF-funded projects mentioned in the PIF targeting marine and coastal areas had been implemented by UNDP in Venezuela. It is important for FAO to link up with UNDP and other agencies with experience in this area.	We appreciate the comment and in fact we take the lessons learned from previous projects carried out in coastal marine areas of Venezuela, which served as a basis to support management measures by the environmental authority. Likewise, in this Project we will continue incorporating UNDP experience in the country's marine environments. We will also support this project in the recent precedent led by FAO for the development of the national strategy on invasive alien species in Argentina (GEF ID 5112), which included a specific subcomponent on marine and coastal invasions. Technical staff from the Venezuela project also served as lead consultants for the reference project in Argentina.  Finally, it is also important to mention that FAO has extensive experience working in aquatic ecosystems worldwide, with one of the areas of its mandate being fishing and aquaculture. <a href="https://www.fao.org/fishery/en">https://www.fao.org/fishery/en</a>
<b>Germany</b>	
As noted by the Secretariat, the proposal gives the impression that direct eradication of invasive species is the objective of the project. That the real focus is the management and control of aquatic IAS is clear from the title and becomes clearer as the proposal progresses, but could be rephrased more prominently in the introduction.	We appreciate the comment. The consideration proposed in the justification and description of the project in the PRODOC was carried out.
The project aims to involve local communities in the monitoring and control of IAS. It could be clarified whether fishermen will also receive training on how to prevent further spread of IAS through fishing activities. Fishermen should also be trained in the proper handling of <i>U. stolonifera</i> when cleaning their equipment to avoid potential health problems.	Thank you for your comment. The consideration proposed in the description of the result related to the strengthening of community capacities in Component 1 was carried out.
Diversification of possible sources of income is an important point. This could be further specified as it has so far remained relatively vague, but is of great	We appreciate the comment. The consideration proposed in the description of the result was carried out regarding the establishment of a pilot program of community sustainable productive practices with a gender perspective, which improves

<p>importance as livelihood fishing is threatened by the spread of IAS.</p>	<p>livelihoods that contributes to the effective and efficient management of the problem of coastal marine IAS in the project intervention area, in Component 3.</p>
<p>According to Transparency International, in Venezuela there is no local civil society environmental social surveillance body. Germany values the participation of local communities in the development of a National System for the detection, monitoring and control of aquatic IAS that is financially sustainable and especially the promotion of non-discriminatory participation of small-scale fishing communities in decision-making processes. transparent and responsible decisions.</p>	<p>We appreciate the comment. Local communities, with special attention to fishing communities, will be trained and integrated in a leading manner in the National System for the detection, monitoring, control and eradication of IAS in aquatic environments, as reflected in both Component 1 and Component 2.</p>
<p><b>Canada</b></p>	
<p><i>U. stolonifera</i> is intended to be controlled, how long it will take, how success would be defined, and what the likelihood is of achieving that level of success. It is very difficult to completely control invasive species and achieving this could require many, many efforts.</p>	<p>Thanks for the comment. More details were added about the interventions aimed at controlling <i>U. stolonifera</i>, the indicators and expected outcomes. In any case, and in total agreement with the comment about the difficulty of controlling IAS, especially in the marine environment, it is important to highlight that the main objective of the project is the development of a system for prevention, early detection, control and eradication of invasive species in these environments, and that the case of the selected coral will allow more general measures to be designed, tested and adjusted to address the problem.</p>

## Summary of changes to the project's alignment with the original PIF

Issue	PIF proposals	Proposed Changes in PRODOC
<b>General Project Information</b>		
Project Scope	Four CMPAs: Mochima NP, Morrocoy NP, San Esteban NP and Henri Pittier NP.	In addition to the four CMPAs, during the technical tours carried out for the preparation of the PRODOC, the discovery was made that the site with the presence of <i>U. stolonifera</i> in an administrative zone belonging to the Cuare Wildlife Refuge, an area also protected by the MINEC, environmentally sensitive, which borders the Morrocoy National Park, which is cataloged as a Ramsar site, and it was decided to incorporate it into the proposal
<i>Core indicators</i>		
<i>Core indicator 11:</i> Beneficiary population	19,000 inhabitants ( <i>Core indicator 11</i> )	It was modified to 19,400 inhabitants by incorporating the Cuare Wildlife Refuge ( <i>Core indicator 11</i> )
<i>Core indicator 1.2:</i> Protected terrestrial areas created or under improved management (Hectares)	155,147 ha ( <i>Core indicator 1.2</i> )	The protected land area was modified to 164,709.29 ha by incorporating the Cuare Wildlife Refuge ( <i>Core indicator 2.1</i> )
<i>Core indicator 2.1</i> Marine protected areas created or under improved management (Hectares)	119,576.00 ha ( <i>Core indicator 2.1</i> )	The marine protected area was modified to 121,866.7 ha by incorporating the Cuare Wildlife Refuge ( <i>Core indicator 2.1</i> )
Objective of the project	Reduce the loss of globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services by strengthening the prevention, timely detection and control of invasive alien aquatic species in Venezuela's Marine-Coastal Protected Areas.	Reduce the loss of biodiversity and the impact of ecosystem services of global importance, strengthening institutional and community capacities in the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of exotic aquatic invasive species in Venezuela.
Project description and justification	Background.	Recent bibliographic references, international commitments and efforts being made by state institutions, universities, research centers and the private sector were incorporated to understand IAS and contribute to the improvement of their management. The wording was adapted according to what was requested in the GEF-8 format.

Component 1: Institutional and community strengthening for the management of IAS with a gender perspective		
Component name	Institutional strengthening for IAS management.	It was changed to “Institutional and community strengthening for the management of IAS with a gender perspective” to explicitly incorporate the gender approach and local communities as key actors for the prevention, early warning, control and eradication of IAS.
Outcome 1.1	1.1 Institutions strengthen their legal framework and intersectoral coordination to reduce the threats of aquatic IAS.	Changed in title  “Outcome 1.1: Generated the conducive institutional environment to reduce the threats of IAS and PIAS and improve the management of the CMPAs of Venezuela”
Outputs	1.1.1 IAS Intersectoral Coordination Group (IASICG), created and operational.	Changed in title  “Intersectoral Coordination Group on IAS (IASICG) with a gender perspective promoted”
	1.1.2 Standards for the prevention and control of aquatic IAS, updated and harmonized with other relevant national sector standards, subject to approval by the executive body competent in environmental matters (Strategic Line 5 of the PAN-CBDN).	Title changed slightly  1.1.2 Standards for the prevention and control of aquatic IAS, updated and harmonized with other relevant national sector standards, subject to approval by the executive body competent in environmental matters (Strategic Line 5 of the NSCBD and its action plan)
	1.1.3 Master Plan of the Coastal Marine Protected Area System articulated with the management of aquatic IAS and updating of the MPURs of the four (04) key CMPAs.	Changed in title  “1.1.3 Updated Master Plan of the Coastal Marine Protected Area System, incorporating the management of aquatic IAS and the restoration of coral environments in the guidelines of this instrument”
	There were only three outputs	Three (03) more outputs were incorporated into Outcome 1.1, to respond to the new scope of this result:  “1.4 MPUR of five key CMPAs with an update proposal that incorporates the management of aquatic IAS, the restoration of coral environments and the implementation of sustainable production practices  1.5 Economic analysis of the effect of aquatic IAS on the five key CMPAs.  1.6 Financial feasibility proposal for the management of aquatic IAS in key CMPAs, prepared and submitted to the competent authorities for approval. ”

Outcome 1.2	1.2 Public and private entities informed about the costs of aquatic IAS contribute to increasing economic resources for their management.	Outcome 1.2 was modified, with the following Title:  “Improved skills of the technical teams of government institutions and local communities in the management of aquatic IAS with a gender perspective”  This new Outcome includes the strengthening of the skills of public officials and local residents of the five CMPAs through training and awareness programs that incorporate the fundamental topics to achieve the objectives of the project.
Outputs	<p>1.2.1 Analysis of the economic costs (cost-benefit/cost-effectiveness) that impact the four (04) key CMPAs due to the introduction of aquatic IAS (damage to the ecosystem and economic consequences due to loss of productivity, sources of tourism and others).</p> <p>1.2.2 Financial viability proposal for the management of aquatic IAS and for the permanent monitoring and control of trafficking in exotic aquatic species, prepared and presented to the competent authorities for approval.</p>	<p>These outputs, which are of importance in supporting the financial achievement of IAS Management, were modified in title and incorporated in Outcome 1.1, namely</p> <p>1.5 Economic analysis of the effect of aquatic IAS on the five key CMPAs.</p> <p>1.6 Financial feasibility proposal for the management of aquatic IAS in key CMPAs, prepared and presented to the competent authorities for approval</p> <p>The outputs are incorporated into Outcome 1.2:</p> <p>1.2.1 “Training and institutional awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented”</p> <p>1.2.2. “Community training and awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented”</p>
Component Outputs		The wording was slightly modified to adapt it to the new scope of the result and to incorporate the new CMPA.
Component 2: Monitoring and control systems for aquatic IAS developed with community participation		
Outcome 2.1	2.1 Strategies for prevention, early detection, surveillance and control of the dispersion of aquatic IAS or potential invaders, developed and implemented in the different introduction routes (Strategic Line 5 of the PAN-CBDN).	Changed the name of Outcome 2.1 to:  “Improved management of aquatic IAS and NSCBD compliance”

<p>Outputs</p>	<p>2.1.1 National Aquatic IAS Monitoring and Control System (SINVCIASa), designed and operational.</p> <p>2.1.2 Venezuelan Biodiversity Information System (SIDBVEN), with an updated and reactivated aquatic IAS module.</p> <p>2.1.3 Official list of IAS, with special emphasis on aquatic exotics, including a synthesis of their biological and ecological characteristics, updated and published.</p>	<p>In the PRODOC, Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 were united, considering that the Venezuelan Biodiversity Information System was part of the System mentioned in Output 2.1.1, its name is modified and the acronyms are adapted:</p> <p>“2.1.1 National Monitoring and Control System for Aquatic IAS and PIAS (SINCIAS), designed and operational”</p> <p>Output 2.1.3 becomes Output 2.1.2, and its title is adjusted</p> <p>“2.1.2 List of IAS and PIAS, with special emphasis on aquatic ones, updated and presented to the competent authority, in compliance with the provisions of the CBD and the NSCBD”</p>
<p>Outcome 2.2</p>	<p>2.2 Strengthened community capacities for the prevention and control of risks associated with IAS, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>The title is modified to be broader in its purpose:</p> <p>2.2 “Integrated local actors and other actors related to marine activities in the prevention, detection and control of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the Level 2 project, contributing to the conservation of biological diversity”.</p> <p>This modification is made because the strengthening of community capacities was incorporated in Output 1.2.2.</p>



Output	<p>2.2.1 Network of environmental brigades and organized communities, formed and operational to support the early warning plans formulated by the SINVCIASa, which contribute to the prevention and control of the introduction of aquatic IAS, considering a gender equity approach.</p> <p>2.2.2 Training, communication and awareness program aimed at generators, managers and disseminators, for mass dissemination of information on the impacts of aquatic IAS and prevention and control mechanisms (design of an APP on IAS), with a gender equity perspective, designed and implemented.</p>	<p>The title of the Output is better defined 2.2.1.</p> <p>2.2.1 Network of environmental brigades and community organizations, strengthened to contribute to the prevention, early detection and control of aquatic IAS, articulated with the National IAS Monitoring and Control System (SINCIAS), with a gender perspective</p> <p>Transferred Output 2.2.2 to Outcome 1.2, with the new title.</p> <p>1.2.2. "Community training and awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented"</p>
Component 3: Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS, with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security in the project intervention area		
Component name	Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS, with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration in the four (04) key CMPAs.	It is updated to "Pilot experience of participatory community control of aquatic IAS, with sustainable socio-productive alternatives to contribute to habitat restoration and food security in the project intervention area" to contextualize the new scope of the project.
Outcome 3.1	3.1 Control of the IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i> , validating and implementing its protocol for the containment of this species in the four (04) key CMPAs.	The name of Outcome 3.1 was changed to "Control methods improved and transferred to the actors involved in the control and eradication of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the level 2 project" following recommendations from the LTC on limiting the activity to pilot experiences to maintain the project's comprehensive focus on institutional and community strengthening, as established in its objective.
Outcome 3.2	3.2 Recovery of ecosystems degraded by IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i> in the four (04) key CMPAs.	The name of result 3.2 was changed to "Generated community experiences of restoration of aquatic ecosystems degraded by the IAS <i>U. stolonifera</i> " following recommendations from the LTC on limiting the activity to pilot experiences to maintain the project's comprehensive focus on institutional strengthening and community, as established in its objective.

Outcome 3.3	3.3 Local communities implement socio-productive alternatives as livelihoods to mitigate the impact of IAS and improve habitat restoration.	The name of result 3.3 was changed to “ Productive alternatives implemented in local communities to mitigate the impact of aquatic IAS.” ” following recommendations from the LTC on limiting the activity to pilot experiences to maintain the project's comprehensive focus on institutional and community strengthening, as established in its objective.
Output of Outcome 3.1	Four Output in the outcome 3.1.	<p>The following Output were established to maintain a logical order:</p> <p>3.1.1 Scientifically developed and validated protocols for the control and containment of <i>U. stolonifera</i></p> <p>3.1.2 Proposal for a standard with control and containment protocols for <i>U. stolonifera</i> prepared and submitted to the competent authority for consideration</p> <p>3.1.3 Pilot experience of control of <i>U. stolonifera</i> with community participation, based on scientifically validated experimental management methods, designed and implemented in the intervention area of the level 2 project</p> <p>The product related to the quantitative study of the colonization of <i>U. stolonifera</i> was integrated with other baseline information that is required to carry out pilot tests in environments classified as high risk due to their ecological sensitization in Output 3.1.1. The community training and awareness program was placed in Output 1.2.2.</p>
Output of Outcome 3.2	Two Output in Outcome 3.2.	Output 3.2.1 “Pilot program for the restoration of coral ecosystems with native species designed and implemented in the level 3)” was defined and the community training and awareness program was placed in Output 1.2.2.
	Two Output in Outcome 3.2.	Output 3.2.1 “Pilot program of community sustainable productive practices with a gender approach implemented, which improves livelihoods that contributes to the effective and efficient management of the problem of coastal marine IAS (intervention Level 4)” was defined and The community training and awareness program was placed in Output 1.2.2.
Output of Outcome 3.3	Two Output in Outcome 3.3	<p>Output <u>3.3.1</u> was defined</p> <p>“Community sustainable productive practices with a gender perspective implemented, which improve livelihoods and contribute to the management of aquatic IAS in the intervention area of the level 4 project”.</p>

		The previous Output 3.3.1 Training program designed and implemented for local communities in sustainable production practices was removed and this was placed in Output 1.2.2. Community training and awareness program with a gender perspective on aquatic IAS management, restoration and sustainable productive practices designed and implemented.
Indicators	Nine indicators.	Based on the analysis of the Outcome framework, 12 indicators were established. The control and active restoration area was defined based on the budget.
Component 4: Knowledge management, information dissemination and project learning with a gender perspective		
Component name	Design of Project Monitoring, Evaluation, Information Dissemination and Learning Systems.	The name of the component was adjusted to “Knowledge management, information dissemination and project learning with a gender perspective”, to comply with the new GEF8 alignments, which indicates that M&E should be outside of Component 4. In addition, the gender approach is incorporated.
Outcome 4.1	Project implementation based on adaptive results management approaches aimed at ensuring its sustainability	Outcome 4.1 is removed to comply with the new GEF8 alignments, which indicates that M&E should be outside of Component 4
Output 4.1.1	4.1.1 Project monitoring and evaluation system developed to provide systematized information on progress towards project results and products.	Output 4.1.1 Project Monitoring and Evaluation System developed to provide systematized information on progress towards results and achievement of project products is eliminated, to comply with the new GEF8 alignments, which indicates that M&E must be outside of Component 4.
Outcome 4.2	4.2 Strategic alliance between the public sector, private sector and communities to improve the understanding and importance of research, knowledge and dissemination of the biology and ecology of IAS to protect biodiversity, ecosystems, the economy and livelihoods.	Outcome 4.2 takes the place of Outcome 4.1 with a more appropriate name for the name of the component and incorporates a broader vision that responds to FAO's strategic objectives, and is renamed “Knowledge management driven by strategic alliance between different sectors, to improve understanding, knowledge and dissemination of the importance of aquatic IAS in order to protect biodiversity, livelihoods and food security” to incorporate a broader vision that responds to FAO's strategic objectives.
Output of Outcome 4.2	Three Output in the Outcome 4.2.	The Output of Outcome 4.2 move to Outcome 4.1 and become Output 4.1.1 with the name “Communication and awareness strategy aimed at key actors related to the introduction and dispersion of aquatic IAS and PIAS”. Where Output 4.2.1 Venezuelan Network of Researchers came together to promote knowledge of IAS, which generates information on the research priorities necessary to avoid threats to national ecosystems (Strategic Line 5 of the PAN-NSCBD), designed and implemented, and 4.2.2 Manual of Good Practices to prevent the spread of potential or present aquatic IAS in Venezuela, with a description of their biological and

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		<p>ecological characteristics and control mechanisms, prepared and published.</p> <p>Output 4.2.3 Dissemination of lessons learned in relation to community and participatory action and good practices carried out, published and incorporated into SINVCIAS, becomes Output 4.1.2 with the name “ Project results and lessons learned in relation to community and participatory action and good socio-productive practices, published and disseminated”</p>
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