

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title

Integrated landscape management in the Napo River Basin for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.

Region	GEF Project ID
Latin America and the Caribbean	11333
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Ecuador	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency Project ID
UNDP	9648
Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
UNDP	GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	6/20/2025
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
8,982,420.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
853,330.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
9,835,750.00	69,111,918.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
150,000.00	14,250.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)	
10,000,000.00	

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, Local Communities, Civil Society, Academia, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Education, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Indicators to measure change, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Access and control over natural resources, Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Threatened Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Plant Genetic Resources, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Livestock Wild Relatives, Invasive Alien Species, Animal Genetic Resources, Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Sea Grasses, Wetlands, Rivers, Lakes, Tropical Rain Forests, Tropical Dry Forests, Temperate Forests, Grasslands, Desert, Paramo, Biosafety, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Amazon, REDD - REDD+, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Theory of change, Participation and leadership, Mainstreaming, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, International Waters, Freshwater, River Basin, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

Rio Markers

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

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)

1. The Napo River Basin, spanning over 6.5 million hectares, is a strategic ecosystem for Ecuador due to its extensive natural coverage, biocultural richness, and crucial role in hydrological and climate regulation. However, it faces growing threats from land degradation, deforestation, and climate change, which compromise biodiversity and the livelihoods of more than 200,000 families, primarily Indigenous communities.
2. The objective of the project is “Contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land use, sustainable forest management, and integrated water resources management through the diversification of livelihoods, the improvement of production system efficiency, and the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Napo River Basin”. This transformation will be achieved through the strengthening of local capacities, participatory land-use planning, implementation of sustainable practices, ecosystem restoration, and access to inclusive financing.
3. The intervention is structured around four components:
 - i. Multilevel governance and coordination framework for territorial management
 - ii. Adoption of practices that contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation
 - iii. Access to financing mechanisms to scale up actions that contribute to LDN and climate change
 - iv. Knowledge management through capacity development and communication
4. The project addresses critical barriers to effective territorial management and biodiversity conservation, including weak political interest, limited institutional coordination, and insufficient technical capacities. It will tackle pressures from extractive and agricultural activities, challenges in land restoration due

to limited inputs and adverse climate conditions, and the reluctance of producers to adopt sustainable practices. Furthermore, the project will improve access to financing and strengthen participation and access to knowledge to ensure long-term resilience and impact.

5. Through these actions, the project aims to deliver Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) by sustainably managing and conserving 125,000 hectares, restoring 4,020 hectares, implementing improved practices across 45,179 hectares, and avoiding 605,643 tCO₂eq of emissions. In addition, it will directly benefit 7,676 people, placing a strong emphasis on the inclusion of women and Indigenous peoples.

6. The project will contribute to the objectives of GEF-8 (BD-1, LD-1, CCM-1), as well as to the NDCs, the SDGs, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, promoting an ecological transition in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

Contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land use, sustainable forest management, and integrated water resources management through the diversification of livelihoods, the improvement of production system efficiency, and the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Napo River Basin.

Project Components

Component 1: Multilevel governance and coordination framework for territorial management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
789,570.00	7,631,686.00

Outcome:

1.1: The regulatory framework and local territorial planning instruments are strengthened through participatory methods for integrated landscape, biodiversity, and water resource management

Measured by:

- CI 11: 250 individuals (minimum 40% women)
- At least 2 regulations or public policies and at least 2 territorial management plans implemented
- At least 2 governance mechanisms and 2 inter-institutional agreements
- At least 5 projects designed and operational, fully aligned with planning instruments, meeting biodiversity and gender equity safeguards, and with confirmed co-financing or sustained funding mechanisms.
- 2 sub-basins (at least 2) of the Napo River implementing and using integrated digital tools for monitoring land degradation and landscape management, generating information for decision-making and territorial knowledge management

Output:

1.1.1 Implementation of policies and regulations for territorial management and LDN, validated by men and women in the territory,

1.1.2 Inter-institutional co-management agreements promoting joint project formulation between MAATE, local governments, and relevant stakeholders,

1.1.3 Projects designed with criteria that contribute to integrated landscape management and gender equity, as outlined in the Life Plans.

Component 2: Adoption of practices that contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
5,113,891.00	37,255,499.00

Outcome:

2.1: Areas under conservation and protection mechanisms, as well as hydrological protection zones, are sustainably managed with a gender approach

Measured by:

- CI 11: 961

individuals (minimum 40% women)

- 125,000 ha — Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

- At least 2 plans or territories with conservation measures and community-based monitoring active

- At least 2 corridors or connectivity areas established or strengthened with active or passive restoration, and included in territorial planning tools

2.2: Sustainable and efficient agricultural production systems increase social, economic, and environmental benefits

Measured by:

- CI 11: 3265 individuals (minimum 40% women)

- At least 300 households reporting increased food security as a result of implementing SLM practices promoted by the project

- 25 enterprises improved as a result of restoring degraded agricultural lands

- 3 initiatives of sustainable livelihood initiatives implemented in restored areas that promote economic alternatives such as analog forestry, commercial forestry, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), or compensation mechanisms
- 4,020 ha — Area of land and ecosystems under restoration
- 45,179 ha — Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)
- 605,643 tCO₂eq — Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated

Output:

- 2.1.1 Management plans formulated and/or updated for hydrological protection areas and implementation of sustainable measures,
- 2.1.2 Training program for the restoration of degraded lands and sustainable management with a gender focus,
- 2.1.3 Management plans for protective forests and other conservation categories, with an intercultural and gender approach,
- 2.2.1 Training program on SLM/SFM for agricultural producers, in partnership with local organizations,
- 2.2.2 Creation and strengthening of local entrepreneurs in sustainable agricultural production,
- 2.2.3 Restoration practices with conservation purposes in cleared areas within farms,
- 2.2.4 Methodology to integrate gender variables into agricultural traceability at collection centers,

Component 3: Access to financing mechanisms to scale up actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and climate change mitigation¹

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,044,320.00	8,202,159.00

Outcome:

3.1: Scaling up of measures contributing to land restoration and biodiversity conservation to improve community climate resilience through financing and market access

Measured by:

- At least USD 2,000,000 mobilized through financial mechanisms, with at least 40% women among the total number of direct beneficiaries. CI 11: 2,200 individuals (minimum 40% women) — (women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples) with access to financial mechanisms implemented by the project for conservation, restoration, and sustainable production
- 7 sustainable productive projects (at least 3 led by women)

(1) The explicit inclusion of biodiversity conservation in the title of Component 3 responds to the need to more clearly reflect the project's strategic alignment with the three priority focal areas of GEF-8: biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. Although the component already includes actions that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, this modification aims to enhance its visibility and ensure coherence with the project's integrated landscape approach.

Output:

- 3.1.1 Training program on financial mechanisms for local governments and communities,
- 3.1.2 Financial sustainability mechanisms promoted by men and women in key areas,
- 3.1.3 Funded projects linked to Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities,
- 3.1.4 Expansion and promotion of financial products and services that support gender equality,
- 3.1.5 National and international trade agreements promote products of sustainable and women-led origin

Component 4: Knowledge management through capacity development and communication

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,341,462.00	10,689,179.00

Outcome:

4.1: Knowledge management supports decision-making and empowerment of key stakeholders,

Measured by:

- CI 11: 1100 people (40% women)
- 3 hydrographic units with fully integrated monitoring systems
- At least 12 communication and knowledge management products

Output:

- 4.1.1 Virtual training program on LDN, climate change, biodiversity, gender equality, and intersectionality,
- 4.1.2 Strengthening of the hydrometeorological network and development of an Early Warning System (EWS),
- 4.1.3 Communication strategy developed and implemented with an intercultural and gender-sensitive approach,

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
269,473.00	2,073,361.00

Outcome:

5.1: Monitoring and evaluation of project activities and indicators:

Measured by:

- At least 90% Cumulative percentage of project expenditure executed in alignment with the activities planned in the Annual Work Plan (AWP)
- PIRs submitted annually; Terminal Evaluation completed — Completion of key monitoring and evaluation deliverables as per GEF and UNDP guidelines.

Output:

- 5.1.1 Monitoring of social and environmental risks with mitigation actions,
- 5.1.2 Monitoring and reporting of project results aligned with GEF and UNDP standards,
- 5.1.3 Mid-term review and final evaluation of the project with a gender and participatory approach.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Multilevel governance and coordination framework for territorial management	789,570.00	7,631,686.00
Component 2: Adoption of practices that contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation	5,113,891.00	37,255,499.00
Component 3: Access to financing mechanisms to scale up actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and climate change mitigation ¹	1,044,320.00	8,202,159.00
Component 4: Knowledge management through capacity development and communication	1,341,462.00	10,689,179.00

M&E	269,473.00	2,073,361.00
Subtotal	8,558,716.00	65,851,884.00
Project Management Cost	423,704.00	3,260,034.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	8,982,420.00	69,111,918.00

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

Context and Problem to Be Addressed

7. The Napo River Basin is one of the last strongholds of ecological connectivity, biocultural diversity, and the provision of critical ecosystem services in the Ecuadorian Amazon. However, processes of land degradation, deforestation, and climate change are threatening its ecological integrity and the resilience of over 200,000 families who directly depend on this territory. This situation calls for a transformative intervention that overcomes structural and institutional barriers, secures sustainable livelihoods, and integrates the voices of Indigenous peoples and women in landscape management.

8. The Napo River Basin spans a total of 6,530,432.27 hectares, with 63.1% of its area comprising Indigenous territories (Kichwa, Waorani, Cofán, Siona, Tagaeri-Taromenane, among others), and retains high levels of remaining natural cover (83.8%). It is a strategic ecosystem for Ecuador, as it includes 67% of the country's areas under conservation mechanisms and provides key ecosystem services such as water regulation and carbon sequestration.

Threats and Direct Drivers

9. However, the basin faces growing threats of land degradation, deforestation, and climate vulnerability. The seven prioritized areas were selected due to their ecological importance and their role in water regulation, and for the coexistence of multiple conservation designations, such as the SNAP (40.7%), ACUS (16.2%), and five Water Protection Areas (APH).

10. According to PRAIS (UNCCD) data, 31.20% of the area is degraded, affecting biodiversity, agricultural productivity, and livelihoods. Between 2014 and 2018, 50,272 ha of forest were lost, mainly due to conversion to commercial agriculture (58.3%) and subsistence farming (39.1%). The direct drivers include: expansion of the agricultural frontier, overgrazing, unsustainable resource extraction, lack of effective land use planning, and climate change (with increased rainfall intensity in 65% of the basin). These conditions impact approximately 212,944 families. The most vulnerable zones include low riverbanks and steep slopes in zones 4, 5, and 6.

Baseline (Legal, Institutional Framework and Existing Investments)

11. The prioritization of the project's intervention areas was based on a detailed technical characterization of the Water Units present in the Napo River Basin, using criteria such as water vulnerability, pressure on water resources, vegetation cover[2], presence of fragile ecosystems, and the provision of critical ecosystem services. The three Hydrographic Units covering the seven prioritized sites are: the Aguarico River sub-basin, the Coca River sub-basin, and Hydrographic Unit CH 49789.
12. Investments and Baseline Context in the Napo River Basin: The Napo River Basin has a set of relevant precedents that define its baseline for project implementation. Recent efforts in forest conservation, ecological restoration, and sustainable landscape management have been significant, although still insufficient considering the scale of environmental degradation in the area.
13. Among the key interventions, the PROAmazonía project stands out, having restored approximately 15,000 hectares of forests in the Napo River Basin, with an estimated investment of USD 4,530,000, strengthening local capacities and laying the groundwork for forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable landscape management processes. In addition, the REDD+ Results-Based Payment Program (PPR) restored 200 hectares in the canton of Arajuno (Pastaza Province), with an approximate investment of USD 180,000; this program is scheduled to conclude in the first quarter of 2026. Furthermore, the National Landscape Restoration Plan contributed to the restoration of 736 hectares in Pastaza, with an estimated investment of USD 662,400. It is important to note that all restoration-related investments correspond to projects that are either completed (PROAmazonía) or nearing closure (PPR).
14. In terms of forest conservation and the strengthening of protected areas, several prior investments have laid technical groundwork relevant to the project. These investments are not considered part of the GEF project's baseline, but rather as complementary antecedents that will enhance and facilitate implementation. Reported investments include: USD 25,000 in the Payamino Scientific Station; USD 50,000 for the update of the management plan for the Habitagua Protected Forest (B.P. Habitagua) (to be completed by the end of 2025); USD 50,000 for the ongoing update of the management plan for the Pañacocha Protected Forest (B.P. Pañacocha); USD 120,000 in the Aguarico Chingual y Cofanes Protected Hydrological Area (APH), which was invested by TNC for the development of the management plan and to support the official declaration of the APH; and USD 100,000 for the Communes of Bajo Napo (pending formal state recognition by MAATE), which is an estimated amount to be invested by REM through the cooperation of Ecociencia and Colibria to support the development of management plans for their future designation as Protected Forests (BVP). Additionally, an estimated USD 120,000 investment has been mobilized by MAATE to support the approval of Sustainable Use Plans. Of this amount, only USD 50,000 remains to be executed. These prior efforts form a strategic technical and institutional platform, but the GEF-funded project will focus on the effective implementation and scaling of these plans—adding value beyond previous investments.
15. In the productive sector, the Special Amazonian Territorial Circumscription (CTEA) finances approximately USD 5.5 million annually for agro-productive, agro-industrial infrastructure projects and certifications, including USD 2 million allocated to environmental projects. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) allocated USD 2.5 million in 2023 for research focused on agrobiodiversity and sustainable agriculture and is leading the development of the Bioeconomy Action Plan, scheduled for publication in December 2025.
16. Regarding biodiversity conservation, the 'Parks for Life' (SEAP) project, led by MAATE with technical support from FAO and executed by CONDESAN, is currently under implementation until 2027 with GEF funding. Regionally, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) has committed USD 1.25 billion through 2026 for the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, and more than USD 2 billion annually to improve resilience to natural disasters, with potential positive indirect impacts on the Ecuadorian Amazon.

17. Furthermore, digital tools such as the Agricultural Traceability Platform led by MAG and carbon footprint measurement projects are under development, which may be adapted to support sustainable value chains in the Amazon region.

18. Nevertheless, despite these investments, current initiatives address only a limited fraction of the basin's restoration needs. It is estimated that less than 10% of the priority degraded areas currently have funding or active restoration measures. The average cost of ecological restoration in the Napo Basin ranges between USD 900 and USD 1,000 per hectare, depending on the strategy employed (assisted natural regeneration or active reforestation). Moreover, the ecosystems face increasing pressure due to 88,578 hectares under mining concessions and 278,661 hectares associated with active oil fields. In addition to formal extractive activities, the Napo River Basin is increasingly threatened by illegal mining operations, which drive deforestation, contaminate water sources, cause social conflicts, and undermine sustainable land management efforts. Addressing illegal mining and its environmental and social impacts will be a key priority under the project's landscape governance and restoration interventions.

19. To ensure traceability, transparency, and methodological consistency, the baseline will be monitored and periodically updated through the PRAIS system and the measurement of the GEF Core indicators. Approximate total of existing and projected investments: USD 13,692,400.

Table 1: Amount of investments disaggregated by category

Category	Estimated Investment (USD)	Execution Status
Forest Conservation and Improved Management	320,000	50,000 USD pending execution (Management Plan for B.P. Pañacocha)
Sustainable Landscape Management and Bioeconomy	8,000,000	Ongoing and annual investments (CTEA, MAG, Bioeconomy initiatives)
Land and Ecosystem Restoration	5,372,400	Fully executed (PROAmazonía and PPR projects)

20. Regarding the legal and institutional framework, the project aligns with and directly contributes to the implementation of multiple national instruments, including: the Organic Law on Water Resources (LORHUyA), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the National Climate Change Strategy, the REDD+ Action Plan, the National Land Degradation Neutrality Action Plan, the National Adaptation Plan (PNA), the National Climate Change Mitigation Plan (PLANMICC), the National Circular Economy Strategy, the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), the Bioeconomy White Paper, and the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA).

Long-Term Solution (GEF Alternative)

21. The long-term solution involves promoting a transition towards sustainable landscape management and ecological restoration in the Napo River Basin, through a territorial governance approach, capacity building, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and the transformation of production systems towards sustainable and climate-resilient models.

22. These actions will contribute to environmental and climate recovery and emissions mitigation, with an estimated reduction potential of 605,643 tCO₂eq through ecosystem restoration and land-use change. This solution is based on an Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approach, aligned with GEF-8 principles, which synergistically integrates conservation, restoration, and sustainable production while considering the ecological, social, and economic dynamics of the territory. Beyond climate benefits, the proposed solution will generate significant co-benefits: conserving key habitats for Amazonian biodiversity, protecting essential water sources, and strengthening social cohesion through the empowerment of Indigenous peoples and rural

women as key actors in the ecological transition. The project aims to drive a transformative change in the Napo River Basin, promoting new forms of governance, production, and conservation that can be replicated in other Amazonian basins and sustained over time.

Barriers to be Overcome to Solve the Problem

23. Barriers identified are:

- Institutional: Fragmented governance and limited interinstitutional coordination. Lack of systematic integration of LDN criteria in local development and land use plans (PDOTs). Low participation of Indigenous communities and women.
- Technical: Low use of Sustainable Land Management Technologies (SLMTs) despite high availability of priority areas. Weak access to monitoring technologies and specialized technical knowledge.
- Social: Limited access to financing and incentives. Lack of sustained programs and limitations in certification, regulation, and market access.

24. The project is aligned with Ecuador's main environmental, climate, and sustainable development commitments. Under the Paris Agreement, it contributes to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) through greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and strengthened climate resilience, especially in Indigenous and rural territories.

25. In terms of biodiversity, it supports the National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan (NBSAP), through conservation and restoration actions in strategic landscapes and participatory governance mechanisms.

26. The project is also aligned with the National Water Quality Strategy (ENCA) and SDG 6, by protecting key water sources through Water Protection Areas (APH) and improving water resource governance. It also responds to the objectives of the National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), by integrating ecosystem-based measures and reducing local vulnerabilities to climate change.

27. It promotes regenerative production practices aligned with the Circular Economy Strategy and contributes to the Climate Change Mitigation Plan (PLANMICC) through deforestation reduction. It also supports the implementation of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) by offering sustainable alternatives to informal mining. Aligned with the Bioeconomy White Paper and its future national strategy, it fosters bio-entrepreneurship and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

28. Finally, it supports the implementation of the National Landscape Restoration Plan and the National Action Program for Land Degradation Neutrality (NAP-LDN), contributing to land degradation neutrality and capacity building in line with the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA).

29. This project contributes to GEF-8 objectives BD-1, LD-1, and CCM-1 through integrated actions for conservation, restoration, and sustainable landscape management. It conserves and improves the management of 125,000 ha (CI-1), restores 4,020 ha (CI-3.1 and CI-3.2), promotes sustainable practices on 45,179 ha (CI-4.1 and CI-4.3), and avoids 605,643 tCO₂eq in emissions (CI-6) through deforestation reduction. It will directly benefit 7,676 people (CI-11), with a focus on women and Indigenous peoples. These actions generate global environmental benefits and support Ecuador's commitments to the NDCs, SDGs, and Land Degradation Neutrality.

30. The project has been designed to respond to future scenarios of increasing environmental degradation in the Napo River Basin, where deforestation, unsustainable agricultural expansion, extractive activities, and the effects of climate change threaten biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. In a pessimistic scenario, structural barriers such as weak governance, limited interinstitutional coordination, poor access to financing,

and low adoption of sustainable practices persist, all exacerbated by an increasingly adverse climate context. In this scenario, the project aims to ensure at least an 8% reduction in the deforestation rate through comprehensive strategies focused on ecological restoration, sustainable land and forest management, and local capacity building.

31. In an optimistic scenario, effective coordination between MAATE, local governments (GADs), Indigenous and local communities, and other key stakeholders such as FODESNA, the Amazonian Special Territorial District, the Indigenous Fund for Latin America, the Amazon Biocorridor Fund, and international cooperation — including restoration efforts by the United States Agency for International Development — enables the acceleration of the transition to a regenerative and climate-resilient development model. In this scenario, the deployment of small-scale economic incentives through conservation, sustainable production, value-added, and social strengthening agreements is foreseen. Furthermore, the pilot restoration of 4,020 hectares is planned, which will contribute to improved water quality, increased fish production, reduced gastrointestinal disease expenses, and enhanced nutrition, positioning forest restoration as a strategic activity for local governments.

32. The project will achieve the following Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs): 7,676 people (40% women) benefited through governance, restoration, sustainable production, and monitoring actions (CI-11); 125,000 ha under conservation or sustainable management (CI-1); 4,020 ha restored, including 1,000 ha through natural regeneration and 3,020 ha through regenerative productive systems (CI-3.1 and CI-3.2); 45,179 ha under improved practices (21,189 ha forest and 23,990 ha agro-productive) (CI-4.1 and CI-4.3); and 605,643 tCO₂eq emissions avoided (CI-6). These outcomes contribute to biodiversity conservation, improved water security, and enhanced climate resilience for Indigenous peoples and nationalities.

33. The project is designed to operate under the most challenging scenario but with flexibility to adapt and scale up actions in a more favorable context, thus promoting long-term sustainable impacts on biodiversity, climate, water, and local development.

[2] Ecuador implements various territorial conservation mechanisms. The National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) includes protected areas under state ownership (PANE), as well as those declared by Decentralized Autonomous Governments (APAD), and private or community-managed areas, provided they are officially recognized by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE).

Sustainable Use and Conservation Areas (ACUS) are autonomous figures established by local governments through municipal or provincial ordinances to align conservation with sustainable development. However, they are not part of the SNAP unless formally recognized as APAD. Municipal Sustainable Conservation Areas (ACMUS) are a subcategory of ACUS, with an emphasis on community-based management. Protective Forests and Vegetation (BVP) fall under the jurisdiction of MAATE and are part of the State Forest Heritage (PFE). Nonetheless, they are not included in the SNAP unless they are formally reclassified as protected areas. Water Protection Areas (APH) are an emerging conservation figure created through administrative resolutions, focused on safeguarding strategic water sources and systems. These areas are not part of the SNAP either, although their ecological and climate-related value is nationally acknowledged.

Buffer Zones and Biological or Ecological Corridors are complementary in situ conservation tools. While they do not constitute autonomous legal categories nor form part of the SNAP or PFE, their designation in management plans and land-use planning contributes to maintaining ecological connectivity, reducing pressure on core areas, and supporting participatory conservation and sustainable production in surrounding landscapes.

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

34. The project's Theory of Change (ToC), presented in Figure 1, is based on a comprehensive paradigm shift: integrating Sustainable Land Management (SLM), participatory territorial planning, ecological restoration, innovative financial inclusion, knowledge management, and the leveraging of digital solutions as key instruments to reverse environmental degradation and strengthen resilience in the Napo River Basin. This transformation will consolidate sustainable territories, enhance the provision of critical ecosystem services, and improve local livelihoods, in alignment with GEF-8 priorities.

The “hard” interventions planned under the project, such as the restoration of degraded areas, the implementation of sustainable soil management practices, the strengthening of protected area management, and the provision of infrastructure and equipment for conservation activities, are designed to generate measurable results and impacts on the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). These field actions will directly contribute to increasing the area under sustainable management, improving the conservation status of biodiversity, and reducing/removing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, quantified through the CI 6 indicator over a 20-year horizon. In this way, the project’s physical and operational investments will translate into verifiable environmental benefits, aligned with the GEF-8 commitments and the national targets for conservation and climate change mitigation.

The ToC progressively articulates outputs, outcomes, and GEBs: direct outputs (such as updated regulatory instruments, land restoration, operational financial mechanisms, digital platforms, and monitoring systems) will enable outcomes (institutional capacity building, changes in productive behaviors, and improved governance dynamics), which in turn will lead to the achievement of GEBs at local, national, and global levels.

37. The ToC is dynamic in nature and will be periodically reviewed during project implementation to adjust to contextual changes, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) results, and new opportunities for scaling up.

38. The project addresses the multifactorial environmental degradation of the Napo River Basin, driven by anthropogenic activities (unsustainable agricultural expansion, deforestation, resource extraction, habitat fragmentation, and water pollution) and natural phenomena (volcanic activity, landslides, heavy rainfall, and the impacts of climate change). According to projections from the Climate Change Resilience Planning System (SPRACC), an increase in temperatures, alterations in precipitation regimes, and a higher frequency of extreme events are anticipated, within a context of weak territorial planning and limited incentives for sustainable land use.

39. The project identifies the following critical structural barriers:

- Limited institutional coordination.
- Low technological adoption of restoration and sustainable production practices.
- Weak financial sustainability of environmental initiatives.
- Limited participation of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.
- Land-use competition from more profitable extractive models.
- Insufficient inclusive markets and financial mechanisms for sustainable products.

40. To achieve the expected results, the project relies on the following key assumptions:

- A1. Effective governance: Political and technical commitment persists at national and local levels to update territorial management instruments and strengthen co-management agreements.
- A2. Sustainable restoration and production: GADs, communities, and producers ensure the sustainability of restoration processes and promote productive diversification.
- A3. Inclusive financing: Public-private alliances are consolidated to facilitate access to financial mechanisms for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.
- A4. Knowledge management: Local actors adopt and effectively use monitoring systems and digital platforms for adaptive decision-making.

41. The intervention strategy is deployed through four impact pathways, aligned with the project's components:
 1. Governance and territorial planning (Component 1): Strengthening the capacities of GADs and Indigenous communities, integrating PDOTs and Indigenous Life Plans, ensuring participatory validation, establishing multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms, and improving territorial planning instruments.
 2. Ecological restoration and sustainable practices (Component 2): Restoration of 4,020 ha of degraded lands, conservation/improvement of 125,000 ha of forests and productive landscapes, sustainable management of 45,179 ha ($\geq 21,189$ ha of community-managed forests and $\geq 23,990$ ha of agro-productive systems), training of ≥ 961 individuals in sustainable forest management and $\geq 3,265$ individuals in sustainable production, resulting in the reduction of 605,643 tCO₂eq.
 3. Transformative financing and economic inclusion (Component 3): Establishment of a Green Revolving Fund, tailored credit lines, and sustainable commercialization platforms, benefiting at least 2,200 individuals, with a particular focus on women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.
 4. Participatory monitoring, knowledge management, and digital solutions (Component 4): Implementation of an Early Warning System (EWS), interoperable digital platforms, community-based monitoring, strengthening of local capacities, and deployment of a multilingual virtual learning platform.
42. Each generated output (updated regulations, restored hectares, financial access mechanisms, installed monitoring systems) will enable a set of outcomes (strengthened governance, adoption of sustainable land management practices, access to differentiated markets, enhanced local climate resilience), which will collectively lead to the achievement of the following GEBs:
 - CI1: 125,000 ha terrestrial protected areas or improved management.
 - CI3: 4,020 ha of land and ecosystems restored (3,020 ha under productive restoration and 1,000 ha under ecological restoration).
 - CI4: 45,179 ha under improved practices (Sustainable Land Management- SLM).
 - CI6: 605,643 tons of CO₂eq emissions avoided.
 - CI11: 7,676 people directly benefiting, with at least 40% women.
43. In addition, the project will promote social benefits (equitable access to services and inclusive economic opportunities) and other environmental benefits (restoration of critical ecosystems).
43. Continuous and meaningful stakeholder engagement will be ensured through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), activating mechanisms such as river basin councils, co-management committees, women's and youth networks, and local feedback systems.
44. Continuous and meaningful stakeholder engagement will be ensured through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), activating mechanisms such as river basin councils, co-management committees, women's and youth networks, and local feedback systems. Within the framework of Product 1.1.3 (Projects designed with landscape and gender equity criteria outlined in Life Plans) and Product 3.1.3 (financing for community projects linked to Life Plans), direct execution will be carried out by the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs), the Technical Secretariat of the Amazonian Territorial Circumscription, and representative organizations of the Indigenous nationalities in the intervention area. Product 1.1.3 will establish the participatory design of projects that integrate landscape and gender equity criteria in accordance with the Life Plans, ensuring cultural and environmental relevance, while Product 3.1.3 will provide the initial financing mechanism for their implementation. In this way, the identification, prioritization, and field execution will be conducted in a coordinated manner, ensuring compliance with the eligibility criteria and project objectives, as well as their contribution to Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and gender equity.
45. Sustainability will be guaranteed through:

- Integration of actions into territorial planning instruments.
- Formalization of financial mechanisms (Green Revolving Fund, Payments for Ecosystem Services - PES).
- Transfer of the operation and management of territorial environmental monitoring platforms—understood as multisectoral coordination spaces and digital systems for biodiversity and water monitoring—along with trained community brigades, to local authorities, Indigenous governance structures, and community organizations. This transfer aims to ensure the continuity of ecosystem monitoring, restoration activities, and territorial coordination functions after project completion.
- Structured exit strategy monitored by a Sustainability Committee.
- Maintenance of digital e-learning platforms, monitoring, and traceability systems.

46. Knowledge systematization, replicability of best practices, and engagement with South-South cooperation networks will further support territorial scaling.

47. The project activates the four transformational levers identified by GEF-8:

- Strengthening governance and public policies.
- Mobilizing innovative financial resources.
- Establishing systematic multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- Promoting innovation and knowledge management for resilience.

48. Furthermore, it contributes directly to strategic international frameworks, including the UNSDCF Ecuador 2023–2027, the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022–2025, the NDCs, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Land Degradation Neutrality Action Plan (LDNAP), REDD+, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and SDGs 6, 13, 15, 16, and 17.

49. The project anticipates two future scenarios:

- Pessimistic scenario: Structural barriers persist, adoption of sustainable practices remains limited, and knowledge appropriation is weak.
- Optimistic scenario: Effective articulation between MAATE, GADs, and communities is achieved, regenerative landscape management is widely adopted, and financial and institutional mechanisms are strengthened.

The project design ensures resilience and adaptability under both scenarios.

50. The gender approach, guided by the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensures the effective and equitable participation of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples across all components, contributing to closing historical gaps in resource access, leadership, and economic benefits.

The project’s “hard” interventions—spanning the restoration of degraded ecosystems, sustainable soil and forest management, strengthening of protected area governance, and provision of infrastructure and equipment for conservation—are strategically designed to generate measurable, verifiable GEBs under GEF-8.

Under Product 2.1.1, integrated management models will be implemented for the Aguarico, Upper Coca, and Upper Napo watershed units (including the Aguarico–Chingual–Cofanes WPA) covering 35,000 ha of existing WPAs. Actions will combine planning and field measures such as hydrological assessments, restoration of at least 1,000 ha in hydrologically significant areas, sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and participatory water and biodiversity monitoring. These measures will improve management effectiveness (Indicator 2: CI 1), restore degraded lands (Indicator 3: CI 3), and reduce deforestation pressures while enhancing hydrological resilience and carbon storage (Indicator 5: CI 6).

Under Product 2.1.3, the project will strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of 90,000 ha of protective forests and other protected areas, including the declaration of 40,000 ha of new protected areas, through updated management plans, conservation agreements, and sustainable use models. An additional 21,189 ha will be placed under sustainable forest management via technical assistance, community-based models, and NTFP value chain development. These activities contribute to improved management effectiveness (Indicator 2: CI 1), expansion of sustainable productive landscapes (Indicator 4: CI 4), and climate change mitigation through avoided emissions and enhanced forest carbon stocks (Indicator 5: CI 6).

By explicitly linking each operational investment—whether in ecological restoration, hydrological protection, or sustainable production systems—to specific GEB indicators, the project ensures a robust results chain from input to output, outcome, and impact. This guarantees that physical interventions act as strategic levers to deliver both local socio-economic benefits and global environmental commitments, particularly in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and land degradation neutrality.

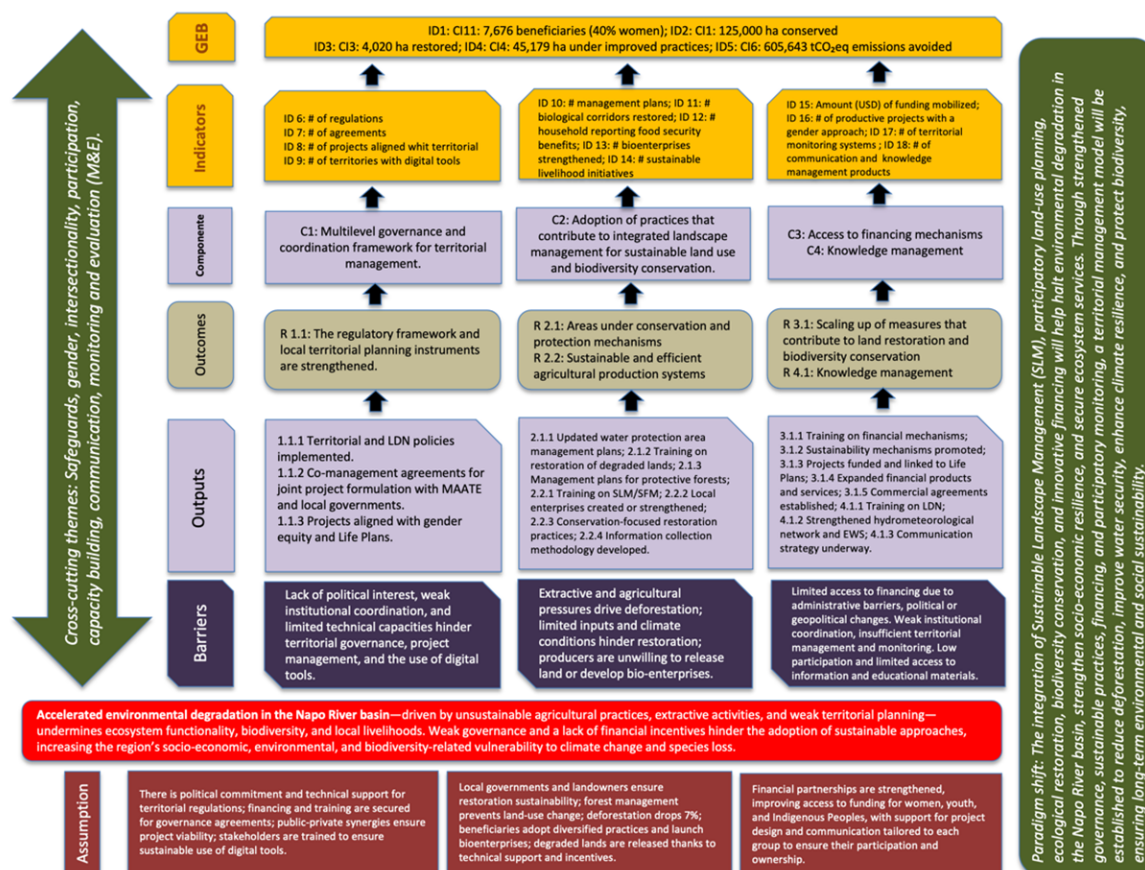


Figure 1: Theory of change

Description project components, outcomes, outputs, and activities

51. The project objectives to contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land use, sustainable forest management, and integrated water resources management through livelihood diversification, improved efficiency of production systems, and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Napo River Basin.

52. In pursuit of this goal, the project will drive transformative change through the implementation of an integrated landscape management model that brings together territorial planning, water governance, biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and sustainable production. This approach will incorporate a gender, intersectional, and Indigenous rights-based perspective. By implementing multi-level policies, strengthening local capacities, and improving access to climate finance mechanisms, the project is expected to:

- Protect biodiversity and maintain ecological connectivity through conservation and sustainable use of forest ecosystems and threatened species habitats, in line with Ecuador's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Reduce land degradation and improve the health of priority ecosystems, contributing to Ecuador's LDN targets under the UNCCD by promoting sustainable land management (SLM), restoration, and protection of water sources;
- Mitigate climate change and enhance community resilience, particularly among women and Indigenous peoples, by promoting low-emission rural production systems and restoring carbon-rich landscapes, contributing to NDC goals under the UNFCCC.
- Strengthen territorial environmental governance systems by fostering the active participation of local actors, decentralized governments, Indigenous authorities, academia, and the private sector.
- Generate knowledge, evidence, and lessons learned that are scalable and contribute to global learning on integrated landscape management approaches in the Amazon biome.

53. All project outputs and outcomes will be implemented in alignment with the Gender Action Plan (GAP), which outlines specific strategies to reduce gender gaps, ensure the participation of women and youth, and promote inclusive and sustainable development in the target territory. These changes will be measured through gender-sensitive, environmental, economic, and social indicators, and will be reflected in the project's results framework and periodic reports.

Component 1: Multi-Level Governance Framework and Coordination for Territorial Management

54. This component aims to establish and strengthen a territorial governance framework that articulates planning at local, regional, and national levels for integrated landscape management in the Napo River Basin. It will promote inclusive governance based on the effective participation of Indigenous peoples, women, and youth through the implementation of normative instruments, interinstitutional agreements, and technical capacities that ensure the sustainability of land, biodiversity, and water resource management.

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened regulatory framework and local planning instruments through participatory methods for integrated management of the landscape, biodiversity, and water resources

1.1.1. Implementation of policies and regulations for territorial management and LDN, validated by local men and women.

55. Representatives from women's groups, Indigenous peoples, and youth will actively and meaningfully participate in the implementation of policies and regulations for integrated territorial management, ensuring coherent application through multi-level, multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms. Activities will include:

1.1.1.1. Design inclusive and comprehensive methodologies that ensure equitable participation of women, Indigenous peoples, and youth in the implementation of policies and regulations, considering diverse realities, promoting gender equity, and applying social and environmental safeguards, while addressing access barriers such as time constraints and caregiving responsibilities of women.

1.1.1.2. Implement capacity-building programs for women and youth on integrated territorial management and decision-making, promoting their leadership in governance spaces.

1.1.1.3. Strengthen and coordinate the existing regulatory framework for territorial management and LDN, prioritizing coherent implementation of current policies and instruments.

1.1.1.4. Promote the creation of one (1) multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance mechanism with a landscape approach to enhance the coordination of actions, policy coherence, and project sustainability, aligning planning instruments such as PDOTs, PUGSs, Life Plans, and management plans for BVPs and APHs.

1.1.1.5. Define the participation structure and management modality of the governance mechanism.

1.1.1.6. Expand the territorial scope of the Land Degradation Observatory to address the integrated management of hydrological units in the Napo River Basin. Targets will align with the REDD+ Action Plan and be reported through MAATE's SIGMA and SIS systems.

1.1.1.7. Based on a pilot initiative with a watershed-based planning approach, develop a participatory norm for integrated territorial management to be approved by MAATE and incorporated by GADs in their planning processes.

1.1.1.8. Design technical guidelines with a gender and intersectional approach, based on the GAP, for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of territorial policies and instruments.

1.1.2. Interinstitutional co-management agreements that promote joint project formulation between MAATE, local governments, and other relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous and women's groups.

56. Strategic alliances and interinstitutional agreements are key instruments to mobilize and coordinate efforts for multi-level, integrated, coherent, and inclusive management—especially within a complex project like this and in a landscape such as the Napo River Basin, which includes multiple variables and actors. To achieve this output, the following activities will be carried out:

1.1.2.1. Promote co-management agreements, memoranda of understanding, and partnership letters between MAATE, MAG, GADs, Indigenous communities, smallholder farmers, and women to strengthen sustainable territorial management.

1.1.2.2. Establish at least two co-management agreements on project-relevant topics—such as joint management of conservation areas (e.g., Protective Forests or State Forest Heritage Units), watershed governance in prioritized hydrographic units, sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), or inter-institutional platforms for territorial planning—ensuring political coherence with the multi-level governance framework and building capacities for the formulation and implementation of projects aligned with the harmonized regulatory framework.

1.1.2.3. Establish monitoring and reporting mechanisms disaggregated by sex, age, and ethnicity for the co-management agreements (1.1.2) and the designed projects (1.1.3), in alignment with the GAP and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The GADs, the CTEA, and Indigenous nationalities will serve as direct implementers of the initiatives under Products 1.1.3 and 3.1.3, playing a key role in the identification, planning, and execution of projects aligned with the Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities. These actors will participate in the identification of territorial priorities and in the participatory planning of initiatives that integrate conservation, restoration, sustainable land and forest management (SLM/SFM), sustainable production, water source protection, and specific actions for biodiversity conservation and restoration, while mainstreaming gender equity criteria and environmental safeguards. Biodiversity actions will aim to maintain and improve the conservation status of threatened species, strengthen ecological connectivity between protected areas and biological corridors, and protect critical ecosystems for climate resilience. For implementation, the GADs and CTEA will facilitate access to public, climate and biodiversity financing mechanisms (CTEA Common Fund, BDE, BanEcuador, biodiversity funds, REDD+ mechanisms, and other international funds), ensuring alignment with territorial planning instruments (PDOTs, PUGSs, PIAs). Indigenous organizations and nationalities, in coordination with the GADs and CTEA, will lead on-the-ground execution, ensuring that investments are directed toward Life Plans and integrated management

tools (APHs, ZPHs, BVPs), while strengthening leadership capacities (especially for women and youth) in project formulation, management, monitoring, and sustainability.

1.1.2.4. Promote the creation and strengthening of co-management committees for protective forests as key instruments for community-based management, conservation, and sustainable use of forest resources.

1.1.2.5. Develop participatory guidelines for water resource management and create consultation spaces with Indigenous and women's participation (minimum 40%).

1.1.2.6. Integrate climate change, LDN, biodiversity conservation, restoration, and water management criteria into local instruments and policies by strengthening hydroclimatic knowledge and capacities in forest management, LDN, and restoration—aligned with the REDD+ Action Plan, National LDN Action Plan, and other planning instruments (PDOT, PUGS).

1.1.2.7. Establish agreements with universities (e.g., IKIAM, USFQ) for applied research and student internships in the project.

1.1.2.8. Analyze existing multisectoral dialogue platforms in the project intervention provinces and assess their relevance for the project's goals, with the aim of strengthening them or, if necessary, establishing provincial governance and intersectoral coordination spaces that link to the basin-level governance mechanism.

1.1.2.9. Establish agreements through mechanisms such as Low Value Grants (LVG), and Responsible Party Agreements (APRs), among others.

1.1.2.10. Promote connections with national and international programs (e.g., CTEA, FBCA, FILAC, etc.) and strengthen coordination spaces such as the REDD+ Roundtable, Chakra Corporation, youth networks, and the Youth Network of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve.

1.1.3. Projects designed with landscape and gender equity criteria outlined in Life Plans.

57. The Life Plans of Indigenous peoples, as planning instruments for communal lands, must be implemented through projects that are aligned with PDOTs, PUGSs, and other planning instruments, while respecting Indigenous governance systems, organization, and autonomy. These projects must incorporate gender equity criteria and build the capacities of Indigenous representatives for project formulation and management. To achieve this, the following activities will be carried out:

1.1.3.1. Design at least five initiatives led by Indigenous representatives and other territorial actors that integrate participatory measures for conservation, restoration, SFM/SLM, sustainable production, climate change mitigation, and enhancement of ecosystem resilience.

1.1.3.2. Direct the designed initiatives toward investments in Indigenous Life Plans (ILPs), Water Protection Areas (APHs), Water Protection Zones (ZPHs), recharge zones, ecological flow areas, Protective Forests and Vegetation (BVPs), and other integrated management tools.

1.1.3.3. Train 25 Indigenous leaders (15 men and 10 women) in project formulation, management, and monitoring, aligning with local and sectoral policy using a gender and intersectional approach.

1.1.3.4. Strengthen the participation of these leaders in Indigenous governance spaces, as well as in women's and youth groups.

1.1.3.5. Promote women's and youth leadership through training programs in integrated territorial management in collaboration with universities and NGOs.

1.1.3.6. Facilitate access of the designed initiatives to financing mechanisms such as the CTEA Common Fund, FBCA, BDE, BanEcuador, and others, oriented toward investments in ILPs, APHs, BVPs, and similar planning and restoration tools.

Component 2: Adoption of practices that contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation.

58. This component promotes the implementation of sustainable land and natural resource management (SLM) practices in productive landscapes and strategic ecosystems. It prioritizes biodiversity conservation

and water management, integrating gender approaches, ancestral knowledge, and applied science. The actions are aimed at reducing degradation, improving livelihoods, and increasing climate resilience in local and Indigenous communities.

Outcome 2.1: Areas under conservation and protection mechanisms, as well as water protection zones, are sustainably managed and conserved with a gender-responsive approach.

2.1.1. Management plans formulated and/or updated for Water Protection Areas (APH) and implementation of sustainable management measures that contribute to LDN and protect water resources in the upper Napo River Basin.

59. The project will support the participatory implementation of integrated management models for the Aguarico, Upper Coca, and Upper Napo watershed units, including the Aguarico–Chingual–Cofanes Water Protection Area (WPA), with the active participation of at least 40% women. These interventions will cover a total of 35,000 ha of existing WPAs, focusing on zones designated for forest conservation, sustainable management, and productive areas contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Actions will combine management planning with on-the-ground measures—such as hydrological assessments, restoration of at least 1,000 ha in hydrologically significant areas, promotion of sustainable non-timber forest product use, and participatory monitoring systems—to strengthen water governance and ecosystem resilience in the upper Napo River Basin. The implementation will integrate decision-support tools like the Early Warning System (EWS), the regularization of water use rights, and community-based monitoring, ensuring that local and Indigenous knowledge is incorporated. Collectively, these actions will contribute to Indicator 2 (CI 1) by improving management effectiveness across WPAs, Indicator 3 (CI 3) by restoring degraded lands, and Indicator 5 (CI 6) by reducing deforestation pressures, maintaining forest cover, and enhancing hydrological resilience to climate variability. Activities include:

2.1.1.1. Develop and implement management models for the three watershed units—Aguarico, Upper Coca, and Upper Napo—including the Aguarico–Chingual–Cofanes Water Protection Area (WPA), covering a total of 35,000 ha of existing WPAs. These models will be designed to strengthen integrated basin management in coordination with Output 1.1.2, incorporating zoning for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. This activity contributes to Indicator 2 (CI 1) by improving the management effectiveness of water-protected areas, and to Indicator 5 (CI 6) by reducing deforestation pressures, maintaining forest cover, and enhancing hydrological resilience to climate variability.

2.1.1.2. Conduct a water balance and hydrometeorological assessment in the Aguarico, Upper Coca, and Upper Napo watersheds to identify priority conservation and restoration zones, particularly recharge areas and zones vulnerable to extreme climate events and promote data generation with relevant agencies to feed into the Early Warning System (EWS) and Community Monitoring Plan (Output 4.1.2).

2.1.1.3. Promote the use of EWS information for timely decision-making and planning the APH management plan implementation and integrated Napo Basin management.

2.1.1.4. Support the regularization of water use and exploitation authorizations to strengthen information management on water availability, water quality, and the ecological integrity of aquatic ecosystems, highlighting women's roles in integrated water management and promoting equitable access to economic benefits from sustainable water management solutions and watershed conservation.

2.1.1.5. Implement restoration actions in APHs and other hydrologically significant areas and their associated aquatic ecosystems, prioritizing zones that support ecohydrological processes such as soil infiltration and flow regulation. These efforts will be coordinated with strategic partners such as HIVOS, NCI, TNC, CI, USFQ, IKIAM, INAMHI, among others. The implementation of restoration actions will be prioritized over at least 1,000 hectares within Water Protection Areas (APH), especially in zones identified as critical for water infiltration and hydrological regulation in the Aguarico, Upper Coca, and Upper Napo watershed units. These actions will align with the technical and methodological guidelines defined in Activity 2.1.2, which seeks to strengthen local capacities for the design, monitoring, and maintenance of both passive and active restoration

measures, promoting long-term sustainability of interventions. Additionally, synergies will be established with the actions under Activity 2.2.3, which envisions the restoration of at least 3,021 hectares in productive areas released from agricultural use, through systems such as silvopasture and analog forestry. The complementarity between both lines of action will address land degradation in different territorial contexts—both in conservation and production areas—under an integrated landscape and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) approach. This contributes to Indicator 3 (CI 3) and Indicator 5 (CI 6) by increasing carbon sequestration and the ecological functionality of degraded areas.

2.1.1.6. Promote the sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), according to zoning in the management plan and aligned with sustainability principles.

2.1.1.7. Formulate, implement, and strengthen participatory monitoring systems for water quality and ecological integrity of water sources and their aquatic ecosystems, leveraging local capacities and partnerships among civil society, educational, and governmental organizations. This includes the formation of mixed youth brigades, promoting women's leadership, and using low-cost, bioindicator-based methodologies (macroinvertebrates, rapid assessment parameters) in the three proposed watershed units, tailored to local differentiated needs and opportunities to form local networks spanning the Napo Basin.

2.1.2. Training program for land restoration in degraded and deforested areas and for sustainable management, promoting women's participation through affirmative actions.

60. This training program will focus on capacity building for planning conservation, sustainable management, restoration, monitoring, and information generation to support decision-making and integrated landscape management under Outcome 2.1. Activities include:

2.1.2.1. Design a theoretical-practical training program for men, women, and youth involved in forest conservation and management, covering: planning for conservation and management of protected areas (aligned with Articles 111 and 114 of the Environmental Code - CODA); sustainable use of timber and NTFPs under current regulations; value addition to NTFPs; value chains for bioenterprises; restoration of degraded areas; monitoring water quality (bioindicators) and habitat availability for threatened species.

2.1.2.2. Develop at least one training module for each topic listed, considering gender, age, target group roles, intervention area context, and the LDN approach.

2.1.2.3. Translate and adapt relevant training module sections into Indigenous languages of the project intervention areas to ensure cultural and linguistic appropriateness.

2.1.2.4. Implement training modules using an adapted Farmer Field School methodology, involving men, women, youth, and people with varying education levels. Training schedules will be adjusted to facilitate women's participation, including childcare strategies and logistical support.

2.1.2.5. Develop complementary trainings with a participatory, gender-sensitive approach to support conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and LDN. Topics may include: importance, limitations, and alternatives to MAATE's Forest Registry; land tenure legalization; forest certification; climate-resilient market strategies; and women's leadership.

2.1.2.6. Strengthen community forest governance through transparency, access to public information, and community audits.

2.1.3. Management plans formulated and/or updated for protective forests or other protected areas such as Indigenous community forests and other tenure types in the lower Napo Basin, incorporating SFM measures.

61. The project will enhance the conservation and sustainable management of protective forests and other protected areas in the lower Napo Basin through a participatory, gender-responsive approach that prioritizes high-value ecosystems and water protection. It will update and implement management plans for existing areas, declare new ones, and establish conservation or sustainable management agreements over 90,000 ha, contributing to Indicator 2 (CI 1) and Indicator 5 (CI 6). Additionally, 21,189 ha will be brought under sustainable forest management through technical assistance, community-based models, and value chain

development for NTFPs, supporting Indicator 4 (CI 4) and further advancing climate mitigation goals. A participatory monitoring system, aligned with MAATE's National Forest Monitoring System, will ensure robust tracking of forest condition, resource use, and biodiversity, reinforcing adaptive management and long-term sustainability. Planned activities include:

2.1.3.1. Evaluate the validity and implementation status of management plans for the seven state protective forests in project priority areas.

2.1.3.2. Update management plans for at least four State Protective Forests, selected with MAATE, incorporating water protection and aquatic ecosystem conservation criteria.

2.1.3.3. Formulate, through a participatory and gender-responsive process, at least two management plans for the declaration of State Protective Forests or Water Protection Areas (APHs) within the Forest Heritage Units 1–4 of the Napo Basin, prioritized jointly with MAATE. These plans will incorporate zoning and measures for water resource protection, aquatic ecosystem conservation, and sustainable use compatible with conservation objectives. This activity will directly contribute to Indicator 2 (CI 1) through the creation of 40,000 ha of new protected areas, enhancing the ecological integrity and connectivity of the basin's landscapes. Additionally, it will contribute to Indicator 5 (CI 6) by preventing future deforestation in these newly declared areas, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening the basin's climate resilience.

2.1.3.4. Support the implementation of management plans for protective forests and other protected areas through conservation or sustainable management agreements (LVG) with communities or individuals, covering a total of 90,000 ha (including both existing areas and newly declared areas). These agreements will be based on incentives for bioenterprises using non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as guayusa (*Ilex guayusa*), dragon's blood (*Croton lechleri*), essential oils, honey, among others, ensuring equitable access to forest goods and services for women and men. This activity contributes directly to Indicator 2 (CI 1) as the main block of surface under improved management, and to Indicator 5 (CI 6) by conserving forest cover, reducing deforestation, and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

2.1.3.5. Promote sustainable forest management over 21,189 ha, which may include protective forests, if management plans allow for sustainable timber and/or NTFP use. Activities include: a) technical support for implementation of sustainable forest use plans approved by MAATE, ensuring post-harvest forest integrity; b) replicating the Community-Based Sustainable Forest Management experience from Kupatas, which integrates landscape management and forest/aja (ancestral agroforestry systems) product use—an Ecuadorian pioneer model of conservation through landscape-scale forest use; c) developing value chains for NTFPs from sustainably managed landscapes. This contributes to Indicator 4 (CI 4) and Indicator 5 (CI 6) through the sustainable and traceable use of forest resources.

2.1.3.6. Implement a participatory monitoring system using accessible technologies for tracking areas under conservation and sustainable management (including timber and NTFP use under current regulations), aligned with MAATE's National Forest Monitoring System to ensure methodological coherence, data compatibility, and strengthened local capacities. Monitoring topics will include vegetation cover, timber/NTFP use, and habitat availability for umbrella or threatened species.

Outcome 2.2: Sustainable and efficient agricultural production systems increase social, economic, and environmental benefits

2.2.1. Training program on SLM/SFM for agricultural producers (men, women, and intersectional groups) with local partners.

62. This training program will contribute to the effective incorporation of SLM practices across 23,990 ha of productive lands in buffer zones of protected areas. It will apply a climate resilience approach, support the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP), and enhance the economic viability and sustainability of SLM. The following activities will be carried out:

2.2.1.1. Implement a technical and practical training program on SLM for agricultural producers with a focus on gender, local governance, and climate resilience.

- 2.2.1.2. Provide technical support for the design and implementation of sustainable landscape management plans for productive land.
 - 2.2.1.3. Disseminate and implement agroecological techniques, land restoration, bioinput production, forest nursery management, regenerative livestock practices, sustainability certifications such as the Chakra Seal or BPA+, and interpretation of hydrometeorological data for climate adaptation.
 - 2.2.1.4. Implement innovative training mechanisms such as the development of social media influencers (women and youth) and the creation of digital content to disseminate technical materials on SLM.
 - 2.2.1.5. Train producer groups in generating information for the Early Warning System (EWS) and using it to manage risks in production systems, in coordination with MAATE, MAG, and INAMHI.
 - 2.2.1.6. Establish clubs[3] for production, nutrition, and SLM with equitable participation of women, using flexible schedules and incentives.
 - 2.2.1.7. Apply the Gender Action Plan (GAP) methodology to analyze access to productive resources for women and diverse groups and adjust the SLM strategy based on identified gaps.
 - 2.2.1.8. Transfer technical knowledge and promote good practices on regenerative livestock, sustainable crop diversification, and sustainability certifications such as the Chakra Seal and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), through existing rural extension efforts and local training structures.
 - 2.2.1.9. Establish or strengthen Agroecological Innovation Centers to locally institutionalize knowledge management on SLM, food security, sustainable production, and access to differentiated markets.
 - 2.2.1.10. Evaluate the impact of SLM actions on water quality, efficient water use, and other relevant ecosystem services.
 - 2.2.1.11. Implement these technical and practical SLM training actions in coordination with strategic partners such as FAO, IICA, WWF, CI, Fundación Pachamama, Heifer, the private sector, and academia.
- 2.2.2. Creation and strengthening of local entrepreneurs and/or sustainable agricultural business models in collection centers, contributing to the administrative capacities of women in such centers.
63. This output involves the implementation of SLM practices over 23,990 ha of agricultural production areas based on the training provided under Output 2.2.1. Monitoring under this output will feed data into the EWS developed under Output 4.1.2 and use EWS and SPRACC information for managing production risks in SLM areas.
- 2.2.2.1. Strengthen local entrepreneurs (with a gender focus) and sustainable agricultural business models linked to collection centers.
 - 2.2.2.2. Implement agroecology, agroforestry, silvopasture, regenerative livestock, aquaculture with native species, and/or sustainable tourism practices on 23,990 ha, promoting the recovery of traditional farming systems like chakras and ajas, and valuing the roles and knowledge of Indigenous women.
 - 2.2.2.3. Strengthen commercialization through sustainable product platforms involving public and private actors, enabling spaces like wildlife-free traditional food markets, local markets, links with industries, HORECAS and retailers, and negotiation forums.
 - 2.2.2.4. Promote entrepreneurship led by women and youth, such as bioinput production, commercial nurseries, and associative marketing and direct sales networks.
 - 2.2.2.5. Implement community-based monitoring mechanisms with flexible schedules and incentives to generate and use data for risk management in production systems, in coordination with MAATE, MAG, and INAMHI.
 - 2.2.2.6. Establish agreements with GADs and other stakeholders to facilitate access to seed capital and green financing for agroecological production.
 - 2.2.2.7. Implement these entrepreneurship and business model strengthening activities in coordination with actors such as IICA, WWF, CI, TNC, Fundación Pachamama, Heifer, business incubators, the private sector, academia, and others.
- 2.2.3. Restoration practices for conservation in production areas released from agricultural use.

64. This output includes 3,021 ha under restoration processes aimed at reversing land degradation within agricultural areas. The approach focuses on improving vegetation cover, land productivity and functionality, and/or maintaining or increasing soil carbon storage. Activities focus on incorporating silvopasture and analog forestry systems to allow producers to generate income from restoration areas. These restoration efforts will be complementary to those implemented under Activity 2.1.1.5, which prioritizes restoration in Water Protection Areas (APH) and hydrologically significant zones. Together, these actions will address land degradation in both productive and conservation contexts, ensuring coherence with the project's integrated landscape management strategy and its Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) objectives.

- 2.2.3.1. Implement silvopastoral systems on farms to improve sustainable livestock production, regenerate soils, and increase vegetation cover with native species, ensuring the participation of women with an intersectional focus and recognizing their role in livestock management and soil restoration.
- 2.2.3.2. Promote access to inputs, training, and financing with a focus on women and youth, supporting their leadership in on-farm restoration initiatives.
- 2.2.3.3. Explore and establish incentive mechanisms that ensure equitable access to restoration benefits and incentives for producers.
- 2.2.3.4. Promote forest restoration in degraded pastures using assisted natural regeneration and/or analog forestry techniques.
- 2.2.3.5. Establish a participatory monitoring system using technological tools that integrates land degradation restoration indicators and links to the project monitoring system.
- 2.2.3.6. Integrate data from land restoration processes into the Land Degradation Observatory and the Community Monitoring Plan.
- 2.2.3.7. Strengthen monitoring of restoration actions with a focus on climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.
- 2.2.3.8. Coordinate with projects designed and financed under Outputs 3.1.3 and 1.1.3 to mobilize resources and create synergies to achieve restoration targets.

2.2.4. Methodology for collecting information that integrates gender variables in sustainable agricultural production, contributing to traceability mechanisms in collection centers.

65. This output strengthens sustainable production traceability in collection centers by incorporating gender and environmental variables. It equips organizations with an information management tool to support decision-making aimed at addressing gender asymmetries in production. It also builds organizational capacity for using traceability systems in production, agribusiness, and climate resilience.

- 2.2.4.1. Develop and strengthen a data collection and traceability methodology for sustainable agricultural production in collection centers.
- 2.2.4.2. Integrate gender variables on access to and control of resources into the methodology.
- 2.2.4.3. Process data from strengthened traceability systems to evaluate women's participation in value chains and barriers to their inclusion.
- 2.2.4.4. Incorporate variables on climate change mitigation and adaptation into traceability systems in line with the NAP, LDN principles, and/or the EWS.
- 2.2.4.5. Strengthen producer organizations' decision-making regarding production processes, regulatory compliance, and marketing through this tool.
- 2.2.4.6. Process traceability data to establish a baseline and situational assessments on socioeconomic and environmental criteria to guide incentive schemes and support MRV of GHG emissions.
- 2.2.4.7. Integrate the methodology and data generated into the project's capacity building and knowledge management component (Component 4).
- 2.2.4.8. Use the collected data as key inputs for jointly formulating projects under Output 1.1.3 and co-management agreements under Output 1.1.2.

Component 3: Access to financing mechanisms to scale up actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and climate change mitigation [4]

66. The objective of this component is to strengthen the technical and financial capacities of territorial actors to mobilize resources for actions related to restoration, conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable production. Innovative financing mechanisms—including climate and nature-based finance instruments—will be promoted, with a gender and sustainability focus, ensuring the scalability of initiatives and long-term climate and biodiversity resilience. Inclusive financing mechanisms will be developed in accordance with PAG (Gender Action Plan) guidelines, prioritizing rural women's access to green credit, supporting women-led sustainable ventures, and ensuring that at least 40% of the beneficiaries are women, with indicators disaggregated by sex, age, and ethnicity.

Outcome 3.1: Scaling up of measures contributing to land restoration and biodiversity conservation to improve community climate resilience through financing and market access

3.1.1 Training program on financial mechanisms for local governments and/or municipal associations emphasizing gender equity and enabling access to financing incentives.

67. This training program targets local governments, Indigenous communities, and associations, with a gender equity focus. It includes the design and implementation of modules on financial education and climate finance, and nature-based finance mechanisms that support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, the adaptation of financial products to the needs of rural women, Indigenous people, and youth, and the promotion of their effective participation.

3.1.1.1 Design a financial mechanism training program targeting local governments, Indigenous communities, and associations, incorporating a gender equity approach that builds capacity for accessing incentives and climate finance, and nature-based finance mechanisms that support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.

3.1.1.2 Implement the program with support from BIOFIN, UNDP Sustainable Finance Unit, GIZ, CLIFIT, and other key stakeholders.

3.1.1.3 Facilitate territorial stakeholders' access to climate funds and financial mechanisms for sustainable projects, including those that promote biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration through nature-based finance solutions.

3.1.1.4 Adapt financial products to the specific needs of rural women, Indigenous people, and youth, using GAP analysis as a key input, while incorporating options that incentivize biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

3.1.1.5 Develop modules on financial literacy and climate finance, including content on biodiversity-focused financial mechanisms, addressing gender inequalities in resource access—understood as the ability of women, Indigenous peoples, and youth to access financial resources, training, relevant information, and tailored financial services—and promoting inclusive participation in nature-based financing opportunities.

3.1.1.6 Promote the effective participation of women producers and leaders in training programs, financial mechanisms, and decision-making processes related to sustainable production and biodiversity conservation by overcoming access barriers such as time and transport, which often disproportionately affect women due to unequal distribution of unpaid care work, limited mobility in rural areas, and safety concerns.

3.1.1.7 Implement a territorial awareness program with BanEcuador, BDE and CONAFIPS to reduce credit access barriers for Indigenous women.

3.1.1.8 Integrate training content and outcomes into the virtual learning platform under Component 4 (Output 4.1.1).

3.1.1.9 Develop a module on successful women-led project case studies to reinforce the gender approach and encourage replication of best practices.

3.1.2 Financial sustainability mechanisms[5] identified and promoted by women and men for the protection and conservation of selected areas and water protection zones.

68. This output aims to identify and promote financial sustainability mechanisms led by women and men to protect key areas and recharge zones. Through innovative strategies, capacity building, and tools such as water balance and payment for ecosystem services models, it seeks to ensure long-term landscape conservation and restoration with a gender-equity and sustainability lens.

3.1.2.1 Design and promote sustainable finance mechanisms using innovative strategies, technologies, and financing models.

3.1.2.2 Facilitate technical support from BIOFIN and the UNDP Sustainable Finance Hub for design and implementation.

3.1.2.3 Strengthen financial management capacities aligned with GEF principles, targeting FODESNA, GADs, Indigenous organizations, and communities, with an emphasis on sustainability mechanisms for priority areas and water zones.

3.1.2.4 Expand the use of ECOCIENCIA's platform to monitor credit with transparency and sustainability focus.

3.1.2.5 Assess feasibility and design a Green Revolving Fund for bioenterprises and agro-enterprises, with participation from FODESNA, community banks, and savings systems.

3.1.2.6 Facilitate access to solidarity guarantees and seed funds, supporting Indigenous communities and women in identifying, adapting, and managing inclusive financial mechanisms that promote sustainable production and biodiversity conservation.

3.1.2.7 Apply the 'gender-responsive water balance' as a technical tool to analyze water availability, demand, and quality in key zones—supporting design and justification of water-related ecosystem service payments.

3.1.2.8 Assess the applicability of Costa Rica's FONAFIFO[6] model as a reference for implementing water ecosystem service payment mechanisms in Ecuador.

3.1.2.9 Promote a financial articulation mechanism among FODESNA, CTEA, FILAC, FBCA, and water funds such as FONAG to channel resources to LDN and integrated landscape management.

3.1.2.10 Align these mechanisms with Life Plans, PDOTs, and PUGSs, integrating them into co-management agreements (Output 1.1.2) and project designs (Outputs 1.1.3 and 3.1.3).

3.1.2.11 Finance initiatives led by Indigenous peoples and local actors for conservation, restoration, and sustainable production with a gender-responsive approach.

3.1.2.12 Develop monetary and non-monetary incentive models to promote sustainable agroforestry systems such as chakras and ajas[7] .

3.1.2.13 Implement the Green Taxonomy and Bioeconomy approach in coordination with CONAFIPS, ASOBANCA, MEF, and MAATE to develop targeted financial instruments and investment lines for sustainable activities in priority territories.

3.1.2.14 Ensure investments align with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria and strengthen territorial financial sustainability.

3.1.3 Funded projects linked to Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities that support gender equity.

69. The project will implement a dedicated LVG financing scheme to ensure the implementation of at least seven (7) sustainable productive projects aligned with the Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities in the Napo River Basin. LVG resources will be invested directly in activities that integrate biodiversity conservation, restoration, climate resilience, and sustainable production, with at least 40% of beneficiaries being women. Allocation of LVG funds by activity:

3.1.3.1. Financing the purchase of equipment, tools, and inputs for sustainable value chain development (production, processing, and commercialization stages) of prioritized NTFPs and agroecological products.

- 3.1.3.2. Implement an integrated sustainable development approach that combines production, restoration of productive areas, water protection measures, and biodiversity conservation. Field actions will be directly aligned with Outputs 1.1.3 and 2.2.3, ensuring that interventions simultaneously strengthen local livelihoods and contribute to ecosystem health. Activities will include the establishment of agroecological systems, rehabilitation of degraded lands, protection of critical water sources, and conservation of priority habitats, integrating community knowledge and promoting climate resilience.
- 3.1.3.3. Design and application of gender-responsive project management tools and environmental safeguards, including community training workshops.
- 3.1.3.4. Installation of infrastructure for water harvesting, purification, and distribution in Indigenous communities to enhance climate resilience.
- 3.1.3.5. Establishment or strengthening of agroecological production systems (e.g., Chakra model) and bioeconomy-based enterprises, including nurseries, demonstration plots, and fair-trade certification processes.
- 3.1.3.6. Capacity-building programs for Indigenous women's leadership in project administration, business development, and technical production.
- 3.1.3.7. Technical support to align funded projects with Life Plans and other territorial planning instruments (PDOTs, PUGSSs, PIAs).
- 3.1.3.8. Integration of project actions with existing management plans for Protective Forests (BVPs) and Water Protection Areas (APHs).
- 3.1.3.9. Co-development of project proposals with Indigenous organizations and local governments, ensuring cultural relevance and self-determination principles.
- 3.1.3.10. Organization of coordination platforms between community representatives, GADs, and technical partners to mobilize additional co-financing.
- 3.1.3.11. Seed funding to leverage additional resources from biodiversity funds, climate finance instruments, PES schemes, and rotating community funds.

3.1.4 Expansion and promotion of financial products and services that support gender equality with financial institutions and local actors.

70. This output aims to expand and promote inclusive financial services that foster gender equality and environmental sustainability. Through partnerships with financial institutions, innovative credit mechanisms, specific incentives for rural women, green lines, and private investment models will be developed—focusing on conservation, restoration, and bioeconomy—to strengthen financial governance and territorial resilience.

- 3.1.4.1 Promote innovative financial mechanisms identified by BIOFIN and UNDP's Sustainable Finance Hub to improve access to credit for women and small rural producers.
- 3.1.4.2 Strengthen solidarity guarantees and incorporate specific financial incentives for rural women.
- 3.1.4.3 Reduce credit access barriers for rural women through credit lines such as BanEcuador's "Super Rural Woman".
- 3.1.4.4 Complement these credit lines with training in financial management and investment, in partnership with CONAFIPS.
- 3.1.4.5 Encourage private investment in conservation and restoration using tax benefits under Ministerial Agreement MAATE 2022-113 (double deductibility).
- 3.1.4.6 Facilitate access to green credit and incentivize implementation of good agroforestry and conservation practices.
- 3.1.4.7 Establish a financial incentive line based on Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility (CSR) within the sustainability mechanism coordinated by FODESNA, CTEA, FILAC, FBCA, and FONAG.
- 3.1.4.8 Channel private and corporate resources into initiatives for conservation, restoration, landscape management, and water protection, as identified under Outputs 1.1.3, 2.1.3, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, and 3.1.3, to ensure alignment with territorial priorities and strengthen the sustainability of project outcomes.
- 3.1.4.9 Use successful CSR cases such as SACHA Lodge (HIVOS) as models for territorial replication.

3.1.4.10 Align private investments with Life Plans, PDOTs, PUGSs, and relevant territorial projects, especially Outputs 1.1.3 and 3.1.3.

3.1.4.11 Promote bioeconomy approaches, Green Taxonomy implementation, and ESG compliance through sensitization, training, and institutional adoption to strengthen environmental governance and informed decision-making by public, private, and community actors.

3.1.4.12 Institutionalize and scale up the financial mechanisms developed under this Output by integrating them into local planning instruments (Life Plans, PDOTs, PUGSs), and ensuring alignment with territorial governance structures such as FODESNA and co-management agreements established under Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3. This will strengthen long-term financial sustainability, territorial governance, and resilience to climate and ecosystem risks.

3.1.5 National and international trade agreements that benefit sustainable products and women-led production

71. This output aims to establish and promote trade agreements that facilitate access to differentiated national and international markets for sustainable products led by women and Indigenous communities. By strengthening inclusive value chains, aligning with territorial regulatory frameworks, and implementing certification, communication, and training strategies, these initiatives will be positioned within fair trade and bioeconomy schemes.

3.1.5.1 Facilitate the development of national and international trade partnerships and define strategies to strengthen marketing and market access for sustainable products. This includes initiating collaboration frameworks with partners such as Rikolto Ecuador for national value chains, and with platforms like Rainforest Alliance and Fair Trade International for future certifications and fair-trade market integration.

3.1.5.2 Prioritize women- and Indigenous-led products in trade agreements. Highlight examples such as the agroforestry production of Asociación Tsapau (Shuar women), native seed crafts by Yamanunka, chontaduro-based processed foods by Challwa Mikuna, and the territorial work of the Yuturi Warimi Indigenous Guard.

3.1.5.3 Link sustainable trade agreements to the regulatory and planning framework of Outcome 1.1, promoting productive associativity among women and Indigenous communities based on Life Plans, PDOTs, and PUGSs (Activity 1.1.1.4) and co-management mechanisms (Activity 1.1.2.1). Prioritized products will be linked to local initiatives (Activity 1.1.3.1).

3.1.5.4 Strengthen sustainable value chains such as native species aquaculture and agroecological production under the Chakra model.

3.1.5.5 Develop accessible training in e-commerce and traditional trade, linking Output 3.1.5 content with the financial mechanisms training program (Output 3.1.1). Trainings will cover sustainable value chains, bioeconomy, gender equity, and intersectionality, and target women, youth, and Indigenous communities.

3.1.5.6 Facilitate access to national and international sustainability certifications aligned with intellectual property regulations (SENADI).

3.1.5.7 Develop and strengthen labels that highlight sustainable and women-led products.

3.1.5.8 Launch communication campaigns to promote women producers' stories and consolidate fair trade models.

3.1.5.9 Systematize and disseminate successful cases and experiences in sustainable marketing and women's leadership to support informed decision-making and local ownership.

Component 4: Knowledge Management through Capacity Building and Communication[8].

71. This component integrates the collection, systematization, dissemination, and use of environmental, climate, social, and gender information across the project to support informed decision-making. Through virtual platforms, inclusive communication strategies, and training programs, the component aims to empower local actors, improve territorial planning, and facilitate access to evidence-based financing.

Outcome 4.1: Knowledge management for informed decision-making and stakeholder empowerment

4.1.1. Capacity-building and training program on land degradation neutrality (LDN), climate change, biodiversity, gender equality (including masculinities), and intersectionality- virtual learning platform designed and implemented.

72. This output aims to strengthen the capacities of local actors, technical staff, and decision-makers through a comprehensive training program covering LDN, climate change, biodiversity, gender equity (including masculinities), and intersectionality. A virtual learning platform (e-learning) will be developed and implemented to provide access to technical and sociocultural content, integrating tools such as the Early Warning System (EWS), water governance modules, gender-sensitive methodologies, restoration, and sustainable landscape management.

74. This platform will serve as a cross-cutting knowledge management tool that complements the training activities developed under other outputs of the project—specifically: Output 2.1.2, which focuses on technical training in restoration, monitoring, and conservation of degraded ecosystems; Output 2.2.1, which provides practical training for agroforestry and livestock producers on SLM/SFM practices and climate resilience; and Output 3.1.1, which offers financial training to improve access to climate finance mechanisms, emphasizing gender equity and institutional strengthening.

75. By systematizing the content generated across these outputs, the virtual platform will expand access, ensure coherence, avoid duplication, and reinforce the adoption of integrated landscape management practices among youth, women, Indigenous peoples, and local institutions.

4.1.1.1 Design and implement a comprehensive capacity development and training program on LDN, climate change, biodiversity, gender, and intersectionality.

4.1.1.2 Develop and implement an accessible virtual learning platform for local actors, technical staff, and decision-makers.

4.1.1.3 Integrate training, systematization, and information use processes to strengthen decision-making and territorial empowerment.

4.1.1.4 Include a specific module on gender equality and transformative masculinities based on the GAP.

4.1.1.5 Integrate training programs on restoration, SLM, and agroforestry (Products 2.1.2 and 2.2.1) into a unified, accessible, and coherent training strategy that enhances local capacities, avoids duplication, and ensures gender, intercultural, and sustainability approaches.

4.1.1.6 Develop gender-responsive knowledge management tools and metrics to assess and improve the appropriation of content by women and diverse groups, contributing to the generation of tailored communication and knowledge products under Indicator 18 of the Results Framework.

4.1.1.7 Implement the gender-sensitive data collection methodology (Output 2.2.4), integrating its results into training modules.

4.1.1.8 Use this methodology to support participatory monitoring systems and track the adoption, application, and outcomes of technical knowledge across project components and beneficiaries.

4.1.1.9 Integrate the EWS (Output 4.1.2) as a key tool within the capacity development program, embedding it into the training content on climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity. Its inclusion in the e-learning platform will support territorial planning and responsiveness to climate and environmental risks with a gender and intersectional focus.

4.1.1.10 Strengthen community monitoring of biodiversity and water resources through digital tools and technical training, building on existing participatory systems from Components 1 and 2, and enhancing data integration, territorial planning, and local decision-making

4.1.1.11 Design specific training modules on water resource governance: water use, service provision, community participation, and hydrosocial planning.

4.1.1.12 Facilitate coordination among territorial actors (GADs, MAATE, ARCA, communities) by incorporating water governance and planning content into the training program and virtual platform,

promoting collaborative and informed water resource management with gender, intercultural, and sustainability focus.

4.1.1.13 Complement training with content reinforcing integrated landscape management, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability.

4.1.2. Strengthening the hydrometeorological network and the information chain for the development of an Early Warning System (EWS).

76. This output aims to design and implement an EWS that combines modern technology with local knowledge to anticipate, monitor, and respond to extreme climate events in the Napo River Basin. An integrated hydrometeorological, ecological, and hydrological monitoring network will enhance territorial planning, water management, and community resilience against risks such as droughts, floods, and landslides.

4.1.2.1 Design and implement an integrated monitoring network and EWS that combines technology and traditional knowledge.

4.1.2.2 Use the EWS as a climate adaptation tool to anticipate impacts and activate responses to extreme events—e.g., droughts (2015–2016), floods (2021), landslides (2025) in the northern Amazon—strengthening planning and territorial resilience.

4.1.2.3 Integrate climate, ecological, and hydrological monitoring to enhance risk-based decision-making.

4.1.2.4 Feed the “Community Monitoring Plan for Hydrological Impact, Water Quality, and Biodiversity” with data from the EWS. This plan is part of APH management plans, and its integration with the EWS will improve environmental surveillance, impact anticipation, and community water resource management.

4.1.2.5 Ensure equitable participation of women and men in data collection and usage within the EWS.

4.1.2.6 Identify, strengthen, and facilitate access to information platforms for communities and GADs, integrating biodiversity, water, and climate change data.

4.1.2.7 Integrate data from the Unified Water Use Authorization Registry (RUAA) to improve water stress analysis.

4.1.2.8 Support water use planning in priority hydrographic units and strengthen interoperability with ARCA and MAATE systems.

4.1.2.9 Establish and train community hydrometeorological monitoring brigades with gender-balanced participation.

4.1.2.10 Consolidate a knowledge and cooperation network among GADs, communities, and key sectors (environmental, productive, hydrological).

4.1.2.11 Integrate the EWS into MAATE’s Environmental Early Warning System (SATA), ensuring interoperability with forest, biodiversity, and environmental compliance monitoring systems.

4.1.2.12 Coordinate with the enforcement and response processes of the National Environmental Authority (AAN) to efficiently respond to environmental degradation events using data generated by the EWS and community monitoring systems.

4.1.2.13 Apply the EWS as a cross-cutting tool in: territorial planning and landscape management (Component 1); adaptation of agroecological and forestry practices (Component 2); and proposal development based on climate and ecological conditions (Component 3).

4.1.2.14 Disseminate EWS-generated information using mechanisms defined in Outputs 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 for integration into local and regional management.

4.1.2.15 Implement these actions in coordination with key actors such as INAMHI, IKIAM, USFQ, GADs, and the private sector.

4.1.3. Communication strategy developed and implemented.

77. This output aims to design and implement a comprehensive communication strategy to strengthen outreach, awareness, and local ownership of the project’s sustainable territorial management agenda. The strategy will use multi-channel formats (radio, audiovisual, digital, print), content in Indigenous languages, educational tools, and community spokespersons—emphasizing the leadership of women, youth, and

Indigenous peoples. It will ensure materials reflect the territory's cultural, generational, and gender diversity, promoting a positive narrative based on results and learning.

4.1.3.1 Design and implement a comprehensive communication strategy focused on outreach and awareness-raising around sustainable territorial management. The strategy will include multi-format campaigns (radio, audiovisual, digital, print), territorial narratives, educational tools, experience systematization, community spokespersons, and Indigenous language content. It will empower women, youth, and Indigenous peoples as agents of change, linking messaging to project training, governance, and commercialization processes.

4.1.3.2 Ensure all communication materials reflect gender, intercultural, and generational diversity.

4.1.3.3 Produce videos and infographics showcasing women leaders and youth involved in territorial management and conservation.

4.1.3.4 Organize participatory events and experience exchanges with a territorial and cultural focus.

4.1.3.5 Highlight successful initiatives led by women and communities that promote gender equity.

4.1.3.6 Strengthen local ownership of the project through culturally relevant and accessible communication tools.

4.1.3.7 Promote project sustainability through a positive narrative based on concrete results, testimonials, and learning.

4.1.3.8 Link the communication strategy to content and outputs generated under Component 4 (especially Outputs 4.1.1 and 4.1.2).

4.1.3.9 Ensure the systematization and dissemination of best practices and success stories through digital, territorial, and strategic partner channels.

4.1.3.10 Include a specific institutional outreach section in the communication strategy to ensure appropriate recognition of the GEF and UNDP across all communication products, platforms, events, and stakeholder touchpoints.

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation.

78. This component will ensure the implementation of a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that measures project progress, differentiated impacts on vulnerable groups, and the effectiveness of the measures adopted. It also guarantees the integration of social and environmental safeguards and promotes ongoing project performance review to support adaptation and improvement.

Outcome 5.1: Monitoring and evaluation of project activities and indicators

5.1.1: Monitoring of risks identified through the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure and implementation of mitigation actions.

79. This output aims to strengthen the monitoring of social and environmental risks identified during project implementation through a participatory and inclusive monitoring system that guides decision-making and promotes continuous improvement.

5.1.1.1 Identify recommendations for mitigation actions based on M&E results, ensuring they include a gender and intersectional perspective.

5.1.1.2 Verify that proposed mitigation actions in response to assessed risks are inclusive and include women's participation in their validation and follow-up.

5.1.1.3 Ensure that mitigation measures align with REDD+ environmental and social safeguards and relevant national and international standards within the M&E framework.

5.1.1.4 Design and implement a periodic monitoring system for risks and mitigation actions with participatory mechanisms and a differentiated approach for women, youth, and Indigenous peoples, as part of the project's M&E system.

5.1.1.5 Monitor the integration of women's empowerment approaches across the mitigation cycle, from planning to follow-up, as part of the gender analysis within the M&E system.

5.1.1.6 Document, systematize, and periodically update information on identified risks, implemented responses, and lessons learned, integrating them into the M&E system.

5.1.1.7 Ensure that lessons learned, and adjustments derived from risk and mitigation monitoring are incorporated into project results reports, promoting continuous improvement and environmental and social coherence in implementation.

5.1.2: Monitoring and reporting of project results.

80. This output seeks to consolidate an effective system for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting focused on five key areas: LDN, GHG emissions, climate risk, biodiversity, and livelihoods. Through gender-sensitive indicators, disaggregated data, and both qualitative and quantitative information, inclusive and results-oriented management will be promoted. Continuous feedback, evidence-based decision-making, and participatory dissemination of progress will be ensured. All activities will align with GEF and UNDP M&E standards; it is recommended that tools, indicators, and formats comply with the updated technical manuals of the GEF Results Architecture and UNDP's ROAR.

5.1.2.1 Implement an M&E system focused on five key areas: LDN, mitigated GHG emissions, climate risk, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

5.1.2.2 Develop gender-sensitive indicators specific to each area, ensuring applicability to the project's territorial context.

5.1.2.3 Generate inputs and quantitative and qualitative information to demonstrate project progress toward the desired paradigm shift.

5.1.2.4 Evaluate the project's impact on gender equality, with an emphasis on women's participation in decision-making and access to resources.

5.1.2.5 Measure project performance and impact with disaggregated data (by gender, age, ethnic group, etc.) to capture critical dimensions of inclusive development.

5.1.2.6 Integrate monitoring results into periodic reports and project feedback mechanisms.

5.1.2.7 Use collected data to adjust and inform strategic decisions and strengthen the project's adaptive management and transformational approach.

5.1.2.8 Disseminate results in an accessible and participatory manner among key stakeholders, including communities, GADs, national institutions, and donors.

5.1.3: Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation of the project, according to UNDP and GEF guidelines, including analysis of gender mainstreaming progress throughout project phases.

81. This output entails the design, execution, and dissemination of two key evaluations within the project cycle: the Independent Mid-Term Review (MTR) and the Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE). Both evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the methodological guidelines of UNDP and the GEF, and aligned with GEF standards regarding gender, sustainability, impact, and stakeholder participation.

5.1.3.1 Conduct the Independent Mid-Term Review (MTR), including an evaluation of progress toward project targets, expected results, and technical-financial performance, in accordance with UNDP and GEF methodological guidelines.

5.1.3.2 Include in the MTR a specific analysis of progress in gender mainstreaming, covering all components and outputs.

5.1.3.3 Identify strengths, weaknesses, lessons learned, and opportunities for improvement in the second half of the project.

5.1.3.4 Conduct the Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) in accordance with UNDP and GEF standards, including measurement of the project's impact in relation to GEF-8 strategic objectives—such as contributions to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and gender equity.

5.1.3.5 Assess the sustainability of outcomes, local ownership, and replicability of the approaches used.

5.1.3.6 Prepare and share the evaluation reports with territorial stakeholders, implementing agencies, and donors.

5.1.3.7 Address the recommendations of both evaluations (MTR and TE) in the project's management response, into the project's closure processes, accountability mechanisms, and exit strategy, to ensure sustainability of outcomes and continuity of learning

5.1.3.8 Systematize gender mainstreaming progress as an input for future GEF and UNDP projects.

Incremental/additional cost reasoning

82. The proposed project builds upon previous efforts in landscape conservation, restoration, and sustainable land management in the Napo River basin to deliver global environmental benefits (GEBs). Under the baseline (business-as-usual) scenario, land-use planning instruments would not systematically integrate Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), or ecological restoration approaches. Land degradation and deforestation would continue, undermining biodiversity, ecosystem services, and community resilience, particularly affecting Indigenous Peoples and rural women.

83. Without GEF intervention, conservation and restoration initiatives would remain fragmented, limited in scope, and insufficient to achieve transformational impact at the landscape scale.

84. The project's Theory of Change proposes that integrating participatory land-use planning, promoting SLM/SFM practices, establishing inclusive climate financing mechanisms, and strengthening digital knowledge management systems will drive structural changes in territorial governance and productive practices, reducing ecosystem pressures and enhancing climate resilience.

85. GEF incremental financing will enable:

- Component 1: Integration of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and restoration criteria into Development and Land-Use Plans (PDOTs) and Indigenous Life Plans, fostering multi-level governance frameworks with active participation of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. Without GEF support, these plans would lack integrated approaches and inclusive co-management mechanisms.
- Component 2: Restoration of 4,020 ha and sustainable management of 125,000 ha through locally adapted, science-based, and Indigenous knowledge-informed practices. Without GEF, restoration efforts would remain marginal and unable to reverse degradation trends. The project will also train over 4,000 people (40% women), scaling up climate-resilient SLM/SFM adoption.
- Component 3: Creation of a Green Revolving Fund and microfinance mechanisms tailored to smallholders and Indigenous and women-led enterprises. Without GEF support, structural barriers to accessing finance for restoration and sustainable production would persist, especially for marginalized groups.
- Component 4: Development of early warning systems, digital community monitoring platforms, and evidence-based decision-making databases. Without GEF intervention, environmental monitoring systems would remain fragmented, limiting response capacity to land degradation and climate change.

86. The GEF investment will generate GEBs unattainable under the baseline, including:

- Restoration of degraded lands and conservation of native forests.
- Improvement of ecosystem health and services.
- Avoidance of 605,643 tons CO₂eq emissions.
- Direct benefits to 7,676 individuals, contributing to Ecuador's NDCs, LDN targets, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Targets 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 22, 23).

87. Additionally, the project will produce important social and economic co-benefits, such as improved rural livelihoods, equitable access to services and financing, and strengthened female and Indigenous leadership in landscape management, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience to future pressures.

88. The project will also enhance policy coherence by mainstreaming LDN, ecosystem-based adaptation, bioeconomy, and integrated water management into national and local planning frameworks, supporting key

national strategies (National Biodiversity Strategy, REDD+ Action Plan, National Adaptation Plan, and National Landscape Restoration Plan).

89. Capacity strengthening across all components will empower local governments, Indigenous communities, and women's and youth organizations to drive the transition towards sustainable and regenerative development models.

90. Finally, the project incorporates an innovative linkage between local landscape management actions and national monitoring systems for land degradation and carbon emissions, improving fine-scale data for national and international reporting, with high potential for replication across other Amazonian watersheds.

Socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project

91. The project will deliver integrated and sustainable socioeconomic benefits across landscapes in the Napo River basin. Through Component 1, the project will strengthen territorial governance and participatory land-use planning, integrating sustainability, restoration, and climate adaptation criteria into local planning instruments. This will create new economic opportunities for local and Indigenous communities by promoting diversified livelihoods and reducing socioeconomic vulnerability. Key interventions include:

- Integration of sustainable land-use practices and ecosystem service valuation into Development and Land-Use Plans (PDOTs) and Indigenous Life Plans.
- Promotion of female and youth leadership in land planning processes, fostering economic and social empowerment.
- Creation of green jobs through landscape restoration and forest conservation initiatives.

92. Under Component 2, the project will implement Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices to enhance local productive activities, including:

- Agroforestry and silvopastoral systems to sustainably increase productivity.
- Short-cycle crop cultivation linked to improved soil cover and fertility.
- Sustainable management of non-timber forest products such as Amazonian fruits, medicinal plants, and native seeds.
- Development of local value chains for forest, agricultural, and beekeeping products.
- Promotion of community-based ecotourism that supports biodiversity conservation and provides alternative income.
- Water resource management strategies to ensure sustainable access for domestic, irrigation, and productive uses.

93. These sustainable productive activities will contribute to food security, increased household income, enhanced resilience to climate-related shocks, and reduced pressure on critical ecosystems.

94. Through Component 3, the project will facilitate access to green finance for smallholders, women, youth, and Indigenous communities by:

- Establishing a Green Revolving Fund and tailored microfinance schemes.
- Providing training in financial literacy and green business plan development.
- Monitoring the economic viability and sustainability of financed initiatives.

95. Improved access to finance will help catalyze local economies, create new income sources, and reduce dependency on unsustainable extractive activities.

96. Under Component 4, the project will systematize and disseminate best practices, technical knowledge, and success stories related to ecological restoration, sustainable production, and inclusive climate finance.

This will promote the replication of green business models and scaling of positive socioeconomic impacts across other Amazonian communities.

97. Cross-cutting, the project will ensure women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples are central to capacity-building strategies, recognizing traditional knowledge, strengthening leadership roles, and guaranteeing equitable participation in project benefits. This inclusive approach will enhance gender equity, social inclusion, and the long-term sustainability of the project's socioeconomic outcomes.

Relevant stakeholders and roles

98. The successful implementation of the project will rely on effective communication, coordination, and the establishment of mechanisms that ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders throughout the project cycle.

99. At the national and subnational levels, key stakeholders include:

- Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG);
- Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF);
- Amazon Technical Secretariat (STA);
- Provincial Governments of Napo, Orellana, and Sucumbíos.

100. At the local level, relevant actors include:

- Municipal Governments of prioritized cantons;
- Indigenous communities (Kichwa, Waorani, Shuar) and mestizo communities;
- Women's and youth organizations;
- Civil society organizations (CSOs);
- Private sector actors involved in sustainable production.

101. During the project preparation phase (PPG), a comprehensive stakeholder analysis was conducted, informing the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This plan identifies key interest groups, outlines participation mechanisms, summarizes consultations conducted, and details governance arrangements, communication strategies, information management, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

102. The main stakeholders and their respective roles are summarized as follows:

Table 2: Stakeholders and roles

Type	Group	Actor	Role
Public Entity	National Government	MAATE	National environmental authority. GEF focal point and for multilateral environmental agreements. Responsible for project implementation, including inter-institutional coordination, regulations, environmental monitoring, safeguards, and technical leadership of the Project Management Unit (UGP).
	National Government	MAG	Leading institution of the agricultural sector. Responsible for the productive component, MST/MFS training, and dissemination of information on COP/PAP. Direct beneficiary and strategic partner.
	National Government	INAMHI	Supports the Early Warning System (SAT) and climate monitoring. Responsible for hydrometeorological data and coordination with MAATE for water planning.
	Local Governments	GADs (Archidona and others)	Facilitate territorial implementation. Part of the multilevel governance framework, support co-management, planning, and access to financing.

	Regional Government	CTEA (Amazonian Special Territorial District)	Key public actor in co-management, sustainable financing, strengthening indigenous capacities, and articulation with territorial governance mechanisms. Facilitates access to common funds, bio-business networks, and Amazonian policies.
Civil Society, Peoples and Nationalities	Indigenous Organizations	CONFENIAE, FOIN, PKR	Political representation of Amazonian Indigenous peoples. Co-design projects, validate Life Plans, lead community processes, and strengthen Indigenous governance.
	Community Organizations	Co-management committees, community brigades, local communities	Key actors in territorial implementation, restoration, participatory monitoring, and decision-making regarding land, biodiversity, and water.
	Women's and Youth Organizations	Amazonian Women's Networks, Youth Network of the Yasuní BR	Participation in governance processes, leadership in restoration, monitoring, bio-businesses, and training with a gender and intersectionality focus.
Academia	Universities	IKIAM, USFQ	Partners in applied research, hydrological monitoring, capacity building, SAT design, and technical training.
NGO	Conservation and Sustainable Development	ECOCIENCIA	Supports traceability of green credits, financial monitoring, capacity building in sustainability, use of monitoring platform.
	Conservation and Sustainable Development	WCS	Supports co-management, biodiversity conservation, community strengthening, and connection with international mechanisms (LLF).
	Conservation and Sustainable Development	WWF	Promotes sustainable productive practices, ecological restoration, and conservation of strategic ecosystems.
	Conservation and Sustainable Development	CI (Conservation International)	Promotes nature-based solutions and strengthening of bio-businesses, particularly those led by women.
	Conservation and Sustainable Development	TNC (The Nature Conservancy)	Provides technical and financial assistance for ecological restoration, integrated watershed management, and development of sustainable business models with a community focus.
International Cooperation	Implementing Agency and Technical Support	UNDP	Project implementing agency. Leads formulation, supervision, safeguard compliance, gender strategy, and monitoring. Provides technical assistance and co-financing.
Bilateral Partner	Development Cooperation Agency	United Kingdom (UK)	Indirectly involved through participation in field visits and information exchange under related initiatives. No formal consultation specific to this project was conducted.
Private Sector	Social and Environmental Responsibility	Companies with CSR (Sacha Lodge, ASOBANCA, etc.)	Partners in financing bio-businesses, promoting green tax incentives, and scaling up good practices. Civil society organizations specialized in transparency and anti-corruption will also be engaged in participatory planning, monitoring, and oversight mechanisms to strengthen project governance and accountability at national and subnational levels.
Productive Sector	Rural Producers and Associations	Agricultural producers, community associations	Beneficiaries of training, access to green credits, promotion of bioeconomy, productive restoration, and fair trade.
Financial	Financial Institutions	BanEcuador, BEDE, BIOFIN, CONAFIPS	Provision of green credits, financial technical assistance, innovative mechanisms, and revolving funds with a focus on gender and inclusion.
	Water Funds	FONAG, FODESNA	Design and implementation of sustainable financing schemes, water conservation, and payments for ecosystem services.

103. The effective engagement of these stakeholders is essential to ensure that the project delivers durable global environmental benefits and adaptation outcomes. It will also promote the inclusion of historically marginalized groups—such as women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples—in territorial governance and in the development of the local green economy.

Knowledge management

104. The project will implement a robust Knowledge Management Strategy (Component 4) to collect, systematize, and disseminate information, analysis, results, best practices, and lessons learned on sustainable landscape management, ecosystem restoration, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and ecosystem-based adaptation.

105. Knowledge products to be developed include:

- Educational videos and radio programs tailored for local stakeholders.
- Technical and outreach publications.
- Virtual training modules (e-learning) and podcasts.
- Documented case studies and peer-reviewed scientific articles.

106. All knowledge products will be designed to be inclusive and accessible, targeting women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and rural smallholders to ensure broad relevance and utility.

107. The project will also implement an awareness and communication strategy to inform key stakeholders—including local governments, communities, producer groups, and grassroots organizations—about available mechanisms and information related to restoration, conservation, sustainable production, and inclusive climate finance. This strategy aims to strengthen local capacities, promote behavioral changes conducive to sustainability, and increase ownership of project outcomes.

108. A participatory digital monitoring system will be established to track key indicators such as biodiversity status, vegetation cover, land productivity, carbon emissions avoided, and restoration of degraded areas. Data will be continuously updated and made publicly available to decision-makers, local communities, and the general public, promoting transparency, accountability, and adaptive management.

109. Additionally, the project will disseminate internal and external technical reports, policy briefs, methodological manuals, and documented case studies at national and international levels. Knowledge exchange spaces—including regional forums and virtual seminars—will be organized to foster the replication of successful experiences and strengthen collaborative networks across the Amazon region.

110. The project's Results Framework incorporates specific indicators to measure the impact of the knowledge management strategy, including:

- Number of knowledge products developed.
- Number of people trained.
- Number of stakeholders applying the generated information in decision-making.
- Geographic reach of disseminated best practices.

111. Through these efforts, the project will not only generate high-quality technical and scientific knowledge but also promote its practical application in sustainable landscape management, contributing to social, economic, and environmental transformation processes in the Napo River basin.

Policy coherence, human, institutional and technical capacities, and innovation

112. The project will strengthen policy coherence by promoting an integrated landscape management approach that identifies resource needs, supports the development of planning instruments, and formulates regulatory mechanisms for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of Amazonian ecosystems. These efforts are aligned with Ecuador's commitments to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

113. Integrated Landscape Management Plans will be developed, articulating environmental, agricultural, forestry, and water sectors. These plans will integrate ecosystem-based adaptation, bioeconomy, and sustainable land management approaches into territorial planning instruments at local, cantonal, and

provincial levels. This will enhance the coherence between conservation, production, and development policies and align them with national biodiversity, climate change, and landscape restoration strategies.

114. The project will also strengthen human, institutional, and technical capacities across national, provincial, and local levels through:

- Training public officials on LDN, SLM/SFM approaches, climate finance, and sustainable bioeconomy practices.
- Strengthening community organizations' capacities, particularly women's, youth, and Indigenous groups, for the management of restoration and sustainable production projects.
- Building technical competencies for the design, operation, and monitoring of conservation, restoration, and climate adaptation projects at the landscape scale.
- Creating inter-institutional cooperation alliances to foster multi-sectoral and multi-level coordination in the Napo River basin.

115. The project's principal innovation lies in the implementation of restoration, sustainable management, and inclusive financing actions at the landscape level, directly linked to national priorities for monitoring land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity. Investments will generate detailed data on vegetation cover, land productivity, biodiversity, and carbon stocks, feeding into national monitoring and reporting systems with fine-scale, territory-based information.

116. This integrated landscape management approach in the Ecuadorian Amazon has strong replication potential in other watersheds facing similar challenges of degradation, ecosystem pressure, and climate vulnerability.

Additionally, the project will pilot innovative inclusive financing mechanisms, such as the Green Revolving Fund, to enhance access to financial resources for smallholders, women, and Indigenous communities, supporting restoration and sustainable production initiatives.

117. The innovation strategy will further strengthen digital capacities through community-based participatory monitoring platforms, early warning tools, and accessible geographic information systems. These tools will enhance evidence-based decision-making and build the socio-ecological resilience of prioritized landscapes.

118. Collectively, these actions will ensure that project outcomes are sustainable, scalable, and resilient to future changes in degradation drivers, delivering transformational impact in biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and community well-being in the Napo River basin.

[3] In this context, "clubs" refer to informal community groups of individuals with shared interests in production, nutrition, and Sustainable Land Management (SLM). These are not school-based entities, but rather community-led spaces designed to: (i) receive training on SLM and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); (ii) maintain practices and knowledge beyond workshops; (iii) promote peer learning and experience-sharing; (iv) integrate agroecology and nutrition knowledge for family wellbeing; (v) foster youth and women's participation through inclusive norms and engaging activities; and (vi) potentially mobilize additional support through partnerships with Agroecological Innovation Centers and other stakeholders.

[4] The explicit inclusion of biodiversity conservation in the title of Component 3 responds to the need to more clearly reflect the project's strategic alignment with the three priority focal areas of GEF-8: biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. Although the component already includes actions that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, this modification aims to enhance its visibility and ensure coherence with the project's integrated landscape approach.

[5] The financial sustainability of the project will be developed jointly with institutional and territorial stakeholders, taking into account potential synergies with existing mechanisms, without implying a fixed or exclusive definition.

[6] The FONAFIFO model from Costa Rica is a national Payment for Environmental Services (PES) scheme that compensates landowners for forest conservation and water resource protection, funded through taxes and contributions from water users.

[7] Ancestral agroforestry systems that hold great importance for biodiversity conservation and the transmission of traditional knowledge.

[8] **Note on Output Sequencing Adjustment in Component 4:** To enhance the logic and effectiveness of Component 4 on knowledge management, a minor sequencing adjustment was made to the outputs compared to the approved PIF. The capacity-building and virtual learning platform—initially listed as Output 4.1.2—has been moved to Output 4.1.1. Conversely, the Early Warning System (EWS) originally listed as Output 4.1.1 is now Output 4.1.2. This reordering reflects the role of the training platform as the central mechanism to disseminate and apply the data generated by the EWS and other project tools. The change does not affect the substance of the outputs and is consistent with the project’s knowledge management and stakeholder empowerment strategy.

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)

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Institutional Arrangement

The Implementing Partner for the project is the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition (MAATE). The Implementing Partner is responsible for the technical and operational implementation of the project, the achievement of results, and the effective use of funds, in coordination with UNDP.

119. UNDP, acting as the GEF Implementing Agency and Development Partner, will provide strategic, financial, administrative, and procurement oversight, ensuring the application of safeguards and compliance with international fiduciary, environmental, and social standards. UNDP will oversee the project’s implementation to ensure it meets the standards and provisions agreed with the GEF, assuming ultimate accountability for project compliance.

Project execution will be operationally managed by the Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will be responsible for the day-to-day technical and operational management of the project, including the supervision of consultants and contractors, preparation of technical and financial reports, project monitoring, and coordination with key stakeholders. To ensure decentralized technical execution across the prioritized hydrographic units of the Napo River Basin (Aguarico sub-basin, Coca sub-basin, and Hydrographic Unit CH 49789), two Territorial Coordination Offices will be established. These offices will facilitate articulation with Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs), community organizations, productive sector actors, and other ongoing programs, ensuring continuous and context-adapted technical support. The PMU includes a Project Coordinator, a Financial Officer, thematic specialists in sustainable production, forest management, water resources, green finance, gender, safeguards, and communications, as well as territorial coordinators, technical officers, facilitators, and community promoters. This structure will ensure that project activities are effectively implemented under the COS NIM modality, in close alignment with national systems and priorities.

120. The flow of funds will follow UNDP and GEF established procedures: financial resources will be transferred from the GEF Trust Fund to UNDP, and expenditures will be executed in accordance with the approved multi-year and annual work plans. Procurement processes will adhere to UNDP procurement rules and regulations to ensure transparency, competitiveness, and efficiency.

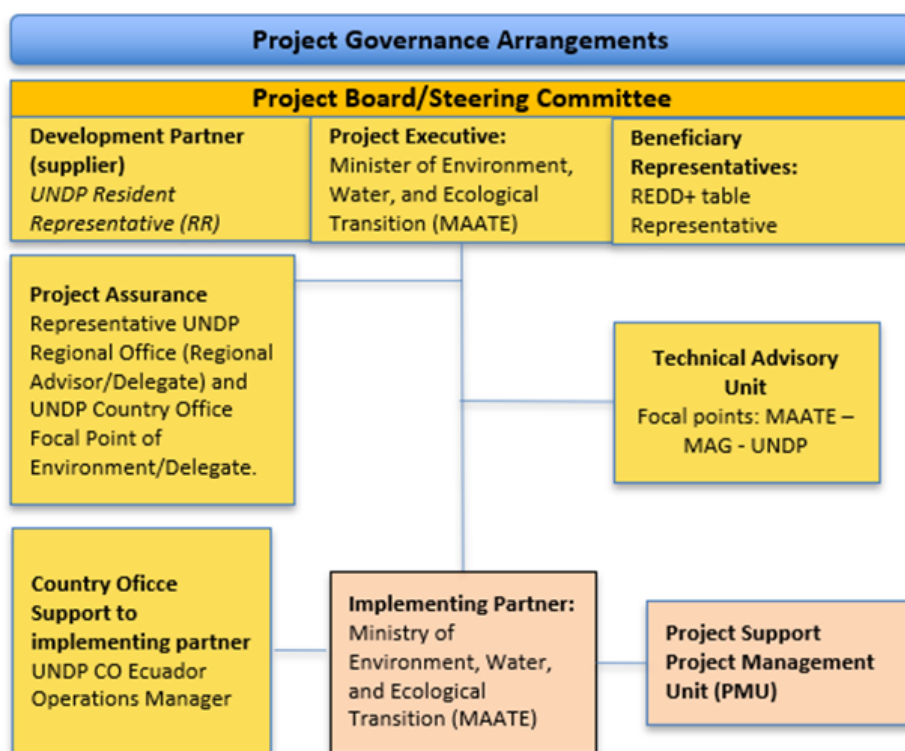
121. The project will be audited according to UNDP’s Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies. The audit plan and cycle will be confirmed during the Inception Workshop. Annual audits of the Implementing Partner (MAATE) will be conducted, and audit costs will be included under Project Management Costs as per GEF and UNDP guidelines.

122. The highest decision-making body within the project’s governance structure is the Project Board (Steering Committee).

123. The Project Board is responsible for strategic oversight, decision-making, and project monitoring. It will be composed of:

- **Project Executive:** The Minister of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition (MAATE), representing national project ownership and providing high-level leadership.
- **Development Partner:** The UNDP Resident Representative (RR), representing the interests of the GEF and providing strategic oversight.
- **Beneficiary Representative:** A REDD+ Table Representative, who represents the interests of beneficiaries, particularly Indigenous Peoples, rural communities, and stakeholders engaged in landscape restoration and climate action.

Supported NIM for National Project



First line of defense

- Person providing oversight of execution support (COS) cannot report to UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR

Second line of defense

- Regional Bureau oversees RR and function of UNDP compliance in project assurance
- BPPS VF RTA oversees functions of technical oversight and GEF compliance in project assurance. BPPS VF PTA oversees RTA function.
- UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight

124. To promote synergies and strengthen coordination, the project will establish collaboration mechanisms with ongoing initiatives in the Napo River Basin, including restoration programs led by Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) and biodiversity conservation efforts supported by bilateral and multilateral donors. Synergies will be enhanced through the co-location of activities, the joint use of technical, logistical, and human resources, and the exchange of knowledge and methodologies. Furthermore, cooperation will be reinforced with the Technical Secretariat of the Amazonian Special Territorial Circumscription (CTEA), facilitating the application of common methodologies and the scaling-up of successful approaches. The project will also coordinate with the Amazon Multidonor Trust Fund (AMDTF), particularly through its Bioeconomy strategy initiatives in Napo and Pastaza. Other relevant initiatives to be mapped and synergized include: the REDD Early Movers Program (REM Ecuador), the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) supported by the Green Climate Fund, bilateral cooperation projects from Germany (BMZ), and biodiversity programs supported by USAID and other international donors.

125. Building on the experience of the REDD Early Movers (REM) Ecuador Program, the project will incorporate key lessons learned, including: the importance of community-driven planning for land use management; the need for transparent benefit-sharing mechanisms for REDD+ incentives; and the value of strengthening local institutional capacities for sustainable landscape management. These lessons will inform the design of incentive schemes, participatory governance structures, and capacity-building activities under project Components 2 and 3.

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

Yes

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

126. The government of Ecuador has requested UNDP to facilitate the services under the UNDP's Support to National Implementation Modality (COS to NIM) for this GEF-8 project as stated in the Letter of Endorsement issued by the GEF OFP and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services[9], provided however that such costs will not be charged to the project budget but will be fully covered by non-GEF resources.. In this context, UNDP will create an account and facilitate payments for all expenses authorized by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE). MAATE will have complete control over the project, one of its functions being to review and approve all project documents (TDRs, products, strategies, etc.), but they would not be responsible for managing contracting or being contract administrators, which allows them to have all the knowledge of the technical processes and become empowered/strengthened without having to spend their time on administrative and financial processes.

127. Also, UNDP will hire a Project Management Unit, comprised of a national team, employing an open and transparent hiring process, which will be in charge of the execution of the project's activities and there will be full separation of functions between oversight and execution.

128. The Environment and Energy Unit of the UNDP Ecuador Country Office has a Coordinator and Associate that provide oversight, with the support of Senior Management, including the Resident Representative and Deputy Resident Representative who will participate on the project's Steering Committee. In addition, the CO has a technical team that ensures proper monitoring and high standards of implementation with strong coordination with national implementing partners. Finally, audit and evaluation exercises ensure independent analysis of operational processes and programmatic results. An effective firewall is thus in place.

129. The alternative to UNDP providing these services would be a full NIM, where the funding would be transferred to the government, and the government would need to create an account for the project. It should be noted that when the GEF fund is managed through State accounts (Full NIM), it must comply with all the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economy for all public institutions.

130. Several restrictions within the national public finance and procurement framework present serious constraints for implementing this project under a full National Implementation Modality (NIM):

- No possibility of increasing current government staffing levels: Budget ceilings for personnel prevent the hiring of dedicated project staff. This would force implementation with existing MAATE personnel, significantly increasing their workload and risking delays.
- Inability to contract consultancies: Under current rules, the Ministry may only procure goods, not professional services. This restriction would hinder the achievement of several project objectives that require specialized expertise from companies and consultants.
- Complexity in establishing a dedicated project account: Creating a single exclusive account within the public financial system—a mandatory requirement for project fund management—is an administratively complex and time-consuming process, delaying start-up.

131. Beyond these systemic constraints, additional factors reinforce the need for applying the Support to NIM modality:

1. Limited fiduciary and procurement capacity: Documented in the MAATE Capacity Assessment (valid until December 2025), which recognizes the Ministry's strong technical capabilities but highlights significant limitations in financial management and procurement processes, posing risks to timely and transparent execution.
2. Institutional restructuring: The recent merger of MAATE with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, which downgraded MAATE to a subsecretariat, has led to staff reductions and organizational changes that further erode direct management capacity. This restructuring occurred after the project design and exacerbates the limitations identified in the capacity assessment.
3. Field implementation conditions: The project will operate in areas of high ecological fragility and within Indigenous Peoples' territories, requiring flexible, culturally sensitive, and agile management. The Support to NIM modality guarantees operational proximity through a Project Management Unit (PMU) administered by UNDP, working directly with GADs, the Technical Secretariat of the Amazon Territorial Circumscription (CTEA), Indigenous nationalities, and other local actors.
4. Regulatory restrictions on hiring: Current regulations prevent MAATE from directly hiring the personnel needed for project execution, making it essential for UNDP to handle recruitment to ensure the timely and effective delivery of activities.

132. In accordance with GEF guidelines, execution support services will be strictly limited to administrative, financial, and procurement functions. No Direct Project Costs (DPC) will be charged to the GEF budget; these costs will be fully covered by confirmed UNDP co-financing. The division of roles and firewall structure between oversight (by the UNDP CO) and execution (by the PMU) will ensure compliance with fiduciary standards.

133. Furthermore, it is important to note that public procurement processes are often lengthy, costly, and unattractive to potential suppliers due to procedural complexity and uncertainty in payment timelines. This results in low bidder participation for goods and services, further limiting the capacity to deliver results and comply with UNDP/GEF standards.

134. For these reasons, the Government of Ecuador has formally requested UNDP to provide operational and administrative support services, while retaining full accountability for project implementation and alignment with national priorities and policies (country ownership). This arrangement ensures that the project benefits from specialized technical and administrative staff under UNDP management, operating in close coordination with national counterparts to guarantee efficiency, transparency, and timely delivery.

135. It is important to emphasize that the selection of UNDP for project execution by the government was not arbitrary. Information collected from various NGOs capable of delivering procurement services indicates that UNDP provides the most cost-effective solution, in contrast, other NGOs charge considerably higher percentages, ranging from 7% to 10%.

[9] GEF approval to COS NIM at the PIF stage: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rCoQnZfwsZ68iufv9eq3BN9F_Wqa6ZIL/view?usp=sharing

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)

Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

Project	Agency	Relevance for this Full-sized Project (FSP)
Building Opportunities for Sustainable Growth in the Ecuadorian Amazon & Loja	UNDP / UK PACT	The project aims to catalyze Ecuador's transition towards deforestation-free production by strengthening national regulatory frameworks and empowering local producer organizations to implement efficient value chains for coffee, cocoa, and livestock in the Amazon region (Orellana, Sucumbios, Napo, Morona Santiago, Zamora Chinchipe) and Loja. Synergies will be established in promoting sustainable production models in the Napo basin.
GEF-8 Small Grants Programme (SGP) - Ecuador	UNDP / GEF	The project focuses on supporting bio-enterprises, their market access, and their integration into landscape management. There will be cooperation in strengthening local economies, supporting value chains aligned with biodiversity conservation and land restoration goals in the project intervention areas.
Use of Financial Returns from PPR (Green Climate Fund)	UNDP / GCF	The project focuses on updating the REDD+ Action Plan and supporting local communities in implementing measures that contribute to REDD+ goals and improving livelihoods. Coordination will be established for community-led sustainable land management initiatives and territorial governance linked to REDD+ targets in the Napo River Basin.

136. The project is strategically aligned and seeks active synergies with a wide range of national and regional initiatives currently underway in the Napo River Basin. These initiatives—led by national and local governments, Indigenous organizations, international cooperation agencies, and civil society—have laid important foundations for integrated landscape management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable production.

137. At the national level, the project will build upon and continue the work of the PROAmazonía and PPR projects, leveraging their lessons learned, installed capacities, and territorial collaboration networks. The project is also aligned with and complements strategic policies and programs such as the National Landscape Restoration Plan, the REDD+ Action Plan, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and the National Action Plan for Land Degradation Neutrality (NAP-LDN).

138. At the regional level, the project will promote coordination with the Amazonian Special Territorial Circumscription (CTEA), particularly through the application to its Common Window fund, which represents a key opportunity for financial leverage and policy integration to support sustainable development in the Amazon. Coordination will also be strengthened with the Water Protection Fund (FONAG), which supports integrated watershed management through public-private partnerships, and with the Amazonian Bio-Corridor Fund (FBCA), which may contribute co-financing to support the conservation of strategic ecosystems.

139. At the local level, the project will coordinate closely with programs led by Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) focused on ecological restoration and water resource management, such as municipal reforestation plans and the management of Hydrological Protection Areas (APH). It will also

support—and in some cases scale up—existing community initiatives such as Napu Marka and the Kichwa Amazon Chakra Seal.

140. Importantly, the project recognizes and will strengthen the implementation of Indigenous Life Plans as key instruments for community-led territorial planning. These plans will be integrated with local Development and Land Use Plans (PDOTs), ensuring that Indigenous visions, priorities, and governance systems guide sustainable development actions within ancestral territories.

141. Concrete opportunities for co-location have been identified in at least four of the prioritized sites, where active or recently completed projects have left behind installed capacities, infrastructure, and organizational platforms that can be leveraged. The experiences of PROAmazonía and PPR in Pastaza and Orellana provide technical inputs, community nurseries, and trained local leaders who will be actively involved in the implementation of Component 2.

142. In terms of knowledge and staffing, the project will promote joint training sessions, exchange of best practices, and shared technical missions among MAATE, GADs, universities (such as IKIAM and USFQ), and civil society organizations (such as NCI, CI, and WWF). Youth and Indigenous leadership programs will also be strengthened in coordination with academic and applied research initiatives.

143. Finally, a coordination platform will be established or strengthened under Component 1 to align activities, avoid duplication, and mobilize complementary investments—ensuring robust territorial impact and long-term sustainability of the project.

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)
125000	125001	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)
10000	10000	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)
Unidades de Patrimonio Forestal del Estado		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		10,000.00		
Zona de amortiguamiento del Parque Nacional Llanganates	97512 (Llanganates)	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	10,000.00			

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)
115000	115001	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
APH AGUARICO CHINGUAL COFANES				33,833.00			30.00		
BP BERMEJO		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		3,267.00			10.00		
BP CERRO SUMACO Y CUENCA ALTA DEL RIO SUNO		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		33,100.00			10.00		
BP COMUNAS DEL BAJO NAPO		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		37,211.00			21.00		
BP ESTACION CIENTIFICA PAYAMIN O		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		319.00			31.00		
BP HABITAGUA		Protected area with sustainable use		1,481.00			15.00		

		of natural resource s							
BP PANACOC HA		Protecte d area with sustaina ble use of natural resource s		3,992.00			18.00		
BP PARTE MEDIA Y ALTA DEL RIO TIGRE		Protecte d area with sustaina ble use of natural resource s							
BP PARTE MEDIA Y ALTA DEL RIO TIGRE		Protecte d area with sustaina ble use of natural resource s		1,798.00			11.00		
Zonas de amortiguami ento del Parque Nacional Llanganates y Parque Nacional Yasuní	97512 (Llanganates) 186 (Yasuní)	Protecte d area with sustaina ble use of natural resource s	115,000. 00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
4020	4020	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	1,895.00	0.00		
Rangeland and pasture	2,125.00	3,020.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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	1,000.00		
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Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
45178	45178	0	0

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
21,188.00	21,188.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
23,990.00	23,990.00		

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

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	605643	605643	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	605,643	605,643		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2026	2026		
Duration of accounting	4	4		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	3,070	3,070		
Male	4,606	4,606		
Total	7,676	7,676	0	0

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

- CI 1: 125,000 ha of terrestrial ecosystems under improved management across protective forests, Water Protection Areas (APH), Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (ACUS), and State Forest Heritage (PSB).
- CI 3: 4,020 ha of ecosystems under restoration, including:

- o 1,000 ha in protected areas (passive and active restoration).
- o 3,020 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored through analog forestry and productive restoration.
- CI 4: 45,179 ha of landscapes applying sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable land management (SLM) practices outside protected areas. Divided into:
 - o 21,189 ha of sustainable forest management and
 - o 23,990 ha of improved agricultural production systems enhancing food security.
- CI 6: 605,643 tCO₂eq of greenhouse gas emissions avoided through interventions reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable land management.
- CI 11: 7,676 people (40% women) benefiting from governance participation, sustainable production, financial access initiatives, and knowledge management systems.

144. The definition of target levels for the project's core and sub-indicators was based on a rigorous methodology that combined quantitative tools, spatial analysis, and participatory validation. This approach was structured around three complementary phases: technical analysis, geospatial modeling, and participatory processes with key stakeholders.

145. First, a multivariable prioritization model was implemented, based on the weighted factors method and the Delphi technique, applied by an interinstitutional panel of experts. Thirteen mappable variables were used, including vegetation cover, fragile ecosystems, Indigenous territories, areas of hydrological importance, and protected areas. These variables were weighed in coordination with MAATE and the Results-Based Payment Project team to ensure alignment with sectoral policies and environmental priorities.

146. Second, the data were integrated into a GIS model using 1 km² hexagons as the unit of analysis. A standardized prioritization index (scale 1–100) was generated, identifying clusters with values above 75 as high-priority intervention areas. This information was cross-referenced with baseline data and climate threats to define realistic and territorially viable targets.

147. Complementarily, additional costs associated with access to remote areas and security risks in territories partially controlled by irregular forces or illegal activities such as drug trafficking and illegal mining were also considered. These factors represented an estimated 10–20% increase in operational costs, which was integrated into the logic of target-setting, prioritizing strategic interventions in areas where the environmental and social impact justifies the additional effort.

148. Finally, the targets were validated with MAATE, local governments, and Indigenous communities, ensuring that the indicators reflect both the transformative ambition of GEF-8 and the local implementation capacity.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Climate change presents substantial risks to the project area, particularly through intensified rainfall patterns and extreme weather events. Currently, the Napo River Basin faces a moderate climate threat; however, projections under the Representative Concentration Pathway scenario (RCP 8.5) indicate that 65% of the basin's surface area could experience a shift to a high-threat level due to increased rainfall intensity. Within this vulnerable area, 58% is dedicated to low-technology agricultural systems (cacao, oil palm, maize, plantain, among others), exposing approximately 212,944 families to greater climate-related risks, including floods, soil erosion, and loss of livelihoods. In response, the project integrates targeted adaptation strategies such as ecosystem restoration, hydrometeorological monitoring, development of climate-resilient production systems, and strengthening of local technical capacities to enhance community resilience to climate change impacts.
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Environmental risks include land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and pressure on critical habitats. Socially, there is risk of exclusion, gender inequality, and inadequate grievance management. Mitigation includes the ESMF, stakeholder engagement plans, and community-based restoration. For detailed reference of each of the potential risks management measures, please refer to the separate annex of this CEO Endorsement Request. SES Annex is included in the project RoadMap as a separate file.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Mitigation measures include the establishment of formal agreements with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), the use of REDD+ mechanisms such as the REDD+ Roundtable to ensure alignment with national climate and forest policies, and the strengthening of inter-institutional platforms. These platforms foster coordination between decentralized autonomous governments (GADs), indigenous organizations, local communities, financial institutions, and academic entities. The project promotes the formation and operation of a multi-level governance mechanism for the Napo River Basin, aligned with territorial management instruments such as the Territorial Development and Land-Use Plans (PDOTs) and Life Plans of indigenous communities. Specific mitigation strategies include the signing of inter-institutional cooperation agreements, development of joint co-management plans, establishment of technical committees for landscape management, and articulation with national programs like REDD+, the National Land Degradation Neutrality Action Plan (NAP-LDN), and the

		National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP). Moreover, local planning processes will incorporate climate risk management and gender-responsive approaches, ensuring inclusive and coordinated action across sectors and governance levels.
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INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	This poses a moderate risk due to potential weaknesses in inter-institutional coordination and limited local capacity. Effective innovation often requires strong collaboration between multiple governmental and non-governmental entities, yet fragmented communication and misaligned priorities among institutions may hinder progress. Additionally, local capacity constraints—such as limited expertise, financial resources, and institutional infrastructure—could slow the adoption and implementation of innovative practices. Without adequate mechanisms for coordination and capacity-building, there is a risk that innovation efforts may not be sustained or effectively integrated into broader policy frameworks. To mitigate this risk, the project introduces innovation by integrating ILM and LDN into local planning (PDOTs and Life Plans), which requires close coordination across multiple institutions with differing mandates and capacities. Inter-institutional platforms and territorial coordination mechanisms will also be established, alongside capacity-building efforts, to ensure policy alignment and institutional ownership.
Technological	Low	Identified Risk: There is a risk that local communities may not adequately adopt or implement the locally adapted techniques, early warning systems, or restoration tools due to limited technical capacity, cultural barriers, or lack of ownership. Mitigation Measure: To mitigate this risk, the project will implement a robust participatory training and continuous technical assistance program, designed with an intercultural approach and tailored to the local context. This program will include hands-on training, ongoing technical support, and community validation of the implemented solutions. Additionally, feedback mechanisms will be established to ensure strategies can be adjusted based on local experience, thereby enhancing ownership and long-term sustainability.
Financial and Business Model	Substantial	The reliance on in-kind co-financing and institutions such as BanEcuador presents significant risks. These risks include potential delays or non-compliance in the delivery of committed resources, misalignment with project timelines or standards, and challenges in ensuring the long-term sustainability of results. To mitigate these risks, the project will formalize specific cooperation agreements and implement targeted financial training programs and the provision of adapted financial tools, with a particular focus on women and Indigenous producers, to strengthen their financial resilience and autonomy.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	Although MAATE presents low risk in internal control, procurement, financial and program management (according to the HACT micro-
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		assessment), multilevel implementation in the Napo River Basin implies coordination risks due to socio-cultural and territorial diversity. The project mitigates these risks through: - A strengthened PMU in Quito and territorial coordinations in Tena and Nueva Loja; - Coordination protocols between national and local levels; - Ongoing training in territorial management, resilient production and participatory monitoring; - Standardized planning and reporting systems; - Technical assistance to integrate Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) approaches into local instruments. MAATE's strong administrative capacity, reinforced by these measures, allows for risk control, although the territorial complexity maintains its classification as moderate.
Fiduciary	Low	The fiduciary risk is classified as Low. The Implementing Partner (MAATE) demonstrated low fiduciary risk across all areas evaluated (financial management, procurement, internal control, and program management) according to the UNDP HACT micro-assessment. Under the Full NIM modality, financial management, procurement, and reporting responsibilities lie with the Implementing Partner, but they are subject to regular oversight and quality assurance by UNDP. The project will follow UNDP's fiduciary standards to ensure compliance with GEF policies, including the use of approved procurement processes, financial audits, internal controls, and risk management protocols. Annual external audits of the Implementing Partner will be conducted, and expenditure verification procedures will be applied. UNDP will monitor fiduciary compliance through its Project Assurance function and maintain segregation of duties to ensure independent oversight of financial management. These measures guarantee fiduciary integrity and transparency, justifying the classification of the fiduciary risk as Low.
Stakeholder	Substantial	The stakeholder risk is classified as Substantial due to the project's work with Indigenous Peoples, rural communities, women, and youth. While the HACT assessment shows that MAATE has sufficient capacity for stakeholder engagement, challenges remain in ensuring culturally appropriate and continuous participation. Mitigation measures include: • Application of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols; • Implementation of a Gender Action Plan (GAP); • Deployment of a Grievance and Response Mechanism, adapted to Indigenous languages; • Capacity-building for MAATE and local actors on participatory and rights-based approaches; • Coordination with Indigenous and local organizations (e.g., CONFENIAE, FOIN, PKR) to validate governance and production plans. These actions aim to ensure inclusive participation and reduce social risks during project implementation.
Other	Low	Risk of misuse of traditional knowledge is addressed via IP frameworks and cooperation with intellectual property authorities.
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	Given the project's sensitive sociocultural and environmental context, the overall risk is rated as substantial. Strong safeguards, including an ESMF,

Indigenous Peoples Plan, and Gender Action Plan are included to manage these risks.

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)

149. The project is fully aligned with the GEF-8 Programming Strategies, particularly in the focal areas of biodiversity (BD-1), land degradation (LD-1), and climate change (CCM-1), through integrated interventions that promote ecological restoration, sustainable land and forest management, and climate resilience. In addition, it is articulated with the GEF-8 Integrated Programs on Ecosystem Restoration and Food Systems.

150. At the national level, the project is framed within the strategic priorities established in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the National Action Plan for Land Degradation Neutrality (NAP-LDN), the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the National Landscape Restoration Plan, all of which are linked to Ecuador's commitments under the CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC. Coherence is further strengthened through the integration of indigenous Life Plans with territorial planning instruments (PDOT), thus promoting inclusive, multilevel governance.

151. This project directly contributes to the following targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

Target	Project contribution
TARGET 1: Participatory and Inclusive Land-Use Planning	The project will strengthen participatory land-use planning through the development and implementation of territorial planning instruments and local regulations aligned with integrated landscape management and effective participation of Indigenous peoples and women, covering the Napo River Basin.
TARGET 2: Restore 30% of Degraded Ecosystems	The project will contribute to the restoration of 4,020 ha of degraded ecosystems, including protective forests, water protection areas, and agricultural lands, using active and passive restoration approaches and analog forestry to enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity.
TARGET 3: Conservation of 30% of the Territory	The project will improve management across 125,000 ha of terrestrial ecosystems within protective forests, conservation areas, and State Forest Heritage, contributing to national targets for the conservation of biodiversity and critical ecosystems.
TARGET 9: Sustainable Production Systems	The project will promote sustainable production systems by applying Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices over 45,179 ha of agricultural and forest landscapes, integrating climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, and sustainable bioenterprises with gender and Indigenous inclusion.
TARGET 11: Participatory and Equitable Conservation	The project will strengthen participatory conservation through governance mechanisms that include Indigenous peoples, women, and youth in decision-making spaces, ensuring inclusive management of landscapes and water protection zones through co-management agreements and Life Plans.
TARGET 23: Inclusive and Rights-Based Approaches	The project fully incorporates Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for Indigenous peoples, affirmative actions for women's participation, and inclusive decision-making structures, ensuring rights-based approaches throughout all phases of design, implementation, and monitoring.

152. These targets are addressed through the restoration of 4,020 ha, sustainable management of 125,000 ha, strengthening of local capacities, and the empowerment of women and indigenous peoples.

153. No national policies have been identified that would contradict the project's implementation. However, the challenge of fragmented governance and the limited integration of environmental criteria in local planning instruments is acknowledged. To address this, the project includes the establishment of multilevel governance mechanisms and inter-institutional agreements, as well as strengthening of technical capacities in local governments (GADs) and communities. These actions will help harmonize policies and ensure the institutional and environmental sustainability of the expected outcomes.

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;

Co-financier; **Yes**

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

Executor or co-executor;

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).

Yes, confirmed.

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 (\$)
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	3,132,713.00	297,607.00	3,430,320.00
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM- 1-1	Grant	1,763,995.00	167,580.00	1,931,575.00
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	4,085,712.00	388,143.00	4,473,855.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						8,982,420.00	853,330.00	9,835,750.00

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(\$)
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UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	52,315.00	4,970.00	57,285.00
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-1	29,457.00	2,798.00	32,255.00
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	68,228.00	6,482.00	74,710.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	3,487,605.00
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,963,830.00
UNDP	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,548,565.00
Total GEF Resources					10,000,000.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
LD-1	GET	3,132,713.00	24103505
CCM-1-1	GET	1,763,995.00	13572409
BD-1-1	GET	4,085,712.00	31436004
Total Project Cost		8,982,420.00	69,111,918.00

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	MAATE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	57440420

Recipient Country Government	BANECUADOR	Grant	Investment mobilized	5000000
Others	ECOCIENCIA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1250773
Others	CONFENIAE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1110000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Others	IKIAM	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400000
Others	BYOS	Grant	Investment mobilized	360725
Others	CATIE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Others	ECOPAR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250000
Others	HIVOS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Others	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000
Recipient Country Government	GAD Archidona	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50000
Others	PASOS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	30000
Recipient Country Government	BDE	Grant	Investment mobilized	2000000
GEF Agency	UNESCO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	120000
Total Co-financing				69,111,918.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

154. BanEcuador (Mobilized Investment – in cash): BanEcuador B.P., Ecuador’s public development bank focused on rural and urban productive sectors, has committed to mobilizing up to USD 5,000,000 in cash through a targeted financing line for sustainable productive development in the project’s intervention areas. The credit line will prioritize small-scale producers, Indigenous Peoples, and rural women, supporting:

- Bio-enterprises based on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs),
- Agroecological and sustainable agroforestry systems,
- Women- and youth-led initiatives in rural settings,
- Sustainable aquaculture using native species for food and livelihood security,
- Water-related enterprises including wastewater treatment, environmental sanitation, and watershed protection.

155. The financing will be delivered directly to territorial beneficiaries and coordinated with project implementation mechanisms, promoting financial inclusion, gender equity, and environmental sustainability, in alignment with GEF-8 objectives.

156. Banco de Desarrollo del Ecuador B.P. – BDE (Mobilized Investment – in cash): The Banco de Desarrollo del Ecuador B.P. (BDE) commits USD 2,000,000 in cash as co-financing for the period 2026–2030 to support the implementation of the project

“Integrated Landscape Management in the Napo River Basin.” This contribution will be deployed through concessional credit, technical assistance, and blended finance schemes (grants and loans), supporting green infrastructure, sustainable public works (e.g., environmental sanitation, solid waste, ecosystem restoration), and subnational governance for climate resilience. The financing will also target inclusive economic opportunities for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, and will align with BDE’s strategy to consolidate its role as a “Green Bank,” while advancing the climate, biodiversity, and inclusive development goals of GEF-8.

157. BYOS (Mobilized Investment): The BYOS Corporation commits USD 360,725 in cash from an agreement with Andes Amazon Fund (AAF). This financing will support the creation and management of Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (ACUS) in the cantons of Archidona, Tena, and Loreto. Implementation will take place from 2026 to 2028 in close coordination with the project, strengthening territorial conservation and environmental sustainability.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/19/2025	Nancy Bennet		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	6/19/2025	Alexandra Fischer		alexandra.fischer@undp.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)
Mrs. Irene Schuldt Espinel	Director of International Cooperation	Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador (MAATE)	11/19/2023

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.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG1, SDG2, SDG5, SDG6, SDG13, SDG15, SDG16 y SDG17.
Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: 2.3 UNSDCF: State agencies, social organizations, in particular nations and rural indigenous peoples and afro-descendant communities, manage the territory, natural resources, environment, disaster risks and energy transition through inclusive, multi-level and multisectoral governance mechanisms

Project title and Quantum Project Number: Integrated landscape management in the Napo River Basin for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation - 01002464

	nt (hectares)	Forest Heritage (PSB), endangered species, and priority restoration areas. Baseline and prioritization will use METT (Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) or other recognized methods (e.g., IUCN Green List IBEX).		At least 39,000 hectares of existing protected areas with improved management effectiveness (≥15% METT increase).	At least 85,000[12] ² hectares of existing protected areas with improved management effectiveness (≥15% METT increase). 125,000 ha	Annual reporting on hectares under effective implementation. Monitoring of habitat availability for umbrella species. Tracking bioenterprises linked to Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).	resistance, low financing, and external threats (deforestation, fires, illegal activities). Assumptions: MAATE provides reliable data; local actors actively engage; sustained technical/financial support; GADs ensure legal backing; project monitoring enables adaptive management.
	GEF CI 1: CI 1.1. and CI 1.2.	Note: A final subset of these areas will be selected in consultation with MAATE based on readiness, co-financing, and operational feasibility. The project will rerun the METT baseline in Year 1 for selected sites to validate the target of ≥15% improvement.		64,000 ha			
	Indicator 3: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectares) (GEF CI 3: Sub-indicators CI 3.1 and CI 3.2)	Official information from MAATE (SAF, PNRP, SIGMA). Management plans of protective forests, APH, ACUS, PSB. Records of implementation of co-management agreements with GAD. Field reports.	0	2,020	4,020	Sub-indicator 3.1: Semiannual georeferencing and monitoring per PNRP–MAATE methodology. Review of management plans and co-management agreements. Execution records and field verification visits. Technical and financial progress reports. Sub-indicator 3.2: During implementation, released agricultural areas for restoration will be registered in GIS files. Beneficiary records with baseline data on	Risks: Restoration may be affected by extreme weather events, limited availability of plants/seeds, or lack of financial commitment from GAD and partners. Risk that sustainable use of restored areas may not be maintained. Assumptions: Co-management agreements will include co-financing commitments; producers/communities will maintain areas sustainably; project technical support will encourage adoption of feasible and accepted

						land cover, productivity, and/or functionality. Later, records of implemented restoration measures by beneficiaries.	restoration measures, including passive restoration.
	Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF CI 4: Sub-indicators CI 4.1 and CI 4.3)	Sub-indicator 4.1: Official information from MAATE (SAF and PNRP). Approved Forest Management Plans and Minimum Intervention Plans (PMI). Project-supported bioenterprise records. Non-timber forest products (NTFP) catalog from Amazonia (ProAmazonía, PPR). Implementation and technical monitoring reports of forest management plans. Commercialization and traceability strategies developed during the project. Sub-indicator 4.3: MAATE land cover and use map (2022). Database of agricultural areas in project intervention zones (239,326 ha identified). Geographically disaggregated data on potential for implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices. Project-generated records during SLM practice implementation and landscape management plans by producer/community.	0	24,400	45,179	Sub-indicator 4.1: Geospatial analysis of approved Forest Management Plans and their PMIs. Field verification of plan compliance, especially during harvesting and post-harvesting. Technical records of bioenterprises linked to NTFPs. Traceability of NTFPs in prioritized value chains. Review of project technical reports and MAATE documentation. Sub-indicator 4.3: Baseline from 2022 land use/cover map. GIS records of areas applying SLM practices. Preparation of landscape management plans per producer/community. Detailed record of SLM adoption in agriculture, livestock, forestry, aquaculture, and sustainable tourism. Beneficiary surveys and interviews to assess production system changes.	Risks: Lack of regulatory updates or limited MAATE operational capacity may hinder forest management plan monitoring. Low profitability or limited market access for NTFPs may reduce interest in sustainable management. Higher prices for conventional agricultural products may promote unsustainable intensive practices, reducing interest in SLM. Assumptions: MAATE will keep approval/monitoring mechanisms active; the project will facilitate financing and market access for NTFPs; local actors will be motivated to carry out sustainable forest management. SLM practices will be adopted once technical/economic feasibility is demonstrated and supported by differentiated marketing and sustainable technology packages.
	Indicator 5: Greenhouse	Deforestation Historical Map (2022);	0	200,000 tCO ₂ eq	605,643 tCO ₂ eq	Avoided emissions	Risks: High demand and prices

	gas emissions mitigated (GEF CI 6)	Projected deforestation in the Napo River basin (2021-2030) from the MAATE-PNUD Results-Based Payment Program (PPR); Estimation of avoided emissions in priority zones Z1-Z7 using national methodology: projected deforestation based on 2000–2020 rates; official emission factors from the National Forest Assessment. The spreadsheet “Estimacion de emisiones V2” is included, using the GEF methodology for avoided emissions over 20 years.				estimation starts in year 2 over a 4-year period. Multitemporal deforestation analysis in intervention zones; observed vs projected rates to determine attributable reductions. Estimated reduction: 7% in 2027–2030 (~670,929 tCO ₂ eq). Does not include carbon sequestration from AFOLU due to low initial mitigation impact.	for agricultural goods (e.g., cacao) may increase deforestation. Other threats: unplanned expansion, infrastructure, extractive activities, political/institutional instability. Technical risks include challenges in multitemporal analysis. Low initial impact of restoration and sustainable production. Assumptions: MAATE maintains methodological consistency and data availability (e.g., from PPR). Effective implementation achieves 7% deforestation reduction. Stakeholder commitment to forest conservation. Adequate institutional and financial conditions to support mitigation and monitoring (2027–2030).
Project component 1	1: Multilevel governance and coordination framework for territorial management						
Project Outcome 1.1. The regulatory framework and local territorial planning instruments are strengthened through participatory methods	Indicator 6: Number of regulations, policies, and territorial management plans aligned and implemented with effective participation of women and	Biannual monitoring system on participation and implementation of the Participation Plan. Attendance records of meetings, interviews, and focus groups. Review of decisions adopted by local actors. Representation system in governance mechanisms. Official resolutions and documents.	0	- At least 1 regulation or at least 1 public policy implemented - At least 1 territorial management plan	- At least 2 regulations or at least 2 public policies implemented - At least 2 territorial management plans	Documentary review of regulations, policies, and territorial management plans aligned and implemented. Verification of official resolutions and documents supporting multisectoral governance mechanisms.	Risks: Lack of political will, low interest from local stakeholders, weakness of existing governance mechanisms. Assumptions: Committed local actors, capacity building for effective

for integrated landscape, biodiversity, and water resources management.	Indigenous peoples.					Attendance records from participatory events. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (including women and Indigenous peoples) to assess active participation in planning and governance processes. Monitoring of the articulation process of watershed-based territorial norms.	participation, availability of technical and financial resources.
	Indicator 7[13] ³ : Number of governance mechanisms (e.g., multisectoral coordination platforms) and inter-institutional agreements (e.g., on territorial and water resource management) implemented or strengthened with the effective participation of women and Indigenous peoples. Contributes to GEF CI 11: Sub-indicators CI 11.1 and CI	Records and reports from MAG, MAATE, GADs, Watershed Council, IKIAM University, Land Degradation Observatory, REDD+ Roundtable, and Multisectoral Dialogue Platform (WCS); minutes, agreements, and inter-institutional arrangements.	0	At least 1 mechanism and 1 agreements	At least 2 mechanisms and 2 agreements	Review and analysis of agreements, memoranda of understanding, signed minutes, meeting reports, implementation reports. Surveys and interviews with key actors about their participation in governance spaces. Evaluation of the impact of governance mechanisms on decision-making and local policy development.	Risks: Lack of political will; weak inter-institutional coordination; low effective participation of women and Indigenous peoples. Assumptions: Institutional commitment to strengthen governance; availability of resources; motivated local actors actively engaging in the established spaces.

	11.2: 40% women.						
	Indicator 8: Number of projects aligned with territorial planning instruments (PDOT, PIA, REDD+, and Life Plans), incorporating biodiversity conservation and gender equity criteria, and contributing to financial sustainability. Contributes to GEF Core Indicators CI 11.1 and CI 11.2 (with at least 40% women beneficiaries).	Official reports and project registries from MAATE, GADs, and Indigenous organizations; databases from ProAmazonia and CTEA; co-management agreements; Life Plans; national systems (SIGTIERRAS, SIGMA); financial statements from executing and co-financing entities.	0 projects fully aligned, submitted, and funded; existing initiatives with potential identified in Life Plans, but lacking alignment, submission, or financing.	At least 2 projects aligned with territorial instruments, incorporating biodiversity and gender criteria, and showing evidence of financial commitment.	At least 5 projects designed and operational, fully aligned with planning instruments, meeting biodiversity and gender equity safeguards, and with confirmed co-financing or sustained funding mechanisms.	Document review of submitted and approved project dossiers; verification of their inclusion in planning instruments; assessment of gender equity and biodiversity integration in project design; financial monitoring; interviews with implementing teams and beneficiaries.	Risks: Limited access to funding; delays in integrating with planning tools; insufficient technical capacities; resistance to integrating gender/biodiversity safeguards. Assumptions: Ongoing support from MAATE and GADs; availability of financing; enhanced capacities in inclusive project design; political commitment to cross-cutting equity and environmental goals.
	Indicator 9: Number of sub-basins of the Napo River implementing and using integrated digital tools for monitoring land degradation and landscape management, generating information for decision-making and territorial knowledge management. Contributes to GEF CI 11: Sub-	Reports from MAATE, records from the Land Degradation Observatory, MAG, universities, local government monitoring systems, implementation reports of digital tools, interinstitutional agreements, and digital data platform reports.	0	1	2 (at least 2)	Review of MAATE, MAG, and GAD reports; surveys of local users; data analysis from digital platforms; verification of cooperation agreements and use of digital tools; review of the integration into the project's monitoring and knowledge management systems.	Risks: Low adoption and use of digital tools due to technical or connectivity limitations in the sub-basins; weak local ownership. Assumptions: Training, technical assistance, and sustainability in the use of digital tools will be ensured; sub-basins will use the generated information for decision-making and feed the project's knowledge management and monitoring systems.

	indicators CI 11.1 and CI 11.2: 40% women.						
Outputs to achieve Outcome 11	1.1.1. Implementation of land-use planning and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) policies and regulations, validated by both men and women from the territory. 1.1.2. Interinstitutional co-management agreements that promote the joint formulation of projects between MAATE, local governments, and other relevant actors, including Indigenous groups and women’s organizations. 1.1.3. Projects designed with criteria that contribute to integrated landscape management and gender equality, outlined in the Life Plans. ^[14] ⁴						
Project component 2	2: Adoption of practices that contribute to integrated landscape management for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.						
Outcome 2.1. Areas under conservation and protection mechanisms, as well as water protection zones, are sustainably conserved and managed with a gender-sensitive approach.	Indicator 10: Number of management plans or territories implementing conservation measures for umbrella or threatened species (e.g., jaguar, tapir), with local monitoring mechanisms. (GEF CI 4.1 – Sustainable management for biodiversity benefits) Contributes to CI 11: Sub-indicators CI 11.1 and CI 11.2 (40% women)	Approved Forest Management Plans; Management and Use Plans of Conservation Areas; Life Plans and territorial planning documents (PDOT, PUGS); MAATE reports on threatened species; Community monitoring records; Project technical reports; Data from participatory biodiversity monitoring systems.	0	At least 1 plan or territory with implemented conservation measures and monitoring	At least 2 plans or territories with conservation measures and community-based monitoring active	Review of relevant plans (e.g., PDOTs, Life Plans, PMFs); Interviews with MAATE and GAD officials; Verification of implementation and participation records; Site visits to confirm species-focused actions; Use of biodiversity monitoring protocols adapted for local application.	Risks: Lack of baseline data on species populations; Low local capacity or interest in species monitoring; Limited institutional coordination. Assumptions: Local and national authorities prioritize species conservation; Communities are engaged in biodiversity monitoring; Project resources enable technical support and capacity building.
	Indicator 11: Number of biological corridor or habitat connectivity area established or	Official information from MAATE (PNRP, SIGMA, SAF); updated ecological connectivity maps; management plans of APH, PSB, ACUS, and Protective Forests; co-management	0	At least 1 corridor or connectivity area identified and initial restoration started	At least 2 corridors or connectivity areas established or strengthened with active or passive	Review of corridor maps and technical documents; analysis of overlap with PNRP and SNAP; field verification of connectivity	Risks: Institutional fragmentation; insufficient inter-sectoral coordination; land tenure conflicts or lack of incentives for landowners.

	strengthened to support movement of threatened species. (GEF CI 3.2 – Ecological restoration; contributes to CI 11.1 and CI 11.2: 40% women beneficiaries)	agreements with GADs and conservation partners; biodiversity corridor prioritization tools (e.g., from SNAP, ProAmazonía, or MAATE-CTEA); field monitoring reports.			restoration, and included in territorial planning tools	restoration actions; semi-structured interviews with MAATE, GADs, and communities; technical progress reports	Assumptions: Political will to maintain/restaurar connectivity; co-financing secured through GADs and partners; communities recognize biodiversity corridors as valuable assets.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	2.1.1. Management plans formulated and/or updated for water protection areas and implementation of sustainable management measures that contribute to preventing land degradation and protecting water resources in the upper Napo River basin. 2.1.2. Training program for land restoration in degraded and deforested areas and sustainable management that promotes the participation of women through affirmative actions. 2.1.3. Management plans formulated and/or updated for protective forests or other forms of protection such as forests belonging to Indigenous communities and other tenure types present in the lower Napo River basin, incorporating measures for sustainable forest management.						
Outcome 2.2 Sustainable and efficient agricultural production systems increase social, economic, and environmental benefits.	Indicator 12: Number of households reporting increased food security as a result of implementing SLM practices promoted by the project (Core Indicator 4: CI 4.3 – Sustainable management in production systems) (Core Indicator 11: 2,265	Project monitoring reports; household food security surveys; interviews and focus groups with beneficiary families; agricultural production records disaggregated by household.	0	At least 150 households	At least 300 households	Household-level surveys using standardized food security modules (e.g., FIES or HFIAS), conducted during MTR and final evaluation. Interviews with women and men beneficiaries. Records of household agricultural production. Field verification of SLM implementation.	Risks: Limited adoption of SLM due to lack of incentives, extreme weather events affecting production. Assumptions: Households apply SLM practices that enhance crop diversity and productivity. The project provides adequate technical support and inputs. Women and vulnerable groups participate equitably in training and implementation.

	people, 40% women)						
	Indicator 13: Increase in the number of enterprises improved as a result of restoring degraded agricultural lands (Co-benefit of CI 4: 3,020 ha under restoration)	Mapping of Enterprises by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon Region (CONFENIAE), Amazon Enterprise Catalog (MAATE b, 2022), "Buy with Purpose" Enterprise Catalog (UN), list of enterprise proposals submitted to the Sacha Awards, catalog of flora species with potential use (MAG, MAATE, UTPL, 2022), companies funded by the Forest and Farm Facility (FAO), Indigenous Amazon - Rights and Resources Enterprise Portfolio (WWF)	91	101 (91 + 10)	114 (91 + 25)	Existing enterprises linked to producers or communities involved in the restoration of degraded lands and their initial status will be registered. Subsequently, enterprises strengthened by the project linked to the restoration areas will be recorded, as well as details on their progress.	Risks: Main risks include limited technical and organizational capacity of rural enterprises to scale or sustain activities, weak linkage to differentiated value chains, and lack of access to markets, financing, or certifications. Additionally, there may be administrative or legal barriers to formalizing community enterprises, as well as a weak culture of associativity or business sustainability in some territories. Finally, the absence of post-restoration technical support could jeopardize the viability of promoted productive models. Assumptions: It is assumed that producers and communities involved will maintain their commitment to restoration activities and be willing to engage in sustainable productive enterprises. It is also expected that the project will provide technical assistance, business management tools, and facilitate access to markets and financing, thereby strengthening local

							capacities. Moreover, there is an expectation of interest from public and private actors to support and scale up bioenterprises linked to restoration.
	Indicator 14: Number of sustainable livelihood initiatives implemented in restored areas that promote economic alternatives such as analog forestry, commercial forestry, NTFPs, or compensation mechanisms.	Field records of restored areas (CI 3); Reports from implementing partners; Inventories and tracking of enterprises and economic activities in restored zones; Agreements with GADs and local organizations.	0	1	3	Document review of co-financing agreements and business models; Surveys and interviews with beneficiaries; Monitoring of production activities and market linkages; Field verification of active initiatives.	Risks: Limited technical or market capacity; Weak linkage to value chains; Resistance to adopting new models. Assumptions: Community interest; Technical support from the project; Functioning restoration areas; Partner engagement.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2	2.2.1. Training program on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) / Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) for agricultural producers (men and women and their intersecting identities) in partnership with local stakeholders. 2.2.2. Creation and strengthening of local enterprises and/or sustainable agricultural business models in Collection Centers, contributing to the administrative skills development of women in these centers. 2.2.3. Restoration practices aimed at conservation in areas released from production within farms. 2.2.4. Methodology for information gathering that integrates gender variables in sustainable agricultural production, contributing to the traceability mechanisms of Collection Centers.						
Project component 3	3: Access to financing mechanisms to scale up actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and climate change mitigation						
Outcome 3.1 Scaling up measures that contribute to land restoration and biodiversity conservation	Indicator 15: Amount (USD) of funding mobilized through financial mechanisms (designed or strengthened by the	Official records and reports from MAATE, BIOFIN, BanEcuador, CONAFIPS, MEF, MAG, and implementing partners; financial agreements; co-financing letters; beneficiary registries and gender-disaggregated data	0 (no mechanisms currently mobilizing resources under project scope; no beneficiaries reported)	At least USD 500,000 mobilized through financial mechanisms, with a minimum of 40% of direct beneficiaries	At least USD 2,000,000 mobilized through financial mechanisms, with at least 40% women among the total number of direct	Review of financial agreements and disbursement reports; tracking and verification of gender-disaggregated beneficiary data from supported mechanisms; periodic analysis	Risks: Weak capacity to track and report gender data; limited access to financial services among women or marginalized groups; low uptake of financial instruments.

n to enhance the climate resilience of communities through financing and market access.	project) to support conservation, restoration, and sustainable production. Includes green credit lines, payment for ecosystem services (PES), rotating community funds, and incentive-based conservation schemes. Contributes to CI 11.1 (direct beneficiaries) and CI 11.2 (at least 40% of whom are women).	from project-supported mechanisms.		s being women.	beneficiaries .	of project M&E system; interviews with implementing entities and end users.	Assumptions: Gender-responsive design of financial mechanisms; outreach strategies effectively target women and vulnerable groups; strong collaboration with institutions committed to inclusion.
	Indicator 16: Number of sustainable productive projects implemented and financed, aligned with Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities, prioritizing initiatives led by women and youth Contributes to CI 11: Subindicators CI 11.1 and CI 11.2: 40% women	Information system from the CTEA Common Fund, FODESNA, BIOFIN, BanEcuador, CONAFIPS; project reports managed by GADs, NGOs, and international organizations; minutes of financing approvals and execution reports.	0	3 (at least 1 led by women)	7 (at least 3 led by women)	Registration of financing and co-financing agreements, minutes and records; disbursement and implementation reports; interviews and surveys with beneficiaries; field verification visits; review of indicators on women and youth participation and leadership.	Risks: Reduction in financing due to policy changes, conflicts, or budgetary constraints. Persistent barriers for Indigenous women and youth in accessing finance. Assumptions: The project facilitates coordination and technical assistance for access to financing. Mechanisms prioritize gender equity and Indigenous inclusion. Market conditions are strengthened for the sustainability of productive projects.
Outputs to achieve	3.1.1. Training program on financial mechanisms for local governments and/or public associations that emphasizes the importance of gender equality and enables them to apply for incentive schemes to access financing.						

Outcome 3.1	3.1.2. Financial sustainability mechanisms identified and promoted by women and men for the protection and conservation of selected areas and water protection zones. 3.1.3. Funded projects linked to the Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities that support gender equality. 3.1.4. Expansion and promotion of financial products and services that support gender equality through financial institutions and local stakeholders. 3.1.5. National and international trade agreements that favor sustainably sourced and women-led production products.						
Project component 4	4: Knowledge management through capacity development and communication						
Outcome 4.1 Improved knowledge management strengthens decision-making and the empowerment of key stakeholders.	Indicator 17: Number of territorial monitoring systems (by hydrographic unit) implemented to support decision-making in conservation and land management, with data disaggregated by gender, age, and ethnicity. Contributes to CI 11: Sub-indicators CI 11.1 and CI 11.2: 1,100 people, 40% women	Reports and bulletins from INAMHI, ARCA regulations, technical water balance guidelines, management plans, records of water quality and availability data, IRD/OTCA/ORA reports.	1 hydrographic unit with partial coverage	2 hydrographic units with functional territorial systems	3 hydrographic units with fully integrated monitoring systems	Review of institutional reports, integrated databases between INAMHI, ARCA, and MAATE; verification of the functionality of digital platforms; interviews with technicians and beneficiaries; attendance records for training events.	Risks: Lack of inter-institutional coordination; low local participation; infrastructure and connectivity deficiencies. Assumptions: Availability of baseline data and institutional cooperation; effective training for local actors; technical and operational sustainability of the implemented systems.
	Indicator 18: Number of communication and knowledge management products developed and tailored to key audiences, and aimed at sustainable land management and gender equity. Contributes to CI 11:	Official project documents, implementation reports, communication materials (manuals, videos, infographics), virtual learning platform records, participatory event reports. Communication strategy designed.	0	At least 5 communication and knowledge management products developed and tailored to key audiences (e.g., 2 videos, 1 manual, 1 infographic, 1 technical bulletin) promoting sustainable land management and	At least 12 communication and knowledge management products developed and tailored to key audiences (e.g., at least 3 videos, 3 manuals/guides, 3 infographics or visual materials, 3 systematization documents or success	Monitoring of activities and delivered products; analysis of platform use; perception surveys; interviews with key stakeholders; systematization of experiences and lessons learned.	Risks: Low appropriation of the products; technological, cultural, or linguistic barriers hinder access. Assumptions: The communication strategy is tailored to local and cultural contexts; linguistic accessibility is ensured; there is active participation from local stakeholders.

	Sub-indicators CI 11.1 and CI 11.2: 40% women			gender equity.	stories), with 40% of beneficiaries being women.		
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1	4.1.1. Capacity-building and training program on land degradation neutrality, climate change, biodiversity, gender equality (including masculinities), and intersectionality. 4.1.2. Strengthening of the hydrometeorological network and the information chain for the development of an early warning system. 4.1.3. Communication strategy developed and implemented.						
Project component 5	Monitoring & Evaluation						
Outcome 5.1 Monitoring and evaluation of project activities and their indicators.	Indicator 19: Cumulative percentage of project expenditure executed ^[15] in alignment with the activities planned in the Annual Work Plan (AWP).	Audited financial reports, budget execution reports, approved AWP schedule, tracking matrix of products and deliverables	0% (the project has not yet started implementation)	At least 50%	At least 100%	Review of financial and technical reports, reconciliation between AWP and execution reports, interviews with the Project Management Unit (PMU) and project auditors	Risks: Undocumented rescheduling, administrative delays, unjustified reallocations. Assumptions: Execution follows the approved AWP and robust financial traceability is in place.
	Indicator 20: Completion of key monitoring and evaluation deliverables as per GEF and UNDP guidelines.	Annual PIR submissions; Mid-Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) reports; Project Management Unit (PMU) documentation.	0	PIRs submitted annually; Mid-Term Review completed.	PIRs submitted annually; Terminal Evaluation completed.	Review of submission logs; analysis of evaluation timelines; verification of completeness and approval status of reports.	Risks: Delays in contracting evaluation teams; delays in review/approval processes. Assumptions: Effective coordination with UNDP CO and external evaluators; sufficient budget and timely planning for M&E deliverables.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 5.1	5.1.1: Monitoring of risks identified through the social and environmental screening procedure and implementation of mitigation actions. 5.1.2: Monitoring and reporting on project outcomes. 5.1.3: Mid-term review and final evaluation of the project.						

^[11] The 25,000–40,000 ha of **new protected areas** refer to forest units prioritized by MAATE for future declaration as Protective Forests (Bosques Protectores, BP). These are currently being defined in coordination with the Dirección Nacional de Bosques and include priority units within the Napo River Basin (e.g., PFE Units 1 and 2).

[12] The 85,000 ha target for improved management effectiveness includes areas where the project will support the implementation of updated management plans, developed with counterpart contributions. These areas include: Bermejo (Z1): 9,755 ha; Cerro Sumaco and Cuenca alta del río Suno (Z3): 98,830 ha; Estación Científica Payamino (Z3): 952 ha; Parte media y alta del Río Tigre (Z3): 5,368 ha; Habitagua BP (Z4): 4,422 ha; Pañacocha BP (Z5): 11,918 ha; Bosque Protector Bajo Napo: 11,105 ha y Aguarico Chingual y Cofanes APH (Z1): 101,018 ha.

[13] This indicator includes:

- **Governance mechanisms:** new or strengthened multisectoral platforms for coordination and planning aligned with project goals.
- **Inter-institutional agreements:** formal agreements for territorial and water resources management, promoting shared responsibilities among public institutions, Indigenous organizations, and local actors.

[14] 'Life Plans' are instruments for planning and financing the development of Indigenous peoples and nationalities. Life Plans are a key provision of the 'Organic Law for the Integrated Planning of the Amazon Special Territorial District.' These Life Plans address the following elements of great importance to Indigenous communities: Indigenous worldview, territory, diversity, bioeconomy, sacred watersheds, autonomy, and governance.

[15] This indicator reflects the cumulative budget execution rate over the entire implementation period, not the annual delivery rate.

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
Organization and logistics of Workshops. Includes PPG Inception Workshop, Project Document Validation Workshop, and other strategic stakeholders' working meetings to define base line, assure co-financing with local actors, pre-validation meetings, and other activities (local and national level)	12,700.00	12,700.00	0.00
International Expert (IC) to develop PRODOC, annexes and specific studies	16,000.00	9,400.00	6,600.00
National Project Design and Monitoring Specialist for Project Development (PPG Team Leader)	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00
Stakeholder Engagement and Territorial Planning Specialist	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
National Gender and Intersectionality Specialist	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Social and Environmental Safeguards Specialist	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Expert in sustainable forest management, biodiversity, and water resources protection	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Expert in sustainable agriculture and livestock production	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00

National PPG, Institutional and Policy Advisor to support the preparation of the PPG phase.	13,750.00	13,114.00	636.00
Travel costs for field visits the intervention zones in order to socialise the project with stakeholders, define base line and validation processes, assure co-financing with local actors and other activities.	19,000.00	2,257.00	16,743.00
Office Materials and other supplies for workshops	525.00	70.00	455.00
Microassessment (spot-checks and due diligence)	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00
Translation Services	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Bank surcharge payments	525.00	78.00	447.00
Total	150,000.00	116,619.00	33,381.00

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
1	0.1388	-77.2417	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
2	-0.0944	-77.9437	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
3	0.0129	-77.3427	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
4	-0.9939	-77.9654	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
5	-0.0962	-76.4799	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
6	0.1283	-75.8506	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

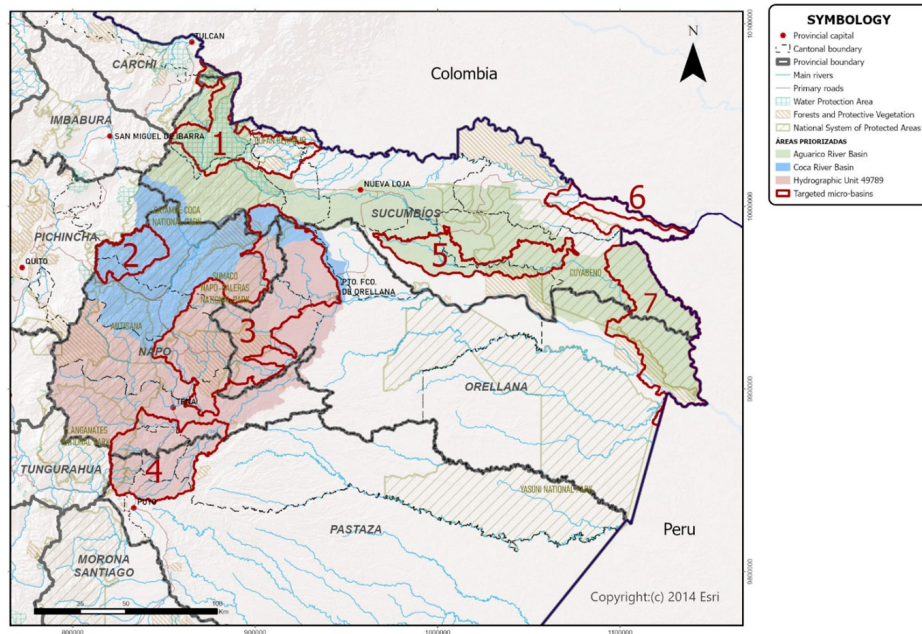
Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
7	-0.1754	-75.5415	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

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

Please refer to separate file for reference



Geo Name ID <i>Required field if the location is not an exact site</i>	Location Name <i>Required field</i>	Latitude <i>Required field</i>	Longitude <i>Required field</i>	Location Description <i>Optional text field</i>	Activity Description <i>Optional text field</i>
1	North	0.7285	-77.6718		
	South	0.1388	-77.2417		
	East	0.2856	-77.0846		
	West	0.3312	-77.8257		
2	North	-0.0944	-77.9437		
	South	-0.3785	-78.1443		
	East	-0.2384	-77.8329		
	West	-0.3067	-78.1952		
3	North	0.0129	-77.3427		
	South	-1.0358	-77.664		
	East	-0.4686	-76.9861		
	West	-0.7271	-77.9126		
4	North	-0.9939	-77.9654		
	South	-1.4658	-77.9011		
	East	-1.0774	-77.5383		
	West	-1.2246	-78.1246		
5	North	-0.0962	-76.4799		
	South	-0.3591	-76.1394		
	East	-0.2326	-75.8193		
	West	-0.133	-76.8274		
6	North	0.1283	-75.8506		
	South	-0.1707	-75.4037		
	East	-0.1197	-75.2559		
	West	0.0309	-75.9859		

7	North	-0.1754	-75.5415		
	South	-1.0809	-75.4257		
	East	-0.9721	-75.1898		
	West	-0.3084	-75.6909		

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_9_1_ESMF_final

Annex_5_SESP_final

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

GEF Budget Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency) ⁶
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
Equipment	Equipment – SAT and E-Learning. Procurement of technological and audiovisual equipment (cameras, microphones, projectors, servers, tablets) to support the Territorial Learning System (SAT) and the project's e-learning platform. Equipment will be rugged, user-friendly, and adapted for rural training contexts. Total: USD 229,824	-	-	-	229,824	229,824	-	-	229,824	UNDP

⁶ UNDP will be providing execution support to the Implementing Partner (MAATE) for these activities, as requested by the GEF Operational Focal Point of Ecuador. UNDP will use its own operational rules and guidelines for these activities. The Implementing Partner will maintain ultimate responsibility and accountability for the use of GEF resources and the successful achievement of project outputs, in alignment with the approved annual work plans.

Vehicles	Vehicles – Field Operations. Procurement of two 4x4 double-cab vehicles to support restoration, monitoring, and logistics in prioritized territories. Vehicles will serve the technical team for accessing remote communities and transporting materials, ensuring efficient delivery of activities under Outcomes 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 4.1. Total: USD 109,812 (Year 1).	-	109,812	-	-	109,812	-	-	109,812	UNDP
Grants	Grants for Indigenous-led productive projects. At least 7 LVGs will support productive initiatives led by Indigenous peoples and nationalities in the Napo River Basin. Grants will be administered per UNDP LVG policies to ensure transparency and sustainability . Total: USD 336,085	-	-	336,085	-	336,085	-	-	336,085	UNDP
Grants	Low-Value Grants (LVGs) for community-led initiatives. Support community initiatives in ecological restoration and participatory water monitoring. At least 56 LVGs (USD 15,000–25,000 each) will be awarded over Years 1–5, prioritizing women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. Grants will be administered per UNDP LVG policies to ensure transparency and sustainability. Total: USD 1,133,905.	-	1,133,905	-	-	1,133,905	-	-	1,133,905	UNDP
Grants	Small Grants (LVGs) for community enterprises. Around 22 LVGs (USD 15,000–25,000 each) will support women-, youth-, and Indigenous-led enterprises in ecological restoration areas. Grants will be administered per UNDP LVG policies to ensure transparency and sustainability. Total: USD 455,018	-	455,018	-	-	455,018	-	-	455,018	UNDP
Contractual services- Individual	Project Management – Key Staff. Hiring of: • Project Coordinator (60 months, USD 3,328/month). Annex 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	199,680	199,680	UNDP

	TOR #1 These positions ensure leadership, coordination with counterparts, compliance with UNDP-GEF standards, and transparent resource management throughout implementation. Total: USD 373,680 (Years 1–5).									
Contractual services-Individual	Project Management – Key Staff. Hiring of: • Administrative and Financial Manager (60 months, USD 2,900/month). Annex 7 TOR #2 These positions ensure leadership, coordination with counterparts, compliance with UNDP-GEF standards, and transparent resource management throughout implementation. Total: USD 373,680 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	-	-	-	174,000	174,000	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Specialist – Climate Finance and Sustainable Markets. Hiring of one specialist (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #18 Responsible for linking territorial actions to green financial instruments, incentives, value chains, and nature-based finance to support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration. Total: USD 86,832	-	-	86,832	-	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Specialist – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL). Hiring of one Strategic Monitoring and Results Evaluation Specialist (Annex 7 TOR #24) for 47 months (USD 2,900/month). Responsible for designing and managing the MEL system, ensuring data quality, progress tracking, and reporting to UNDP and GEF. Total: USD 136,300 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	-	-	136,300	-	136,300	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Bioeconomy, Restoration, and Land Management. Hiring of: • Senior Specialist – Bioeconomy and Responsible Production	-	86,832	-	-	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP

	(36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #9 Total: USD 86,832 (Years 1–5).									
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Bioeconomy, Restoration, and Land Management. Hiring of: • 2 Technical Assistants – Productive Restoration and Territorial Management (54 months each, USD 1,795/month). Annex 7 TOR #10 Total: USD 193,860 (Years 1–5).	-	193,860	-	-	193,860	-	-	193,860	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Bioeconomy, Restoration, and Land Management. Hiring of: • 2 Local Technicians – Sustainable Land Management and Production (54 months each, USD 1,447/month). Annex 7 TOR #13 Total: USD 156,276 (Years 1–5).	-	156,276	-	-	156,276	-	-	156,276	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Bioeconomy, Restoration, and Land Management. Hiring of: • Technical Associate – Sustainable Production and Bioeconomy (42 months, USD 1,447/month). Annex 7 TOR #15 Total: USD 60,774 (Years 1–5).	-	60,774	-	-	60,774	-	-	60,774	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Bioeconomy, Restoration, and Land Management. Hiring of: • Technical Facilitator – LVG Implementation (54 months, USD 1,447/month). Annex 7 TOR #16 Total: USD 78,138 (Years 1–5).	-	78,138	-	-	78,138	-	-	78,138	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Bioeconomy, Restoration, and Land Management. Hiring of: • 2 Territorial Community Promoters (54 months each, USD 1,167/month). Annex 7 TOR #17 Total: USD 126,036 (Years 1–5).	-	126,036	-	-	126,036	-	-	126,036	UNDP

Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Forest, Water, and Territorial Management. Hiring of: • Senior Specialist – Sustainable Forest and Watershed Management (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #11 Total: USD 86,832 (Years 1–5).	-	86,832	-	-	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Forest, Water, and Territorial Management. Hiring of: • Technical Assistant – SFM and Water Resources (54 months, USD 1,447/month). Annex 7 TOR #12 Total: USD 78,138 (Years 1–5).	-	78,138	-	-	78,138	-	-	78,138	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Forest, Water, and Territorial Management. Hiring of: • 2 Technical Assistants – Productive Restoration and Territorial Management (54 months each, USD 1,795/month). Annex 7 TOR #13 Total: USD 193,860 (Years 1–5).	-	193,860	-	-	193,860	-	-	193,860	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Forest, Water, and Territorial Management. Hiring of: • 2 Local Technicians – Water Resources and Cartographic Support (54 months each, USD 1,795/month). Annex 7 TOR #14 Total: USD 193,860 (Years 1–5).	-	193,860	-	-	193,860	-	-	193,860	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Forest, Water, and Territorial Management. Hiring of: • Technical Facilitator – LVG Implementation (54 months, USD 1,447/month). Annex 7 TOR #16 Total: USD 78,138 (Years 1–5).	-	78,138	-	-	78,138	-	-	78,138	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Forest, Water, and Territorial Management. Hiring of: • 2 Territorial Promoters – Community Support (54 months each, USD 1,167/month). Annex 7 TOR #17 Total: USD 126,036 (Years 1–5).	-	126,036	-	-	126,036	-	-	126,036	UNDP

Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Knowledge, Safeguards, Gender, Communication, and Support. Hiring of: • Knowledge Management and Learning Coordinator (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #19 Total: USD 86,832 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	86,832	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Knowledge, Safeguards, Gender, Communication, and Support. Hiring of: • Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #20 Total: USD 86,832 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	86,832	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Knowledge, Safeguards, Gender, Communication, and Support. Hiring of: • Technical Assistant – Data Processing, Monitoring and Reporting (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #21 Total: USD 86,832 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	86,832	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Knowledge, Safeguards, Gender, Communication, and Support. Hiring of: • Strategic Communication and Territorial Engagement Officer (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #22 Total: USD 86,832 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	86,832	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Knowledge, Safeguards, Gender, Communication, and Support. Hiring of: • Specialist – Gender Equality, Diversity, and Indigenous Peoples (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #23 Total: USD 86,832 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	86,832	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Knowledge, Safeguards, Gender, Communication, and Support. Hiring of: • Strategic Monitoring	-	-	-	20,300	20,300	-	-	20,300	UNDP

	and Results Evaluation Specialist (7 months, USD 2,900/month). Annex 7 TOR #24 Total: USD 20,300 (Years 1–5).									
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Knowledge, Safeguards, Gender, Communication, and Support. Hiring of: • Logistics and Workshop Assistant (54 months, USD 1,447/month). Annex 7 TOR #25 Total: USD 78,138 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	78,138	78,138	-	-	78,138	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Policy, Territorial Coordination, and Facilitation. Hiring of: • Environmental Policy and Regulatory Coordinator (36 months, USD 2,412/month). Annex 7 TOR #3 Total: USD 569,580 (Years 1–5).	86,832	-	-	-	86,832	-	-	86,832	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Policy, Territorial Coordination, and Facilitation. Hiring of: • Coordination Assistant for Interinstitutional Articulation and Political-Technical – Quito (18 months, USD 1,795/month). Annex 7 TOR #4 Total: USD 569,580 (Years 1–5).	32,310	-	-	-	32,310	-	-	32,310	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Policy, Territorial Coordination, and Facilitation. Hiring of: • 3 Technical Facilitators – Hydrographic Unit Solutions (12 months each, USD 1,447/month). Annex 7 TOR #5 Total: USD 569,580 (Years 1–5).	52,092	-	-	-	52,092	-	-	52,092	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Policy, Territorial Coordination, and Facilitation. Hiring of: • 2 Territorial Coordinators (48 months each, USD 2,500/month). Annex 7 TOR #6 Total: USD 569,580 (Years 1–5).	240,000	-	-	-	240,000	-	-	240,000	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Policy, Territorial Coordination, and Facilitation. Hiring of:	126,036	-	-	-	126,036	-	-	126,036	UNDP

	of: • 2 Community Facilitators and Local Communication Liaisons (54 months each, USD 1,167/month). Annex 7 TOR #7 Total: USD 569,580 (Years 1–5).									
Contractual services-Individual	Technical Staff – Policy, Territorial Coordination, and Facilitation. Hiring of: • Project Design and Resource Mobilization Specialist (18 months, USD 1,795/month). Annex 7 TOR #8 Total: USD 569,580 (Years 1–5).	32,310	-	-	-	32,310	-	-	32,310	UNDP
Contractual services-Company	Contractual Services – Companies. Design and implementation of a territorial management and governance training program with gender and participatory planning focus. Contract will deliver at least 16 in-person events. Total: USD 146,245 (Years 1–5).	146,245	-	-	-	146,245	-	-	146,245	UNDP
Contractual services-Company	Contractual Services – E-learning Platform. Consulting firm to design and implement a virtual training program on water governance, productive restoration, and leadership with a gender focus. The platform will be formally transferred to MAATE and partner universities for continuity. Total: USD 146,245 (Years 1–5).	-	-	-	146,245	146,245	-	-	146,245	UNDP
Contractual services-Company	Specialized Services – Sustainable Finance and Resource Mobilization. Consultancies to design and validate innovative financial instruments and strengthen capacities for resource mobilization in the Napo River Basin. Total: USD 305,321	-	-	305,321	-	305,321	-	-	305,321	UNDP
International Consultants	Consultants – Independent Project Evaluations. Two international consultants will conduct the project's evaluations: • Mid-Term Review (MTR) – Year 3, USD	-	-	-	-	-	37,261	-	37,261	UNDP

	29,250 (45 days at USD 650/day). Mobilization costs: USD 8,011. Annex 7 TOR #27 . Total: USD 74,523									
International Consultants	Consultants – Independent Project Evaluations. Two international consultants will conduct the project’s evaluations: • Final Evaluation (FE) – Year 5, USD 29,250 (45 days at USD 650/day). Mobilization costs: USD 8,012. Annex 7 TOR #28 . Total: USD 74,523	-	-	-	-	-	37,262	-	37,262	UNDP
International Consultants	International Consultancy – ESIA. One consultancy team (Annex 7 TOR #26) to conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), Total: USD 13,151 (Year 1).	13,151	-	-	-	13,151	-	-	13,151	UNDP
Local Consultants	Consultants – Traceability Methodology. Two local consultants to design, validate, and implement a traceability system in three pilot collection centers, integrating sustainable production, resource control, and gender perspective. Total: USD 156,621 (Years 1–3).	-	156,621	-	-	156,621	-	-	156,621	UNDP
Local Consultants	Consultants – Water Protection Area Management Plans. Four local consultants to develop, update, and provide technical support for eight management plans in prioritized territories of the Napo River Basin. Total: USD 233,366 (Years 1–5).	-	233,366	-	-	233,366	-	-	233,366	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Training – Financial Mechanisms, Bioeconomy, and Commercialization. At least 20 workshops on green finance, bioeconomy, and sustainable commercialization, prioritizing women, youth, and Indigenous peoples. Methods combine Field School practices and ancestral	-	-	181,575	-	181,575	-	-	181,575	UNDP

	knowledge. Total: USD 181,575									
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training – Agroecology, Bioinputs, and Leadership. At least 40 training events in prioritized territories for community enterprises, agroecological clubs, and restoration areas. Total: USD 323,149	-	323,149	-	-	323,149	-	-	323,149	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training – Community Capacity Building and Replication. At least 18 events: one kickoff workshop, ten FFS-based territorial workshops, five replication events, and three intercultural exchanges. Topics include restoration, monitoring, youth leadership, and sustainability, prioritizing women, youth, and Indigenous participation. Total: USD 181,575	-	-	-	181,575	181,575	-	-	181,575	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training – Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Implementation of FFS in six communities with modules on restoration, monitoring, management planning, and forest governance, using inclusive methodologies for women, youth, and diverse actors. Total: USD 40,000 (Years 2–5).	-	40,000	-	-	40,000	-	-	40,000	UNDP
Travel	Field Missions for Ecological Restoration and Technical Assistance (Result 2.2) Expenses associated with the deployment of technical teams in at least 60 field missions across 20 prioritized communities. Total: USD 214,614.	-	214,614	-	-	214,614	-	-	214,614	UNDP
Travel	Missions for Training and Systematization of the Territorial Learning System (SAT) Travel expenses for the technical team to carry out 10 field visits focused on training, documentation, and dissemination activities related to the SAT. Total: USD 38,851.	-	-	-	38,851	38,851	-	-	38,851	UNDP
Travel	Monitoring of GEF Indicators, Results	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	-	38,000	UNDP

	Framework, and Safeguards. Travel expenses for technical staff to support the monitoring of the Project Results Framework (PRF), key GEF indicators, the gender plan, and safeguards. Includes the inception workshop (USD 5,000), annual preparation of the PIR (USD 6,000 across 5 years), gender and safeguards monitoring (USD 12,000), annual technical/operational supervision missions (USD 10,000), and learning missions (USD 5,000). Total: USD 38,000.									
Travel	Technical Missions for Territorial Validation of Planning and Governance (Result 1.1). Each mission will have an estimated duration of three days and is aligned with Indicators 6 and 7. Total: USD 60,594	60,594	-	-	-	60,594	-	-	60,594	UNDP
Travel	Technical Travel for Monitoring, Restoration, and On-site Training. Ensures continuous operational coverage in rural communities and direct interventions in Indicators 2, 3, and 10. Total: USD 145,690.	-	145,690	-	-	145,690	-	-	145,690	UNDP
Travel	Transportation and logistics for participants of financial education workshops. Expenses related to the transportation of participants to eight (8) local workshops and two (2) national meetings on financial inclusion with an intercultural approach. Includes land and river transportation, per diems, lodging, and associated logistics. Total: USD 72,845.	-	-	72,845	-	72,845	-	-	72,845	UNDP
Office Supplies	Supplies – In-Person Activities. Procurement of stationery, datasheets, folders, and monitoring kits for training and field support. Total: USD 46,114	-	-	-	46,114	46,114	-	-	46,114	UNDP

Other Operating Costs	Audio-Visual & Print Production – Leadership Visibility. Production of 10 multi-format materials (videos, radio capsules, infographics) to showcase the leadership of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples in project implementation. Total: USD 102,770	-	-	-	102,770	102,770	-	-	102,770	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Audio-Visual & Print Production – MEL Products. Production and dissemination of materials (translation, printing, systematization, and communication) to strengthen the visibility and transparency of MEL results. Total: USD 20,650	-	-	-	-	-	20,650	-	20,650	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Audio-Visual & Print Production – Pedagogical Materials. Production of 10 audiovisual products documenting community experiences in sustainable agriculture, restoration, and traceability, with gender and intercultural focus (Outcome 2.2). Total: USD 41,108	-	41,108	-	-	41,108	-	-	41,108	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Audio-Visual & Print Production – Sustainable Enterprises. Production of 15 communication materials to promote women-, youth-, and Indigenous-led enterprises (Output 2.2.3). Total: USD 61,662	-	-	61,662	-	61,662	-	-	61,662	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Professional Services – Audits. Total: USD 50,024	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,024	50,024	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Rental & Maintenance – Premises. Covers rental, connectivity, furniture, and basic maintenance of decentralized offices and territorial training nodes to support training processes and project management. Total: USD 63,485	-	-	-	63,485	63,485	-	-	63,485	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Supplies and Equipment – Restoration and Sustainable Production. Acquisition of tools, inputs, seeds, and materials to implement restoration and sustainable production in	-	711,077	-	-	711,077	-	-	711,077	UNDP

	prioritized communities. . Total: USD 711,077									
Other Operating Costs	Supplies and Materials – Restoration and Community Monitoring. Procurement of tools, materials, and supplies for ecological restoration, participatory monitoring of water and biodiversity, and NTFP bio-enterprises. Total: USD 42,107 (Years 1–5).	-	42,107	-	-	42,107	-	-	42,107	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Rental & Maint of Other Equip: This budget line will cover the rental, maintenance, and operational support for key technical equipment used in environmental monitoring, ecological restoration, and participatory water resource management. It includes tablets, GPS devices, portable monitoring stations, and water/soil analysis kits. Total cost: USD 29,186	-	29,186	-	-	29,186	-	-	29,186	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Rental, maintenance, and operation of vehicles: This budget line also includes the preventive and corrective maintenance of the two 4x4 vehicles assigned to the project, including insurance, spare parts, fuel, and related operational expenses. Total cost: USD 19,458	-	19,458	-	-	19,458	-	-	19,458	UNDP
Grand Total		789,570	5,113,891	1,044,320	1,341,462	8,289,243	269,473	423,704	8,982,420	

¹ UNDP will be providing execution support to the Implementing Partner (MAATE) for these activities, as requested by the GEF Operational Focal Point of Ecuador. UNDP will use its own operational rules and guidelines for these activities. The Implementing Partner will maintain ultimate responsibility and accountability for the use of GEF resources and the successful achievement of project outputs, in alignment with the approved annual work plans.

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

UNDP will be providing execution support to the Implementing Partner (MAATE) for these activities, as requested by the GEF Operational Focal Point of Ecuador. UNDP will use its own operational rules and guidelines for these activities. The Implementing Partner will maintain ultimate responsibility and accountability for the use of GEF resources and the successful achievement of project outputs, in alignment with the approved annual work plans.

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.

No.	Council Comment	Project Response and References
1	Germany: Explicitly include Nature-based Solutions (NbS) within Component 2.	The project incorporated Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices as forms of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (PIF, pages 8–12). In the CEO Endorsement, the explicit connection to adaptation benefits (e.g., water management, disaster risk resilience) and mitigation benefits (e.g., carbon storage) was strengthened. This perspective had already been addressed in the technical response to the GEFSEC REVIEW(https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11333), recognizing the importance of linking SLM/SFM with multiple environmental benefits.
2	Germany: Incorporate a generationally sensitive approach to prevent rural youth migration.	The PIF structure (page 11) already supported the promotion of sustainable rural entrepreneurship. In the CEO Endorsement, an explicit youth-focused strategy was reinforced, aligned with the need to integrate intergenerational approaches.
3	Germany: Include corruption risk assessments and mitigation measures.	Participatory governance was promoted from the project design phase (Component 1, page 8). In response to comments received, the CEO Endorsement included a specific section on corruption risk assessment, in line with the recommendation to strengthen transparency mechanisms noted in the GEFSEC REVIEW.
4	Germany: Ensure continuous community participation, including anti-corruption organizations.	Participatory mechanisms were established through Basin Councils and multi-stakeholder agreements (PIF, page 8). The involvement of civil society actors, together with UNDP's transparency policies, ensured that project funds were used according to the activities planned and approved by the GEF.
5	United Kingdom: Define monitoring mechanisms to demonstrate additionality and avoid duplication.	The PIF already contained a clear baseline and complementary actions (pages 18–19). In accordance with the GEFSEC REVIEW observations, the CEO Endorsement specified additionality indicators to clearly distinguish project interventions from ongoing initiatives such as ProAmazonia and RBP.
6	United Kingdom: Add a mapping of other donors' initiatives (e.g., AMDTF) to promote synergies.	Relevant ongoing initiatives were acknowledged in the PIF (page 18). The CEO Endorsement included an updated mapping of international cooperation initiatives, including AMDTF and others, thereby strengthening coordination, as suggested in the GEFSEC REVIEW.
7	United Kingdom: Incorporate lessons learned from REM Ecuador.	The project design already acknowledged the relevance of REDD+ (PIF, page 18). The CEO Endorsement explicitly incorporated lessons from REM Ecuador, such as community strengthening and results-based payment mechanisms, in line with the recommendations of the GEFSEC REVIEW.
8	United Kingdom: Some components lack clear outcome indicators.	While the PIF defined indicators by component (page 19), the CEO Endorsement provided detailed outcome indicators for each output, responding to Council comments and following the approach recommended in the GEFSEC REVIEW.
9	United Kingdom: Consider Ecuador's Gender and Climate Change Action Plan.	Specific references to Ecuador's National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan were incorporated into the CEO Endorsement, reinforcing the gender equity actions already foreseen in the PIF (page 26).
10	United Kingdom: Highlight the issue of illegal mining in Napo.	Environmental issues in Napo Province, including illegal mining, were acknowledged in the PIF (page 6). The CEO Endorsement placed greater emphasis on the project's contribution to strengthening territorial governance and mitigating this threat.
11	United Kingdom: Update economic analysis according to the current context.	Macroeconomic figures were updated in the CEO Endorsement using official sources such as the Central Bank of Ecuador and multilateral organizations, addressing the UK comment and aligning with best practices cited in the GEFSEC REVIEW.
12	United Kingdom: Use the most recent official deforestation data.	Updated official deforestation data from MAATE were incorporated into the CEO Endorsement to enhance the project's baseline.
13	United Kingdom: Correct reference regarding consultation with the UK.	The record of stakeholder consultations was corrected in the CEO Endorsement, clarifying that no formal consultation had taken place with the United Kingdom, as acknowledged in the Council's observation.
14	United States: Avoid using 'megadiversity' as a rationale for GEF funding.	CEO Endorsement removed the term 'megadiversity' as a primary justification and instead focused on the importance of local biodiversity and ecosystem services for

generating Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), in line with the Council's recommendation and best practices noted in the GEFSEC_REVIEW.