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

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
11333
Countries
Ecuador
Project Name
Integrated landscape management in the Napo River Basin for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.
Agencies
UNDP
Date received by PM
6/20/2025
Review completed by PM

Program Manager
Ulrich Apel
Focal Area
Multi Focal Area
Project Type
FSP

PIF

CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

2. Project Summary.
a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?
b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

3. Project Description Overview
a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?
b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?
c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?
d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

First review: Not fully.

Re b) As a general comment, the outputs of the project are formulated in a rather vague manner and focus on 'soft' interventions, such as the formulation of plans as opposed to implementation of activities on the ground. GEF would like to see more investment going towards activities that have tangible results in terms of GEBs.

In this context, please also see comments on the budget.

Second review: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

Agency Response August 18,2025

Thank you for the comment. Outputs related to the development of plans were approved by the GEF at the PIF stage and form an integral component of the project design process required to achieve the proposed outcomes. The project design is the product of an extensive and inclusive consultation process, initiated prior to the PIF submission and continued throughout the PPG phase. As a result, it directly addresses the priorities of local communities and government entities, embodying a participatory, bottom-up approach developed in close collaboration with these stakeholders.

In addition, the GEF-approved PIF (and the CEO Endorsement) includes several outputs with direct implementation activities that make measurable contributions to the core Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) indicators, such as the legal protection of 125,000 ha and the estimated reduction of 605,643 tCO?e. For example, Output 2.1.1 explicitly incorporates the implementation of sustainable management measures associated with the formulated or updated plans. Similarly, Output 2.1.3, while focused on planning, also integrates field actions carried out by the technical team in coordination with MAATE and local stakeholders.

Outputs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 further illustrate the project?s strong emphasis on territorial implementation, directly intervening in 27,011 ha of priority landscapes. Output 2.2.2 supports the creation and strengthening of local enterprises and sustainable agricultural business models?particularly for women and youth?through the adoption of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices, agroecology, agroforestry, silvopasture, regenerative livestock, aquaculture with native species, and sustainable tourism. These interventions are complemented by marketing platforms, community-based monitoring, and access to green financing. Output 2.2.3 focuses on restoring 3,021 ha of agricultural lands through silvopastoral systems, assisted natural regeneration, and analog forestry, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

Nonetheless, to address the GEF?s request, the narrative and wording of the outputs have been strengthened to ensure that on-the-ground implementation activities are explicit and easily identifiable in the project document (see Outputs 2.1.1., 2.1.3. and 3.1.3.). Direct references to concrete territorial actions linked to the committed results and GEB indicators have also been incorporated, such as:

? [Example 1] ? [ProDoc Section Results and Partnerships:/Paragraph number: 54; CEO Endorsement Request Section: Description project components, outcomes, outputs, and activities/Paragraph number: 59]

? [Example 2] ? [ProDoc Section: Results and Partnerships:/Paragraph number: 56; CEO Endorsement Request Section: Description project components, outcomes, outputs, and activities/Paragraph number: 61]

? [Example 3] ? [ProDoc Section: Results and Partnerships:/Paragraph number: 64; CEO Endorsement Request Section: Description project components, outcomes, outputs, and activities/Paragraph number: 69]

These adjustments ensure that the final formulation of the components, outcomes, and outputs is both robust and clear, achieving the project objective while maintaining a balance between institutional strengthening and tangible, territory-based actions that deliver measurable GEBs.

We acknowledge the GEF?s observation that some project outputs appear to focus primarily on ?soft? interventions, such as the formulation or updating of plans, and that this may not sufficiently reflect the visibility of on-the-ground implementation actions. However, we emphasize that the design approved in the PIF already incorporates multiple outputs with direct implementation activities that make measurable contributions to the core Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) indicators, including the legal protection of 125,000 ha and the estimated reduction of 605,643 tCO?e. For example, Output 2.1.1 explicitly includes the *implementation of sustainable management measures* associated with the formulated or updated plans, while Output 2.1.3, although focused on planning, also incorporates field actions implemented by the technical team in coordination with MAATE and local stakeholders.

Similarly, Outputs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 clearly demonstrate the project?s focus on territorial implementation, directly intervening in 27,011 ha of priority landscapes. Output 2.2.2 supports the creation and strengthening of local enterprises and sustainable agricultural business models (particularly for women and youth) through the adoption of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices, agroecology, agroforestry, silvopasture, regenerative livestock, aquaculture with native species, and sustainable tourism, complemented by marketing platforms, community-based monitoring, and access to green financing. Output 2.2.3 restores 3,021 ha of agricultural lands through silvopastoral systems, assisted natural regeneration, and analog forestry, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

In direct response to the GEF?s request:

? We will strengthen the narrative and wording of the outputs so that on-the-ground implementation activities are explicit and easily identifiable in the project document.

? We will incorporate direct references to concrete territorial actions linked to the committed results and GEB indicators.

? We will present a budget breakdown distinguishing between planning functions and positions primarily dedicated to field implementation, highlighting that the majority of the technical team will be based in intervention areas to ensure effective execution.

In this way, we ensure that the final formulation of the components, outcomes, and outputs is robust, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and meet the core indicators established in the Theory of Change, maintaining a balance between institutional strengthening and tangible, territory-based actions that deliver measurable GEBs.

4. Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?

b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?

c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

5 B. Project Description

5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?

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

c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?

e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?
f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?
g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?
h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?
i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?
j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?
k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?
l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

First review: Not fully.

- As a general comment, please redesign the project in a way that focuses on implementation on the ground as opposed to 'soft interventions' and provision of funding for the benefit of the target groups and supporting the management of the protected areas. This should be reflected in the budget accordingly.

- Component 2: As above mentioned, the focus seems to be on formulating, updating, and monitoring plans as opposed to implementing them through concrete activities. GEF would like to see a more implementation focused design of the project with clear links to the achievement of the GEB targets, and provision of grant funding to target beneficiaries.

- Component 3: Access to financing mechanisms to scale up actions... Please explain why the project itself is not providing access to finance - it appears as if the project will only help to access other resources that are mentioned in vague terms but not provide financing.

- Please explain output 3.1.3 Funded projects linked to Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities that support gender equity. Who is funding these projects?

Second review: Addressed and clarified.

Cleared

Agency Response

Agency Response August 18,2025

In line with the response already provided, we reiterate that, while some product formulations may give the impression of focusing on ?soft? interventions, the project approved in the PIF already includes substantial on-the-ground implementation actions that generate measurable Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and deliver direct benefits to target groups, as well as effective support for protected area management.

As described, Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3 incorporate concrete interventions aimed at restoration, sustainable land management, habitat conservation, and strengthening sustainable livelihoods, with a particular emphasis on the participation of women and youth. These actions are directly linked to the achievement of the committed GEB indicators, integrating field activities with marketing platforms, community monitoring mechanisms, and access to green financing, thereby ensuring tangible and measurable results on the ground.

To fully address the GEF?s observation, we have strengthened the narrative of the outputs and presented a budget breakdown that clearly demonstrates that the majority of resources are allocated to on-the-ground implementation activities and the provision of direct benefits to communities, in balance with institutional strengthening and the effective management of protected areas.

COMPONENT 2
We take note of the GEF?s observation that Component 2 may appear to focus on the formulation, updating, and monitoring of plans rather than their implementation through concrete activities. In response, we have updated the project design to emphasize that the outputs of this component explicitly include field actions financed with GEF resources that contribute directly to the Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) indicators, with quantified hectare targets for each indicator.

For example, Output 2.1.1 combines the formulation and updating of management plans for Water Protection Areas (WPAs) with the participatory implementation of integrated management models in three priority watershed units (Aguarico, Upper Coca, and Upper Napo), including the restoration of at least 1,000 ha in hydrologically critical areas, the sustainable use of non-timber forest products, and the establishment of community monitoring systems. These interventions contribute directly to: CI 1: 35,000 ha under improved management, CI 3: 1,000 ha of degraded land restored, and CI 6: reduced pressures on forests and increased hydrological resilience.

Complementarily, Output 2.1.3 updates and implements management plans for protective forests and other protected areas, including the declaration of new areas and the signing of conservation or sustainable management agreements (Low Value Grants) with local communities. These actions contribute to: CI 1: 90,000 ha under improved management, CI 4: 21,189 ha under sustainable forest management, and CI 6: prevention of deforestation and avoided emissions in newly declared areas, while also developing value chains for non-timber forest products and replicating community-based sustainable forest management models.

Taken together, these outputs demonstrate that Component 2 goes beyond planning, as it channels financing and technical assistance into concrete on-the-ground interventions that integrate conservation, restoration, sustainable production, and community strengthening, ensuring the delivery of tangible and measurable results in terms of GEB.

COMPONENT 3
We have updated the design of Component 3 to make explicit that it includes direct financing with GEF resources, in addition to facilitating access to additional public and private funds. In particular, Output 3.1.3 will be implemented through a *Low Value Grant* (LVG) mechanism financed with GEF resources allocated in the project budget, to carry out at least seven (7) sustainable productive projects aligned with the Life Plans of Indigenous peoples and nationalities in the Napo River Basin.

These LVGs will finance concrete on-the-ground actions ?linked to Outputs 1.1.3 and 2.2.3? that integrate biodiversity conservation, restoration, climate resilience, and sustainable production, ensuring that at least 40% of the beneficiaries are women. Investments will include the purchase of equipment and inputs, restoration of productive landscapes, water infrastructure, and the establishment of agroecological systems and bioeconomy-based enterprises.

Additionally, LVG projects will be co-designed with Indigenous organizations, local governments, and technical partners, mobilizing co-financing from biodiversity funds, climate finance instruments, Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes, and community revolving funds. This dual approach ?direct GEF financing and leveraging of external resources? ensures the generation of measurable Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), the strengthening of local livelihoods, and the long-term financial sustainability of conservation and restoration actions.

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?

b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?

c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

First review:

The dual execution request is not in line with the recently Council approved guidelines regarding such requests. The request is therefore not considered justified. Please also note that the review sheet at PIF stage includes the caveat that: ?The clearance of this PIF cannot be taken as the final approval of the implementing agency to execute the project because further analysis will be conducted with the complete elaboration of the project.?

Please refer to the guidelines cited below and Please revise the project documentation accordingly.

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2025-05/EN_GEF_C.69.12_Policy%20Amendments%20to%20Streamline%20the%20GEF%20Project%20Cycle-May%205.pdf

?In exceptional cases, per the request of the beneficiary country/countries, the same GEF Agency may carry out both functions. Exceptions are limited to the following:

i. Due to legislative or regulatory restrictions in the country, executing entities are prohibited from receiving GEF funds.

ii. Per the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Agency, there is a limited or inadequate fiduciary and / or procurement capacities in potential executing partners, as assessed by the GEF Agency.

iii. Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations (FCS) and / or post-natural disaster situations.

iv. Global or regional coordination child projects for Programs, global or regional platforms for knowledge sharing and Umbrella Enabling Activities for a group of countries.

v. NGI projects.

Requests that do not comply with these criteria will not be eligible for the dual role of implementation and execution by a GEF Agency.

In cases i-ii above, execution services are limited to administrative, financial and procurement support.?

Second review: Dual extension request has been aligned with recent GEF policy guidelines and justified by criterion ii (?limited or inadequate fiduciary and/or procurement capacity in potential executing partners, as assessed by the GEF Agency?).

However, the justification is not substantiated through evidence.

? Please submit evidence supporting the Agency request to execute parts of this project. The review sheet references a capacity assessment undertaken on MAATE ? please submit the capacity assessment report for GEF review. The review sheet response also mentions potential regulatory restraints on MAATE with respect to hiring project personnel ? please include the name/number and text of the relevant regulation for GEF review, if relevant.

? Please clarify the language in the relevant section with respect to MAATE?s inability to execute certain functions. For example, the submission refers to the ?Impossibility of increasing government expenditure on staff?? and the ?Impossibility of contracting consultancies?? ? it is not clear what ?impossibility? means. Is the Agency referring to legal restrictions?

Furthermore, the same section refers to ?Complexities of setting up a single account?? ? again, please clarify what complexities exist and whether there are legal restrictions.

The section should also expand on the justification for the Agency dual role, as well as a description of the minimum involvement of the Agency in execution to cover only activities MAATE is legally restricted from performing or those activities it has been assessed as not capable of performing.

? The project document does not indicate where the PMU will be located. For enhanced execution, sustainability of results, increased country ownership and capacity development of the EA, PMU co-location with the EA is strongly preferred. As instructed by the template, please include a discussion of the potential for co-location of the PMU with MAATE and how the Agency will ensure the sharing of expertise and personnel support.

Third review: Agency has responded to all clarification requests. However, the following point need to be clarified before a decision on the dual execution request can be made:

i) It is noted that UNDP is currently implementing ID 10835 in Ecuador with MAATE as EA, without an Agency dual implementation / execution role. We want to understand why for ID 10835 MAATE undertakes executing tasks while for this project (ID 11333) UNDP argues legal restrictions to play the dual implementation / execution role. This must be clarified before requesting the exception.

ii) If above point can be clarified, please reflect the Agency dual role in Portal. Please include the Agency as an EA in the relevant areas like the information table. Please also include UNDP as a Project Executing Entity, with the Type ?GEF Agency?. Further, the budget table needs to be revised regarding this point as well.

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Information

Project Title:	Integrated landscape management in the Napo River Basin for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.		
Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean	**GEF Project ID:**	11333
Country(ies):	Ecuador	**Type of Project:**	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	**GEF Agency Project ID:**	9648
Project Executing Entity(s):	Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition	**Project Executing Type:**	Government
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi Focal Area	**Submission Date :**	6/20/2025
Type of Trust Fund:	GET	**Project Duration (Months):**	60

Forth review: Clarified and addressed, except the entry in the General Project Information Table.

- Program Manager will seek managerial approval of the dual execution request based on the information and clarifications provided.

- However, please first include UNDP as an EA in the portal's general information table (Part I). Please include UNDP as a Project Executing Entity, with the Type ?GEF Agency?.

Final review: UNDP has been inserted in Part I as executing agency. MGR approval email is uploaded to the document section.

Cleared

Agency Response

Agency Response August 18,2025

-

We take note of the GEF?s observation regarding the dual execution request and its non-alignment with the recently approved Council guidelines. However, the Government?s request to implement this project under the *Support to NIM* modality responds to a documented and well-substantiated need and is consistent with the GEF criteria for exceptional cases, specifically criterion ii (?limited or inadequate fiduciary and/or procurement capacity in potential executing partners, as assessed by the GEF Agency?).

The justification for this request is based on the following factors:

1. Limited fiduciary and procurement capacity of the national executing institution: As documented in the MAATE *Capacity Assessment* (valid until December 2025), the Ministry demonstrates strong technical capabilities but faces significant constraints in financial management and procurement processes which could hinder the timely and transparent execution of the project.
2. Institutional restructuring and reduced management capacity: The recent merger of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, which transforms MAATE into a sub-secretariat, has resulted in staff reductions and changes in organizational structure. These developments, which occurred after the project design phase, have further diminished the Ministry?s (i.e., now a sub-secretariat) direct execution capacity and compounded the limitations identified in the capacity assessment (see previous bullet point).
3. Complex field implementation conditions : the project will be carried out in areas of high ecological fragility inhabited by indigenous peoples, requiring flexible and agile management

approaches aligned with local life plans and specific cultural contexts. The provision of support from UNDP enables operational proximity through a UNDP-administered Project Management Unit (PMU), which will work in direct coordination with the local governments (GADs), the Technical Secretariat of the Amazon Territorial Circumscription, indigenous nationalities, and other local stakeholders .

4. Regulatory constraints on direct personnel recruitment by MAATE: Existing national regulations limit the Ministry?s ability to directly hire personnel, making UNDP administration of recruitment processes necessary to ensure timely and effective implementation.

In line with GEF guidelines, execution services under this modality will be strictly limited to administrative, financial, and procurement support. No *Direct Project Costs* (DPC) are included in the project budget, as these costs will be covered through confirmed co-financing from UNDP.

The following documents are annexed to the ProDoc in support of this request:

? i) Annex 2: Official endorsement letter from MAATE requesting the support services from UNDP

? ii) Annex 2 : Execution Support Letter, detailing the scope of the support requested from UNDP.

Agency Response September 12,2025

Justification for Partial Execution by UNDP

The Government of Ecuador, through MAATE, has requested execution support from UNDP under the ?Support to NIM? modality (**Execution support letter from MAATE**). This modality has been consistently used in Ecuador for over 15 years and aligns with **criterion ii** of the GEF?s exceptional cases for dual implementation and execution:

?Limited or inadequate fiduciary and/or procurement capacity in potential executing partners, as assessed by the GEF Agency.?

This request is grounded in the following justifications:

1. Institutional Capacity Assessment (HACT) and Fiduciary Limitations

The **HACT micro-assessment** conducted by UNDP for MAATE concluded that the institution had a **low fiduciary risk level**, enabling it to receive cooperation funds. However, the same report identified structural gaps in MAATE?s internal controls, including:

?The Ministry of Environment does not have a documented anti-fraud or anti-corruption policy to guide employees on the steps to follow or who to report to in case of suspected fraud, waste, or misuse of resources or assets.? (Section 1.3, HACT Report)

Additionally, since the assessment was conducted in September 2019, MAATE has undergone significant **downsizing**, budget cuts, and restructuring, reducing its technical and operational capacity and exacerbating earlier limitations. Evidence and details on these recent issues and limitations are provided below.

2. Legal and Regulatory Constraints on Execution

The project documentation references ?impossibility? to perform certain functions, which refers to **actual legal and administrative restrictions**, including:

- **Resolution MDT-2025-032 (July 24th, 2025)**: Prohibits the hiring of personnel?including with external funds?in institutions undergoing post suppression, such as MAATE.

- **Executive Decree No. 94 (August 14th, 2025)**: Merges MAATE with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, significantly altering its structure and reducing its autonomy and administrative capabilities.

- **Organic Law on Public Integrity -LOIP (June 26th, 2025), Decree 57, and Annex 1 ? 1.2.1 Personnel Expenditures of the Fiscal Year 2024 Closing Budget Guidelines** collectively **mandate and operationalize** limitations on new public sector hiring. These instruments introduce staff reduction mechanisms based on fiscal containment and efficiency principles. While the LOIP establishes broad legal obligations to reduce expenditures and personnel, Decree No. 57 regulates its application, and Annex 1 provides specific budgetary ceilings that limit payroll expansion in central government institutions, including through caps on new hires, renewals, and contract extensions.

These legal instruments effectively prevent MAATE from independently hiring or managing the personnel required for project execution, including key technical and fiduciary staff.

3. Complexities in Channeling Funds via the Ecuador?s **National Treasury Single Account - CUTN**

The project also faces **significant operational risks** related to the use of Ecuador?s **CUTN**. These are not legal prohibitions but do represent serious administrative constraints[1][1]:

- **Liquidity Diversion**: Temporary diversion of funds for fiscal purposes delays fund availability for project execution.

- **Annual Budget Dependency**: CUTN funds must be registered annually in the national budget (PGE), risking delays or non-programming.

- **Administrative Rigidity**: The country's administrative systems (e.g., those of the government or national ministries) have procedures and timelines that are inflexible or slow, and do not align with the time, management, or execution requirements established by the GEF.

- **Reversion Risk**: Unused funds at year-end may be reverted to the Treasury, causing further administrative burden.

  - **Institutional Uncertainty**: As a result of the institutional merger mandated by Decree 94, MAATE is undergoing a transition marked by evolving responsibilities and limited staffing capacity, which hinders timely preparation for project implementation. Collectively, these factors compromise efficient and timely use of GEF funds.

4. Scope of UNDP?s Execution Role

In line with GEF policy, **UNDP?s execution role will be strictly limited** to the **administrative, financial, and procurement** aspects of project delivery for activities that:

- **MAATE cannot legally execute** (e.g., personnel recruitment, complex procurement), or

- **MAATE is not technically equipped to execute**, per the HACT findings and ongoing restructuring.

All **technical leadership, coordination, planning, and reporting** functions will remain under MAATE?s responsibility as the national executing entity.

5. PMU Location and Co-location Commitment

The project initially proposed that the PMU be **co-located within MAATE,** however, due to the ongoing **institutional restructuring** under the 2025 Executive Decree No. 94, the Ministry **currently lacks available office space** to host the PMU.

In the interim, the project is evaluating alternative government spaces while ensuring coordination with MAATE continues. Importantly:

? Co-location **remains a priority** once restructuring stabilizes and physical space is secured.

? UNDP and MAATE will establish **joint working groups** and **shared planning** to ensure close collaboration and **knowledge transfer**.

? The PMU is designed to **strengthen institutional capacities**, enabling MAATE to assume greater execution roles over time.

Agency response October 23, 2025:

Thank you very much for your observation and for the time dedicated to the review.

We wish to clarify that UNDP?s Execution Support Services for Project ID 10835 were formally approved by the GEF. Please find attached the relevant screenshot, which contains the project?s response to this comment from the 2022 Review Sheet (GEF ID 10835 ReviewSheet_CEOEndorsement)

> 2. On execution arrangement: per the budget table provided in Annex E, it would seem that UNDP will be providing a large number of executing activities. Kindly note I was not able to find a support letter from the OFP. As per guidelines a support letter from OFP is required when implementing agency is providing executing arrangements also the GPU Manager approval in Portal?s comments section is required.
>
> UNDP response 21 August 2022: Supporting letter from OFP is included in the attachment section. Kind request to refer to file: ?PIMS_6653_GEFID_10835_PlanetGOLD2_Child_Ecuador_ Annex2_OFP_Service_Request_Letter_to_UNDP? uploaded into the GEF portal on 6/13/2022 6:27 PM

Furthermore, Annex 2 (GEF Execution Support) of the ProDoc for Project ID 10835 explicitly includes the Government?s request for UNDP to provide these services

In fact the implementation structure proposed for **GEF Project ID 11333** is **identical to that of GEF Project ID 10835**, which is also being implemented in Ecuador under the leadership of the **Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE)**, with **UNDP** acting as the GEF Implementing Agency and as administrative entity for GEF resources.

In both projects:

- ? **MAATE** serves as the **Implementing Partner**, assuming full technical responsibility and accountability to UNDP.
- ? **UNDP** retains its role in **oversight, quality assurance, and execution support**, with a clear **functional separation (?firewall?)** between implementation oversight and execution, fully aligned with the **GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards (2019)** and UNDP?s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP).
- ? The **governance structure**, including the Project Board, Project Assurance function, and Project Management Unit (PMU), as well as the arrangements for financial control, procurement, and risk management, are consistent across both projects.

Furthermore, regarding **point ii** of your comment: we confirm that the **GEF Portal entry for project ID 10835**, as referenced by the reviewer and included in your comment, is **identical** to the **Portal screen capture** we are presenting here for ID 10835. This shows that **MAATE is listed as an Executing Partner (Government)**, with no reference to a dual role or exception, and **UNDP** is the Agency.

Accordingly, we have applied the same structure in project ID 11333 and reflected this setup in the Portal. We confirm that **UNDP has already been reflected in the budget table** as the responsible entity for the activities it will execute directly or on behalf of MAATE, in accordance with the GEF?s comments.

In summary, there is **no substantive difference between the institutional arrangements of projects ID 10835 and 11333**, and the proposed structure follows a previously approved and operational model.

Name of Parent Program

Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of artisanal and small-scale gold mining ASGM) Sector Plus - GEF GOLD +

GEF ID
10835

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
GEF GOLD+: Advancing formalization and mercury-free gold in Ecuador

Countries
Ecuador

Agency(ies)
UNDP-6653

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of Environment and Water of Ecuador

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Chemicals and Waste

Sector
Mixed & Others

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
11333

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

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

Countries
Ecuador,

Agency(ies)
UNDP,

Executing Partner
Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition

Executing Partner Type
Government

We greatly appreciate your thoughtful recommendations and remain available for any further clarifications the GEF Secretariat may require.

Agency Response November 11, 2025

As per indications, under the GEF Portal general information table (Part I), UNDP has been included as the Project Executing Entity with the type GEF Agency.

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

11333

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Title

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

Countries

Ecuador,

Agency(ies)

UNDP,

Executing Partner

UNDP

Executing Partner Type

GEF Agency

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Integrated Landscape Management in the Napo River Basin for Sustainable Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation		
Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean	GEF Project ID:	11333
Country(ies):	Ecuador	Type of Project	Full-Sized Project (FSP)
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	9648
Project Executing Entity(s) and Type:	UNDP	GEF Agency	
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity, Climate	Submission Date:	June 20, 2025

[1] Source: Organic Monetary and Financial Code

5.3 Core indicators
a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)?
b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?
Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

First review: Not fully.

- CI 6: please calculate GHG targets for an accounting period of 20 years, as usual.

Second review:?

- CI 6: Addressed.

- Under CI.1.1 and 1.2, please provide the missing WDPA IDs for the listed protected areas.

Third review:

- Please clarify if missing WDPA IDs for the listed protected areas are available and can be included. No response has been provided on this comment.

Forth review: Addressed. WPA IDs have been included to the extent possible and clarifications provided (see below).

Cleared

Agency Response
Agency Response August 18,2025

Thanks for your comment. The GEF?s request regarding the calculation of the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for a 20-year accounting period, in line with standard practice, is duly noted. The CI 6 calculation was updated using the official GEF guidelines, incorporating the full scope of restoration, sustainable management, and conservation measures planned under the project to ensure accuracy and compliance with GEF requirements.

CALCULATION OF THE EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET FOR THE NAPO BASIN

Assumptions: The following technical assumptions were applied regarding emission reduction rates based on the planned interventions.

? The average annual gross deforestation for the provinces of Napo, Orellana, and Sucumb?os was used as an input. Based on these data, a deforestation projection was carried out from 2021 to 2040. This information is presented in the Excel file ?*Estimacion emisiones v2*,? in the worksheet *Proyeccion_deforestacion*. Annex 17

? Considering that the project implementation period is 2027?2030, the year 2026 was taken as the baseline.

Projection of cumulative benefits over 20 years: In line with the GEF-approved PIF, avoided emissions were estimated through the reduction of deforestation. To this end, the PPG team of geographers worked on the deforestation projection from 2021 to 2040, using as a reference the historical deforestation data from the period 2008?2020 for the entire Napo Basin.

	Year	ESTIMATED ANNUAL GROSS DEFORESTATION (ha/year)	Annual emissions tCO?eq
Historical deforestation data	2008	13,781	7,544,131
	2014	15,949	8,873,139
	2016	19,386	10,779,210
	2018	15,529	8,576,034
	2020	20,264	11,025,914
Projected data	2021	19,498	10,736,800
	2022	19,990	10,999,085
	2023	20,496	11,267,146
	2024	21,017	11,541,626
	2025	21,555	11,823,254
Baseline	2026	22,112	12,112,860
Project implementation period (Projected data)	2027	22,690	12,411,394
	2028	23,293	12,719,939
	2029	23,922	13,039,736
	2030	24,583	13,372,208
	2031	25,278	13,718,989
	2032	26,012	14,081,955
	2033	26,792	14,463,269
	2034	27,622	14,865,422
	2035	28,511	15,291,289
	2036	29,466	15,744,189
	2037	30,498	16,227,958
	2038	31,617	16,747,036
	2039	32,836	17,306,564
	2040	34,171	17,912,499

Agency response October 23, 2025:

We thank you for the observation. Regarding the comment on the **missing WDPA IDs**, we confirm that this information has been included in **Annex 17 ? Core Indicators**, where the names of the areas, available WDPA codes, and corresponding IUCN categories are provided.

It is important to clarify that the project interventions are **not located within the official SNAP protected areas** of Ecuador, but rather in their **buffer zones and other complementary conservation areas**, such as **Protective Forests (Bosques Protectores ? BP)** and **Water Protection Areas (?reas de Protecci?n H?drica ? APH)**.

In this context:

? The only **available WDPA IDs** correspond to the **Llanganates National Park (97512)** and **Yasun? National Park (186)**, which are listed as **geographic references**, as the project activities are developed in their surrounding buffer zones.

? The remaining areas ?Protective Forests and Water Protection Areas? **are not part of the SNAP system** and therefore **do not currently have assigned WDPA IDs**. This is because they have not yet been officially registered in the global protected areas system.

Given this, it is **not possible to include WDPA IDs for those areas**, and we have presented this information as clearly and accurately as possible in the submission.

5.4 Risks
a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response
5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Requestn/a

Agency Response
6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities
6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request First review: Yes.

Agency Response

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request First review: Yes.

Agency Response

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request First review: Yes.

Agency Response

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request First review: Yes.

Agency Response

7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request First review: Yes.

Agency Response

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

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

STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request First review: Yes.

Agency Response

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request First review: Yes.

Agency Response

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Requestn/a

Agency Response
SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Requestn/a

Agency Response
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Requestn/a

Agency Response
8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response
8.3 Source of Funds
Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?
Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response
8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?
e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

First review: Yes.

Second review: Additional comments:

- In-kind is ?recurrent expenditure? normally. Please request the agency to revise where in-kind is classified as ?investment mobilized? to ?recurrent expenditures?.

- Grant is investment mobilized normally. Please request the agency to revise where grant is classified as ?recurrent expenditures? to ?investment mobilized?.

Third review: The response below indicates that the table has been revised, but this may not have been saved in the portal, please double check:

- In-kind is normally classified as ?recurrent expenditures?. Please request the agency to revise where in-kind is classified as ?investment mobilized? to ?recurrent expenditures?.

- Grant is investment mobilized normally. Please request the agency to revise where grant is classified as ?recurrent expenditures? to ?investment mobilized?.

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($)	Upload letters of co-finance
Recipient Country Government	MAATE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	57,440,420.00	
Recipient Country Government	BANECUADOR	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,000,000.00	
Others	ECOCIENCIA	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,250,773.00	
Others	CONFENIAE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,110,000.00	
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00	
Others	IKIAM	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00	
Others	BYOS	Grant	Investment mobilized	360,725.00	
Others	CATIE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00	
Others	ECOPAR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00	
Others	HIVOS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00	
Others	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	GAD Archidona	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00	
Others	PASOS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	30,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	BDE	In-kind	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00	
GEF Agency	UNESCO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	120,000.00	
			Total Co-financing($)	**69,111,918.00**	

Forth review: Table updated and revised.

Cleared

Agency Response

Agency Response September 12, 2025

The co-financing table and narrative have been revised to align with the GEF Co-financing Policy and Guidelines. All in-kind contributions (e.g., from MAATE, UNDP, NGOs, academia, Indigenous organizations, and local governments) are now classified as *recurrent expenditures*. All cash contributions representing new financial commitments (e.g., from BanEcuador, BDE, and BYOS) are classified as *investment mobilized*. Specifically, BYOS?s contribution has been reclassified from *recurrent expenditures* to *investment mobilized* to reflect its grant-based origin through the Andes Amazon Fund (AAF). Updates are reflected in Annex A of the CEO Endorsement: *Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type* and in paragraph 158.

Agency response October 23, 2025

Thank you for the observation. We confirm that the table has been reviewed and **updated in the portal** as per the guidance received:

- ? In-kind contributions have been reclassified as **recurrent expenditures**.
- ? Grants have been reclassified as **investment mobilized**.

C. Confirmed Sources of Co-financing for the Project by Name and by Type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)	Upload letters of co-finance
Recipient Country Government	MAATE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	57,440,420.00	
Recipient Country Government	BANECUADOR	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,000,000.00	
Others	ECOCIENCIA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,250,773.00	
Others	CONFENIAE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,110,000.00	
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00	
Others	IKIAM	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00	
Others	BYOS	Grant	Investment mobilized	360,725.00	
Others	CATIE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00	
Others	ECOPAR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00	
Others	HIVOS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00	
Others	WWF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	GAD Archidona	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00	
Others	PASOS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	30,000.00	
Recipient Country Government	BDE	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00	
GEF Agency	UNESCO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	120,000.00	
Add New			Total Co-Financing($)	69,111,918.00	

We appreciate your review and remain available for any further clarifications.

Annex B: Endorsements
8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:
Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Requestn/a

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework
8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?
b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)
c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?
d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

Annex E: Project map and coordinates
8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestFirst review: Yes.

Agency Response

Annex G: GEF Budget template
8.8 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?
b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?
c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

First review:

Preliminary comments on the budget:

- The overall structure of the budget is not considered adequate for this type of project, which should be focused on implementation on the ground and provision of finance to target groups. The percentage of GEF funding planned for technical professionals and consultants appears too high. Please provide the reviewer with a breakdown of staff costs, technical specialists, and consultants including overall percentages for consideration.

- Vehicle purchase has not been justified. As per GEF guidelines, the use of GEF grants for motorized vehicles is not encouraged and must be justified.

Second review:

- Vehicle purchase has been justified and will be considered. Approval is pending further review.

Please address the following:

? The Agency has requested a dual role exception, citing inadequate capacity and legal restrictions on MAATE. However, the budget table column for ?Responsible Entity? lists MAATE for every line except for two. If approved the dual implementing / executing role, please include ?UNDP? in the relevant rows under this column for activities proposed to be executed by UNDP.

? The budget table is over 45 pages long. Acknowledging that there is limited ability to make the budget table more reader friendly, please try to condense the information in the description column wherever possible by rationalizing the text. For example, please include brief TORs for project staff, consultants, and firms in a separate document that is referenced by the budget table rather than including lengthy TORs in the budget table itself.

? The following example demonstrates the need for clarity in description, as the Cost Category is Travel but the Description explains a series of Trainings/ Workshops/Meetings. Please use the correct Cost Categories and separate accordingly. The Travel line should be related to the Travel costs only, and the Description may refer briefly to another budget line in the table for internal consistency.

? There are several other instances where either individual budget lines seem to combine items from different Cost Categories and/or offer overly long or off-topic Descriptions. Please carefully review the budget table and correct such instances wherever they occur. Also, please present individual budget lines for each activity / position, so one can assess the reasonability to charge them to project components / M&E / PMC.

? The cost of project personnel amounts for 40% of the project budget. Thought a bit late, after we detected some extremely high costs in three, we have scrutinized the level of personnel costs for global/regional coordination child projects ? this current level of 40% is high compared with those that we have lately reviewed. Please ask the Agency to revise and reduce the cost of project personnel, adding this to project?s activities (note: after several back and forth with Agencies, the average of the personnel costs for the global / regional coordination child projects we reviewed was set around 25%-30%).

? In the ProDoc (attached), the TORs for the Board are a copy paste of the institutional arrangements section ? please ask the Agency to restrict this section to the TORs of the project personnel, which are completely missed.

? When resubmitted, we will review the budget table the again vis-?-vis the TORs and provide comments as appropriate.

Third review:

The Agency has requested a dual role exception, citing inadequate capacity and legal restrictions on MAATE. However, the budget table column for ?Responsible Entity? lists MAATE for every line except for two. Therefore, if all clarification requests on the dual execution waiver have been responded to, please include ?UNDP? in all rows under this column for activities proposed to be executed by UNDP, or executed on behalf of MAATE by UNDP. This should be noted for every budget line, since MAATE is unable to procure, recruit, and/or distribute payments to any personnel, contractors, works, goods or services and thus UNDP is a responsible entity.

Please also note that there is some text cut off from the margins, please revise:

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	fuel, and related operational expenses. Total cost: USD 19,458										
Grand Total		789,570	5,113,891	1,044,320	1,341,462	8,289,243	269,473	423,704	8,982,420		

be providing execution support to the Implementing Partner (MAATE) for these activities, as requested by the GEF Operational Foc
IDP will use its own operational rules and guidelines for these activities. The Implementing Partner will maintain ultimate responsib
ty for the use of GEF resources and the successful achievement of project outputs, in alignment with the approved annual work pla

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

Forth review: Budget table has been revised. Further, the vehicle purchase using GEF grants has been justified and is hereby approved by the Program Manager.

Cleared

Agency Response

Agency Response August 18,2025

1. Budget structure and proportion allocated to technical staff and consultants

Thanks for your comment. It is important to note that based on a detailed review of the notes and budget breakdown, it is evident that the majority of the allocations for technical staff and consultants is directly linked to field activities that advance ecosystem conservation, restoration, and sustainable management, rather than administrative functions.

F More than 70% of the contracted positions correspond to specialists and technicians who will be deployed in the field such as territorial coordinators, community facilitators, local promoters, and technicians in productive restoration, forest management, water resources, and bioeconomy whose primary role is to execute technical activities in prioritize areas. These roles ensure ecological restoration, habitat conservation, implementation of sustainable production practices, and strengthening of local governance.

Additional contracted experts in territorial communication, gender, socio-environmental safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation will also operate on-site, working directly with communities, GAD, Indigenous organizations, and productive actors to adapt actions to the local socio-cultural and ecological context.

Local and national consultancies are also planned for developing management plans, creating traceability systems, designing green financial instruments, and implementing in-person and virtual training programs?all aimed at building local capacities and ensuring sustainable impacts in the intervention areas.

Overall, the budget structure demonstrates that technical personnel and consultancy services are essential instruments for delivering tangible field results directly tied to the project?s proposed Global Environmental Benefits (GEB).The technical assistance component is intrinsically linked to the physical implementation of conservation, restoration, and sustainable management activities, fully addressing the GEF?s request to prioritize territorial action and direct benefits for target groups.

2. Vehicle purchase has not been justified. As per GEF guidelines, the use of GEF grants for motorized vehicles is not encouraged and must be justified.

The acquisition of two double-cabin 4x4 vehicles is included to strengthen the implementation of ecological restoration actions, environmental monitoring, and logistical operations in the project?s prioritized territories.

These vehicles will be exclusively used by the technical team and are essential for regular and safe access to intervention areas characterized by complex geographical conditions, unpaved roads, and high territorial dispersion. Their use will enable:

? Continuous technical supervision of field activities.

? Transport of materials, supplies, and equipment needed for restoration and monitoring.

? Mobilization of technical teams and local stakeholders to remote communities.

This investment directly supports the efficient implementation of activities under Outputs 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 4.1, ensuring that field operations are carried out in a timely, safe, and high-quality manner.
Given that the MAATE has confirmed that, due to severe budget constraints, it will not be able to provide vehicles for project use, the acquisition of these vehicles with GEF resources becomes essential to ensure operational capacity in the project?s priority territories and to deliver the committed GEBs.

Agency Response September 12,2025

Dual Role Execution and Designation of Responsible Entity

While MAATE is the main implementing partner, certain fiduciary, administrative, and procurement functions will be executed by UNDP under the ?Support to NIM? modality. This dual role request is justified based on structural limitations identified in the HACT Micro Assessment, as well as national legal constraints, including Executive Decree No. 94 and Resolution MDT-2025-032, which prevent MAATE from directly managing certain aspects of project execution.

Accordingly, the budget table has been revised to clearly reflect MAATE and UNDP as the Responsible Entities in the rows corresponding to activities executed by the Implementing partner and the agency, ensuring consistency with the institutional arrangements and transparency in accountability.

The following footnote has been added to the TBWP in ProDoc:
?*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*.?

Budget Table Length and Rationalization of Descriptions
To improve readability and facilitate review:

? The narrative descriptions in the budget table have been significantly shortened, focusing strictly on the specific expenditure.

? Extended Terms of Reference (TORs) and detailed justifications have been removed from the budget table (and consolidated in a separate file which is also the ***Annex 7. Overview of Technical Consultancies/Subcontracts*** of the ProDoc), where they are properly referenced in the budget notes.

A comparative table with the original and updated notes has been included below to illustrate these changes.

Note	Description	Previous Description
	Component 1	Component 1
1	International Consultancy ? ESIA. One consultancy team (Annex 7 TOR #26) to conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), Total: USD 13,151 (Year 1).	International consultancy (1 team) in charge of conducting the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), considered a critical input for the initial project planning. The consultancy team will identify risks differentiated by gender, age, and ethnicity, and will incorporate mitigation measures in accordance with GEF, REDD+, and UNDP standards, which will be integrated into the project's operational instruments. Total cost: USD 13,151 (Year 1: USD 13,151)

2	Technical Staff ? Policy, Territorial Coordination, and Facilitation. Hiring of: ? Environmental Policy and Regulatory Coordinator (36 months, USD 2,412/month). *Annex 7 TOR #3* ? MAATE Liaison ? Quito (18 months, USD 1,795/month). *Annex 7 TOR #4* ? 3 Technical Facilitators ? Hydrographic Unit Solutions (12 months each, USD 1,447/month). *Annex 7 TOR #5* ? 2 Territorial Coordinators (48 months each, USD 2,500/month). *Annex 7 TOR #6* ? 2 Community Facilitators and Local Communication Liaisons (54 months each, USD 1,167/month). *Annex 7 TOR #7* ? Project Design and Resource Mobilization Specialist (18 months, USD 1,795/month). *Annex 7 TOR #8* Total: USD 569,580 (Years 1?5).	This budget line covers the hiring of nine specialized technical professionals for strategic functions in interinstitutional coordination, territorial management, community communication, and technical assistance across prioritized landscapes (Napo, Sucumb?os, and three hydrographic units). Contract durations range from 18 to 60 months, with monthly salaries between USD 1,167 and USD 2,500. The positions include: ? 1 Technical Coordination Assistant (18 months, USD 1,795/month, USD 32,310 total) ? 1 Environmental Policy and Regulatory Coordinator (45 months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) ? 2 Territorial Coordinators (60 months each, USD 2,500/month, USD 150,000 each) ? 2 Community Facilitators and Local Communication Liaisons (60 months each, USD 1,167/month, USD 70,020 each) ? 3 Technical Facilitators for Solutions by Hydrographic Unit (44 months each, USD 1,447/month, USD 63,668each) Total: USD 771,894, to ensure technical capacities for efficient implementation, with a territorial, sustainable, and culturally appropriate approach.
3	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	Logistical costs associated with the implementation of Outcome 1.1, including at least 20 technical missions annually to territorially validate planning and governance actions. (Total cost: USD 60,594; USD 18,178 in Year 1; USD 12,119 in Years 2, 3, and 4; and USD 6,059 in Year 5). Missions will average three days and include land and river transportation, per diems, and logistical support. The use of community transportation and local providers will be prioritized as part of the territorial strengthening strategy. These activities directly contribute to the implementation of Indicators 6 and 7 of the project.

4	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).	Contractual Services ? Companies: to design and implement a training program on territorial management and governance, with a gender and participatory planning focus. (Total cost: USD 146,245; USD 24,852 in Year 1; USD 31,694 in Year 2; USD 32,239 in Year 3; USD 25,080 in Year 4; and USD 32,380 in Year 5). The contract will include at least 16 in-person events, development of thematic modules and educational materials (print and digital), and field technical support. Expected outputs: a complete training program, three thematic modules, a systematization report, and validation minutes per event. This activity directly supports the achievement of Indicators 6, 7, and 8 of the project.
	Component 2 ? Outcome 2.1	Component 2 ? Outcome 2.1
5	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).	Local consultants (4) for the development, updating, and technical support of at least eight (8) management plans for Water Protection Areas (WPA), recharge zones, and protective forests in prioritized territories within the Napo River basin. (Total cost: USD 233,366; USD 101,804 in Year 1; USD 120,990 in Year 2; USD 3,524 per year in Years 3, 4, and 5). Each consultant will lead participatory processes that include at least three (3) community workshops per territory, interviews with traditional authorities, and technical roundtables with community guards, ensuring the incorporation of ancestral knowledge and indicators differentiated by gender and age. Deliverables include: eight (8) printed and digital territorial management plans; eight (8) interim technical reports demonstrating the collective development process; and one (1) general systematization report with lessons learned, sustainability indicators, and recommendations for replication. The plans will align with local planning instruments (PDOT, PUGS, Life Plans) and will have formal backing from the relevant GADs. This line directly supports project Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.3.

6	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* ? Technical Assistant ? SFM and Water Resources (54 months, USD 1,447/month). *Annex 7 TOR #12* ? 2 Technical Assistants ? Productive Restoration and Territorial Management (54 months each, USD 1,795/month). *Annex 7 TOR #13* ? 2 Local Technicians ? Water Resources and Cartographic Support (54 months each, USD 1,795/month). *Annex 7 TOR #14* ? Technical Facilitator ? LVG Implementation (54 months, USD 1,447/month). *Annex 7 TOR #16* ? 2 Territorial Promoters ? Community Support (54 months each, USD 1,167/month). *Annex 7 TOR #17* Total: USD 756,854 (Years 1?5).	This budget line covers the hiring of nine technical professionals to strengthen field implementation in the areas of sustainable forest management (SFM), water resource management, biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, and support to community-based initiatives in prioritized landscapes. Contract durations are mostly 60 months, with monthly salaries ranging from USD 1,167 to USD 2,412. The positions include: ? 1 Senior Specialist in Sustainable Forest Management and Watershed Management (45months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) ? 1 Technical Assistant in SFM and Water Resources (60 months, USD 1,447/month, USD 86,820 total) ? 1 Technical Facilitator for Grant Implementation (LVG) (60 months, USD 1,447/month, USD 86,820 total) ? 2 Local Technicians in Water Resources and Cartographic Support (60 months each, USD 1,795/month, USD 107,700 each) ? 2 Territorial Promoters for Community Support (60 months each, USD 1,167/month, USD 140,040 combined total) ? 2 Technical Assistants in Productive Restoration and Territorial Management (60 months each, USD 1,795/month, USD 215,400 combined total) Total: USD 853,020, allocated to ensure technical, logistical, and community-level support for the effective implementation of project activities, with a territorial, inclusive, and ecologically sound approach.
7	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.	Travel costs (land and river transport, meals, lodging, and field materials) for environmental monitoring, ecological restoration, and training activities led by the project?s technical team. Total cost: USD 145,690 (USD 21,853 in Year 1; USD 36,422 in Year 2; USD 36,423 in Year 3; USD 29,138 in Year 4; and USD 21,854 in Year 5)). These expenses will ensure continuous operational coverage in rural communities and prioritized intervention territories, facilitating the direct execution of field actions related to Indicators 2 (hectares under restoration), 3 (agricultural areas in recovery), and 10 (participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities ? IPLCs).

8	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).	Procurement of two 4x4 double-cab vehicles to support ecological restoration, environmental monitoring, and logistics operations in prioritized territories. Total cost: USD 109,812 (Year 1). Vehicles will be used exclusively by the technical team for access to remote communities and transport of materials, ensuring efficient implementation of activities under Outcomes 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 4.1
9	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).	Procurement of supplies, tools, and materials for ecological restoration, participatory water and biodiversity monitoring, and the development of non-timber forest product bio-enterprises. Total cost: USD 42,107 (Years 1?5). All goods will be delivered with technical datasheets and community distribution records, ensuring proper use aligned with the objectives of Indicators 3 and 10.
10	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.	Low-Value Grants (LVGs) for community-led initiatives in ecological restoration and participatory water monitoring. Total cost: USD 811,859 (Years 1?5). At least 32 LVGs will be awarded, with estimated amounts between USD 15,000 and USD 25,000, aimed at initiatives led by women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. Proposals must align with WPA management plans and local water governance models, ensuring participatory and intercultural approaches. Each selected initiative must submit: a technical intervention plan with timeline and verifiable targets; beneficiary registry disaggregated by sex and age (minimum 40% women); a technical report with visual evidence and environmental monitoring forms; and a community-prepared lessons-learned document. Grants will be managed and monitored following UNDP?s LVG policies, ensuring transparency, territorial relevance, and sustainability.
11	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 (	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. These tools will be used by technical and community teams to strengthen participatory monitoring, environmental education, georeferenced data collection, and the implementation of field activities in prioritized intervention areas. Total cost: USD 29,186 (USD 2,918 in Year 1; USD 5,837 in Year 2; USD 7,297 in Years 3 and 4; USD 5,837 in Year 5). Years 1 to 5.

12	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	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. These vehicles are essential to guarantee mobility and timely technical support in rural and hard-to-reach territories. Vehicle use will facilitate the delivery of materials, supervision of restoration and monitoring activities, and ensure logistical coordination across all project components. Total cost: USD 19,458 (USD 1,946 in Year 1; USD 3,892 in Year 2; USD 4,864 in Years 3 and 4; USD 3,892 in Year 5). Years 1 to 5.
13	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).	Farmer Field Schools (FFS)- Implementation of Farmer Field Schools in at least six prioritized communities, with practical modules on ecological restoration, participatory monitoring, management plan development, and forest governance. Sessions will employ inclusive methodologies tailored to women, youth, and diverse community actors. Deliverables include six (6) custom didactic kits per territory, one (1) facilitation manual for local technician replication, and six (6) community participation records with disaggregated data. Total cost: USD 40,000 (USD 10,000 per year; years 2 to 5).
	Component 2: Outcome 2.2	Component 2: Outcome 2.2
14	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).	Two local consultants will be hired to design, validate, and implement a traceability methodology in three pilot collection centers, with a focus on sustainable production, resource control, and gender perspective. The intervention will include both the development of the digital system and its technical installation, aligned with agroecological production processes and local productive governance mechanisms. Expected deliverables include: a methodological guide (printed and digital) for traceability system implementation; three technical installation and adaptation reports per center; training for at least 30 people (with at least 40% female participation), including user manuals, evaluation sheets, and attendance records; and a national upscaling protocol with regulatory, technical, and operational recommendations, aligned with MAATE strategies and the project?s bioenterprise system. To Total cost: USD 156,621 (USD 15,661 in year 1; USD 54,818 in year 2; USD 86,142 in year 3). Years 1 to 3.

15	Technical Staff ? Bioeconomy, Restoration, and Land Management. Hiring of: ? Senior Specialist ? Bioeconomy and Responsible Production (36 months, USD 2,412/month). *Annex 7 TOR #9* ? 2 Technical Assistants ? Productive Restoration and Territorial Management (54 months each, USD 1,795/month). *Annex 7 TOR #10* ? 2 Local Technicians ? Sustainable Land Management and Production (54 months each, USD 1,447/month). *Annex 7 TOR #13* ? Technical Associate ? Sustainable Production and Bioeconomy (42 months, USD 1,447/month). *Annex 7 TOR #15* ? Technical Facilitator ? LVG Implementation (54 months, USD 1,447/month). *Annex 7 TOR #16* ? 2 Territorial Community Promoters (54 months each, USD 1,167/month). *Annex 7 TOR #17* Total: USD 701,916 (Years 1?5).	This budget line supports the hiring of nine technical professionals to strengthen implementation in the areas of bioeconomy, sustainable production, land restoration, and community engagement in prioritized territories. The team contributes to the territorial deployment of solutions aligned with the project?s environmental, productive, and social objectives. Contract durations range from 36 to 60 months, with monthly salaries between USD 1,167 and USD 2,412. The positions include: ? 1 Senior Specialist in Bioeconomy and Responsible Production (45 months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) ? 1 Technical Associate in Sustainable Production and Bioeconomy (42 months, USD 1,447/month, USD 60,774 total) ? 2 Local Technicians in Sustainable Land Management and Production (60 months each, USD 1,447/month, USD 86,820 each) ? 1 Technical Facilitator for Grant Implementation (LVG) (60 months, USD 1,447/month, USD 86,820 total) ? 2 Territorial Community Promoters (60 months each, USD 1,167/month, USD 140,040 combined total) ? 2 Technical Assistants in Productive Restoration and Territorial Management (60 months each, USD 1,795/month, USD 215,400 combined total) Total: USD 785,214, allocated to ensure the technical execution of bioeconomy and land management components through field-based, inclusive, and sustainable approaches in the target landscapes.

16	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.	Mobilization costs for the technical team responsible for Outcome 2.2, including at least 60 field visits to support the implementation of ecological restoration practices, participatory monitoring, and technical assistance to sustainable bioenterprises. These missions will enable direct support in 20 prioritized communities, strengthening local capacities and ensuring technical follow-up for interventions under Outputs 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3. Activities covered include ground and river transportation, per diems, lodging, vehicle rentals, and associated logistics. Total cost: USD 214,614 (USD 32,253 in year 1; USD 53,636 in years 2 and 3; USD 42,908 in year 4; USD 32,181 in year 5). Years 1 to 5.
17	Supplies and Equipment ? Restoration and Sustainable Production. Acquisition of tools, inputs, seeds, and materials to implement restoration and sustainable production in prioritized communities. . Total: USD 711,077	Acquisition of materials, tools, supplies, and equipment for implementing restoration and sustainable production activities in prioritized communities. This investment will support the creation and strengthening of at least 12 agroecological production and nutrition clubs linked to community bioenterprises, as well as direct intervention in 600 hectares (average cost USD 1,185/ha) through agrosilvopastoral and analog forestry practices. The remaining 2,420 hectares needed to meet the total restoration target must be managed by the project in coordination with GADs and CTEA under Output 3.1.3. Resources will cover the purchase of basic tool kits, organic inputs, certified seeds, bioinputs, and materials specific to regenerative practices adapted to the Amazonian context. Each delivery will be documented with validated technical sheets and accompanied by direct field technical assistance. Total cost: USD 711,077 (USD 13,367 in year 1; USD 287,398 in year 2; USD 280,715 in year 3; USD 129,597 in year 4). Years 1 to 4.
18	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	At least 15 Small Grants (LVGs) to strengthen enterprises led by women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples in ecological restoration areas. Each grant will range between USD 15,000 and USD 25,000 and target family production units, community collection centers, and Agroecological Innovation Centers linked to Output 2.2.3. Proposals will be prioritized based on agroecological focus, traceability, and financial viability. Total cost: USD 325,786 (USD 136,830 in years 2 and 3; USD 52,126 in year 4). Years 2 to 4.

19	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	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs. Production of ten (10) pedagogical audiovisual products documenting community experiences in sustainable agriculture, ecological restoration, and traceability with a gender and intercultural approach under Outcome 2.2. Each product will include at least three (3) short complementary capsules, resulting in a total of thirty (30) additional pieces aimed at training, replication, and community awareness. Total cost: USD 41,108 (USD 4,111 in year 1; USD 12,332 in years 2 and 3; USD 8,222 in year 4; USD 4,111 in year 5). Years 1 to 5.
20	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	Territorial training in agroecology, bioinputs, and community leadership. Organization of at least forty (40) face-to-face training events targeting community actors involved in enterprises, agroecological clubs, and prioritized territories for agrosilvopastoral restoration. Topics include agroecology, productive restoration, bioinput production and use, and economic leadership with a gender perspective, using a pedagogical strategy adapted to rural, intercultural, and multilingual contexts. Total cost: USD 323,149 (USD 10,000 in year 1; USD 109,383 in years 2 and 3; USD 94,383 in year 4). Years 1 to 4.
	Component 3:	Component 3:
21	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	This budget line covers the hiring of 1 specialist responsible for strengthening the project's strategy on climate finance and sustainable markets, with a particular focus on linking territorial actions to green financial instruments, incentives, value chains, and nature-based finance mechanisms that support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration. The contract spans 45 months, with a monthly salary of USD 2,412, for a total of USD 108,540.

22	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.	Financial awareness workshops with an intercultural approach. Logistical expenses related to the organization of eight (8) local workshops and two (2) national meetings on financial inclusion, targeting women, youth, and Indigenous peoples. The activities will focus on raising awareness and training on community finance, promoting equitable access to sustainable and inclusive financial mechanisms under Result 3.1 of the project. Each event will include the distribution of community financial kits (culturally adapted printed and digital learning materials) and certificates of participation. The methodology will combine participatory dynamics with accessible technical content, fostering the economic leadership of prioritized groups. This line contributes directly to the activation of green finance initiatives and strengthens access to financial mechanisms for women and Indigenous peoples. Total cost: USD 72,845 (USD 10,927 in Year 1; USD 18,211 in Years 2 and 3; USD 14,569 in Year 4; USD 10,927 in Year 5).

23	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	Specialized services for the design of sustainable financial instruments and support for resource mobilization. This budget line will cover specialized services that will contribute to the design and validation of innovative and sustainable financial instruments, as well as to the strengthening of technical capacities for resource mobilization in the Napo River Basin. The actions will aim to scale up project initiatives, facilitate access to climate finance, and promote investments in restoration, conservation, and sustainable production. In coordination with the project's technical teams, these consultancies will provide support for the formulation of proposals aligned with local public policies, Indigenous life plans, and climate finance frameworks; the mapping of national and international funding opportunities; the design of innovative schemes (such as revolving funds, incentives, and green loans); and the development of tools to improve access to these mechanisms for women, youth, and Indigenous peoples. In addition, the consultancies will support coordination with public and private financial actors and will systematize the experiences generated to inform the project's financial sustainability strategy. Expected outputs: three (3) operational financial models; one (1) technical protocol for financial performance monitoring; and one (1) inter-institutional coordination report for additional resource mobilization. Total cost: USD 305,321(USD 43,874 in Year 1; USD 85,953 in Year 2; USD 73,123 in Year 3; USD 58,498 in Year 4; and USD 43,873 in Year 5).

24	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	Grants for productive projects led by Indigenous peoples. This budget line will finance at least seven (7) Low-Value Grants (LVGs) aimed at strengthening productive initiatives led by Indigenous peoples and nationalities in prioritized territories of the Napo River Basin. Supported projects will be prioritized based on a set of enabling conditions that enhance their feasibility and sustainability. These include: A co-management plan or agreement validated by communities and local authorities; Evidence of basic operational conditions (e.g., access to the site, minimum storage or processing space, or locally available labor and coordination structures); A clear demonstration of medium-term financial and organizational viability, supported by Indigenous organizations and/or local governments. These criteria do not require full infrastructure to be in place prior to funding. Where gaps are identified, the project will offer technical assistance to help communities meet the necessary conditions and co-develop viable proposals aligned with Life Plans, PDOTs, REDD+ strategies, and other instruments (see Outputs 3.1.3.1 to 3.1.3.11). Each grant will include specialized technical support during implementation and the preparation of a community sustainability report, jointly prepared by community leaders and the project?s technical team. This report will include participatory evaluation results, lessons learned, and recommendations for scalability. Priority initiatives may focus on sustainable bioenterprises, non-timber forest product (NTFP) transformation, culturally informed agroecology (e.g., the Chakra model), or community marketing mechanisms. All projects must integrate principles of gender equity, intercultural relevance, and intergenerational participation. Grants will have to follow UNDP policy on Low Value Grants. Total cost: USD 336,085 (USD 118,938 in Years 2 and 3; USD 98,209 in Year 4).

25	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	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs: Production of at least fifteen (15) communication materials aimed at promoting sustainable enterprises led by women, youth, and Indigenous peoples, under output 2.2.3 and the project?s communication strategy. The materials will include six (6) short audiovisual capsules (1?2 minutes), three (3) mini-documentaries (5?7 minutes), four (4) digital and printed product catalogs, and two (2) promotional kits for fairs (posters, banners, technical datasheets). All content will be multilingual and intercultural. These materials will be published on the MAATE and project digital platforms, promoting their use as training, awareness-raising, and product positioning tools. Total cost: USD 61,662 (USD 6,166 in Years 1 and 5; USD 18,499 in Years 2 and 3; USD 12,332 in Year 4).
26	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 knowledge. Total: USD 181,575	Training workshops on inclusive financial mechanisms, bioeconomy, and commercialization. Execution of at least twenty (20) training workshops focused on green finance, bioeconomy, and sustainable commercialization, prioritizing the participation of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples. Each workshop will include practical thematic modules, pedagogical materials adapted to intercultural contexts, educational kits, MAATE and UNDP-certified certificates, and a knowledge acquisition assessment. A total of 180 people are expected to be trained, with at least 40% female participation, using Field School methodologies and ancestral knowledge approaches. Final outputs will include a digital content repository, six (6) learning evaluation reports, and a replicable methodological guide. Total cost: USD 181,575 (USD 27,236 in Years 1 and 5; USD 45,394 in Years 2 and 3; USD 36,315 in Year 4).
	Component 4:	Component 4:

27	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* ? Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist (36 months, USD 2,412/month). *Annex 7 TOR #20* ? Technical Assistant ? Data Processing, Monitoring and Reporting (36 months, USD 2,412/month). *Annex 7 TOR #21* ? Strategic Communication and Territorial Engagement Officer (36 months, USD 2,412/month). *Annex 7 TOR #22* ? Specialist ? Gender Equality, Diversity, and Indigenous Peoples (36 months, USD 2,412/month). *Annex 7 TOR #23* ? Strategic Monitoring and Results Evaluation Specialist (7 months, USD 2,900/month). *Annex 7 TOR #24* ? Logistics and Workshop Assistant (54 months, USD 1,447/month). *Annex 7 TOR #25* Total: USD 532,598 (Years 1?5).	This budget line supports the hiring of six professionals who provide cross-cutting technical support for the project?s implementation, learning, communication, monitoring, safeguards, and gender equality. These roles are essential for ensuring quality control, stakeholder engagement, and compliance with environmental and social standards. Contract durations range from 13 to 36 months, with monthly salaries between USD 2,412 and USD 2,900. The positions include: ? 1 Knowledge Management and Learning Coordinator (45 months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) ? 1 Strategic Monitoring and Results Evaluation Specialist (13 months, USD 2,900/month, USD 37,700 total) ? 1 Technical Assistant in Data Processing, Monitoring and Reporting (45 months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) ? 1 Strategic Communication and Territorial Engagement Officer (45 months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) ? 1 Environmental and Social Safeguards Compliance Specialist (45 months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) ? 1 Specialist in Gender Equality, Diversity, and Indigenous Peoples (45 months, USD 2,412/month, USD 108,540 total) Total: USD 580,400, ensuring comprehensive technical backstopping and mainstreaming of key development priorities such as learning, accountability, gender equality, and environmental and social safeguards throughout the project cycle.
28	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.	Team travel for training and SAT systematization. Travel expenses for the technical team to support training, systematization, and dissemination of the Territorial Learning System (SAT). At least ten (10) field missions are planned. Each mission will generate documentation that contributes to the collective construction of knowledge and the strengthening of local capacities. Total cost: USD 38,851 (USD 5,828 in Year 1; USD 9,713 in Years 2 and 3; USD 7,770 in Year 4; USD 5,827 in Year 5)..

29	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).	Design and implementation of an environmental training e-learning platform. A specialized consulting firm will be contracted to design and fully implement the project's virtual training program, aimed at strengthening capacities in water governance, productive restoration, and leadership with a gender focus. The consultancy will include five (5) multimedia thematic modules (videos, infographics, readings, and self-assessments), the design and implementation of a multilingual, rural-accessible e-learning platform, pre- and post-assessment tests, a user manual, and a technical report with pedagogical and sustainability recommendations. As part of its scaling, the platform will be formally transferred to MAATE and partner universities (such as USFQ and IKIAM) through a technology transfer agreement to ensure its continuity. Total cost: USD 146,245 (USD 21,937 in Years 1 and 5; USD 36,561 in Years 2 and 3; USD 29,249 in Year 4).
30	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	Technological and audiovisual equipment for SAT and e-learning. Procurement of technological and audiovisual equipment (cameras, microphones, projectors, servers, tablets) for recording, editing, and disseminating content related to the Territorial Learning System (SAT) and the project?s virtual platform. Priority will be given to rugged, user-friendly equipment suitable for rural settings and easily integrated into local training processes. Total cost: USD 229,824 (USD 34,474 in Year 1; USD 57,456 in Years 2 and 3; USD 45,965 in Year 4; USD 34,473 in Year 5).
31	Supplies ? In-Person Activities. Procurement of stationery, datasheets, folders, and monitoring kits for training and field support. Total: USD 46,114	Operational supplies for in-person activities. Procurement of operational supplies such as stationery, technical datasheets, folders, and monitoring kits for training and technical support activities in the field. Each delivery will be documented with attendance sheets, usage forms, and distribution records, ensuring traceability and community ownership of distributed tools. Total cost: USD 46,114 (USD 7,138 in Year 1; USD 11,307 in Years 2 and 3; USD 9,223 in Year 4; USD 7,139 in Year 5).

32	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	Rental and Maintenance ? Premises. Rental and basic maintenance of decentralized offices and territorial training nodes, including connectivity, furniture, and essential operational services. These facilities will support the ongoing implementation of training processes and the territorial management of the project. Total cost: USD 63,485 (USD 9,523 in Years 1 and 5; USD 15,871 in Years 2 and 3; USD 12,697 in Year 4).
33	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	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs: Production of at least ten (10) multi-format materials (videos, radio capsules, infographics) to highlight the leadership of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples in the implementation of the project. All content will feature the GEF/UNDP logos and will be disseminated through institutional and community channels. Total cost: USD 102,770 (USD 10,277 in Years 1 and 5; USD 30,831 in Years 2 and 3; USD 20,554 in Year 4).
34	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	Training events and community replication. Organization of at least eighteen (18) in-person events focused on strengthening community capacities: one kickoff workshop, ten territorial workshops using the Farmer Field School (FFS) model, five replication events led by local facilitators, and three intercultural exchange meetings. Topics will include productive restoration, participatory monitoring, youth leadership, and local sustainability, with priority given to the participation of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples. Expected outputs include eight (8) thematic systematization reports, one (1) compendium of best practices, one (1) participant database, and the integration of lessons learned into the SAT and MAATE programs. Total cost: USD 181,575 (USD 27,236 in Years 1 and 5; USD 45,394 in Years 2 and 3; USD 36,315 in Year 4).
	Component 5:	Component 5:

35	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).	This budget line covers the hiring of 1 Strategic Monitoring and Results Evaluation Specialist responsible for designing and overseeing the project?s monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) system. The position ensures the generation of high-quality data for decision-making, progress tracking, and reporting to UNDP and GEF. The contract is for 47 months, with a monthly rate of USD 2,900, for a total cost of USD 136,300. This specialist plays a key role in aligning MEL activities with project objectives, safeguarding data integrity, coordinating periodic reviews, and supporting adaptive management throughout the implementation cycle.
36	Monitoring of GEF Indicators, Results 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/year), 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 expenses related to monitoring key GEF indicators, the Project Results Framework (PRF), and social and environmental safeguards. Total cost: USD 38,000 (Years 1 to 5). Financed activities include: project inception workshop and report (USD 5,000 in Year 1), preparation of the GEF Project Implementation Report ? PIR (USD 6,000 annually), monitoring of the Gender Action Plan and safeguards (USD 12,000 in total), annual technical and operational supervision missions (USD 10,000 across five years), and learning missions for systematization and dissemination (USD 5,000 total).
37	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	To strengthen the quality, transparency, and visibility of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) process. Total cost: USD 20,650 (USD 4,090 for Years 1, 4, and 5; and USD 4,190 for Years 2 and 3) . This line will cover services for translation, printing, systematization, and dissemination of key MEL products, ensuring access to evaluation results for all stakeholders. A total of four technical support documents will be produced to assist the evaluation process, contributing to adaptive management mechanisms and compliance with GEF and UNDP standards.

38	Consultants ? Independent Project Evaluations. Two international consultants will conduct the project?s evaluations: ? Mid-Term Review (MTR) ? Year 3, USD 29,250 (45 days at USD 650/day). Mobilization costs: USD 8,011. *Annex 7 TOR #27* ? 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	This budget line covers two independent consultants for the monitoring and evaluation of the project, to be conducted by one International Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at two critical stages: ? Mid-Term Review (MTR) ? to be conducted in Year 3, with a total cost of USD 29,250, based on a daily rate of USD 650 for 45 days. ? Final Evaluation (FE) ? to be conducted in Year 5, also with a total cost of USD 29,250, based on a daily rate of USD 650 for 45 days. Each consultancy includes the consultant?s professional fees and mobilization costs required for fieldwork and validation workshops. For the Mid-Term Review (MTR), mobilization costs are estimated at $8,011.00. For the Terminal Evaluation (TE), mobilization costs amount to $8,012.00. Both evaluations will follow UNDP Results-Based Programming (RP) and GEF Evaluation Office guidelines, and will deliver the following outputs: ? One comprehensive evaluation report per assignment (MTR and FE); ? One executive summary per evaluation. ? Facilitation of one stakeholder validation workshop per evaluation to present key findings and recommendations. These independent reviews are critical for adaptive management, accountability, and learning, and will contribute to evidence-based adjustments during implementation and for post-project planning.
	PMC	PMC

39	Project Management ? Key Staff. Hiring of: ? Project Coordinator (60 months, USD 3,328/month). *Annex 7 TOR #1* ? 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).	This budget line covers the hiring of two key management positions responsible for leading and coordinating the overall implementation of the project, as well as managing its financial and administrative execution. These positions are part of the Project Management Unit(PMU) and will be engaged for the full duration of the project (60 months). The positions include: ? 1 Project Coordinator (60 months, USD 3,328/month, USD 199,680 total) ? 1 Administrative and Financial Manager (60 months, USD 2,900/month, USD 174,000 total) Total: USD 373,680 These professionals will provide leadership and oversight, ensure alignment with UNDP-GEF standards, coordinate with national and local counterparts, and guarantee efficient and transparent use of resources throughout the life of the project.
40	Professional Services ? Audits and Legal Compliance. Total: USD 50,024	Professional services for annual audits and legal compliance of the project. Total cost: USD 50,024 (USD 10,004 per year 1,4 and 5; years 2 and 3 USD 10,006). These services include preparation of financial reports required by the GEF, review of key contracts to ensure legal compliance with UNDP-GEF standards, and legal advice for the signing and execution of inter-institutional agreements necessary during project implementation.

Proper Use of Cost Categories
All budget lines have been reviewed and adjusted to align with GEF cost categories:

? ?Travel? lines include only expenses related to transportation, per diems, lodging, and logistics.

? Cross-references have been included when activities are related to multiple budget categories.

Disaggregation of Budget Lines
To enhance traceability and facilitate cost verification, each line now corresponds to a single activity, position, or expense, aligned with the project components (including M&E and PMC).

Personnel Costs ? Justification and Reduction
We acknowledge GEF's concern regarding the high percentage of personnel costs. However, it

is important to note that this is a **Full-Size Project (FSP)** with a territorial implementation model in a complex Amazonian context, not a global or regional coordination child project.

Adjustments made:

Phase	**Personnel Budget**	**% of Total Budget**
PIF Design	$3,907,778	44%
PPG Phase	$3,621,584.76	40%
Current Revision	$3,157,770	35%
GEF Suggested	$2,694,726	30%

This reduction was achieved by applying UNDP?s **Portfolio Policy**, which enables the strategic and shared use of technical personnel across the national project portfolio (e.g., UK PACT, UN-REDD), creating operational synergies and optimizing co-financing, without compromising project performance.

Reallocation of Funds to Direct Actions
Funds released from the personnel budget have been reallocated to **Low-Value Grants (LVG)** and other local-level activities, increasing the project's impact on:

? Ecological restoration initiatives

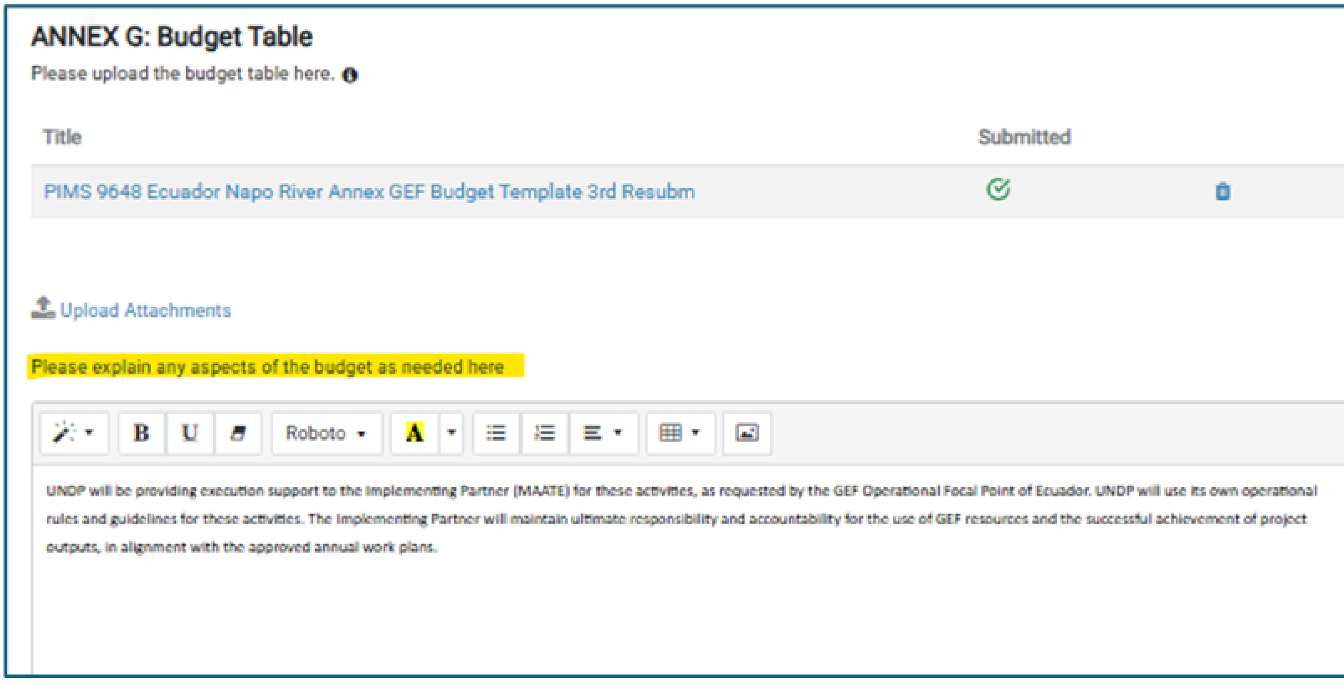
? Sustainable production models

? Strengthening community governance

Nonetheless, a minimum technical team is retained to ensure compliance with GEF and UNDP standards on fiduciary matters, safeguards, and technical oversight, particularly considering the limited capacities of some local partners.

TORs for Project Personnel and Steering Committee

? The TORs for the Project Steering Committee follow the UNDP?s template and all TORs for project personnel and consultants are now included in **Annex 7**, referenced in the budget notes.



Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes
8.9 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.
b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.
c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Requestn/a

Agency Response
Additional Annexes
9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation
Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

First review: No. Please address comments made in this review.

Second review: No. Please address comments made in this review.

Please ensure the resubmitted CEO Endorsement is formatted and edited for publication and circulation to GEF council. There are large parts of text that are highlighted various colors. Please remove these highlights and other editorial marks from the file before resubmitting.

Third review: No. Please respond to remaining clarification requests and address comments.

Forth review: Please insert "UNDP" as executing agency with the type ?GEF Agency? in the "General Project Information" table (part I of the portal template) - see comments in box 5.2. Further, please take note of the additional comments below in box 9.2.

Final review: UNDP has been inserted as executing agency in Part I. MGR approval email is uploaded to the documents section. Program Manager recommends CEO endorsement.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestAgency is requested to build capacity of MAATE during the implementation / execution of the project by addressing the shortcomings identified in the HACT to the extent possible.

9.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	**7/23/2025**	**8/18/2025**
Additional Review (as necessary)	**8/29/2025**	**10/7/2025**
Additional Review (as necessary)	**10/9/2025**	**10/23/2025**
Additional Review (as necessary)	**10/15/2025**	**11/11/2025**
Additional Review (as necessary)	**10/30/2025**	