



Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico

Countries

Mexico

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

UNOPS

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Energy Efficiency, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Climate information, Livelihoods, Disaster risk management, Community-based adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Food Security, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Drought Mitigation, Sustainable Fire Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Seascapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Certification - International Standards, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Tourism, Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Threatened Species, Invasive Alien Species, Biomes, Sea Grasses, Tropical Dry Forests, Temperate Forests, Coral Reefs, Rivers, Tropical Rain Forests, Mangroves, Wetlands, Sustainable Development Goals, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Indigenous Peoples, Communications, Behavior change, Education, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Private Sector, Capital providers, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Integrated Programs, Sustainable Cities, Urban Food Systems, Urban Biodiversity, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Sustainable Food Systems, Smallholder Farming, Integrated Landscapes, Sustainable Commodity Production, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Food Value Chains, Landscape Restoration, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Generation, Innovation, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

60 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

425,715

Submission Date

3/3/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	3,214,727	6,809,699
CCM-1-1	GET	976,087	2,067,628
LD-1-4	GET	290,396	615,141
Total Project Cost (\$)		4,481,210	9,492,468

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To strengthen socio-ecological and economic resilience in seven (7) landscapes and seascapes in Mexico –(1) Forest and milpa landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche States, (2) Sustainable forestry landscape in Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan, (3) Coastal seascape in the Yucatan Peninsula, (4) Agroforestry landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco, (5) Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed, (6) Mixteca Landscape, and) (7) Oaxaca Mountain Landscape)– through community-based activities contributing to global environmental benefits and sustainable development.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1. Coastal and terrestrial biocultural areas and their associated ecosystem services within seven targeted landscapes and seascapes are enhanced through community conservation and restoration.</p> <p>1.2. The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological and sustainable forestry practices in biocultural landscapes and seascapes.</p> <p>1.3. Increased adoption (development, demonstration and financing) of renewable and energy-efficient technologies at community level.</p>	<p>1.1.1. Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes and seascapes that improve connectivity, support innovation in biodiversity conservation and optimization of ecosystem services (including no-take zones to promote sustainable fisheries; agrobiodiversity conservation; support to traditional medicine; improved cooperative management of underwater ecosystems; wetland and reef restoration; establishment of new community conservation areas and territories and promotion of inclusive conservation).</p> <p>1.2.1. Targeted community projects and alliances enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, agroecological practices, sustainable forest management, and responsible fisheries.</p> <p>1.3.1. Targeted community projects implementing renewable and energy-efficient technologies in each landscape, including solar and wind energy applications, micro-hydro generation systems, biodigestors, efficient biomass use and wood stoves.</p>	GET	2,261,944	4,791,436

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Landscape governance, adaptive management for upscaling and replication and strengthening of value chains	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1. Second-tier organizations and multi-stakeholder governance platforms strengthened/in place for improved governance of target landscapes and seascapes for effective participatory decision making to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and improve inclusion of vulnerable sectors.</p> <p>2.2. The resilience of local communities in key landscapes and seascapes is strengthened by adding value and connecting to markets through sustainable value chains and through the improvement of the financial sustainability of existing projects.</p>	<p>2.1.1. Two landscape strategies developed, and the five strategies developed in GEF-06 disseminated and revised participatorily.</p> <p>2.1.2. Second-tier organizations and community networks implement strategic initiatives to upscale successful SGP project experiences and practices including community-CSO-government policy dialogues (for example, Beekeepers Alliance, Ecotourism Alliance, Native Seed Guardians Alliance, and Forestry Alliance).</p> <p>2.1.3. Knowledge from community project innovations shared through communities of practice (for example, renewable energy, agroecology, sustainable forestry and fisheries) and regional South-South exchanges with SGP Country Programmes and others in Latin American and Caribbean countries.</p> <p>2.2.1. Targeted community projects and second-tier organizations increase their participation in new links (inputs, transformation, logistics and retail) within the value chain (including fair and sustainable standards and certifications for fisheries, timber, cocoa, coffee, honey and agro-ecological production).</p>	GET	2,005,875	4,249,010

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	4,267,819	9,040,446
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	213,391	452,022
				Sub Total(\$)	213,391	452,022
				Total Project Cost(\$)	4,481,210	9,492,468

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Government	Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), and CONANP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	740,000
Government	(INAES) Instituto Nacional de la Economía Social, Secretaria de Bienestar	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	692,468
Government	Quintana Roo, Yucatán, Oaxaca, Tabasco and Campeche State	Grant	Investment mobilized	450,000
CSO	Grantees	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,900,000
CSO	Grantees	Grant	Investment mobilized	460,000
CSO	The Nature Conservancy	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000
CSO	Rainforest Alliance	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,250,000
CSO	Conservation International	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000
Total Project Cost(\$)				9,492,468

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The Investment Mobilized figures are based on discussions with the sources identified and will be formally confirmed through co-financing letters defining each contribution in cash or in kind. SGP global policy requests grant recipient CSOs to contribute to their projects in cash to the best of their abilities. The National Steering Committee will foster compliance with this policy, as appropriate. Grantee contributions will only be confirmed during project implementation at the time of grant project approval. The SGP National Coordinator was instructed to differentiate co-financing commitments between those corresponding to recurrent costs e.g. salaries of NGO or government staff, costs of premises, etc., and Investment Mobilized, corresponding to new and additional funding either directly contributed to SGP for application to SGP project grants (e.g. as grantee contributions in kind and in cash), or mobilized investment to support project objectives, but not managed by SGP.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,214,727	305,399	3,520,126
UNDP	GET	Mexico	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	976,087	92,728	1,068,815
UNDP	GET	Mexico	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	290,396	27,588	317,984
Total GEF Resources(\$)					4,481,210	425,715	4,906,925

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required
☐

PPG Amount (\$)
85,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)
8,075

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Mexico	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	60,000	5,700	65,700
UNDP	GET	Mexico	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	17,000	1,615	18,615
UNDP	GET	Mexico	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	8,000	760	8,760
Total Project Costs(\$)					85,000	8,075	93,075

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2,300.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200.00			

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00			

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
40,000.00			

Type/Name of Third Party Certification
Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50,000.00			

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

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

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted		
Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)			
Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,000.00			

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
3			

Type/name of the third-party certification
Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement		LME at MTR	LME at TE
Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided				
Metric Tons (expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)		Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated				
Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	80000	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0
Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector				
Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				
Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector				
Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	80,000			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				
Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)				

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
select				<input type="text"/>
select	0.80			<input type="text"/>

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,000			
Male	2,000			
Total	4000	0	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1a. Project Description

The Seventh Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Mexico will enable communities and organizations in seven landscapes and seascapes in the South and Southeast regions of Mexico, in the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Quintana Roo and Yucatan, to take collective action to enhance socio-ecological resilience of their production landscapes through a participatory landscape planning and management approach that supports multi-functional land-use systems aimed at optimizing ecosystem services and strengthening biodiversity for local and global environmental benefits. SGP will support specific community-based actions in each landscape by financing small-scale projects implemented by local community organizations and coordinating them within the priority landscapes to achieve landscape-scale impacts.

The project will work in the context of existing public policies to promote landscape sustainability and connectivity in identified priority areas for maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation, by means of a program of small grants to communities and their organizations. The grants will support activities such as promotion of timber and non-timber forest products, sustainable use of key animal species, agroecology, agroforestry, landscape restoration and mitigation of climate change, among others. Beside small grants, the project will also work in the broader context by providing training, capacity building and advocacy for individuals and organizations to improve their participation in new value chains, influence public policies and contribute to the advancement of human rights to land and territory.

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Background

Mexico's GEF Small Grants Programme was established in March 1994 during the global SGP Pilot Phase (1992-1996). The Programme's geographic focus at inception was the states of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan in the Yucatan Peninsula; parts of the states of Tabasco and Chiapas were added in 2000 and 2006, respectively. If approved, SGP Mexico will add the state of Oaxaca during the Seventh Operational Phase (OP7), to reach an approximate extension of 262,586 Km², corresponding to 13% of Mexico's national territory, inhabited by a population of 10,547,368, according to Mexico's Population and Housing Census 2010.

During its 25 years of operation, Mexico's SGP has funded 664 projects for a total amount of USD 34.8 million of which USD 16.8 million was GEF funding and an estimated USD 18 million was co-financing. These projects addressed most GEF Focal Areas (BD, CC, LD, IW, POPs), with the majority (70%) of projects in the biodiversity focal area (463 projects). The Mexican SGP Programme has adjusted its strategy overtime to reflect lessons learnt and to address emerging issues and opportunities.

SGP Mexico's achievements during the Sixth Operational Phase (OP6), up to December 2019, include: 16,071 hectares of conserved marine and freshwater ecosystems; 83,499 hectares[1]¹ under community management, and indirect contribution to strengthening of 2,697,943 hectares in twelve protected areas through conservation projects.

In previous operational phases, the approach had been on ecosystem-level management, responding to regional needs. However, during OP6, a landscape approach was adopted, aiming at reconciling conservation objectives with economic activities across a given landscape. The landscape level approach recognizes that diverse ecosystems coexist within the same landscape, together with production systems and other human activities and their institutions; it combines natural resource management with environmental and livelihood considerations.

Since this perspective was adopted, five landscapes and seascapes have been geographically defined, highlighting their specific socio-cultural, ecological-environmental and production features, such as the spatial distribution of *milpa*,[2]² agroforestry production and forest management; surface runoff, and the distribution of mangroves and other coastal vegetation. *Ejidos* and indigenous community lands are the predominant form of collective land tenure in each of the selected landscapes.[3]³ Two more landscapes will be added during OP7: the Mixteca and Oaxaca Mountains, both in the state of Oaxaca.

The following is a brief description of these seven landscapes.

1. Agroforestry Landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco. During OP6, the extent of this landscape increased from 8,681.61 Km² to 51,217.22 Km² compared to the area defined in the ProDoc, so that it is now found in 11 municipalities in the state of Tabasco and in 106 in the state of Chiapas. It covers a broad range of ecosystems and agroecosystems. It is a highly heterogeneous landscape, where agroforestry systems with coffee and cacao are very valuable production systems and are important carbon reservoirs, depending on the system's design and on the tree species used.

The cacao producing region goes from the Grijalva riverbed in Tabasco, towards the northern sierra in Chiapas and reaches the Gulf of Mexico. Cacao production is the third most important crop in the state of Tabasco[4]⁴, and as a crop it dates back to pre-Hispanic times. It greatly contributes to the conservation of biodiversity and is an important source of food for the whole region.

Coffee production in agroforestry systems has aided subsistence for indigenous populations in southern Mexico since the 19th century. Presently, most coffee cultivation is concentrated in Chiapas, in small sized plots (no more than two hectares per producer). Shade-grown coffee agroforestry systems provide diverse environmental services such as soil and biodiversity conservation, water purification and carbon sequestration.

In Tabasco, agriculture and cattle-raising zones prevail, as well as grasslands and other types of herbaceous covers. In Chiapas, there are also large expanses with temperate forests and rainforest.[5]⁵ In this landscape, there are 12 federal protected areas, four Ramsar sites, 15 state and municipal protected areas, and 11 areas which have been voluntarily set aside for conservation[6]⁶

Key threats to this landscape include the high vulnerability of coffee and cacao agroforestry systems to pests and diseases, one of the reasons why they have been abandoned. Moreover, due to a fall in international prices and cornering of the market by large companies, these agroforestry systems tend to decrease, changing towards monocultures or grazing lands.

Inequitable relationships prevail in the communities, which leads to low access to economic opportunities, especially for women and young people. In addition, this landscape has significant rates of poverty and marginalization, with the poorest municipalities being in the Highlands of Chiapas, the Lacandon rainforest and the Southern Sierra of Chiapas.[7]

2. Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed Landscape. This landscape includes 17 municipalities in Tabasco, 10 in Chiapas and four in Campeche; it is defined by the Usumacinta and Grijalva hydrological systems. The Usumacinta river carries the largest water volume in Mexico; its basin drains 30% of surface runoff at the national level.[8]⁷ The Usumacinta basin covers 77,226.55 km², and its lower basin is 33.29%[9]⁸. The Grijalva river basin is a cross-border basin covering 60,256 km². The lower basin has around 450 permanent lagoons, 24% of which are in the Pantanos de Centla Biosphere Reserve. Laguna de Terminos, in the state of Campeche, is Mexico's largest coastal lagoon, with a little over 2,000 km².

This landscape had an estimated population in 2010 of 2,141,375 inhabitants, according to Mexico's Population and Housing Census; 12% of the population is indigenous, and Chiapas' municipalities account for most of this population. The main economic activities are agriculture, cattle raising, fishing and aquaculture. The main crops are sugar cane, cacao and corn, while cattle raising activities include dairy and dual-purpose cattle breeds, as well as pigs; in fishing, oyster and tilapia are the most important species.[10]

In the Grijalva-Usumacinta lower basin landscape, agriculture and livestock zones prevail, as well as aquatic vegetation.[11]⁹ This landscape includes three federal protected areas, five Ramsar sites, fourteen state and municipal protected areas and four areas which are voluntarily set aside for conservation.

This landscape has been greatly transformed due to habitat loss and fragmentation, loss of aquatic vegetation, water pollution from urban, agriculture and livestock activities, among other drivers.[12]¹⁰ Despite the pressure and impacts on the lower basin of the Grijalva-Usumacinta hydrological system, it has moderate levels of degradation, so preventative measures should be taken to avoid further deterioration.

Threats to this landscape also include: high vulnerability to extreme meteorological events, such as tropical storms and hurricanes, and unsustainable fishing practices that have led to depletion of local fisheries, which have also been affected by exotic-invasive species.[13]¹¹ Close to 64% of localities have high levels of marginalization and 25% have high social underdevelopment.[14]¹², [15]

3. Coastal Seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula. This landscape is mainly in Yucatan Peninsula's coastal zone and includes, in Campeche and Yucatan, the continental platform (200 meters deep), while in Quintana Roo, up to 1500 meters deep are included, in order to cover the area where artisanal or coastal fisheries take place. The terrestrial zone is only 25.25% of the total landscape. In terms of land cover, rainforests prevail, as well as mangroves, petenes[16]¹³ and smaller aquatic vegetation.[17]¹⁴ The landscape also incorporates the transition strip between periodically flooded rainforest and mangroves, followed by swamps, coastal dunes, beaches, inner lagoons and barrier islands.

The value of fishing production in this landscape is close to 10% of the value of national production. Besides coastal fishing, other activities are tourism, sport fishing, handicraft production, beekeeping, salt exploitation, wildlife management (through UMA, Management Units for Wildlife Conservation) and agriculture, mainly the Mayan milpa. Estimates show that there are nearly 1,460,600 inhabitants in urban or rural communities throughout this landscape, and close to 19% are indigenous peoples.

There are 20 federal natural protected areas, 16 Ramsar sites, 12 state and municipal natural protected areas and three areas voluntarily set aside for conservation in this landscape.

This seascape has been subjected to enormous pressures and threats. Within this landscape there are strong contrasts with respect to infrastructure: on the one hand, Campeche and Yucatan have basic infrastructure focused on primary activities, while in Quintana Roo and the Caribbean, large scale tourism infrastructure has been built, such as cruise ship ports, luxury hotels, high capacity roads, etc., which has had great impact on the seascape's coastal vegetation and resources.[18]¹⁵ Coastal zone pollution due to offshore oil production activities and industrial and domestic wastewater discharge, inadequate fisheries management, and the presence of red tide blooms are other threats to this landscape.[19]¹⁶, [20]

4. Sustainable Forestry Landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan. This landscape includes eight municipalities of Campeche, 16 in Yucatan and 11 in Quintana Roo. Due to their extension, tropical rainforests in Quintana Roo are the ones that offer the greatest potential for sustainable forest management. Although this landscape is mostly dedicated to forest management, ejidos have recently diversified their production activities. Communities from the three states have legal authorizations[21]¹⁷ for the management

of a total of 11,009,759m³ of timber production (between 1994 and 2018); however, total production is much less than the authorized volume. In 2018, the volume produced in Quintana Roo was only 36.5% of the authorized volume[22]¹⁸, due to low profitability under prevailing market conditions.

The Sustainable Forestry Landscape contains high levels of biodiversity in the large extensions of tropical dry forests and rainforests that cover it; efforts towards conserving this biodiversity have materialized in nine federal protected areas, eight Ramsar sites, 12 state and municipal protected areas, and 16 areas that were voluntarily set aside for conservation. This landscape also includes patches dedicated to agriculture and livestock production.[23]

Although this landscape is known for its sustainable forestry management initiatives, it is still threatened by the expansion of the agricultural and livestock production frontier, real estate development and tourism infrastructure projects, as well as illegal logging, and illegal charcoal extraction for the tourism sector [24]¹⁹. It is estimated that only in the state of Yucatan, each year 20,000 hectares of rainforest are lost, and between 30 and 40% of the original rainforest has been lost. In the state of Quintana Roo, between 2014 and 2018, 82,300 hectares of rainforest were lost, which makes it one of the states, at the national level, with the greatest loss of forest cover. And in Campeche there are estimates that during the last 10 years, a total of 235,000 hectares have been deforested.[25]

5. Forest and Milpa Landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche. This landscape includes four municipalities in Campeche, five in Quintana Roo and 55 in Yucatan. With strong emphasis on the milpa, it is characterized by a combination of vegetation and agriculture-livestock land-uses. Although agricultural lands cover only 6.38% of this landscape, its cultural importance makes it a relevant socio-production system linked to other traditional activities such as *traspatio* production,[26]²⁰ beekeeping and firewood extraction. This landscape is a bridge between agricultural production systems for self-consumption and market-oriented forest management; therefore, it is linked to family food safety and sovereignty.

The Forest and Milpa Landscape is home to more than 6,300 species of flora and fauna, distributed among tropical dry forests, rainforests and agriculture-livestock lands. There are nine federal natural protected areas, ten Ramsar sites, eleven state and municipal natural protected areas and eight areas voluntarily set aside for conservation within this landscape.

Within this landscape, close to 45% of the population speaks an indigenous language, with Maya as the predominant language. 28 of its municipalities show high or very high marginalization; 11 have high or very high social vulnerability, and educational underdevelopment affects 50% or more of the population of one of the municipalities.[27]²¹, [28]²², [29]

The milpa system has been losing stability due to rural-urban migration, excessive use of agrochemicals and the effects of climate change, among other threats[30]²³. These changes not only affect the milpa system, but cultural identity, social organization and, evidently, food security.

6. Mixteca Landscape. This new landscape is part of the Mixteca region, and it comprises the Balsas river hydrological region and the Atoyac and Tlapaneco river basins. Its altitude varies between 900 and 2,000 masl, and covers the Huajuapam, Juxtlahuaca and Silacayoapan districts in Oaxaca, bordering the state of Puebla. The low Mixtec sub-region includes the southernmost desert of Mexico. The vegetation in this landscape is mostly dry deciduous forests and shrublands, with presence of cacti, agaves, native grasses, oak and pine forests, and other tree species such as mesquite, Mexican cypress, ash, poplar, and willow. The National Biosphere Reserve of Tehuacan-Cuicatlan protects 296,273 hectares in northern Oaxaca (60% of the Biosphere Reserve; the rest is in the state of Puebla).

Agriculture is basically for subsistence, under a seasonal regime, and focused on wheat and milpa cultivation, including corn, beans, and squash, with low productivity levels.

Major threats include land degradation and desertification processes, which are becoming more intense due to the combined effects of high slopes, semiarid and arid climates, and deforestation, and which have resulted in more than 90% of the Mixteca landscape with high levels of erosion.

The Mixtec region has one of the highest levels of marginalization in Mexico. In the low Mixtec sub-region, 77% of the municipalities have high marginalization or very high marginalization indices. Due to the high poverty levels, it is classified as a labor exporting territory, where remittances from abroad are vital for family subsistence. Agrarian conflicts exist related to land borders between communities.

7. Oaxaca Mountains Landscape. This mountainous landscape includes the Southern Sierra Madre and the Northern Sierra regions. It is one of the most biodiverse landscapes in Mexico, rich in flora and fauna, and with a high degree of endemic species. Vegetation types range from rainforests, cloud mountain forests, and pine, pine-oak and oak forests depending on the altitudinal gradient.

The **Southern Sierra Madre region** of this landscape extends over four districts and 70 municipalities in the southeast of the state of Oaxaca. The Tlacolulita, Copala, Zapote, Miahuatlan, Putla, Sola de Vega, Sibichi, San Pedro Mixtepec and San Antonio rivers shape this landscape, which is characterized by a gradient of hot humid, semi-hot humid and temperate humid climates. Vegetation types include oak, oak-pine, pine and fir forests, and small cloud forests and coffee plantations, as well as tropical dry forests. Forestry and agriculture - mainly corn, beans, sugar cane and coffee cultivation - are the dominant economic activities. The Southern Sierra has a large diversity of traditional corn varieties - 36 varieties corresponding to 10 agronomic races. The production of organic certified coffee for the international market is also a strong economic activity.

8.5% of the total Oaxaca state population inhabit this landscape, and 8.8% belong to the Zapotec, Mixtec, Chatino, Chontal, Amuzgo and Triquis indigenous groups. Socio-economic indicators in the Southern Sierra are low: 53.9% of its inhabitants live in food poverty; 39% of its municipalities show very high levels of marginalization, and 56% have high marginalization indexes.[31]

The **Northern Sierra region** of this landscape covers the Central and South-eastern part of the Oaxaca Sierra Madre along three districts and 68 municipalities, and includes the Juarez Sierra, the Mixe Sierra and parts of the Chinantla and Mazatecan Sierras. The Salado-Grande, Cajones and Puxmecatan-Trinidad rivers, within the Papaloapan basin, drain this region. Within this region, conservation efforts are centered in La Sabana state ecological reserve and community protected areas.

The Northern Sierra region is one of the most important forest producers in the country, with industrial production capacities, such as sawmills and furniture factories, in communities that are pioneers in the establishment of social forest companies, involving broad community participation.

This region has the lowest population density in the state of Oaxaca; however, marginalization is very persistent: 57% of its municipalities have high degrees and in 10%, it is very high. It also has the highest levels of indigenous population, mostly from the Zapotec, Mixe and Chinanteco groups.

Threats to the Oaxaca Mountains Landscape include deforestation for agricultural and cattle-raising activities, and biodiversity loss due to subsistence hunting and illicit trafficking of wild fauna and flora. Since 2011, environmental degradation in the region ranged from unstable-critical to unstable with deforestation as its main cause.[\[32\]](#)²⁴

The problem to be addressed

In Mexico, the prevailing form of agriculture and forest land tenure is communal in the form of *ejidos* and communities. It is estimated that 15,584 ‘agrarian nuclei’, of around 200 hectares each, possess some 62.6 million hectares of tropical and temperate forests, as well as other areas with arid-zone forest vegetation, corresponding to about 45% of the total national forest cover. Of these, 20.2 million hectares are within the territories of indigenous communities. It is evident that conservation of ecosystem services and resilience of production landscapes depends significantly on the ability of rural communities to implement sustainable production practices. On the other hand, rural communities, and in particular those living in forest areas, are among the most economically and socially disadvantaged in the country.

According to a World Bank report[\[33\]](#)²⁵, extreme monetary poverty rates, also called minimum wellbeing poverty, declined from 20.6 percent in 2014 to 17.5 percent by 2016. Nevertheless, even though monetary poverty declined in this period, the rates corresponding to 2016 are still higher than those in 2008. However, poverty rates in states with significant forest cover such as Chiapas are significantly higher than in the richest states, and access to basic social services such as health and education continue to be inadequate in many communities, and the prevalence of adult illiteracy is still high.

Despite numerous efforts to stop land degradation and forest cover loss, these problems still prevail within the seven selected landscapes. The expansion of the agricultural and livestock production frontier, real estate development and tourism infrastructure projects, as well as illegal logging are the main drivers of deforestation[\[34\]](#)²⁶. It is estimated that only in the state of Yucatan, each year 20,000 hectares of rainforest are lost, and between 30 and 40% of the original rainforest has been deforested. In the state of Quintana Roo, between 2014 and 2018, 82,300 hectares of rainforest were lost, which makes it one of the states, at the national level, with greatest loss of forest cover[\[35\]](#)²⁷. And in Campeche

there are estimates showing that during the last 10 years, a total of 235,000 hectares have been deforested.[36]²⁸ In the state of Oaxaca, the situation is similar and each year close to 35,000 hectares of forest are lost.[37]

Moreover, there are increasing pressures on land tenure by private agents seeking business opportunities associated with large-scale mega infrastructure projects —the Maya Train in Yucatan Peninsula and the Trans-Isthmus Train in Oaxaca— and mining in Chiapas and Oaxaca.

The drivers of environmental degradation are directly linked to unsustainable production practices in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry: overfishing in riparian fisheries, introduction of exotic and invasive species by aquaculture farms, transformation from tropical forest to crop and grazing land that brings about substantial losses of soil fertility and soil erosion.

While communities own the land and the natural assets within ejidos and communities, they must overcome multiple barriers to be able to make effective use of natural resources and improve their livelihoods with sustainability considerations. Such barriers are organizational, technical, financial, and commercial. Rural communities lack sufficient means and/or knowledge to address the drivers of environmental degradation through a strategic framework of integrated and sustainable landscape and seascape management, and there are no incentives for ejidos and communities within landscapes to come together in multi-level and multi-sector landscape governance platforms and invest time and resources to plan and implement integrated land-use management for increased ecosystem and socio-economic resilience.

Individual communities are generally constrained by local trade systems that make them depend on a few individuals who control trade and hence the prices of their products in exchange for working capital and consumer credits. Ejidos lack access to financial markets, mostly because they cannot use the land as collateral for credit. This makes communities vulnerable and creates dependency on those advancing cash against future production. In the absence of sufficient working capital, technical knowhow and business skills, communities are unable to innovate to change their production systems or achieve the quantity and quality that more sophisticated markets would require.

Institutions at the federal, state and local levels with responsibility for land use, rural development and environmental management, among others, also face significant challenges when trying to overcome horizontal (between sectors) and vertical coordination barriers.

There are also policy and regulatory barriers. While the government has put in place policies, regulations and programs that are supportive of community management of natural resources, in practice there are still several fiscal, institutional and procedural impediments to sustainable land and resource use. Inappropriate incentives, land tenure issues and institutional policies also have played a role in deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss.

The preferred solution

The solution to the problem is for communities in the seven selected landscapes to develop and implement adaptive landscape/seascape management, production and marketing strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience and are sustainable.

Community organizations need to implement grant projects aligned with landscape and seascape sustainable management plans, with the technical and financial support of other stakeholders involving federal government entities, state and local government, private donors and foundations as well as support organizations, producers' associations, academia and other partners. These should be evaluated periodically and systematically as part of the broader collective process of adjusting management strategies to new information, knowledge, capacities and conditions.

To be effective in achieving landscape resilience and connectivity through sustainable land-use systems, the landscape/seascape strategies must be adopted by both regional networks and local community-level organizations. Achieving ambitious goals for landscape management and restoration requires the collaboration of local communities and the recognition of their ancestral knowledge of the functioning of ecosystems and the behavior of plant and animal species. Community-driven grant projects will, in the vast majority of cases, focus on adoption or adaptation of production practices or systems that conserve biodiversity through sustainable use, maintain or enhance ecosystem services (e.g. pollination, community conservation), and/or improve soil fertility and protect water resources, for example by intensifying agricultural production through agroforestry systems and other innovative agroecological approaches.

One of the key factors to be considered is that community organizations are empowered not only by exercising agency in determining priorities and measures for action, developing strategies and plans, carrying them out and reflecting on impacts and knowledge gained, but also by increasing their economic influence, i.e. developing and improving value chains and increasing incomes and food security of their members. Ensuring landscape sustainability thus involves improving productivity of existing, traditional agricultural systems through various appropriate technologies, along with improving farmers' access to markets through participation in cooperatives, as well as support for processing of agricultural products and non-timber forest products and their value chains. This can increase family incomes and allow farmers to think and act on their long-term goals, including healthier ecosystem function.

In other words, collective action is required by communities to build ecological, social and economic resilience of rural landscapes. This implies building community capacities, resources, knowledge and motivation as critical factors in addressing the problems in a sustainable manner. The preferred solution, therefore, involves the empowerment of community organizations to develop and implement landscape strategies, building resilience and sustainability through the generation of global environmental and sustainable development benefits. Environment and development benefits can be scaled over larger geographic areas and over several communities simultaneously, and these efforts can be then linked to national development and land use planning to magnify their effects.

Collective action is enhanced by bringing together community representatives in multi-level and multi-sector landscape governance platforms and investing time and resources to plan and implement integrated land-use management for increased ecosystem and socio-economic resilience. These multi-stakeholder governance platforms can play an important role in strengthening local organizations for improved governance, technical capacity and social participation and dialogue, increased capacity to access and influence relevant public policies and respond to pressures on land tenure, as well as value chain development and market access.

To add value to local production systems, the Mexican SGP Programme will promote value chains within landscape approaches, recognizing how diverse interest groups interact in rural landscapes and integrating sustainable practices tailored to the landscape and its socio-economic and environmental characteristics. When sustainability is a priority, focus goes beyond the level of individual production units and takes a landscape approach, to support food production, bring more value and offer competitive products to the different

markets, promote ecosystem conservation, and ensure rural livelihoods across entire landscapes in an integrated manner. Under sustainable management, landscapes are resilient and provide natural resources and ecosystem services that create long-term value for local communities.[38]

Community organizations build their capacities by implementing and coordinating concrete projects aimed at achieving and maintaining landscape level outcomes affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services, agroecosystems and sustainable livelihoods, and climate change mitigation. These capacities include technical, planning, monitoring and evaluation, innovation, experimentation and organizational capacities of community organizations through learning-by-doing (projects) framed within and supported by a landscape level strategy and plan, in a continuous process of adaptive management and learning, to become effective agents for coordinated, long term development and maintenance of landscape resilience built on global environmental and local sustainable development outcomes.

Systematization of lessons learnt and knowledge management are key elements to reduce socio-economic risks for sustainability. Innovative and successful activities may materialize and often community members do not have the capacity to visualize the causality between actions and results. Sharing knowledge through brochures, printed and other communication material, and the organization of exchange events, fairs and the creation of community of practices is key to allow landscape stakeholders to learn from experience and decide to scale up and/or replicate successful activities.

Landscape level outcomes have been identified in OP6 by community organizations and other stakeholders in a participatory planning and strategy development process, yielding a typology of potentially eligible projects in each landscape corresponding to the outcomes. For the two new landscapes, new outcomes and typology will be identified during the first months.

Barriers to achieving the solution

The barriers facing the project to increase the socio-environmental and economic resilience of the communities in the seven selected landscapes are numerous and common to other developing regions that have a high biocultural richness. Among the most important for the Mexican SGP Programme are the following:

1. Most communities lack access to information and training for agroecological production and sustainable land and water management. The agricultural extension support received by communities is often conventional with technological packages unsuitable for landscape management and to local socioeconomic or environmental conditions. When adapted to local conditions, agro-ecological techniques can help these groups improve their food production methods, respecting nature and increasing food security, but information and training on these techniques is not readily available to these communities.
2. Community organizations lack sufficient means and/or knowledge to plan, manage, coordinate and evaluate their initiatives for landscapes and seascapes with a long-term vision for the conservation of biodiversity, and the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, improving ecosystem connectivity and increasing the production of goods and services. Furthermore, there is incipient intra- and inter-community organization for collective action in favor of landscape resilience outcomes built on global environmental benefits and the strengthening of social capital.
3. Most community organizations have insufficient capacities to form networks that allow them to share knowledge, lessons learned and innovations around the implementation of best management practices to sustainably produce goods and services, benefit from economies of scale, and link to value chains for sustainable products.

4. Most community organizations lack the financial resources to motivate and support sustainable land and resource management practices and to scale up successful experiences.
5. Inequality in social relations within communities, with women and youth being among the most vulnerable sectors.
6. Lack of comprehensive public policies with a territorial approach, and contradictory legal frameworks –particularly between public policies for production and development and those related to conservation–. Moreover, most communities have insufficient capacities to influence and shape public policies more related to their needs and objectives.
7. Weak enforcement of the legal framework for the protection of forests and seas, and persistence of conflicts over ownership and use of land and natural resources.

2) Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

During its 25 years of operation, Mexico's SGP has funded 664 projects, including those of OP6, for a total amount of USD 16.8 million of GEF financing. These have benefited around 14,000 people, of which approximately 6,000 are women. Projects funded have generated over 5,000 direct jobs and 13,000, indirectly. These projects addressed most GEF Focal Areas (BD, CC, LD, IW, POPs), with the majority (70%) of projects in the biodiversity focal area (463 projects).

The main results over the combined lifetime of the projects are compiled below[\[39\]](#)²⁹:

- 1,167,693 hectares under community management.
 - 221,773 hectares protected through community conservation projects.
 - 485 hectares of coastal, lagoon or pluvial surface in aquaculture projects.
 - 252 plant and 137 animal species managed and/or conserved.
 - 664 funded projects
 - More than 14,000 beneficiaries.
 - 5,400 “sustainable” jobs created
-

The number of community projects supported by SGP Mexico has grown overtime, and with them the number of participating organizations, which have become part of a large network of active and collaborating CBOs and CSOs. While lessons learnt allowed SGP Mexico to upscale successful experiences in each of the four large ecosystems previously identified and today guide an instrumental use of resources to consolidate support to communities grouped within different landscapes/seascapes, the main problem remains the prevalent weakness of rural communities in the Southeast of Mexico to address the drivers of global environmental degradation (biodiversity loss, land degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions) in a strategic, integrated and sustainable way at landscape/seascape level. Community organizations need to be strengthened in their capacity to participate in multi-level and multi-sector landscape governance and diversification of economic strategies to effectively act strategically and collectively in building and maintaining social and ecological resilience.

During OP6, SGP Mexico implemented the COMDEKS/Satoyama Initiative's perspectives, investing USD 125,000 in funding from GEF SGP resources, to develop the participatory design of five landscape strategies —two more should be developed in Oaxaca during OP7. The COMDEKS[40]³⁰ methodology has been well received by communities as it responds to their cosmovision. Lessons learnt indicate that while the COMDEKS approach is valuable for the communities' socio-economic diagnostic, designing a strategy requires an effort, tailored to each unique context, to integrate the perception of people with more scientific social and environmental information.

The preparation of landscapes/seascape strategies provides the occasion for a truly participatory analysis of each area's challenges and opportunities, definition of a baseline, selection of outcomes and indicators and identification of the typology of activities to be implemented.

The design of the Mexican SGP 2020-2030 Strategic Plan at landscape level started in 2019 when the main stakeholders were trained in the community-based landscape approach and COMDEKS methodologies. The process involved interviews of 212 persons plus participation of about 500 people (25% women) in 23 community workshops, and the development of a strategy for each of the five selected landscapes. Each landscape/seascape strategy includes a socio-economic assessment and the identification of critical areas and subjects.

The 2020-2030 SGP Mexico Strategic Plan integrates the results of the first five landscape strategies and proposes a vision to develop innovative, inclusive and equitable projects, contributing to the management and conservation of biological diversity, maintaining or improving the flow of ecosystem services through sustainable land management, and adaptation to climate change while generating economic, social, organizational and health benefits for local communities. The thematic lines of intervention remain similar to those of the past, with some adjustments e.g. adding community conservation and a larger focus on agroecology and agroforestry due to the expansion of the program to Tabasco and Chiapas. Renewable energy will also be a new cross-cutting thrust.

Based on the five landscape strategies, SGP Mexico OP6 has initiated strategic and cross-cutting projects supporting alliances, marketing opportunities and the possibility to influence environmental governance and public environmental and marketing policies, such as in the tourist sector (finding common ways to manage data and information), in the

forestry sector (sustaining the processes for wood certification, and the recognition of the Maya Milpa as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems), and in the apiculture sector (establishing a beekeeping agenda around which donors coordinate grants).

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

General explanation/rationale:

GEF incremental funding and co-financing will be applied to overcome the barriers listed above and to add value, where appropriate, to existing initiatives by government, the private sector, CBOs or CSOs, through community-based activities contributing to global environmental benefits and sustainable development, in the seven selected landscapes/seascapes: (1) Forest and milpa landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche States; (2) Sustainable forestry landscape in Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan; (3) Coastal seascape in the Yucatan Peninsula; (4) Agroforestry landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco; (5) Usumacinta and Grijalva rivers watershed, and two new landscapes in Oaxaca —(6) Mixteca and (7) Oaxaca Mountain Landscapes.

GEF funding will provide small grants to CSOs and community-based organizations to implement community projects aligned to the five (5) land/seascape management strategies developed during OP6, and to the two new landscape strategies in Oaxaca to be developed during OP7, and to deliver strategic land/seascape level outcomes related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It will be instrumental in finding long-term solutions for collective action and adaptive management by community organizations in the selected land/seascapes for social, economic and ecological resilience based on sustainable development initiatives that produce global environmental benefits.

Funding will also be available to promote sustainable value chains and connect them to markets and for the improvement of the financial sustainability of existing projects. These initiatives will drive sustainable economic growth through the integration of micro- and small community production organizations into increasingly competitive value chains. By influencing the structures, systems and relationships that define the value chain, SGP Mexico will help those organizations to improve (or upgrade) their products and processes, and thereby contribute to and benefit from the chain's competitiveness, to create wealth and to obtain global environmental co-benefits.

Resources will also be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality for projects focused on integrating networks and strengthening second-tier producer organizations to scale-up production and marketing of sustainably produced goods and services, by facilitating access to financial resources for sustainable production activities, specific product development, certification and marketing. The strategic grant modality will also be used to strengthen the role of selected CSOs in enhancing landscape/seascape governance and undertaking the necessary planning, coordination, exchange of information, monitoring, technical assistance, and business development support required to achieve results at the landscape/seascape level and address cross-cutting issues.

In addition, SGP Mexico will embrace a generational-transition approach taking into consideration that some changes driven by the program may consolidate in the medium and long terms, that is, in the next generation, hence the importance of linking actions with public programs aimed at youth (for example, the Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro Program).

Description of the Components and their outcomes

Component 1. Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection

Component 1 is focused on the community level to enhance community conservation and restoration, increase the resilience and sustainability of agroecosystems, forestry and fishing, and foster renewable and energy-efficient technologies in biocultural landscapes and seascapes.

The participatory development of landscape strategies with the COMDEKS methodology allowed recognition of the importance of community conservation and restoration to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services and to ensure community resilience and improve people's livelihoods. This involves applying innovative ecosystem adaptation-based methodologies and fostering community-based projects for sustainable production and ecosystem conservation and restoration.

Community conservation will be key to increase the number of hectares under conservation in Mexico. Based on previous experience, notably in the Puuc Biocultural Conservation Area in Yucatán, the Mexican SGP Programme will support communities to design, implement or update local management strategies for community conservation areas and territories.

Projects which focus on the sustainability of production systems will contribute to restore degraded soils, improve soil quality and increase the socio-ecological benefits of those activities. The programme will also contribute to the implementation of the National Agroecological Strategy, currently under development by the federal government.

In addition, the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies will be encouraged in community production infrastructure to improve resilience and reduce CO₂ emissions. It is expected that piloting these energy-efficient technologies will also be useful in promoting alternatives for the provision of domestic energy. Moreover, targeted communities and alliances will be supported to implement innovative ecosystem adaptation-based methodologies and sharing the lessons learned in the context of the implementation of Mexico's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Under this component there are three complementary Outcomes directed at building the resilience of the target landscapes by producing global environmental benefits. As such, the Outcomes generally correspond to the different focal areas, though there is overlap on the ground where community projects pursue integrated objectives affecting more than one focal area. In keeping with GEF SGP's approved Operational Guidelines, community projects to be identified, designed and implemented during the implementation of the OP7 comprise the core Outputs required to achieve each Outcome. In this regard, the following Outcomes and Outputs will be achieved under Component 1:

Outcome 1.1. Coastal and terrestrial biocultural areas and their associated ecosystem services within seven targeted landscapes and seascapes are enhanced through community conservation and restoration.

This outcome will be achieved through:

1.1.1. Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes and seascapes that improve connectivity, support innovation in biodiversity conservation and optimization of ecosystem services (including no-take zones to promote sustainable fisheries; agrobiodiversity conservation; support to traditional medicine; improved cooperative management of underwater ecosystems; wetland and reef restoration; establishment of new community conservation areas and territories and promotion of inclusive conservation).

Outcome 1.2. The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological and sustainable forestry practices in biocultural landscapes and seascapes.

This outcome will be achieved through:

1.2.1. Targeted community projects and alliances enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, agroecological practices, sustainable forest management, and responsible fisheries.

Outcome 1.3. Increased adoption (development, demonstration and financing) of renewable and energy-efficient technologies at community level.

This outcome will be achieved through:

1.3.1. Targeted community projects implementing renewable and energy-efficient technologies in each landscape, including solar and wind energy applications, micro-hydro generation systems, biodigesters, efficient biomass use and wood stoves.

Component 2. Landscape governance, adaptive management for upscaling and replication and strengthening of value chains

This Component focuses on strengthening landscape governance and effective participatory decision making in target landscapes and seascapes through the integration of second-tier organizations and multi-stakeholder governance platforms to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and improve inclusion of vulnerable sectors. It also aims at enhancing value creation for sustainable products and its connection with new markets and sustainable consumption, through strengthening the capacities of organized second-tier producer organizations.

During the participatory process of developing the first five landscape strategies, communities expressed that one of their biggest challenges was to strengthen their governance. Therefore, during OP7, SGP Mexico will implement a comprehensive strategy to improve administrative and management capacities, governance, social equity and inclusion; promote effective participation, enhance citizenship, and preserve traditional knowledge.

Recognizing the effectiveness of landscape-based planning, two more participatory strategies will be developed in Oaxaca. Once completed, all seven landscape strategies will be disseminated, and their implementation will be revised and evaluated through adaptive management methodologies.

In terms of knowledge management, SGP Mexico will continue implementation of its knowledge management and communication strategy, emphasizing community inclusion, intergenerational dialogue, storytelling, knowledge sharing and horizontal communication, as well as systematization and dissemination of lessons learnt among local stakeholders in user-friendly language and form. Different knowledge products will be produced. SGP Mexico will also support the establishment of communities of practice on cross-cutting subjects such as community sustainable forest management and ecotourism to exchange knowledge and experiences between communities. Information and experience sharing are essential to achieve the landscape/seascape integrated management goals.

This component will also involve launching calls for proposals to integrate networks, alliances, and second-tier producer organizations that promote community conservation and scale-up production and marketing of sustainably produced goods and services. Aggregating to provide strength-in-numbers through alliance formation and tiered levels of organization has proven to foster community empowerment at scale.

Incorporating socially vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities and Central American migrants is key to enhancing sustainability in the target landscapes. Combating poverty and social exclusion by promoting social integration of migrants is a priority since South and Southeastern Mexico is crossed by a large influx of Central Americans. SGP Mexico will make conscious efforts to integrate migrants in support of sustainable development community projects.

Outcome 2.1. Second-tier organizations and multi-stakeholder governance platforms strengthened/in place for improved governance of target landscapes and seascapes for effective participatory decision making to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience and improve inclusion of vulnerable sectors.

The multi-stakeholder governance platforms in each target landscape will play an important role in strengthening local organizations for improved governance, technical capacity and social participation and dialogue, as well as increase capacity to access and influence relevant public policies.

The establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms will have as its first step the identification of one local or regional partner in each target landscape who will take on the responsibility of setting up the multi-stakeholder platform in that landscape and guaranteeing its functioning. This strategic partner will monitor and provide technical and administrative assistance to community organizations in their landscape. In the context of the multi-stakeholder platform, the strategic regional partner will also be responsible for promoting discussions, workshops and other events in which landscape-level planning is at the forefront. The different stakeholders will be brought together in a participatory decision-making process to establish agreements resulting in support for multi-functional land-use systems, more resilient landscapes and ecological connectivity, and value chain development and access to markets, in the context of sustainable development and global environmental protection. As the project develops, the multi-stakeholder platforms will also be forums for the presentation, discussion and dissemination of project results.

With the support of those platforms, the Mexican SGP Programme will undertake the design of two new landscape strategies in the state of Oaxaca. The five strategies designed during OP6 will be presented to communities and disseminated extensively through appropriate communication media. By 2025, the five strategies will be evaluated by the communities in order to assess progress and adapt or update their goals and activities.

The Mexican SGP Programme will also establish at least four communities of practice, to share knowledge and capacities among grantees. These communities of practice will allow rapid transmission of knowledge and skills already developed in more mature initiatives within landscapes. The capacity-building effort will also focus on strengthening cooperatives and governance of second-level organizations, and secure land tenure in forest and coastal ejidos. Cooperatives are a key organization model for communities in Mexico. Based on the “State of cooperatives in the Yucatan Peninsula”^[41]³¹ report, developed during OP6, SGP Mexico will implement, with other donors, a comprehensive capacity-building process to reinforce effective management. Land tenure will be another cross-cutting subject. To overcome the land tenure barrier, legal assessments and support will be provided to community members.

The programme will implement a new inclusion strategy, with a special focus on women and youth and their roles in community projects. During the preparation of baseline assessments of the five landscapes, participants highlighted the need to focus on the transmission of knowledge and capacities to younger people. Therefore, targeted community projects will be implemented to train and incorporate a new generation of young people through a transversal apprentice programme to improve sustainability and long-term project impacts. Additionally, a cross-cutting gender strategy will be implemented to contribute to empowering women within community organizations.

SGP Mexico will also support the development of specific projects aimed to include people with disabilities. Migration is currently a key issue in southern Mexico, so the programme will develop and implement a strategy dedicated to foster collaboration and cross-training between Central American “climate” migrants, who have settled momentarily or permanently in the states of Tabasco and Chiapas, with organized cooperatives who are developing adaptation solutions through agroecology or other practices.

This outcome will be achieved through:

- 2.1.1. Two new landscape strategies developed, and five strategies developed in GEF-06 disseminated and revised participatorily.
- 2.1.2. Second-tier organizations and community networks implement strategic initiatives to upscale successful SGP project experiences and practices including community-CSO-government policy dialogues (for example, Beekeepers Alliance, Ecotourism Alliance, Native Seed Guardians Alliance, and Forestry Alliance).
- 2.1.3. Knowledge from community project innovations shared through communities of practice (for example, renewable energy, agroecology, sustainable forestry and fisheries) and regional South-South exchanges with Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Outcome 2.2. The resilience of local communities in key landscapes and seascapes is strengthened by adding value and connect to markets the sustainable value chains and through the improvement of the financial sustainability of existing projects.

In accordance with Sustainable Development Goals 8: Decent work and economic growth, and 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, to reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty, the aim of this outcome is value creation for sustainable products and its connection with new markets and sustainable consumption.

One of the main issues identified in landscape strategies is the need to strengthen economic sustainability of value chains^{[42]³²} to produce goods and services that comply with verifiable fair trade and sustainable standards and certifications. This will be achieved by offering technical training to improve production and transformation, including appropriate technologies, assisted development of marketing strategies, and access to financial services. Organized second-tier producer organizations will be eligible for training in themes such as marketing, advertising, contract negotiation, access to credit/financial support, feasibility studies, business planning, logistics and retail, etc. By forming alliances, the groups will be able to achieve economies of scale needed to enter and successfully compete in markets. Inclusion of youth, women and other vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities and migrants, will be promoted.

This outcome will be achieved through:

2.2.1. Targeted community projects and second-tier organizations increase their participation in new links (inputs, transformation, logistics and retail) within the value chain (including fair and sustainable standards and certifications for fisheries, timber, cocoa, coffee, honey and agro-ecological production).

2.2.2. Targeted community projects and second-tier organizations improve their access to sustainable finance (fair credits, work capital, community saving banks, impact investment, natural capital assets).

4) Alignment with GEF focal area strategies

This project is aligned with GEF-7 Programming Directions and strategic priorities, including the GEF's proposed Impact Programs, and Focal Area investments. In accordance with GEF-7 directions, it will focus on promoting and supporting innovative and scalable initiatives at the local level to protect the global environment in priority landscapes and seascapes, and as incubator and facilitator of innovation, with the potential for broader replication of successful approaches through alliances with other GEF-funded projects and other partners.

The project proposed here is in full conformity with the policy for upgrading of SGP Country Programmes as first described in *GEF/C.36/4 Small Grants Programme Execution Arrangements and Upgrading Policy for GEF-5* and then in *GEF/C.46/13 GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-6*, and *GEF/C.54/05/Rev.01 GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7*, approved by GEF Council. This GEF SGP Upgraded Country Programme will continue to follow the SGP's Operational Guidelines to ensure compliance with longstanding best practice and GEF policy for the SGP.

The Mexican SGP Country Programme will work in seven (7) selected landscapes/seascapes and continue to seek synergies, implement multi-sectoral approaches by involving communities at the landscapes/seascapes level, and facilitating communities' innovative actions to effectively manage the complex mosaic landscapes/seascapes.

The Mexican SGP Programme is aligned with the Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy as it engages communities in landscape strategies that (i) "mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors", (ii) "reduce direct drivers to protect habitats and species", (iii) "mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through inclusive conservation", and (iv) "address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate".

During OP 7; the Mexican SGP Programme will also be aligned with the GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area objective by (i) "promoting innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs for decentralized power with energy usage", since it will encourage the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in community productive infrastructure to improve resilience and reduce CO₂ emissions (through solar water pumps and gasification of biomass and waste, for example).

It is also aligned with the GEF 7 Land Degradation Focal Area with a view to (i) “maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)”, (ii) “maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)” and (iii) “reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape”. SGP Mexico will support efforts for securing livelihoods of smallholders; build capacity at local and landscape levels to restore and maintain functional landscapes while conserving biodiversity; and promote lessons learning and knowledge exchange and South-South cooperation. The programme focuses on food and livelihood security of the local community by promoting agro-ecological practices and cropping systems, participatory land use planning and forest conservation-based livelihoods of the local communities.

During project preparation, SGP will liaise closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF agencies to align itself with relevant programs and projects, and undertake complementary actions including its Impact Programmes in Sustainable Cities and Programmatic Approaches, as well as Full-sized and Medium-sized projects, particularly in relation to local community-driven initiatives in the seven selected landscapes (i.e. the Sustainable Productive Landscapes Project, GEF ID 9555, and the Sustainable Land Management Promotion Project, GEF ID 5785).

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF and co-financing

GEF incremental funding and co-financing will be applied to overcome the barriers mentioned previously and to add value, where appropriate and possible, to existing initiatives in collaboration with the government, the private sector or CSOs in the seven target landscapes. GEF funding will provide small grants to CSOs and Community-based Organizations to develop landscape management strategies and implement community projects in pursuit of strategic landscape level outcomes related to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainable land management. Funding will also be available for initiatives that build the organizational capacities of landscape-level organizations and other organizations with strategic approaches. Resources will also be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to upscale proven technologies, systems or practices based on knowledge gained from past experience and systematization and analysis of successful community innovations during previous phases of the SGP Mexico Country Programme.

Second and third level organizations will be consolidated in each target landscape, incorporating local government, national agencies and ministries, universities, CSOs, the private sector and other relevant actors. These partnerships will provide technical assistance, strategic guidance and financial support, where possible, to community-based organizations for individual community initiatives, as well as landscape level projects and strategic upgrading projects. Partnership agreements will be formulated and signed with communities as projects are identified and aligned with landscape level outcomes.

Project experiences and best practices will be systematized, and knowledge generated for discussion and dissemination to local policy makers and national/subnational advisors, as well as landscape level organizations, CSOs and other networks.

During OP7, co-financing will be sought for the goals established in the 2020-2030 SGP Mexico Strategic Plan for the following cross-cutting strategic priorities: a) Create and strengthen networks and alliances between producers and communities; b) Create, strengthen and consolidate agreements related to rights and access to land, water and other shared resources; c) Strengthen sustainable production systems/livelihoods (including those based on biodiversity) and increase their surface area; d) Promote and strengthen gender equity and social inclusion; e) Maintain and increase forest areas (forests and mangroves) and aquatic areas (marine and freshwater), in a healthy condition; f) Improve and strengthen the quality of local foods and healthy environments for the benefit of local communities; and g) Systematize local and traditional knowledge and improve access to it. The 2020-2030 SGP Mexico Strategic Plan integrates the results of the first five landscape strategies and proposes a vision to develop innovative, inclusive and equitable projects, contributing to the management and conservation of biological diversity, maintaining or improving the flow of ecosystem services through sustainable land management, and adaptation to climate change while generating economic, social, organizational and health benefits for local communities.

The Mexican government proposed to expand the impact of the SGP in light of the results of the five landscape strategies developed. Considerations for expanding SGP Mexico are: (i) targeted states are experiencing the landscape approach for the first time, with 75% organizations receiving grants for the first time and of the 25% which were already supported previously; (ii) 10% are dealing with new themes; and (iii) work in Chiapas and Tabasco is only incipient.

Criteria for expansion to new geographical areas suggested by the 2019 Mid Term Review were adopted and include: (i) continuity of the ecosystems already targeted; (ii) safety of operation: there is no point in expanding to areas which are ecologically important but where it would be impossible or too insecure for both the SGP team and the communities to work; (iii) presence of an already solid civil society allowing governance and processes to effectively bring about change; (iv) a mixed approach to support CBOs and second/third level organizations according to their maturity; (v) socio-economic elements, i.e. migratory flows which may be opportunities to strengthen actions; and (vi) reliable co-financing commitments.

Applying these criteria led to the decision to work in an extended area in Chiapas and add two more landscapes in Oaxaca, so that the seven selected target landscapes are: (1) Agroforestry Landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco, (2) Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed Landscape, (3) Coastal Seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula, (4) Sustainable Forestry Landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan, (5) Forest and Milpa Landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche, (6) Mixteca Landscape, and (7) Oaxaca Mountain Landscape, adding a total of 91,087 km².

During the project preparation period, various categories of information will be compiled or collected to consolidate the project's initial diagnosis, assessment and strategies for socioecological production landscapes, as well as the identification of specific potential upscaling initiatives. Based on this, planning activities will be held with full participation of community and landscape level stakeholders so that they have a broader picture of their needs and the links between landscapes.

6) Global environmental benefits

Global environmental benefits (GEB) will be achieved, in particular for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainable land management. These will result from the synergistic implementation of community-based landscape/seascape management initiatives proposed here over the short term and the aggregated longer-term impacts of new and previously funded SGP initiatives.

Overall benefits over the longer-term will be a function of the synergies created between projects through the proposed landscape management approach and additional efforts for mainstreaming and upscaling. Up to OP6 (2019), SGP Mexico's geographic coverage of the targeted landscapes/seascapes was approximately 171,500 Km². This new operational phase is expected to increase this area by 35%, reaching up to 262,500 Km². The landscape scale seems large; however, in areas where SGP Mexico has been working during the last couple of decades, as in the Yucatan Peninsula (Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan), there are regional CBO and CSO alliances and multi-stakeholder partnerships that cover territories of this scale. Therefore, OP 7 will be dedicated to strengthening and building networks and alliances between producers and communities in the seven (7) landscapes in order to scale the impact.

At the same time, the project's emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships and alliances will explicitly develop larger cross-cutting projects (up to USD 150,000) to upscale successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems that enhance resilient landscapes, identified from previous phases of the Mexican SGP Country Programme. Prospective GEB from these initiatives will be more precisely defined during project preparation.

The Mexican SGP Programme will generate the expected outcomes through two main strategic components: 1) Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection and 2) Landscape governance, adaptive management for upscaling and replication and strengthening of value chains. Through these components, the project will bring results related to climate change, land degradation and biodiversity, as described below.

The project will seek the sustainable mitigation of the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, with avoided greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the increased adoption (development, demonstration and financing) of renewable and energy-efficient technologies, including solar and wind energy applications, micro-hydro generation systems, biodigesters, and efficient biomass use and wood stoves, that will effectively reduce carbon emissions.

Regarding land degradation, the project will address erosion, desertification and deforestation by enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, agroecological practices, and sustainable forest management.

On biodiversity, the project will seek to promote community level projects in the selected landscapes and seascapes that improve connectivity, support innovation in biodiversity conservation and optimization of ecosystem services, including no-take zones to promote sustainable fisheries; agrobiodiversity conservation; support to traditional medicine; improved cooperative management of underwater ecosystems; wetland and reef restoration; establishment of new community conservation areas and territories and promotion of inclusive conservation.

In addition, the project will contribute to achieving several of the Aichi targets, as described below:

Target 1. Awareness of biodiversity values: The project will contribute to the awareness of the importance of biodiversity, not only locally in the target landscapes, but also on a broader scale, through support for creating greater public awareness and markets for sustainable products from biodiversity and agrobiodiversity.

Target 2 and Target 3. Integration of biodiversity values and subsidies: Community projects and second level organizations will influence policies in order to remove harmful subsidies and promote sustainability in public social development programmes.

Target 4. Plan for sustainable production and consumption: The Mexican SGP Programme will focus on promoting consumption of sustainable products and food in targeted cities.

Target 5. Reduce pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use: The project will address the loss of habitat through measures to promote the sustainable use and connectivity of landscapes.

Target 6. Sustainable fisheries: The project will promote no-take zones, ecotourism and certified fisheries to prevent overfishing in seascapes.

Target 7. Areas under sustainable management: One of the goals of SGP Mexico is to promote community planning for sustainable use of landscapes, and alliances enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems including silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, agroecological practices, certified community forest management and responsible fisheries.

Target 8. Pollution: Through promotion of agroecology, ecotechnologies and good practices, the project will support reduction in pollution supplies and use of agricultural chemicals.

Target 9. Invasive alien species: The project will support strengthening initiatives in training, monitoring, control, use and environmental education about alien and invasive species in seascapes and one key watershed.

Target 11. Protected areas: The project will promote conservation and rehabilitation actions in protected areas such as: ecotourism, certified timber products and certified fisheries, among others. Community conservation and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) will be also promoted.

Target 13. Genetic diversity: Conservation of agrobiodiversity present in traditional agricultural systems like milpa will be supported by the project through seed fairs and integration of agrobiodiversity products in sustainable value chains.

Target 14. Essential ecosystem services: The project will promote the protection and maintenance of ecosystem services through landscape-level planning, as well as actions to include and empower vulnerable social sectors such as women and young people.

Target 17. National biodiversity strategy and action plan: The project is aligned with Mexico's National Biodiversity Strategy.

Target 18. Traditional knowledge: The project will support systematization of traditional knowledge and improve access to it, as, for example, traditional knowledge related to beekeeping, milpa and forest management, traditional medicine, etc.

Target 19. Knowledge generation and assessment: The project will promote the exchange of innovation, experiences and knowledge through communities of practices, including woman and young people.

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The most important innovative aspect of SGP Mexico during implementation of OP7 is the adoption of a landscape approach focused on people and their aspirations as a way to address development needs while restoring and protecting natural resources.[43]³³ In Mexico SGP's 2020-2030 Strategic Plan at landscape level, several innovations were identified for each selected landscape; some relate specifically to livelihoods, while others refer to governance or socio-cultural processes.

Some of the innovations identified refer to rethinking current production models and including sustainable and restorative practices, such as promoting organic pesticides and fertilizers; encouraging the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency technologies; diversifying production activities; adding value to sustainable products through its production, transformation and commercialization, as well as encouraging agreements between producer groups and other economic actors, companies and service providers to establish value chain relationships that improve the profitability of local production.

Other innovations relate to organizational aspects such as promoting ownership of and responsibility for collective coastal resources to benefit local economies, and fostering the existence of integrators[44]³⁴, processors and product collection centers under alliances and community networks to standardize production and commercialization.

To promote capacity development, the project will establish community training centers and field schools to advance sustainable natural resource use, exchange experiences, disseminate success stories, and foster partnerships with organizations that can provide training and technical assistance in decision-making technologies, participatory mapping and geographic information systems and visualization platforms.

In addition, SGP Mexico will encourage innovation and knowledge-exchange platforms - digital (i.e., web pages, chats, social networks) or face-to-face (i.e., events and fora, experience exchanges with "innovation laboratories", communities of practice) - to strengthen relations between communities and develop a shared landscape vision. To strengthen governance mechanisms, SGP Mexico will promote the establishment of social agreements for territorial planning and sustainable resource use; foster the participation of young people by encouraging innovative uses of natural resources; establish coordination between community committees and authorities to inspect, monitor and report on extractive activities in forestry and fishing areas; and organize landscape level events for sharing and recovering different biocultural traditions.

The SGP strategic grant modality will be maintained and upscaled to foster interventions capable of generating both environmental and community benefits and involving second and third-tier organizations (associations, thematic networks and network alliances). Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and others at landscape level and the adoption of multi-stakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes, and technical assistance will be engaged through government, NGOs, universities, academic institutes and other institutions.

Cross-cutting interventions are meant to overcome regulatory, governance, technical, communications and policy barriers identified to achieve sustainability and transition from a grant-making approach concerned primarily with local issues to a process-oriented approach in which planning, implementation and evaluation increasingly address a larger geographic scale with longer time-horizons.

The sustainability of landscape management processes and community initiatives is predicated on the principle -based on SGP Mexico's experience - that global environmental benefits can be produced and maintained through community-based sustainable development projects. Previous phases of the Mexican SGP Country Programme have identified and promoted clear win-win opportunities with community initiatives and clusters of initiatives in areas such as sustainable use of biodiversity (organic apiculture, ecotourism, aquaculture and mariculture) and crop genetic resources, agro-ecological production practices and systems (sustainable silvopastoral systems, agroforestry systems, low input agriculture), sustainable land management (sustainable community forestry), renewable energy (mini-hydro power and solar), and value addition to crops through sustainable practices (organic, sustainable certification schemes).

An essential outcome is to replicate and enhance previous experiences of community based “on the ground” initiatives in the selected landscapes in South and Southeastern Mexico that have been building on previous experiences since the beginning of the SGP in Mexico. Building on the training of trainers experience for organic apiculture that has been successfully upscaled over the past years, a primary output of this project is the upscaling of initiatives that have been piloted successfully during previous phases of the Mexican SGP Country Programme. These include aquaculture using native fish species in the Deltaic-estuarine landscape of the Grijalva-Usumacinta river system, community forestry (Yucatan and Chiapas forest landscapes) and ecotourism (coastal lagoons and marine interface of northern Yucatan).

The premise of upscaling in this context is that the aggregate of community adopters of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices and systems from previous SGP Mexico phases have been slowly acquiring critical mass to reach a tipping point of adoption more broadly by rural constituencies of adaptive practice and innovation. SGP Mexico has been able to facilitate this aggregation process by accompanying community organizations over the years, building networks of producers, establishing vertical linkages from producer to market, and advocating policy support from local, state and federal governments. In addition, SGP Mexico seeks to transfer its approach to other donors and promote donor alliances to jointly provide incentives for sustainable rural production with a joint framework of performance indicators.

At the community level, SGP Mexico will strengthen organizational capacities to understand the legal framework and respond to pressures on land tenure (i.e., support to provide legal education and training to communal or ejido authorities), since the alienation of communal lands contravenes the principle of the social function associated with agrarian commons embodied in current legislation^[45]³⁵ and erodes the foundations of ejidos and agrarian communities, as collective land organizations, whose main authority is the assembly.^[46]

[1] Ferretti, E. L. 2019. “Mid-Term Review October-November 2019. Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Mexico. Final Report.” Pp. 26-32.

[2] *Milpa* is an open-field polyculture centered on maize (*Zea mays*) that rotates with woodland vegetation in a cycle of 10 to 25 years and involves intensive individual plant management. If embedded in a forest environment, it can be characterized as successional agroforestry. According to Nigh and Diemont (2013), *milpa* is more than a system of cultivation: “by rotating annual crops with tropical secondary forest in a successional cycle, milpa moves beyond successful food production and becomes the central axis of a

resource management system that upgrades woodlands with species useful to humans”. (Nigh, R. and Diemont, S.A. 2013. The Maya milpa: fire and the legacy of living soil. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 11: e45-e54. doi:10.1890/120344).

[3] *Ejid*os and communities are collective land tenure forms created by the Mexican Revolution. The difference between both terms is that *ejidos* are land given to landless peasants after government expropriation, while a community refers to ancestral lands reclaimed by indigenous communities.

[4] Ramírez-Meneses, A., E. García-López, J. J. Obrador-Olán, O. Ruiz-Rosado & W. Camacho-Chiu. 2013. Diversidad florística en plantaciones agroforestales de cacao en Cárdenas, Tabasco, México. *Universidad y Ciencia*, 3:215-230.

[5] MadMex. 2015. Baseline information for the Monitoring Activity Data for the Mexican REDD+ program (MadMex); RapidEye images from 2015. SEMARNAT, CONABIO, CONAFOR, CONANP, FMCN, Integralidad GAMMA. Mexico.

[6] In 2003, Mexico formally established a program of certification of community and ejidal reserves, and in 2008 Mexico's General Environmental Law (Ley General del Equilibrio Ecológico y Protección al Ambiente, or LGEEPA) was reformed adopting the new federal protected area category of “Áreas destinadas voluntariamente a la conservación (ADVC)” (areas which have been voluntarily set aside for conservation, or Voluntary Conserved Areas). For more information, please see: <https://advc.conanp.gob.mx/>.

[7] PPD-FMAM-PNUD. 2019. “Estrategia 2020-2030. Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones México”. Documento de trabajo. Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones (PPD), Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM), Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), Yucatán, México.

[8] Soares, D. & A. García. 2017. La cuenca del Río Usumacinta desde la perspectiva del cambio. IMTA. México.

[9] Aguilar, A., J. M. Galeana, A. Guevara, A. D. Jiménez, J. A. Lara & J. M. Núñez. 2018. “Valoración económica de los servicios ecosistémicos en el complejo de Áreas Naturales Protegidas de la Sierra Madre de Chiapas”. Informe final. Centro de Investigación en Ciencias de Información Geoespacial, AC (Centro GEO). Mexico.

[10] Idem.

[11] MadMex. 2015. *Op. cit.*

[12] Sánchez, A. J., M. A. Salcedo, R. Florido, J. D. Mendoza, V. Ruiz-Carrera & N. Álvarez-Pliego. 2015. Ciclos de inundación y conservación de servicios ambientales en la cuenca baja de los ríos Grijalva-Usumacinta. *ContactoS*, 97: 5-14.

[13] PPD-FMAM-PNUD. 2019. *Op. cit.*

[14] The index of social backwardness, originally developed by the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social, CONEVAL), is a measure that seeks to establish differences between geographical areas located in the same region.

- [15] PPD-FMAM-PNUD-Cecropia. 2019. “Estrategia para la resiliencia del paisaje de la cuenca baja del Grijalva-Usumacinta 2020-2030”. Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones (PPD), Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM), Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) y Cecropia Soluciones Locales a Retos Globales A.C. Yucatán, México.
- [16] Tree-covered islands immersed in tidal marshes.
- [17] MadMex. 2015. *Op. cit.*
- [18] PPD-FMAM-PNUD. 2019. *Op. cit.*
- [19] Gutiérrez-Pérez, C. 2019. El contexto de vulnerabilidad social de pescadores ribereños en la península de Yucatán. *Sociedad y Ambiente* 2(1): 25-47.
- [20] Campos-Flores, G. & J. M. Crespo. 2018. Organización espacial de la pesca comercial ribereña en el área de protección de flora y fauna Laguna de Términos, México. *Investigaciones Geográficas*. Instituto de Geografía, 96(0), 1–21. doi <http://dx.doi.org/10.14350/rig.59558>
- [21] In Mexico, the management and use of timber and non-timber forest resources is carried out through permits and authorizations granted by the Federal Government to owners and holders of forests, forest plantations and other plant formations that meet the established requirements and applicable regulations. More information on Mexico’s regulations for the issuance of forestry permits and authorizations available at: <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/acciones-y-programas/tramites-relacionados-al-tema-de-forestal-y-suelos>, and <https://www.ccmss.org.mx/acervo/legislacion-forestal-mexicana-leyes-y-normas-federales/>
- [22] PPD-FMAM-PNUD-ECODES. 2019. “Estrategia para la resiliencia del paisaje maderable y no maderable 2020-2030”. Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones (PPD), Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM), Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) y Equilibrio en Conservación y Desarrollo A.C. (ECODES). México.
- [23] MadMex. 2015. *Op. cit.*
- [24] Morcillo, F. 2019. Ilegal la sustracción de carbón. *Periódico Quintana Roo Hoy*. Available at: <https://www.pressreader.com/mexico/quintana-roo-hoy/20191114/281633897063931>.
- [25] Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable de Yucatán. 2015. *Estrategia Regional de Reducción de Emisiones por Deforestación y Degradación Forestal (REDD+)*. Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable del Gobierno del Estado de Yucatán. Available at: <http://sds.yucatan.gob.mx/cambio-climatico/redd.php>.
- [26] The *traspatio* or backyard behind peasant and indigenous peoples’ homes is considered an agroecosystem that contributes plant and animal products to their diet and income.
- [27] CENAPRED 2011. Grado de vulnerabilidad social por municipio, 2010, 1:250,000. Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres. México.
- [28] CONABIO. 2010. Grado de marginación municipal, 2010, 1:250,000. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad. México.

- [29] CONABIO. 2014. Población con rezago educativo por municipio, 2010, 1:250,000. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad. México.
- [30] PPD-FMAM-PNUD-CentroGeo. 2019. “Estrategia para la resiliencia del paisaje forestal milpero 2020-2030”. Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones (PPD), Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM), Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) y Centro de Investigación en Ciencias de Información Geoespacial (CentroGeo). Yucatán, México.
- [31] Gobierno del Estado de Oaxaca. 2017. Diagnóstico Regional Sierra Sur. COPLADE. México. Available at: <https://www.oaxaca.gob.mx/coplade/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2017/04/DR-Sierra-Sur-21marzo17.pdf>.
- [32] Idem.
- [33] World Bank. 2019. *Systematic Country Diagnostic Mexico*. Available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/588351544812277321/pdf/Mexico-Systematic-Country-Diagnostic.pdf>.
- [34] Morcillo, F. 2019. *Op. cit.*
- [35] Águila-Arreola, C. 2018. *Op. cit.*
- [36] Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable de Yucatán. 2015. *Op. cit.*
- [37] Torres-Mazuera, Gabriela. 2015. “Las consecuencias ocultas de la enajenación de tierras ejidales: proliferación de disonancias normativas”. *Desacatos*, (49), pp. 150-167. Available at: http://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1607-050X2015000300150&lng=es&tlng=es.
- [38] Kissinger, G., A. Brasser, and L. Gross. 2013. “Scoping study. Reducing Risk: Landscape Approaches to Sustainable Sourcing”. Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative. Washington, DC. Available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58d6cc1e17bffcffb801edde/t/594bb41c9de4bbeab83d9b32/1498133592619/landscapes-for-people-food-and-nature.pdf>
- [39] Murguía Rosete, R. & C. Tavera. 2019. *Practicando un modelo de desarrollo. Reflexión sobre la experiencia del PPD en la Península de Yucatán*. Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones (PPD), Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM), Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), Yucatán, México. Pp 149-168. Available at: <http://ppdmexico.org/publicaciones25aniv.html>
- [40] SGP implements the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Programme (COMDEKS) in 20 countries around the world; it focuses on community-based landscape planning and management for socio-ecological resilience. For more information, please see: <https://comdeksproject.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/communities-in-action-comdeks-web-v2.pdf>.

[41] PPD-FMAM-PNUD. 2020. “El estado de la sociedad civil y el cooperativismo en la península de Yucatán”. Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones (PPD), Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM). (January 2020).

[42] Value chains describe the work processes and actors involved in the production, processing, trade and end consumption of a product. They offer opportunities to improve the living and production conditions of the people involved and to conserve biological diversity for food and agriculture.

[43] FAO. 2017. Landscapes for life. Approaches to landscape management for sustainable food and agriculture. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/i8324en/i8324en.pdf>.

[44] Integrators collect products from many individual producers into a central processing plant.

[45] Article 59 of Mexico’s Agrarian Law states that the allocation of plots in forests or rainforests shall be null and void.

[46] Torres-Mazuera, Gabriela. 2015. *Op. cit.*

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



	Lat	Long
1. Agroforestry Landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco	16.726338	-92.660084
2. Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed Landscape	18.148864	-92.182865
3. Coastal Seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula	20.223197	-88.703243
4. Sustainable Forestry Landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan	19.413551	-88.842832
5. Forest and Milpa Landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche	20.204795	-88.730069
6. Mixteca Landscape	17.816190	-97.885923
7. Oaxaca Mountain Landscape	16.457121	-96.192567

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

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

Community-Based Organizations and Civil Society Organizations

The primary stakeholders of the Mexican SGP Programme are community-based organizations (CBOs) and local community members who will design and implement the projects to generate global environmental benefits (GEB) and community livelihood benefits. Second level organizations, community production associations, and landscape, state and regional (Yucatan Peninsula) civil society organization (CSO) networks associated with SGP Mexico will also be involved in project preparation and will participate in various programme implementation aspects to achieve the expected outcomes.

During OP7, SGP Mexico will allocate strategic grants to selected CSOs to undertake activities that help integrate communities and their projects at the landscape/seascape level. CSOs will play a central role in enabling the necessary planning, coordination, exchange of information, monitoring, technical assistance, and business development support required to achieve results at the landscape/seascape level and address cross-cutting issues.

Associated second-level organizations and CSO networks will join the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) in the ongoing dialogue and coordination that needs to take place with relevant federal, state and municipal level government institutions and programs. Each landscape/seascape has a specific institutional setting, and it will be important to determine during the project preparation stage who the specific key government, academic and CSOs are that should be involved to enhance landscape/seascape governance and to help consolidate production activities at scale for each production line. Other CSOs not directly associated with SGP Mexico, but with similar interests and objectives and activities in the landscapes, will be invited to share information and experience and become part of the dialogue.

SGP Mexico has established partnerships at all levels: between community members, international environmental and local organizations, the GEF and co-financiers for community grants, and the institutions and members of the NSC. The formation of multi-stakeholder platforms in each landscape/seascape, and the establishment of broad partnerships for value chain development, involve public and private entities that provide financing, technical assistance or other forms of support. So far, significant co-financing has been committed by government institutions, international environmental organizations and other donors, such as Rainforest Alliance, Heiffer International, Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy.

These partnerships enable capacity-development and learning at different levels; leverage both financial and technical resources to strengthen programmatic approaches as well as individual projects; and help to ensure the sustainability of initiatives. The ability to engage in local dialogue processes with the main stakeholders (local communities, federal and state and private partners) is a key part of the achievements of previous phases of SGP Mexico (overall collaboration with 185 communities; intense dialogue with the private sector; socio-economic assessment of the landscapes/seascape that involved 23 community workshops with 501 participants; dialogue with the new federal and state authorities; alliance with other donors to implement shared strategies; effective collaboration with other GEF-funded projects).

Indigenous People

The Mexican SGP Programme gives special consideration to all aspects (cultural, social, production) related to the identity and ethnicity of communities, organizations and individuals who live and work within the selected landscapes. During OP6, 41% of the SGP Mexico grants were for indigenous communities, a figure that will grow with the inclusion of new landscapes with high densities of indigenous populations. The proportion of indigenous populations in the five states where SGP Mexico will work during OP7 is: Campeche 26%, Chiapas 28%, Oaxaca 47%, Quintana Roo 39%, Tabasco 6%, Yucatán 58%.^[1]

During the program's initial years most grantees were of Maya ethnicity. Later the diversity of SGP grantees and stakeholders increased as a result of immigration and new settlements in the south of the state of Campeche, and with the extension of SGP's geographic coverage to the state of Tabasco, which includes the Chontal ethnic region, and to the state of Chiapas, which includes many ethnic groups.

The management practices of local communities have been instrumental in the conservation of the large ecosystems in Southern and Southeastern Mexico to this day, but the traditional knowledge behind those practices is at risk of being lost. Throughout the years, SGP Mexico has observed loss of identity and cultural change in most communities. Among the internal and external factors for these changes are migration to urban areas and to other countries and access to technology and communications.

During the process of designing of the five landscape strategies, participants placed great emphasis on the recovery of traditional knowledge linked to the environment. SGP Mexico strives to help individuals and communities maintain a strong sense of their identity through various approaches, for example, by i) facilitating meetings between the various ethnic groups so they learn about their traditional organization and production practices, and health and medicinal practices; ii) improving coordination with government entities dedicated to indigenous and cultural affairs; iii) sharing information on opportunities to obtain funding and support for cultural projects; iv) promoting bilingual practices and publishing programme documents in local languages. SGP Mexico funds projects that seek to recover or apply traditional sustainable production practices and knowledge consistent with SGP objectives, as well as to foster mechanisms and practices employed by local communities to help conserve their forest resources and high biodiversity areas, such as voluntarily setting aside land for conservation areas and other forms of communal conservation. In addition, SGP Mexico is currently supporting the process of recognition of the Maya Milpa System of the Yucatan Peninsula as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

There is also a significant mestizo population in all six states. Ejidos and communities have predominantly rural livelihoods in which natural resources play a determining role, although as much as 63% of the population of the Yucatan Peninsula is classified as urban. Campeche and Quintana Roo include a significant number of forest ejidos in which communities own large tracks of forests managed for timber and other forest products and services. Coastal areas and lagoons sustain many artisanal fisher communities in Tabasco and the three states of the Yucatan Peninsula.

Government

At the national level, collaboration is in place with government institutions with programmes aligned to SGP Mexico's objectives: the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT), and its agencies the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, CONABIO), the National Forestry Commission (Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR), the National Water Commission (Comisión Nacional del Agua, CONAGUA) and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas CONANP); the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry (Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, SADER); the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, SHCP); the Ministry of Welfare (Secretaría de Bienestar, SEBIEN), though its program Sembrando Vida; the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

(Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social, STPS) with its program Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro. These last two government programmes have a strong presence in the targeted landscapes.

State governments of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Quintana Roo and Yucatan are key partners, especially through its environmental, rural development and agricultural state-level agencies. Collaboration with municipalities in the targeted landscapes involves new challenges for SGP Mexico, due to the presence of partnership and inter-municipal cooperation entities, such as the Inter-municipal Biocultural Puuc Council (Junta Intermunicipal Biocultural del Puuc, JIBIOPUUC). In Oaxaca, in addition to the large number of municipalities (570), the traditional indigenous governance, called “usos y costumbres”, is recognized by law.^[2]

Other stakeholders

During OP7, SGP Mexico will maintain close collaboration with academic and research institutions with departments relevant to the implementation of local projects and its replication and scaling-up, for example, the pilot program for the integration of university students in community projects to solve technological or commercial challenges with academic institutions such as El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (Ecosur), Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca (UABJO), Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Yucatán (UADY), Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco (UJAT), Universidad Marista, and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

Based on OP6 experience, SGP Mexico will continue existing partnerships with donors such as WK Kellogg Foundation, ADO Foundation, CitiBanamex Foundation and PEMEX PACMA (Programa de Apoyo a la Comunidad y Medio Ambiente) Programme.

[1] INEGI. Censo de Población y Vivienda 2010.

[2] “Which entails electing individuals to leadership positions through customary law in non-party-sponsored elections, making decisions through direct participatory democracy, and monitoring compliance through a parallel system of law enforcement and community justice” (Díaz-Cayeros, Alberto & Magaloni, Beatriz & Ruiz-Euler, Alexander. 2014. “Traditional Governance, Citizen Engagement, and Local Public Goods: Evidence from Mexico”. *World Development* 53(C): 80-93).

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

SGP has been pioneering and is recognized for mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment in every step of the program cycle. In Mexico, all states have legislation in support of gender equality and 31 states possess legislation on non-discrimination. However, the National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos, CNDH) recognizes that much is needed to ensure equality between women and men and to eradicate discrimination. It argues that violations of women's human rights are intertwined with a wide variety of factors such as poverty, lack of access to basic services or the defense of their natural resources and territory. Therefore, it is vitally important to ensure

that such legislation adapts to changing contexts and new challenges, since non-compliance with national policy maintains high inequality gaps between men and women.

Mexican women belong to several priority care groups (indigenous, rural, migrant, disabled, deprived of their liberty, Afro-descendants, sexual diversity, etc.). Women may suffer from unequal conditions, such as limited access to education (educational gap of 6.5 percentage points between both sexes) and social security (inequitable labor inclusion); healthcare gaps (dependence on family members to access free health services); unpaid domestic work and responsibilities as head of the household (female-headed household usually have a greater burden), among others. Moreover, the CNDH recognizes the high level of violence against women in the country; according to a national survey 7 out of 10 women over 15 have suffered some kind of violence (emotional, sexual, physical, economic, heritage or discrimination).

To address this situation, the inclusion of a gender approach is a priority for the Mexican SGP Programme. One of the main strategies that will be promoted in the following OP7 will be empowering women, in order to generate conditions that allow full, real, active and effective participation of women. To ensure full participation of women/girls in projects and that gender is a conclusive eligibility criterion when awarding small grants, during OP 6, SGP Mexico developed a Gender Action Plan, which requires that at least 35% of all proposals come from women's groups and are developed taking into account gender equality, social inclusion and women's empowerment criteria. Other indicators were also established such as at least 30% female participation of the 200 community members with increased business development and management capacities, a minimum participation of 50% of women in training and that training is led by both men and women. The Gender Action Plan will be enriched with the results of the five landscape strategies, which are designed to be gender sensitive.

In addition, *Recommendations for the Inclusion of the Gender Approach* were formulated so that the gender perspective is present in all phases of the selected projects (in diagnoses, project design, activities planning, implementation, trainings and workshops), with specific examples provided to all applicants. These recommendations include i) ensuring full women's participation in project governance platforms; ii) including participatory diagnosis conducted with women to consider their needs/desires, leading to proposed adaptations to support their work; iii) establishing specific targets in the project's logframe; iv) full consideration of gender equity in situational analysis, and v) ensuring collection of gender disaggregated data. Moreover, to guarantee that gender considerations are considered, Mexico has a gender focal point in the National Steering Committee, who participates in the project selection and evaluation process.

The Mexican SGP Programme will continue developing activities with men and women, such as: i) participatory diagnostic and research projects to document, discuss, analyze and better understand the roles of men and women in local traditional culture, the notions around men and women's rights, their perception about their needs and the condition of their natural assets; ii) dissemination of information about SGP to men and women in

separate venues, as required; iii) awareness raising about gender relations in the local context through participatory workshops for CSOs and CBOs, and providing an opportunity to develop alternative scenarios; iv) empowering women and strengthening their capacities so they contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of projects, and to enable them to perform project management or administrative roles on an equal footing with men; v) promoting deep reflection to stimulate changes in gender relations, for example, adopting non-traditional gender roles, allowing the inclusion of women in productive activities, changing cooperatives' statutes to include women's participation or attempting formalization of women's property rights to assets and means of production, such as land or natural resources in terrestrial and marine landscapes; vi) contributing towards women's empowerment and creating conditions for the efficient and real participation in project and community decision-making spheres; vii) promoting women's groups' creativity to propose innovative solutions to local and environmental problems, for example, women members of the Ulu'Umil Beh cooperative contracted "climate" insurance to protect their crops from major climatic risks with the support of SGP Mexico. During project preparation, consultations with community groups and CSOs will take place in ways that ensure women's comfortable participation, depending on their preference for mixed or separate groups.

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

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

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

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The private sector will be involved as appropriate, participating in multi-stakeholder partnerships in the landscapes, but particularly through development of links with other value-chain stakeholders to improve value chains for timber, honey, ecotourism, coffee, cacao and fisheries products. Consultations with stakeholders during the design of landscape strategies indicate a strong need to improve access to fair and local markets, especially national markets.

Encouraging partnerships with the private sector will be key to increasing the use of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies; diversifying production activities; adding value to sustainable products through its production, transformation and commercialization, as well as establishing value chain relationships that improve the profitability of local production.

For example, SGP Mexico is helping establish collaboration between local community entrepreneurs and the private sector by piloting an initiative to introduce specialty products, such as organic honey, sustainable cacao and coffee and other products that chefs are requesting, and to promote best practices in facilitating relationships with restaurants and the tourism industry in Quintana Roo.

The Mexican SGP Programme will also cooperate with PEMEX’s Community and Environment Support Program (Programa de Apoyo a la Comunidad y Medio Ambiente, PACMA), which promotes actions and sustainable production projects, for the protection of the environment and the social and economic development of the population settled in areas where PEMEX operates.

Another potential collaboration with the public sector will be for leveraging sustainable finance for community-based activities with support from UNDP’s Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN).

5. Risks

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

Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
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<p>Risk 1. Women's groups/leaders may raise gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>In the targeted landscapes women frequently suffer from unequal conditions, such as limited access to education and social security, among others.</p> <p>They are also underrepresented in ejidos and community assemblies, due to long-standing social and cultural norms.</p>	<p>One of the main strategies that will be promoted during OP7 will be empowering women, in order to generate conditions that allow full, real, active and effective participation of women.</p> <p>To ensure full participation of women/girls in projects and that gender is a conclusive eligibility criterion when awarding small grants, during OP 6, SGP Mexico developed a Gender Action Plan, which requires that at least 35% of all proposals come from women's groups and are developed taking into account gender equality, social inclusion and women's empowerment criteria. Other indicators were also established such as at least 30% female participation of the 200 community members with increased business development and management capacities, a minimum participation of 50% of women in training and that training should be led by both men and women.</p> <p>Moreover, the Mexican SGP Programme has a staff member and a focal point in the NSC specialized in gender.</p> <p>In addition, the <i>Recommendations for the Inclusion of the Gender Approach</i>, developed by Mexico's NSC, are used as the main guidelines, so that the gender perspective is present in all phases of the selected projects (in diagnosis, project design, activities planning, implementation, trainings and workshops), with specific examples provided to all applicants.</p> <p>Building on the best practices from OP6 SGP Mexico, a gender analysis and action plan will be prepared during project preparation to include activities to mainstream gender in project activities. Additionally, the Stakeholder engagement plan will identify key entry points for articulating gender considerations in all project components from its design to implementation.</p>
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<p>Risk 2. Poor site selection within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserves, national parks) may involve harvesting of natural resources and forests, plantation development or reforestation.</p>	<p>I =4 P = 1</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The collaboration between the SGP Country Programme and the National Commission of Protected Area (CONANP) has always been strong, so any possible impact would be rapidly assessed.</p>	<p>During OP7, the Mexican SGP Country Programme will ensure consistency with the national sectoral strategy on protected areas, to be published in 2020. The National Commission for Protected Areas is a key ally of the SGP, and existing coordination will be reinforced through co financing and permanent assessment of any risk.</p> <p>The Country Programme will also support indigenous conservation through the ICCA (Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas) initiative.</p> <p>Further assessments will be undertaken prior to site selection, which will be done in consideration of SES requirements.</p> <p>During the project preparation period, site inventory and analysis of biodiversity, land use, local livelihoods, climate conditions, impacts from climate change, local organizations, and needs of selected communities will be conducted in the landscapes to confirm project sites and outline strategies for socio-ecological production landscapes. After the identification of project sites, functional plans with participation of community stakeholders will then be created so that local stakeholders and planners will have the entire picture of communities and their needs.</p>
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<p>Risk 3: Micro-hydro installations may divert stream water potentially causing impact on the local ecology.</p>	<p>I =3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The scale of GEF Small Grants projects is small with the average funding around USD 22,000.</p> <p>A number of small community-based projects focused on demonstration of RE technologies including solar, wind and micro-hydro will be designed and implemented based on successful experience and lessons learned from previous SGP phases.</p>	<p>During the PPG, further assessment of the risks will be done including factors such as sociology, technical feasibility, hydrology, physical and chemical water quality, economic feasibility, operations and maintenance, government policy and others. The findings will inform project design (e.g. with exclusionary criteria for projects, so that an ESIA would never be needed) and an ESMF will be developed if determined necessary to ensure compliance with the SES.</p> <p>During project selection, experts may be contracted to provide an additional layer of technical assistance and support.</p> <p>All GEF SGP proposals are reviewed and approved by a National Steering Committee comprised of experts in different fields, including biodiversity conservation, ecosystem service, sustainable resource management, and others. Project implementation is monitored by the National Coordination team, as well as NSC members who often accompany monitoring visits.</p>
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<p>Risk 4: Climatic unpredictability, periodic droughts, changes in rainfall distribution, altered frequency of extreme meteorological events, rising temperatures in coastal waters may affect agroecology, beekeeping, sustainable tourism, forestry and fisheries, and community-based conservation initiatives and undermine efforts to arrest biodiversity loss and land degradation.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 4</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Extreme meteorological events are frequent in coastal areas of the seven targeted landscapes/seascapes. However, the impact would be limited given that the relevant activities will be building communities' resilience to extreme meteorological events.</p>	<p>One of the objectives of the Mexican SGP Country Programme is dealing with vulnerabilities including climate variability. This is an underlying premise and principle across all components.</p> <p>The Mexican SGP Country Programme works with UNDP's Disaster Risk Management Programme in Mexico in applying an ecosystem-based adaptation methodology at the beginning of every project. Based on the results of this methodology, SGP Mexico invests approximately 3.5% of every grant in adaptation and mitigation measures for every project. Adaptation measures include, among others, establishing community committees dedicated to risk prevention and management; climate risk insurance for agroecological projects, and rainwater harvesting for ecotourism projects.</p> <p>Moreover, by working to develop capacities for appropriate landscape management and adoption of innovative and sustainable practices and technologies, such as renewable and efficient energy sources, agroecology, sustainable tourism, forestry and fisheries, the project will enable local communities to reduce vulnerabilities and increase ecosystem resilience.</p>
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Risk 5: Indigenous peoples (IPs) may not be sufficiently consulted on or involved in activities that impact their lands, territories and/or culture, and the Project will involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples	I = 3 P = 2	Moderate	<p>The ICCA (Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas) framework will be applied to ensure indigenous participation. Moreover, the NSC includes an indigenous focal point to guarantee the inclusion of the IP perspective during all phases of project implementation.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Programme will disseminate the indigenous right to obtain free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.</p>	<p>A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be prepared for the full project meeting Standard 6 on Indigenous Peoples, and in-depth consultations with IPs will be carried out in the PPG phase.</p> <p>Potential social impacts of small grants are assessed by the National Coordinator and the NSC and actions to mitigate risk are incorporated into each proposal prior to approval. No proposals are accepted or approved without thorough review by the NC and NSC of consultations and participation of proponent organizations and communities.</p>
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6. Coordination

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

Institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level.

The SGP Country Programme is structured similarly to other SGP Country Programmes worldwide under the ***SGP Operational Guidelines***. First and foremost, the Country Programme is governed by a National Steering Committee comprised of rotating representatives of civil society, as well as State and Federal governments and UNDP. The National Coordinator manages the Upgraded Country Programme. Their duties and responsibilities are briefly described below, detailed Terms of Reference and the ***SGP Operational Guidelines*** will be annexed to the Project Document after the project preparation phase.

SGP National Steering Committee (NSC): Is a multi-stakeholder body with a non-governmental majority that functions as Project Steering Committee; reviews landscape strategies; advises regarding multi-stakeholder partnership composition and TORs; approves criteria for project eligibility for each landscape/seascape based on proposals by multi-stakeholder partnership and SGP Operational Guidelines; reviews and approves all the projects submitted by the SGP Country Programme Manager; reviews annual project progress reports and recommends revisions and course corrections; supports networking and co-financing.

SGP Country Programme Manager (National Coordinator), and team: Responsible for the overall implementation and operations of the Mexican SGP Country Programme, acting as secretary to the National Steering Committee, mobilizing co-financing, organizing strategic partnerships with government and non-governmental organizations, and in general managing the successful achievement of Country Programme Objectives, as described in the Project Document. The National Coordinator receives the support of a

Technical Assistant, who oversees project monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge management, and a Programme Assistant, responsible for the general administration of the SGP Mexico Country Programme.

UNOPS, as Project Implementing Partner, will provide country programme implementation services, including human resources management, budgeting, accounting, grant disbursement, auditing, and procurement. UNOPS is responsible for SGP's financial management and provides periodic financial reports to UNDP.

The SGP Upgraded Country Programme portfolio is managed by a UNDP Global Coordinator and Technical Advisor, who provides oversight by supporting and monitoring implementation and promoting the sharing of lessons learned and best practice among UCPs and between UCPs and the Global Programme. SGP's Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) will monitor this Country Programme project for its compliance with core policies and procedures of the SGP as a GEF Corporate Programme.

The **UNDP Country Office** is responsible for ensuring that the project meets its objective and delivers on its targets. The Resident Representative signs the grant agreements with beneficiary organizations on behalf of UNOPS. It also provides other types of support at the local level, as required. UNDP is represented on the NSC, and actively participates in grant monitoring activities. CBOs and NGOs will submit proposals in response to calls for proposals by the NSC, which will consider and approve the grants in specific thematic and geographic areas relevant to the SGP Mexico strategy. Individual grantee projects are monitored and evaluated through monthly, interim and final reports, in addition to frequent field visits conducted by NSC members, UNDP CO team in addition to the Country Programme team.

Project results will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the [UNDP POPP](#) and [UNDP Evaluation Policy](#). The UNDP Country Office will ensure UNDP M&E requirements are met in a timely fashion and to high quality standards. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the [GEF M&E policy](#) and other relevant GEF policies.[1].

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report. This will include the exact role of project target groups and other stakeholders in project M&E activities, including the GEF Operational Focal Point and others assigned to undertake project monitoring.

Possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Since its inception in 1994, SGP Mexico has reached out and coordinated with other relevant GEF initiatives in the geographic areas of the programme. The National Steering Committee of SGP Mexico and the Country Programme Manager have consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with GEF and government financed projects and programmes for many years. It has also joined efforts and built on the lessons of a range of related initiatives.

One recent example is the collaboration with the Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Safeguard Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change Project (GEF ID 4763), in which SGP provided funding for implementation actions included in PACCs[2] through community investment and transferred and exchanged knowledge regarding the application of ecosystem-based adaptation methodology, designed by the SGP for its grantees. The SGP in Mexico also included information from the PACC Pantanos de Centla-Laguna del Carmen during the development of the Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed Landscape Strategy.

SGP Mexico has also collaborated with the *Enhancing National Capacities to Manage Invasive Alien Species (IAS) by Implementing the National Strategy on IAS Project* (GEF ID 4771), and the *Securing the Future of Global Agriculture in the Face of Climate Change by Conserving the Genetic Diversity of the Traditional Agro-ecosystems of Mexico Project* (GEF ID 9380), by funding implementation actions at the community level and facilitating territorial dialogues.

Lessons learnt in two micro basins in the Mixteca region in Oaxaca by the *Sustainable Land Management Promotion Project (GEF ID 5785)*, dedicated to reduce land degradation by implementing sustainable land management practices through local participatory processes, will be considered in the definition of the Mixteca Landscape during OP7.

The Mexican SGP Programme will coordinate with the national GEF Focal Point to collaborate with other GEF projects and fund complementary initiatives at the community level within the seven selected landscapes. As part of project preparation, the Mexican SGP Programme will confirm potential and/or continued collaboration with other GEF projects such as the *Integrated Transboundary Ridges-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef Project (GEF ID 5765)*, the *Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in priority landscapes of Oaxaca and Chiapas Project (GEF ID 9445)*, and the *Sustainable Productive Landscapes Project (GEF ID 9555)*. The proposed project will also coordinate and build partnerships with other relevant initiatives, including those SGP partners that are associations, cooperatives and NGOs that represent or assist local communities.

[1] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

[2] PACC: Programas de Adaptación al Cambio Climático en Áreas Naturales Protegidas (Climate Change Adaptation Programs for Protected Areas)

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

Yes

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

Mexico is a Party to multiple multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ratified in December 1993; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), ratified in December 1993, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), ratified in April 1995. The SGP is directly relevant to, supportive of, and consistent with Mexico's National Development Plan and its priorities, the National Biodiversity Strategy, the climate change legal and policy framework, and other policy instruments related to environment and sustainable natural resources management. It is also consistent with relevant state-level development plans and policy frameworks. Below is a brief review of the most important:

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2030. Contains six strategic components aimed at fulfilling Mexico's commitments under the CBD, in particular its 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Mexican SGP Programme contributes to ecosystem conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management of natural resources, environmental culture, education and communication, and governance and social participation.

National Climate Change Strategy 10-20-40.^[1] Published in 2015, it defines milestones for the next 10, 20 and 40 years. It contains strategic lines that simultaneously promote actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change through an integrated territorial management approach to fulfill its commitments under the UNFCCC. One of the strategic action areas aims at promoting best practices in agriculture and forestry to increase and preserve natural carbon sinks, which include five lines of action directly supporting sustainable forest management, community forest management and REDD+ in addition to forest ecosystem conservation and improved agricultural/livestock practices.

Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). Mexico was the first developing country to present its National Planned and Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC. The Mexico's INDC has two components: one dedicated to mitigation and the other related to adaptation. The mitigation portion includes two types of measures: unconditional and conditional. The unconditional set of measures are those that Mexico will implement with its own resources, while the conditional actions are those that could be implemented if a new multilateral climate regime is established from which Mexico would obtain additional resources and would achieve effective mechanisms for technology transfer. The participation of the agricultural and forestry sector to meet the goals of Mexico's contribution include: meet 0% deforestation rate target by the year 2030; improve forestry management; drive the sustainable technification of the agriculture and livestock sectors; promote the use of biodigesters on livestock farms; and enhance recuperation of grasslands.

National Land Management Strategy (2010).^[2] Presents the Mexican Government's commitment to meet the targets established in the UNCCD. Its main goal is to promote sustainable land management through coordination and concurrence of actions, programs and resources from the three levels of government, and the participation of various sectors of the society.

National Development Plan 2019-2024.^[3] It emphasizes that the main national development objective is the construction of a viable model of economic development, political order and coexistence between social sectors, to achieve progress with justice and growth with well-being. The Mexican SGP Programme is consistent with the NDP's main objective.

Programa Sembrando Vida^[4] (**Sowing Life Programme**). Through this programme, the Ministry of Welfare seeks to improve producers' income and recover one million hectares of forest cover in Mexico by establishing agroforestry systems, where traditional crops and fruit and timber trees are combined, and to convert the traditional milpa system into milpa interspersed with fruit trees in 19 states including Campeche, Chiapas, Quintana Roo, Tabasco and Yucatán. The Mexican SGP Programme will establish alliances with Sowing Life Program beneficiaries aimed at improving the sustainability and resilience of these production systems.

Programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro^[5] (**Youth Building the Future Programme**). Mexico's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare grants scholarships through this programme so that young people between 18 and 29 years of age with different levels of education can be trained for a year in a work center of their choice. The Mexican SGP Programme will seek to involve young beneficiaries in targeted community projects, that could benefit from this synergy.

Programa Producción para el Bienestar^[6] (**Production for Wellbeing Programme**). The objective of this programme, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), is to channel production support to agroecological and sustainable practices for soil water and agrodiversity conservation; encourage self-reliance in seed production and other inputs; provide funding for renewable energy systems and machinery and equipment suitable for small-scale agriculture. This programme also seeks to foster the establishment of micro, small and medium private companies associated with the commercialization of food products. Collaboration with this programme is key to the Mexican SGP Programme since it also contributes to the promotion of agroecological practices, soil, water and agrodiversity conservation, and the inclusion of communities in new sustainable value chains.

Programa Sectorial de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural 2019-2024 (Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Programme 2019-2024). The objective of this programme, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), is to sustainably increase the productivity of rural family production units and improve their income. Although this programme has not been published yet, it includes components related to economic integration of production chains and strengthening of family production units through soil and vegetation conservation activities, and investment in fixed assets to improve the production capacity of the units,^{[7]³⁶} which are consistent with the Mexican SGP Programme goals.

OP7 of the Mexican SGP Programme will continue facilitating CSOs and CBOs participation in fora and activities to promote better integration and mainstreaming of environmental and social goals in public policies. During project preparation, OP7 of the Mexican SGP Programme will work on ensuring consistency with the national sectoral programmes — environment and natural resources, protected areas, forestry, agriculture and rural development, et al.— to be published in 2020.

[1] SEMARNAT-INECC. 2016. *Mexico's Climate Change Mid-Century Strategy*. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC). Mexico City, Mexico. Available at: https://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/mexico_mcs_final_cop22nov16_red.pdf

[2] SEMARNAT. 2010. *Estrategia Nacional de Manejo Sustentable de Tierras*. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). Mexico City, Mexico. Available at: http://www.ccmss.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Estrategia_Nacional_de_Manejo_Sustentable_de_Tierras.pdf

[3] Diario Oficial de la Federación. 2019. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2019-2024. Mexico City, Mexico. Available at: https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5565599&fecha=12/07/2019.

[4] Secretaría de Bienestar. 2019. Programa Sembrando Vida. Available at: <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/acciones-y-programas/programa-sembrando-vida>

[5] Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social. 2019. Programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro. Available at: <https://jovenesconstruyendoelfuturo.stps.gob.mx/>

[6] Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural. 2019. Programa Producción para el Bienestar. Available at: <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura%7Cyucatan/articulos/ventanillas-para-el-programa-produccion-para-el-bienestar-2019>

[7] Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural. 2019. Foro de consulta para la formulación del Programa Sectorial de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural 2019-2024. Available at: <https://www.cmdrs.gob.mx/sectorial-2019-2024>

8. Knowledge Management

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

The SGP has an important role as a laboratory for new concepts, methodologies and technologies besides bringing global environmental and local sustainable development benefits and enhancing organizational capacities of community-based organizations and their partners. Therefore, knowledge management is an integral part of the SGP, and will be based principally on the ongoing evaluation of the innovation experience.

Since its inception, the Mexican SGP Programme has consistently analyzed and documented its experience and lessons, through articles and longer publications for local, national and international dissemination. Many of these publications and manuals are available in local languages in addition to Spanish. In addition, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, SGP Mexico developed several communication materials^[1], such as publications and videos, to share and disseminate successful projects from the communities' perspective. To continue documenting its experience, SGP Mexico has developed a communication strategy emphasizing community inclusion, storytelling and dissemination of lessons among local stakeholders in user-friendly language and format. Gender approaches will also be considered, in compliance with SGP Mexico's Gender Action Plan: communication and didactic materials will be developed to make women's roles more visible at the household and community levels and encourage women's empowerment.

The Mexican SGP Programme believes that science should be at the service of communities, so during OP7 it will promote community and citizen science initiatives and new technologies to help collect and analyze data and improve landscape monitoring, using dedicated SGP mobile apps and other apps such as Naturalista, the largest Mexican citizen science social network for the observation of nature.

SGP Mexico will also continue facilitating participation of CBO representatives in events organized by third parties to share their community knowledge and gain more current information. Female grantees are also encouraged to participate in relevant fora; for example, recently a group of community entrepreneurs participated in the “Cumbre de Mujeres Líderes Latinoamericanas”, an international women entrepreneurs' summit held in Merida, Yucatan.

Furthermore, during OP7, SGP Mexico will create four communities of practice on renewable energy, agroecology, sustainable forestry and fisheries, and continue organizing community experience exchange workshops within and across landscapes/seascapes, and South-South exchanges focused on community sustainable forest management, disease management (crops and coral bleaching) and ecotourism. For example, exchange with Colombia on community forest management; with Costa Rica and Ecuador on ecotourism; Belize and Honduras on reef bleaching treatment, and Moniliasis treatment with cocoa producer countries in Latin America. Information and experience sharing are essential to achieve the integrated landscape/seascape management goals. As much as possible SGP Mexico will continue linking with other initiatives to disseminate and receive feedback on SGP's experience and lessons.

The project will create a knowledge management platform to facilitate links among communities, promote information sharing, and provide access to knowledge resources that are relevant to their individual projects. The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP's well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP's global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and replication will help ensure

that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term. At the global level, the project will contribute to knowledge platforms, including the SGP website and Communities Connect (a platform to share knowledge from civil society organizations around the world).

[1] Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones México. 2019. Publicaciones. Available at: <https://issuu.com/ppdmexico>

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

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Fernanda Montero Lara	GEF Operational Focal Point for Mexico	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit	2/25/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

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



	Lat	Long
1. Agroforestry Landscape in Chiapas and Tabasco	16.726338	-92.660084
2. Usumacinta and Grijalva Rivers Watershed Landscape	18.148864	-92.182865
3. Coastal Seascape of the Yucatan Peninsula	20.223197	-88.703243
4. Sustainable Forestry Landscape of Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan	19.413551	-88.842832
5. Forest and Milpa Landscape in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche	20.204795	-88.730069
6. Mixteca Landscape	17.816190	-97.885923
7. Oaxaca Mountain Landscape	16.457121	-96.192567