GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Project Information

Project Title	
Implementation of the La Plata Basin SAP priorities through regional and national actions	
Region Regional	GEF Project ID 11053
Country(ies) Regional Argentina Bolivia Brazil Paraguay Uruguay	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies): CAF	GEF Agency ID CAF-GEF 039
Executing Partner TBD	Executing Partner Type Others
GEF Focal Area (s) International Waters	Submission Date 9/17/2022
Project Sector (CCM Only) Mixed & Others	
Taxonomy International Waters, Focal Areas, Freshwater, River Basin, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Participation, Civil Society, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Indigenous Peoples, Communications, Behavior change, Education, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Training, Seminar, Workshop, Knowledge Exchange, Field Visit, Conference, Peer-to-Peer, South-South, Learning, Theory of change	
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 10,605,000.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

954,450.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 11,559,450.00	Total Co-financing 221,300,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 300,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 27,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 327,000.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 11,886,450.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

Project Summary

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

Prepared upon request of the 5 countries sharing the basin, the proposed project addresses the implementation of strategic actions - identified by the GEF IW foundational project through a TDA/SAP process, and further refined through the extensive consultations conducted during the bridging MSP project - that countries have decided to undertake in consideration of the present growing threats to environmental sustainability in the Basin, and of the urgent need to strengthen transboundary coordination within a basin-wide reference framework and overcome the pitfalls inherent in the present fragmentation of national initiatives dealing with, or impacting freshwater resources and dependent ecosystems. The general consensus achieved on the proposed project represents culmination of over 15 years of GEF IW assistance to the basin countries in the management of the transboundary water resources of one of the largest and more complex basins of the world, paramount for global food security.

The design of the project consists of a blend of mutually reinforcing regional and national actions aimed at overcoming the barriers (weak transboundary institutions; overexploitation of groundwater; water use conflicts; uncoordinated dam management; lack of systematic stakeholder participation; lack of common standards), and addressing the threats (climate change; loss of water quality; excess sediment loads; loss of habitats) that hinder the basin sustainability. The project will act at the regional level aiming at (i) determining a substantial change in the role, technical capacity and sustainability of CIC by expanding the services it will provide to countries including through the creation of the Hydro-environmental Observatory of the Basin, improving its convening power, and adopting regional stakeholders gender sensitive participation mechanisms, thus ensuring the long-term sustainability of this essential transboundary cooperation and coordination mechanism; (ii) introducing conjunctive surface and groundwater management approaches; (iii) enhancing water security in areas of the basin impacted by climatic variability and droughts through actions with territorial impact; and (iv) providing countries with the knowledge and technical tools indispensable for adaptive and integrated water resources management, and with a forum for transboundary dialogue and monitoring of progress. On the other side the project will implement demonstration actions at the national level addressing, in a regionally consistent way, transboundary issues of concern such as groundwater governance, enabling conditions for the access to water of more vulnerable communities, resilience and preparedness to droughts, and reduction of contaminants discharges.

The project will accrue Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) in terms of strengthened transboundary coordination (Core Indicator 7) and contribute to the achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework targets 21 and 22[1][1]. The project will also produce GEBs to be measured under Core Indicators 3 (5,000 ha), 4 (400,000 hectares) and 11(200,000 beneficiaries): at this stage of project development however, it is not possible to provide precise estimates of their values (hectares, number of beneficiaries). This will be done during the project preparation phase (PPG).

[1] 21: in terms of availability of information and knowledge on freshwater ecosystems; 22: in terms of mechanisms for the enhanced involvement of indigenous communities, women etc.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To promote the management of shared water resources, cooperation and regional integration, while seeking to achieve sustainable development in the LaPlata Basin countries and the welfare of their inhabitants.

Project Components

Component 1. Technical strengthening of the CIC Secretariat and of national institutions related to water. Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs): 1.Expansion and consolidation of monitoring networks. 2. Design and implementation of a hydro-environmental monitoring system of the La Plata basin (CIC). 19. Environmental education and training program. 21. Support for research development, technological development, and innovation. 22. Strengthening the CIC as an institutional coordination and articulation body. 23. Strengthening binational or regional coordination bodies and instances. 24. Harmonization of legal frameworks for the management of transboundary water resources. 25. Development of technical guides and common protocols for actions that interfere with the management of shared water resources.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,800,000.00	60,600,000.00

Outcome:

1.1. CIC effectively coordinates the implementation of the SAP among: (i) riparian countries, (ii) other agencies and mechanisms of the La Plata Basin System, (iii) financial and international cooperation institutions.

1.2 Reinforced capacities for the cooperative management of water resources of national agencies related to water and the environment, and of the science community of all riparian countries

Output:

1.1.1 Submission for countries' decision of feasible options for the institutional strengthening of the CIC: (i) Reinforcement of its coordinating role with respect to the existing bilateral, trilateral and regional commissions, (ii) expansion of its participation and visibility at the regional and global levels, (iii) strengthening of its technical capacity.

1.1.2 Design and implementation of a sustainable operational and financial strategy to provide continuity to the implementation of SAP, including the feasibility evaluation of the establishment within the CIC of a revolving fund for the preparation of SAP implementation projects, in cooperation with all the institutions of the countries sharing La Plata basin and with international financing and cooperation institutions;

1.1.3. Water related functions of CIC enhanced to include:

(i) preparation of voluntary guidelines on issues of transboundary concern; (ii) Periodic publication of a Bulletin on the state of the water and environmental resources of the La Plata Basin.

1.1.4. Creation - within the CIC - of the 'Hydro-environmental Observatory of the La Plata Basin' as a reference information center on strategic issues related to the waters of the Plata Basin. The Observatory will build on the Decision Support System established as part of the MSP bridging project, and receive data from existing national monitoring networks that will be harmonized, in terms of technology and protocols, at the transboundary level.

1.2.1 Capacity building:

● Design of a University Fund - similar to very successful one part of the GEF/World Bank Guarani foundational project – and gather public and private financing for its establishment.

● Training modules on conjunctive surface and groundwater management designed and implemented in each riparian country with broad stakeholder participation.

● Training (including through the ISAT program of the OAS/NASA) in the use of different hydrological models, early warning systems, sediment transport, water quality, monitoring of floods and droughts in existing platforms

● Training in the design and operation of modern groundwater and surface water monitoring networks.

● Training on conventions/agendas adopted and approved at the international level, linked to the Basin

Component 2: Water security and resilience to climate change and variability Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs) 1.Expansion and consolidation of monitoring networks. 3. Conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources. 6.Risk management and contingency planning.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,400,000.00	49,000,000.00

Outcome:

2.1. Improvement of water security in the Basin and of the capacity of the countries to adapt to the impacts of climatic extremes, particularly in areas of the Basin prone to drought.

Output:

2.1.1 Updated TDA, with special focus on: (i) assessment of the groundwater resources confined and unconfined present at various levels in the basin subsurface, and of their current status and relationship with freshwater ecosystems (ii) the impacts of climatic extremes on the water, health, food, energy nexus and unravel anthropogenic causes of droughts (iii) social economic and environmental vulnerability; (iv) gender and indigenous people perspectives.

2.1.2 Definition and presentation for adoption of regionally harmonized voluntary guidelines for mitigation and evaluation of droughts, focused on risk reduction and complemented by drought preparedness plans at various levels of government, and policy proposals for the response to anthropogenic causes of droughts, in linkage with the 2030 agenda.

2.1.3 Management plans for selected priority national aquifers and associated ecosystems, including mapping of vulnerability to pollution, consideration of climatic extremes and systemic management options for groundwater and surface water.

2.1.4 Design of modern monitoring networks in the selected national priority aquifers

Component 3: Solutions to problems in the Basin. Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs) 5. Water security program 14. Management of aquatic ecosystems; 15. Soil recovery and erosion control; 17. Reduction of polluting sources

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
5,100,000.00	66,161,905.00

Outcome:

3.1 Improved capacity of countries to address water security issues with an emphasis on indigenous peoples and local communities.

Output:

3.1.1 Creating the conditions to enable most vulnerable populations in selected areas of the main drought-prone sub-basins, to secure availability of water of adequate and sustainable quality

in selected areas of the main drought-prone sub-basins.

3.1.2 Improved health of freshwater ecosystems:

In selected vulnerable wetlands, reduced risks of eutrophication achieved through pollution mitigation in nutrient hotspots.

3.1.3 Monitoring of water quality and quantity in the transboundary Uruguay River and the Rio de la Plata Basins.

3.1.4 Environmental revitalization:

Short and medium-term environmental recovery projects, aimed at reducing erosion/sedimentation and flooding, and increase water infiltration, including possible incentive mechanisms.

3.1.5 Mechanism for identifying and leveraging synergies in a Source to Sea continuum framework

Component 4: Communication and knowledge management Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs) 20. Communication and dissemination program related to climate change to promote awareness and social participation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
710,000.00	35,000,000.00

Outcome:

4.1 Enhanced roles in SAP implementation of key regional and national stakeholders, and creation of synergies.

Output:

4.1.1 Annual Stocktaking Meetings (ASMs) with broad participation of actors and media outreach, aimed at communicating project advances, monitoring progress, and fostering the broader adoption of successful approaches.

4.1.2 Active participation in IW LEARN

IWCs, other events and activities, creation of a project website, and production of Experience Notes[1][2].

[1] Funding allocation for this output will correspond to 1% of the total GEF grant.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
90,000.00	

Outcome:

5.1 Operational project M&E systems successfully implemented and informing adaptive management

Output:

5.1.1 Annual Work Plans, Annual Progress Reports, Progress and contribution to the project's indicators and policy framework, with a particular focus on gender, Budgeted Monitoring &Evaluation Plan, Mid-Term Evaluation Report, Terminal Evaluation report drafted according to established deadlines.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1. Technical strengthening of the CIC Secretariat and of national institutions related to water. Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs): 1.Expansion and consolidation of monitoring networks. 2. Design and implementation of a hydro-environmental monitoring system of the La Plata basin (CIC). 19. Environmental education and training program. 21. Support for research development, technological development, and innovation. 22. Strengthening the CIC as an institutional coordination and articulation body. 23. Strengthening binational or regional coordination bodies and instances. 24. Harmonization of legal frameworks for the management of transboundary water resources. 25. Development of technical guides and common protocols for actions that interfere with the management of shared water resources.	1,800,000.00	60,600,000.00
Component 2: Water security and resilience to climate change and variability Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs) 1.Expansion and consolidation of monitoring networks. 3. Conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources. 6.Risk management and contingency planning.	2,400,000.00	49,000,000.00
Component 3: Solutions to problems in the Basin. Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs) 5. Water security program 14. Management of aquatic ecosystems; 15. Soil recovery and erosion control; 17. Reduction of polluting sources	5,100,000.00	66,161,905.00

Component 4: Communication and knowledge management Responding to SAP Strategic Actions (SAs) 20. Communication and dissemination program related to climate change to promote awareness and social participation	710,000.00	35,000,000.00
M&E	90,000.00	
Subtotal	**10,100,000.00**	**210,761,905.00**
Project Management Cost	505,000.00	10,538,095.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**10,605,000.00**	**221,300,000.00**

Please provide justification

The budget was prepared in several meetings with delegates and technicians from operative and political focal point institutions of the 5 countries that share La Plata Basin.

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

The La Plata River Basin (LPB), which extends over approximately 3.1 million km2, is one of the largest river basins in the world and drains approximately one-fifth of the South American continent, including the southern part of Brazil, the south-eastern part of Bolivia, a large part of Uruguay, the whole of Paraguay, and an extensive portion of the central and northern parts of Argentina. Water and nutrients from the central regions of South America discharge through the La Plata River to the South Atlantic Ocean, creating in its maritime front one of the richest and most diverse marine ecosystems in the world. The La Plata River Basin is comprised of three large river systems: the Paraná River, the Paraguay River, and the Uruguay River. The Paraguay River has an average annual flow of 3,800 m3/s (at Pilcomayo Harbor); the Parana River has an average annual flow of 17,100 m3/s (at Corrientes); and the Uruguay River has an average annual flow of 4,500 m3/s. These last two rivers converge to form the La Plata River, which drains into the Atlantic Ocean, with an average output of 25,000 m3/s. A large wetland corridor links the Pantanal (in the headwaters of the Paraguay River) with the Delta del Parana at its outlet to the La Plata River. This system of interconnected wetlands is essential to the existence of extensive areas of biological diversity and productivity. Important groundwater resources are present in the Basin subsurface, including large parts of the deep-seated Guarani Aquifer.

The natural resources of the La Plata River Basin

This huge basin shows a great number, variety, and degree of endemism in fish species (in the Paraguay River sub-basin), and an abundance of native birds (the Parana River sub-basin). The Basin's mineral resources, forests, and soil fertility favor economic development, sustaining 70 percent of the GDP of the five countries that share the Basin. Present populations exceed 100 million people, with 57 cities having more than 100,000 inhabitants each, including capital cities as Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Asuncion, and Montevideo and large megalopolis as Sao Paulo, in Brazil. The Argentine, Paraguayan, Brazilian, Bolivian and Uruguayan economies have a strong agriculture, livestock and fisheries component, as well as a significant level of industrial and service production. Agriculture and mining activities represent an important source of income within the Bolivian part of the La Plata River Basin. This economic development profile demands communication and multimode transportation systems, of which the hydrological systems are a fundamental component, interconnecting production, supply and consumption centers and harbors, and through which products are exported to different countries. The extensive navigation system of the La Plata Basin is favored by the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) Agreement. Waterways increased the fluvial transport of goods from 700,000 tons at the beginning of 1990 to 13 million tons in 2004, due to lower costs relative to alternative transport means. In the near future, this tonnage is expected to reach 50 million tons. The important hydropower potential of the La Plata River Basin, estimated at 92,000 MW, and more than 60% of this hydrological potential is already being used, with more than 150 dams, 72 of which exceed 10 MW[1][3]. Three dams are binational: Itaipú (12,600 MW) and Yacyretá (3,100 MW) located on the Paraná River, and Salto Grande (1,890 MW) on the Uruguay River. These dams have not only led to significant social and economic benefits, but also have led to substantial changes in flows, sedimentation, water quality and species composition in these fluvial ecosystems. The slight increase in runoff foreseen in long-term climate forecasts could offer great opportunities for a coordinated approach to dam management.

La Plata basin and global food security

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the La Plata Basin produces around 10% of the world's soybeans and 15% of the world's beef. It is also a major exporter of other agricultural products, such as corn, wheat, and rice. The La Plata Basin's importance for global food security is likely to grow in the coming years. The world's population is expected to reach 10 billion by 2050, and this will put increased pressure on the global food supply. The La Plata Basin is well-positioned to meet this challenge, as it has the potential to produce even more food in the future[2][4]. However, the La Plata Basin also faces some challenges that could impact its ability to contribute to global food security. These challenges include:

- Climate change: The La Plata Basin is already experiencing the effects of climate change, such as more frequent and severe droughts and floods. These events can significantly affect agricultural production, livestock, power generation and navigation, directly affecting the ability to export food through waterways.

- Land degradation: Overgrazing, deforestation, and other unsustainable agricultural practices can lead to land degradation. This can reduce the productivity of agricultural land and make it more difficult to produce food.

- Transboundary water issues: The La Plata Basin is a shared resource, and the countries in the basin must cooperate to manage its water resources sustainably. This can be challenging, as the countries have different needs and priorities.

Despite these challenges, the La Plata Basin is expected to remain a major contributor to global food security in the coming years. The basin's fertile soils, abundant water resources, and skilled agricultural workforce give it a significant advantage in producing food. Here are some specific ways that the La Plata Basin is important for global food security:

- The basin produces a wide range of foods, including soybeans, corn, wheat, rice, and beef. This diversity helps to ensure that there is always a steady supply of food available, even if there is a crop failure in one area.

- The basin's exports of agricultural and livestock products help to feed people all over the world. In particular, the basin's exports of soybeans are essential for feeding livestock in many countries.

- The basin's agricultural sector employs millions of people and provides a livelihood for many rural communities. This helps to reduce poverty and hunger in the region.

The water security in the La Plata Basin is a vital part of the global food system. By managing its water resources wisely, the countries in the basin can continue to play a major role in feeding the world's growing population and in compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Climate variability and change in the La Plata basin - The La Plata River Basin lies in a complex climatic region. Climate, modified by short-term events associated with the El Nino/La Nina cycles is a determining factor in this heterogeneous hydrological system. Relatively scarce rainfall and high evaporation levels define the arid and semiarid zones (Gran Chaco Americano) in the northwest part of the La Plata River Basin, while heavy rainfall and runoff, exacerbated in part by deforestation, characterize the northeastern zones. The great Pantanal wetland plays a key role in the storage of runoff produced by rainfall in the Alto Paraguay River sub-basin, delaying for almost six months the maximum flows to the Parana River, thereby minimizing downstream flooding. The economic and social impacts of flooding and droughts are sources of major concern as available data for the last 20 years show that the flooding on the Parana River has become more frequent, more intense and of longer duration, and droughts are becoming persistent and extreme in large parts of the Basin[3][5]. These changes in the hydrology of the La Plata River Basin are certainly related to changing climate factors, exacerbated by increasing urbanization and changes in land use.

The 2019 – 2022 Drought

A persistent and extreme drought has been affecting the La Plata Basin since 2019. Due to its persistence, it has spread through the hydrological cycle affecting soil moisture, flows, groundwater and vegetation. Severe, extreme, and exceptional drought conditions began to appear in the upper basins of the Paraguay and Paraná rivers in south-central Brazil. By the end of 2019 drought conditions were already affecting the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso, Goias, Sao Paulo and Paraná, and in Bolivia, Paraguay and central Argentina. This situation continued during 2020 when northern Argentina and the Pampas of central-eastern Argentina suffered widespread drought as well. Recent observations and seasonal forecasts suggest that La Niña conditions may be lasting through 2022, thus delaying the return to normal conditions in the La Plata Basin, including river flows[4][6]. This is in line with most seasonal precipitation forecasts from global model ensembles, which indicate a precipitation deficit scenario in the middle and lower part of the La Plata Basin. According to the impacts reported and attributed to this event, many sectors including agriculture, inland water navigation, energy production, water supply and several ecosystems have been suffering from the drought.

The Plata Basin Treaty and integration process - The La Plata Basin Treaty came into force in 1970. Article 1 of the Treaty highlights (i) the search for a better and more appropriate utilization of water resources and their sustainable development; (ii) the promotion of other projects of mutual interest, in particular those relating to the surveying, evaluation, and development of the natural resources of the area; (iii) A comprehensive knowledge of the La Plata Basin. The Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Countries of the La Plata Basin (CIC) was created in February 1967 during the First Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the LPB, at which time the participating governments agreed to carry out a joint and comprehensive study of the area, with the aim of identifying multi-national, bilateral, and national policies aimed at the progress and development of the region. According to Article 3 of the La Plata Treaty, the CIC became the permanent body of the Basin, 'responsible for promoting, coordinating, and following the progress of multinational efforts to ensure the integrated development of the La Plata Basin and of the technical and financial assistance which it may organize with the support of such international agencies it deems appropriate, and for implementing the decisions adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.' In spite of this strong mandate, so far CIC has had a marginal role in orienting the often-aggressive development in the Basin, compounded by the growing frequency of climatic extremes. Weak technical capacity and visibility of the CIC Secretariat, and the vagueness of its functions are at the roots of this limited performance.

Countries understand the urgent need and also the challenges of strengthening it to improve the management of the basin's water resources, and have therefore committed to continue nurturing the process of regional cooperation and consensus, revitalized and strengthened during the MSP, understanding the importance of the technical and coordination work of the CIC Secretariat, in terms of its ability to provide countries with the understanding of the overall basin functioning and with platforms for stakeholders' dialogue and hydro-environmental monitoring, and to facilitate access to expertise and funding.

Threats	Barriers	General causes
	Weak transboundary institutions	The CIC has sound planning, management and coordination mandates, but is constrained by its weak technical capacity.
Impacts of extreme climatic events		Lack of adequate land use and urban planning; scarce and non- coordinated flow of relevant information; lack of regional disaster prevention policies, and of awareness raising.

Loss of water quality		Discharges of untreated wastewaters and other contaminants, including POPs; lack of capacity of environmental managers; lack of sustainable consumption and production, and of clean production policies.
Excess sedimentation in water bodies		Lack of adequate soil management policies/practices in the agricultural sector (growing use of marginal soils, excess grazing, elimination of natural pastures); lack of government incentives and capacity for the introduction of sustainable agricultural practices.
Loss of habitats and biodiversity		Destruction of natural habitats; lack of incentives for ecosystems conservation; lack of alien species control protocols.
	Unsustainable groundwater exploitation	Lack of groundwater governance; hotspots of pollution from domestic, industrial and agricultural waste; lack of transboundary coordination.
	Water use conflicts	Scarce awareness of water nexus conflicts; lack of inter-sectoral management bodies; asymmetries in the legal-institutional setting for cooperative water resources management.
	Uncoordinated models for dam management at the Basin scale	Models being used face difficulties when applied to the management of the multi-purpose operations occurring at the La Plata River Basin scale.
	Lack of organized stakeholder participation, and of gender equality	Limited stakeholder´s engagement is a common feature in the five countries. Lack of data on gender gaps in relation to participation, access, and use of water resources, as well as limited knowledge on how to mainstream gender in instruments, programs, and projects for integrated water resources management water resources management.
	Lack of common or shared standards	Limited control and harmonized monitoring networks and protocols in the five countries not allowing a coherent and comprehensive water quality regime to emerge.

Issues of transboundary concern and barriers - The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) conducted during the foundational GEF IW project[5][7] identified several critical risks and barriers threatening the sustainability of the Basin economy and ecosystems:

While the threats summarized above are common throughout the La Plata River Basin in general, scale and intensity of their impacts vary considerably between sub-basins. Consequently, the mitigation of the more significant impacts requires sub-basin level actions:

- **Upper Paraguay River Basin - T**he enormous Pantanal wetland acts as a great dam in the headwaters of the La Plata system, retaining large amounts of sediment originated from agriculture on the highlands. This poses a great threat to the functioning of this fragile ecosystem, and to the richness of its biodiversity.
- **Lower and middle Paraguay River -** Two tributary systems, the **Pilcomayo** River and **Bermejo** River control the water quality of this portion of the Paraguay River. The Pilcomayo River is a major source of contamination arising from mining activities amongst others. The Bermejo River is the major source of sediments of the entire Basin.
- **Upper Paraná River -** This sub-basin has the highest number of dams, which diminish river flow, high deforestation rates and high production and deposition of organic effluents in the river. Urban fluid waste from major

cities, such as Sao Paulo and Brasilia, adds to all these factors accelerating the eutrophication processes of the Upper Parana River.

- **Lower and Middle Paraná River -** The main characteristics of this region are great flood- plains and extensive wetland corridors with little or no protection. This portion of the La Plata River is the primary navigational area for the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway. There are many important cities along its margins, which are frequently affected by the Parana River floods.

- **Upper Uruguay River -**This portion of the La Plata River Basin is subject to a variety of agricultural land uses, with rice, soybean and grain crops and a great pig and poultry production, runoff from which contaminates the river.

- **Lower Uruguay River -** Conflicts between the use of water for irrigating rice fields affect city supplies and ecological flows, particularly in the Cuareim- Quarai River that forms the boundary between Brazil and Uruguay. The hydroelectric dam on the Uruguay River (Salto Grande) creates hydrological alterations, including coastal erosion, and aquatic biodiversity alterations in the river.

- **Río de La Plata** is the last part of the La Plata River Basin's waterways, through which the Parana and Uruguay rivers discharge into the South Atlantic. It is affected by the great volume of sediment deposited from the Parana River and by waste discharges from the high concentration of industrial settlements, and from the cities of Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

The Strategic Action Program of the La Plata Basin – The Plata Basin SAP was formulated based on the findings of the TDA and endorsed by the riparian countries as part of the foundational GEF IW project. Its objective is *"To promote the management of shared water resources, cooperation and regional integration, while seeking to achieve sustainable development in the La Plata Basin countries and the welfare of their inhabitants"*. The SAP sets forth six broad areas of strategic importance, defines priorities for action and provides general guidance to the Basin countries.

SAP strategic areas and priorities for action	
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	Networks and Support System for Decision-making in the field of Integrated Water Resource Management Hydro-environmental Monitoring and Hydrological Warning
PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF WATER RESOURCES	Integrated Water Resource Management and Adaptive Measures Sustainable Production and Consumption Water Resource Use in the Context of Regional Integration
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION/REHABILITATION	Ecosystem Management Sustainable Land Management Environmental Sanitation
EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	Environmental Education Communication and Public Participation
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT	Research and Technological Development

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING	Institutional Framework Legal Framework

SAP Implementation -

Given the magnitude of the Basin, one of the world's largest, and the complexity of issues to address in order to set the water resources of the transboundary basin on a sustainable path, countries considered necessary, before moving to SAP implementation, to introduce an additional step: the MSP bridging project "Preparing the ground for the implementation of the la Plata basin Strategic Action Program" approved by GEF in June 2018. The bridging project translated the SAP Strategic Areas into 25 actionable Strategic Actions through the Regional Thematic Groups (RTGs), designating focal and technical points as joint working space.

The five National Coordinators designed and agreed on a strategy for the definition of project profiles focused on the strategic lines and goals of the TDA/SAP. To this end, they defined a standard project profile called 'Transboundary Project Sheet', as a guide for the exchange on i) general aspects of the project, ii) geographical aspects, iii) linkage with the SAP, iv) sustainable development aspects, v) socio-cultural and productive aspects, vi) research and development aspects, vii) institutional and legal aspects, viii) financial aspects. As a result of countless technical and political sessions of CIC Plata representatives, the proposals were unified to finally form a list of 15 project profiles consisting of 25 Strategic Actions agreed upon and approved by the five countries for implementation. The proposed project will implement all those of these actions which are in line with the GEF8 IW focal area Programming Directions.

Project Profiles:

P1. Integration of information to support tools with a cooperative approach in the sustainable management of surface and groundwater in the La Plata Basin, considering climate variability and change, in the framework of the fulfilment of SDG 6.

P2. Sustainable management of groundwater resources in areas of interest in the La Plata Basin.

P3. Resilient actions for safe water access in the La Plata Basin in the context of climate variability and change.

P4. Strengthening of a Hydro-environmental Early Warning System -SATH, as a tool for risk management, considering the effects of climate variability and change.

P5. Sustainable productive development focused on agriculture, fishing and aquaculture in identified sub-basins of the La Plata Basin, with emphasis on indigenous populations, traditional and local communities to promote food security.

P6. Improve navigability conditions in the rivers of the La Plata Basin by improving knowledge and scientific development, seeking to overcome the main obstacles to cross-border river navigation, including environmental management, sediment control, dredging and maintenance activities.

P7. Improvement of knowledge and scientific development for environmental management, regional integration and economic development of the hydro-energy systems of the La Plata Basin.

P8. Development of an ecosystemic conservation model considering the water security of the large landscapes of the La Plata Basin.

P9. Management of soil degradation and erosion in critical and vulnerable areas of the La Plata Basin.

P10. Promotion of the control and reduction of point and diffuse pollution of water resources in identified areas of the La Plata Basin.

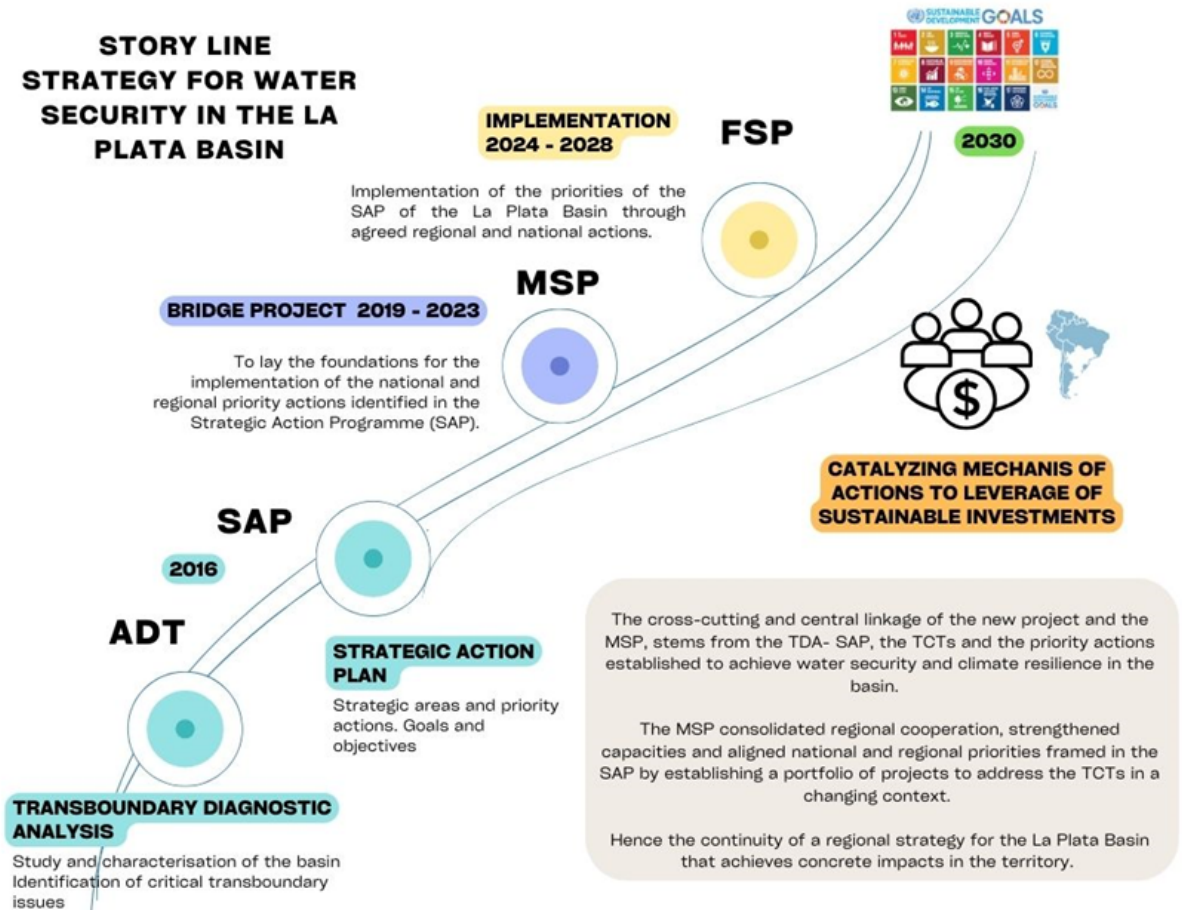
P11. System of monitoring networks for the quality and quantity of transboundary water resources in the La Plata Basin.

P12. Governance in the framework of the Water Resources Management of the La Plata Basin with a focus on gender, inter-generationality, and the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

P13. Institutional strengthening of the CIC.

P14. Master's degree in water resources of the La Plata Basin.

P15. Sustainability of the Decision Support System (SSTD).



SAP Evolution		
SAP STRATEGIC AREAS (2016)	**BRIDGING PROJECT STRATEGIC ACTIONS (2021)**	**SAP IMPEMENTATION PROJECT (2023)**
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	1.Expansion and consolidation of monitoring networks 2. Design and implementation of a hydro-environmental monitoring system of the La Plata basin (CIC)	Component 1 – Output 1.1.4 *Technical strangthening* *of the CIC Secretariat ad* *of national institutions related to water.* Strategic Actions: 1, 2
PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF WATER RESOURCES	3. Conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources 4. Land use planning in priority vulnerable areas 5. Water security program 6.Risk management and contingency planning	Component 2 – All outputs *Water security and resilience to climate change and variability.* Strategic Actions: 3, 6, 1
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION	7. Promotion of agricultural production systems resilient to climate variability and change; 8. Fishing and aquaculture program; 9. Ecotourism program 10. Clean technologies program 11. Promotion of River navigation as an element of transportation and regional integration; 12. Articulation of hydro-energy systems under scenarios of climate variability and change; 13. Conservation and expansion of protected areas and sustainable management of wetlands; 14. Management of aquatic ecosystems; 15. Soil recovery and erosion control; 16. Conservation and sustainable management of soils; 17. Reduction of polluting sources; 18. Urban sanitation and health;	Component 3 - All Outputs *Solutions to problems in the Basin* Strategic Actions: 5, 14, 15, 17
EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	19. Environmental education and training program; 20. Communication and dissemination program related to climate change to promote awareness and social participation;	Component 4 *Communication and knowledge management* Strategic Action: 20

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT	21. Support for research development, technological development, and innovation;	Component 1 – Output 1.2.1 Strategic Actions: 19, 21
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING	22. Strengthening the CIC as an institutional coordination and articulation body; 23. Strengthening binational or regional coordination bodies and instances; 24. Harmonization of legal frameworks for the management of transboundary water resources; 25. Development of technical guides and common protocols for actions that interfere with the management of shared water resources.	Component 1 – Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4 Strategic Actions 22,23, 24,25

[1] Organization of American States (2008). Confronting the challenges of climate variability and change through an integrated strategy for the sustainable management of the La Plata river basin. Available in: https://www.oas.org/dsd/documents/laplatabasin_1_20feb_ou2.pdf

UNESCO (2007). La Plata Basin case study: final report. Available in:

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000151252

[2] FAO (2016). Transboundary River Basin Overview – La Plata. Available in: https://www.fao.org/3/CA2141EN/ca2141en.pdf

[3] Chen, J. L., C. R. Wilson, B. D. Tapley, L. Longuevergne, Z. L. Yang, and B. R. Scanlon (2010), Recent La Plata basin drought conditions observed by satellite gravimetry, J. Geophys. Res. Available in: https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1029/2010JD014689

[4] Naumann, G., Podesta, G., Marengo, J., Luterbacher, J., Bavera, D., Arias-Muñoz, C., Marinho Ferreira Barbosa, P., Cammalleri, C., Chamorro, L., Cuartas, L.A., De Jager, A., Escobar, C., Hidalgo, C., Leal De Moraes, O.L., Mccormick, N., Maetens, W., Magni, D., Masante, D., Mazzeschi, M., Seluchi, M., De Los Milagros Skansi, M., Spinoni, J. and Toreti, A. (2021). The 2019-2021 extreme drought episode in La Plata Basin. A joint report from EC-JRC, CEMADEN, SISSA and WMO, Publications Office of the European Union. Available in: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/58b48f55-2c95-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

[5]"*Sustainable Management of the Water Resources of the la Plata Basin with Respect to the Effects of Climate Variability and Change*", 2010-2016

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

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

The recently completed Terminal Evaluation of the MSP bridging project concludes amongst others that the proposed project *"… is in harmony and complementarity with the MSP 's Project Portfolio, and constitutes an important factor to promote the implemntation of the projects described therein, prioritized and agreed upon by the countries that are part of the CIC- Plata*"[1][8], and recommends its implementation[2][9].

Having identified priorities and strategic actions is a significant step forward. However, in order to give continuity to SAP implementation over time with a view to the execution of actions for water security and sustainable development in the short, medium and long term, these actions must be adapted to national and regional policies, and to contemporary and emerging international frameworks and agreements. For all this to occur in a sustainable scenario with a transboundary approach, there must be clear and consensual strategic lines of intervention, and professionals trained to the extent required in the basin for their effective implementation. Thus, in search of a sustainable implementation strategy of the SAP priorities, in contribution to the 2030 agenda for the sustainable management of the Basin, the countries decided to initiate a next phase of SAP implementation and design a new project with the support of CAF.

The results achieved by the GEF IW foundational and bridging projects, as well as by relevant national initiatives and investments - which represent in some cases efforts, albeit fragmented, to implement SAP recommended actions - are the baseline upon which the proposed project will build. It will implement all those the Strategic Actions that are in line with the GEF8 IW focal area Programming Directions. It will do so within a basin-wide reference framework avoiding the present fragmentation of national initiatives dealing with or impacting freshwater resources and ecosystems and will adopt a systematic and gender sensitive approach to stakeholders' engagement. It will strengthen the CIC expanding its role as coordinating and monitoring mechanism, ensure its long-term sustainability, and provide countries with the knowledge and technical tools indispensable for adaptive and conjunctive water resources management, and with a forum for transboundary dialogue and monitoring of progress. Finally, the project will facilitate the design and implementation of a sustainable financial operational strategy - revolving fund – which will facilitate continuity in the implementation of SAP.

Pitfalls of fragmentation

A fragmented approach favors water insecurity by exacerbating the impacts of climate variability and change, as demonstrated by the 2020 drought and downstream effects on the Parana River. Transboundary and coordinated cooperation was in fact crucial for drinking water supply, power generation and navigation. Management of upstream reservoirs unilaterally (fragmented approach) generated water insecurity downstream, manifested in: lack of water, impacts on electricity generation, on navigation, therefore on exports, among others. But thanks to cross-border cooperation, between countries, generated weekly dialogue tables to agree on the minimum and maximum expenditures according to rainfall (supply), dammed water and minimum upstream and downstream needs to cover the services. This is a clear example of measures to ensure water security through a transboundary approach.

The Theory of Change at the basis of project design builds on the assumption that if:

(i) Countries' efforts to address the degradation of freshwater resources that is threatening the sustainability of the basin's functions as one of the largest food producers at the global level, are nested within a coordinated and coherent basin-wide framework;
(ii) The basin coordination mechanism (CIC) expands its water related functions and the technical services it provides to countries, including basin-wide hydro-environmental monitoring and alert system;
(iii) Sound groundwater governance principles and practices are introduced and adopted by countries;
(iv) Preparedness in drought prone areas of the basin and access to water for more vulnerable communities are improved;
(v) Stakeholder's engagement, and consideration of gender perspectives are systematically introduced at the regional and national levels;

Then water security in the basin will increase sustainably, and implementation of the SAP recommended approaches and actions will progress effectively at both national and transboundary levels, through the expected impacts of this project and the implementation of a financial mechanism - revolving fund for project preparation-, thus accruing global benefits in terms of increased transboundary cooperation and water security in a transboundary basin paramount for world food security.

The project being proposed is aimed at creating the enabling conditions for such scenario to materialize. Without it countries' actions will continue to lack the coordinated approach based on shared knowledge and understanding of the basin functioning and evolution indispensable for reversing degradation trends and move towards a sustainability.

[1] Page 36 of the TE (Spanish version)

[2] Page 43, saa

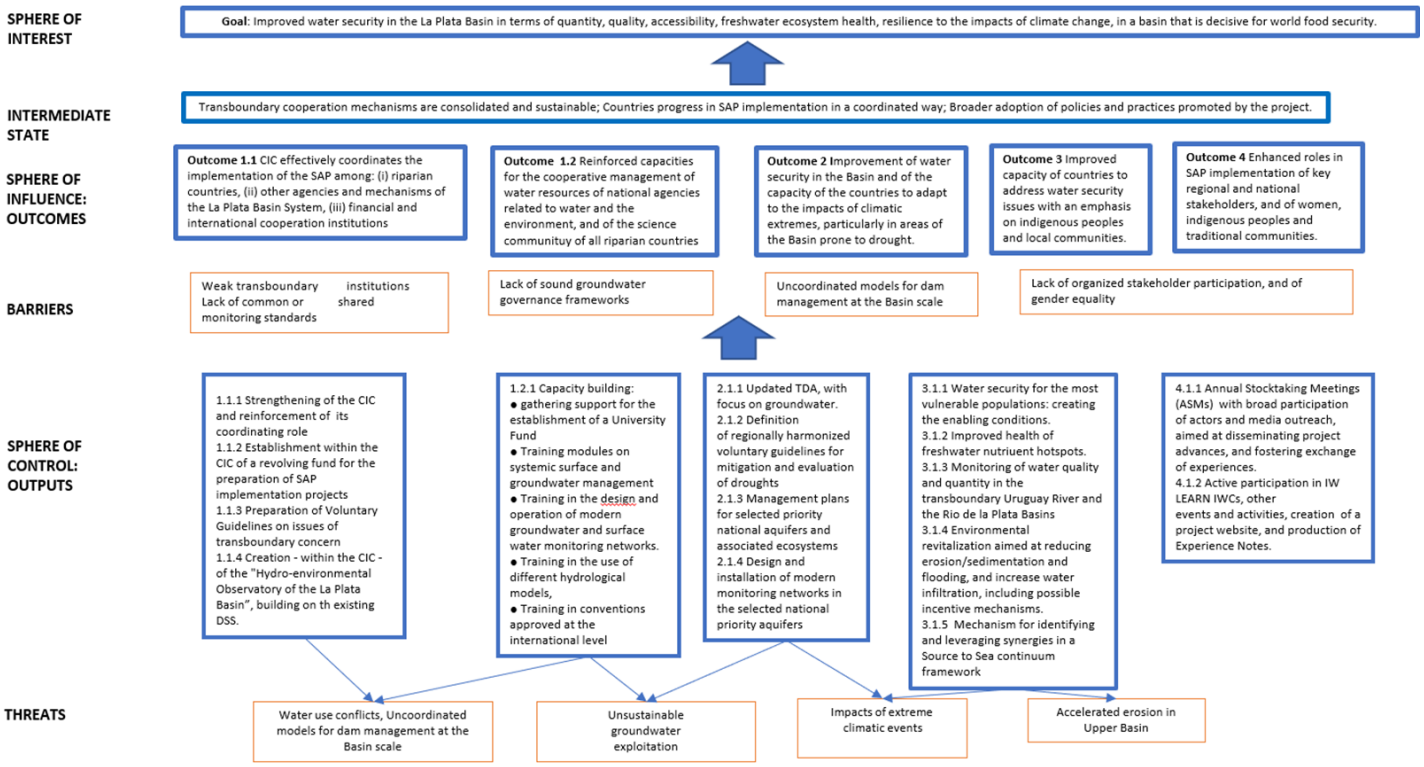


Fig. 1 - *Theory of Change informing the design of the proposed project*

The project design consists of a blend of mutually reinforcing regional and national actions: the project will on one side act at the regional level (Components 1 and 4), promoting a substantial change in the role, technical capacity and sustainability of CIC by expanding the services it will provide to countries – including the creation of the Hydro-environmental Observatory of the Basin, through which knowledge generated by the project will be made available to all - improving its convening power and introducing regional gender sensitive stakeholders participation mechanisms, and on the other (Components 2 and 3) implement actions at the national level addressing, in a regionally consistent way, groundwater governance, water security for more vulnerable communities, resilience and preparedness to droughts, and reduction of contaminants discharges.

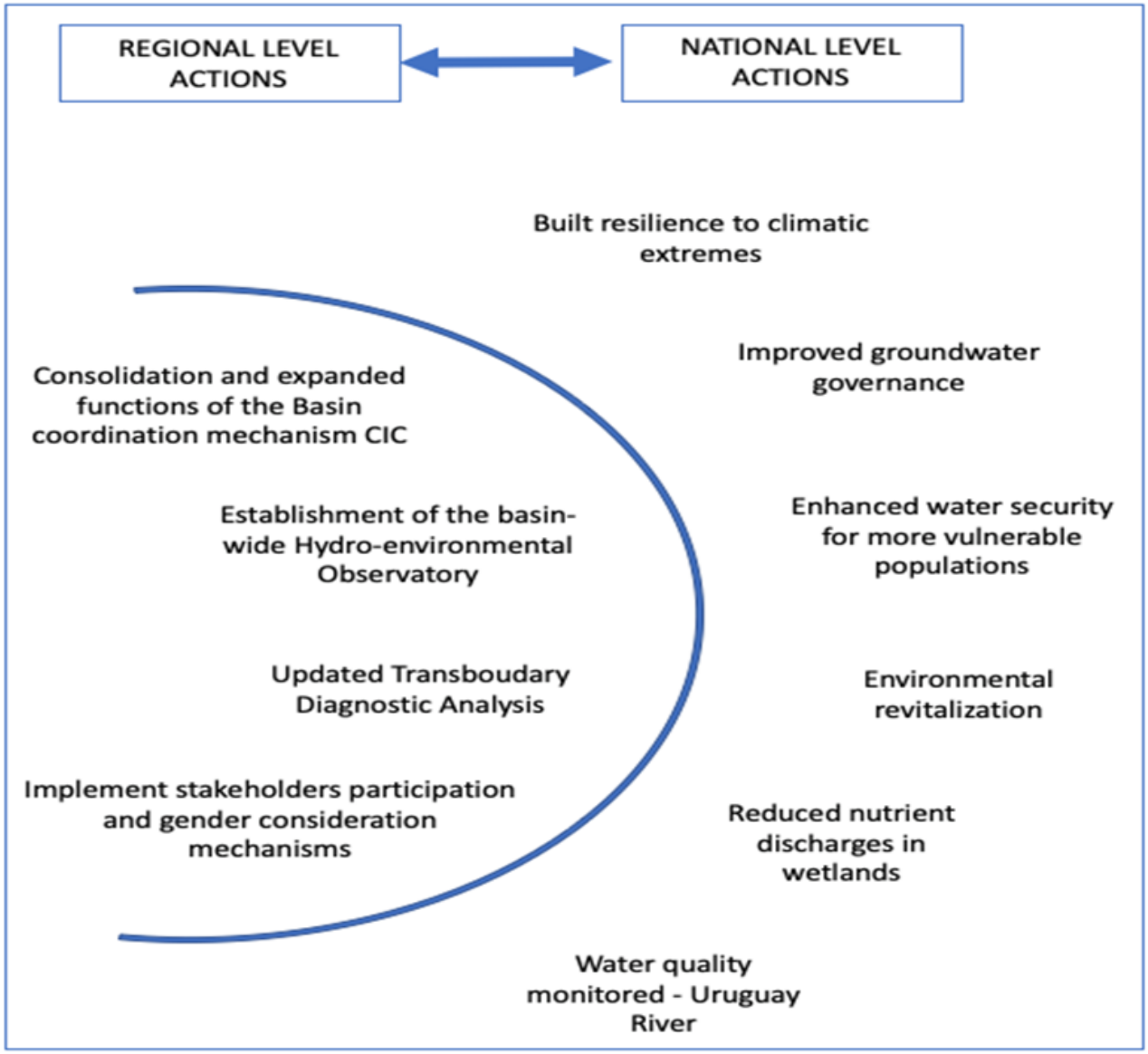


Fig. 2 - *Design logic*

Project Components

Component 1 - Technical strengthening of the CIC Secretariat and of national institutions related to water

The Component has two objectives: (i) Revitalizing the CIC by enhancing its coordinating role and technical capacity, and expanding the critical services it will provide to countries, thus ensuring the continuous and up-to-date implementation of SAP, reinforcing its long-term sustainability; (ii) reinforcing capacities of water relevant national agencies and major stakeholders in all riparian countries for the cooperative management of water resources, and mainstreaming a gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment approach at all levels. approach at all levels. It will produce the following products.

1.1.1 Feasible options for the institutional strengthening of the CIC submitted for decision to countries, including: (i) reinforce its coordinating role with respect to the existing sub-basin bilateral, trilateral and regional commissions, (ii) expand its participation and visibility at the global level, (iii) strengthen its technical capacity (eg.: through the institutionalization of the Regional Technical Groups established during the "bridging" MSP, and the secondment of technical experts).

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. ii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. iii) *Indigenous communities:* strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. iv) *Academic institutions and research centers*: Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. v) *Media*: Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities

1.1.2 Design and implementation of a sustainable operational and financial strategy to provide continuity to the implementation of SAP, including the feasibility evaluation of the establishment within the CIC of a revolving fund for the preparation of projects, in cooperation with all the national institutions that make up the La Plata System and with international financing and cooperation institutions, as a measure of continuity and autonomy in CIC action.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) Private sector:* To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation iii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies.

1.1.3: Expansion of CIC water related functions

(i) Preparation of voluntary guidelines on issues of transboundary concern identified in the TDA and addressed in the SAP. These guidelines will foster adoption of sustainable practices as part of SAP implementation. Among them:

- Nutrient management,

- Sustainable agricultural practices,

- Soil conservation practices,

- Water policies sensitive to the rights of indigenous peoples.

- Gender and intercultural mainstreaming.

Voluntary guidelines set out principles and internationally accepted standards for responsible practices. They provide a framework that States can use when developing their own strategies, policies, legislation, programs and activities. They allow government authorities, the private sector, civil society and citizens to judge whether their proposed actions and the actions of others constitute acceptable practices. Being voluntary, they do not establish legally binding obligations for States or international organizations. They do not replace existing national or international laws, commitments, treaties or agreements, nor do they prejudice the rights, jurisdictions and duties of governments.

However, certain parts of voluntary guidelines can be based on relevant rules of international, legally binding agreements. The voluntary guidelines are relatively short documents, and they describe principles and actions in relatively simple language (FAO).

(ii) Periodic publication of a Bulletin on the state of the water and environmental resources of the La Plata Basin, - supported by the SSTD and the Hydro-environmental Observatory - including indicators of the Environmental Status. Two published during the life of the project.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

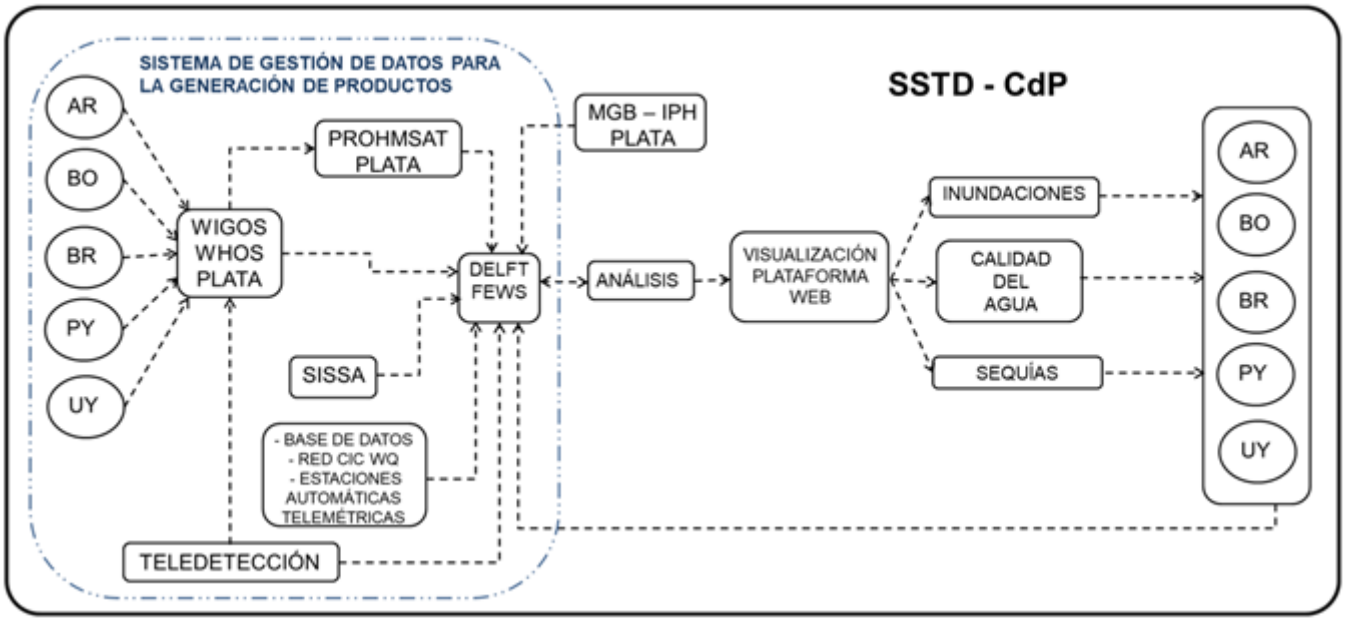
Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

1.1.4 Creation - within the CIC - of the '*Hydro-environmental Observatory of the La Plata Basin*' as a repository of historical and periodically updated information about the basin, and of the knowledge generated by the project. It will be focused on systematizing information related to water, but will also include – in stages – other relevant topics for the basin, linked to the CIC treaty and the PAE. Ex: biodiversity, vulnerable communities, gender, women, girls and young people, infrastructure, information on different threats in the basin, risk areas, systemic vulnerability. It will maintain a digital information system of maps, hydrometeorological data, biodiversity, climate change, navigation, etc., and act as a reference information center that will promote the flow of information and its analysis on strategic issues related to the waters of the La Plata Basin, integrating the contributions (i) of the technical and scientific community, organized with reference to the structure of the SAP components, (ii) the DSS developed during the bridging MSP for the visualization of hydrometeorological information in real time and the generation of forecasts for decision making by the countries (FEWS), and (iii) the outcomes of the workshop "*Building Capacity on Scientifically Robust Tools and Methodologies for IWRM in La Plata Basin: Data Access",* aimed at introducing the use of modern remote sensing applications in IWRM practices conducted in Buenos Aires in November 2022[1]. The Observatory will constitute a critical tool for transboundary coordination of actions aimed at water security in the Basin. It will receive data from existing national monitoring networks that will be harmonized, in terms of technology and protocols, at the transboundary level. The parameters that will be monitored, among others, are:

- The quality and quantity of surface and groundwater;
- The main point sources of contamination of surface and groundwater (cities, industries and mines), and non-point sources (excess nutrients, agrochemicals);
- accelerated processes of erosion and sedimentation in rivers, lakes and wetlands;
- The evolution of land use and fires;
- Hydrometeorological conditions, for the prediction of extreme events;

As part of this product, the project will support the harmonization of national networks, the filling of gaps in existing networks and leveling the capacities of countries in monitoring, the introduction, when necessary, of real-time data transmission to the Observatory, the implementation of models in the existing flood forecasting and early warning system (FEWS) platform and the training of the technical personnel in charge of the operation

[1] The workshop, part of the 'Science for Decision-Making in Transboundary Waters in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)' program launched by the OAS and NASA through the Interagency Water Working Group - Science & Applications Team (ISAT), was organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Countries of the La Plata Basin (CIC). https://cicplata.org/es/noticias/comienzo-taller-datos-satelitales-modelacion/



Conceptual design SSTD-CDP accepted by the 5 countries

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

1.2.1 Capacity building:

The CIC does not have its own technical team, but rather works through the technical teams of the countries and that inevitably leads to fragmentation (here is also an explanation of why a cross-border approach is needed). However, having a SAP is a significant advance, but in order to provide continuity in the implementation of the SAP over time with

a view to the execution of actions for water security and sustainable development, these actions must also adapt to the policies/frameworks. /contemporary/emerging national/regional and international agreements: i) National plans of the countries, ii) Results of the international water conferences, iii) analysis of progress in the implementation of the SDGs and identification of strengthening needs to meet the 2030 goals (results of the evaluations of half length). And for all of this to occur in these terms and continue after GEF interventions, there must be not only well-designed projects for their execution but also trained professionals tailored to what is required.

The reinforcement of the technical capacity of CIC will will adopt a two-pronged approach:

(i) Design of a University Fund - similar to very successful one part of the GEF/World Bank Guarani foundational project – and gather public and private financing for its establishment. The Fund will support higher applied research and education on major topics of cross-border interest, in particular for what concerns groundwater resources.

(ii) Training modules for members of the Regional Thematic Groups established during the bridging project, and other national professionals to be selected by CIC. Training will include, but not be limited to (the final program will be defined during PPG):

- Strengthening and harmonization of the human and technological capabilities of national institutions (to be selected during PPG), improving coordination between these national institutions and the CIC, and the capacity to operate and exchange with the 'Hydro-environmental Observatory'.
- Training modules on conjunctive surface and groundwater management designed and implemented in each riparian country with broad stakeholder participation.
- Training in the design and operation of modern groundwater and surface water monitoring networks.
- Training (including through the ISAT program of the OAS/NASA) in the use of different hydrological models, early warning systems, sediment transport, water quality, monitoring of floods and droughts in existing platforms.
- Training in conventions/agendas adopted and approved at the international level, linked to the Basin.
- Training on Gender Mainstreaming and Interculturality in the Programme. Special support will be provided to women, youth and vulnerable communities in order to strengthen and empower these key groups of society for water resource management.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

Component 2 - Water security and resilience to climate change and variability

The Component deals with the improvement of water security in the Basin by building the capacity of the countries to adapt to the impacts of climatic extremes, particularly in areas of the Basin prone to drought. It will produce the following five outputs.

2.1.1 Updated TDA[1]

The existing TDA requires updating not just to monitor the evolution of previously detected trends, but also and primarily to integrate in the diagnostic process new priorities and impacting factors: climatic extremes – in particular droughts - on the water-health-food nexus, on social-economic and environmental vulnerability - with a focus on vulnerable communities, women and girls -, and on the hydro-energy systems, gender and indigenous peoples perspectives (new GEF priorities), and most importantly, produce, for the first time, an overall assessment of the potential and status of the groundwater resources of the basin (confined and unconfined). The groundwater assessment will include focus on gathering information on the many aquifers present in the basin subsurface at relatively shallow depths (down to 2-300m), most of which are national. Their interlinkages with freshwater ecosystems will be unraveled using Isotope Hydrology tools. The assessment of large transboundary aquifers (Guarani, SAYTT) present at considerable depths in the basin subsurface will instead be based on existing information only.

The Guarani Aquifer, located beneath the surface of a large part of the La Plata River Basin in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, is the second largest known aquifer system in the world and is an important source of freshwater. It covers 1,200,000 square kilometers, with a volume of about 40,000 cubic kilometers, and a thickness of between 50 and 800 meters and a maximum depth of about 1,800 meters. It is estimated to contain about 37,000 cubic kilometers of water, with a total recharge rate of about 166 km^3/year from rainfall. This aquifer has been the object of a major GEF IW project implemented by the World Bank and executed by the OAS. The project was the first ever on a transboundary aquifer system, and resulted in the Guarani Agreement, establishing common principles for the aquifer sustainable exploitation and protection. This foundational project was followed by a bridging MSP, still ongoing, implemented by CAF.

This update will be carried out by a joint technical group under CIC coordination and supported by the OAS[2] through satellite monitoring systems. The conclusions of the updated TDA will be submitted for endorsement to the riparian countries' governments representatives in the Project Steering Committee, and inform actions described at 2.1.2, 2.1.3,2.1.4, and Component 3. This information will feed the Hydro-environmental Observatory and will be an updated source for the SSTD.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

2.1.2 Measures for the evaluation, mitigation of, and adaptation to extreme climatic events with an emphasis on droughts. Based on the TDA results, for sub-basins affected by drought, definition, and submission for adoption of

regionally harmonized voluntary guidelines for droughts mitigation, evaluation and adaptation, focused on risk reduction and complemented by drought preparedness plans at various levels of government. Drought mitigation measures will be based on comprehensive regional (CIC) and national early warning and information systems, improved seasonal forecasts and vulnerability assessments, and will aim to increase water conservation (demand reduction), increase supplies through increased utilization of groundwater resources, construction of reservoirs, interconnection of water supplies between neighboring communities, planning, and design and installation of drought monitoring networks and the creation of awareness and education. Identification of anthropogenic causes of droughts (e.g.: unsustainable water abstractions) and development of response policy proposals.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

2.1.3 Introduction in the Basin of sound groundwater governance approaches at the national level[3][10].

This will be done through the development of management plans[4][11] for one priority national aquifer and associated ecosystems selected in each country, including mapping of vulnerability to pollution, consideration of climatic extremes and systemic management options for groundwater and surface water. The Management Plan, developed through highly participatory approaches, will address both the aquifer and its connected landscape (the container), as well as the groundwater resources present within it (the content), its availability, quality, and use. The Plan will be developed in two main steps: (i) Identify the characteristics of the system that will determine the best way to manage it: geographic scale of the aquifer system and associated ecosystems and size of its storage reserve; degree of connectivity with surface waters; contemporary recharge level; vulnerability to contamination. (ii) Reach consensus on aquifer services/functions: complementary groundwater and surface water management measures; prioritization of water uses based on social and economic priorities; pollution reduction or control measures in the aquifer recharge zone; regulatory measures, economic incentives, and policy changes.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. ii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. iii) *Indigenous communities*: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary.

2.1.4 Design of modern monitoring networks for selected national aquifers. The purpose of the monitoring networks will be to provide information on: general groundwater trends in response to climatic fluctuations and water withdrawals; overexploitation; water quality conditions and trends; health of water-dependent ecosystems and wetlands; Interactions between surface and groundwater.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. ii) *Private sector:* To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. iv) *Indigenous communities*: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs.

Component 3 - Solutions to problems in the Basin

The aim of the Component of crucial importance is to improve the capacity of countries to address water security issues with consideration of the perspectives of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will do so through a number of stress reduction national demonstrations which will address the major issues of transboundary relevance. The results obtained, measurable under Core Indicators 3, 4 and 11, will be monitored and disseminated through the Annual Stocktaking Meetings, where Replication Strategies for each demonstration will be presented to promote the broader adoption of the successful methods and approaches.

Water security definition: the capacity of a population to (i) safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socioeconomic development; (ii) protect against water pollution and water-related disasters; (iii) preserve ecosystems, upon which clean water availability and other ecosystem services depend (Water Resources Council)

Water security incorporates ideas and concepts to do with the sustainability, integration and adaptiveness of water resources management and largely coincides with integrated water resources management.

This project Component will strive to address, through on the ground demonstrations, SAP priority issues that jeopardize water security in large sections of the basin in the five project countries. These issues relate to:

- The need to prepare communities in drought prone sub-basins severely affected by the latest prolonged drought, to cope with future similar events by conjunctively use surface and groundwater, and providing them with a more complete assessment of economically accessible good quality groundwater resources;
- The eutrophication of many of the wetland ecosystems present in the basin due to excessive nutrient discharges;
- The lack of modern multipurpose (water quality/quantity/sediment loads etc.) monitoring networks of surface waters;
- Excessive sediment loads, jeopardizing navigation and impacting downstream habitats;
- Flooding in the downstream sections of the basin.

To address some of these issues the project will demonstrate the effectiveness of nature-based solution such as: managed aquifer recharge (e.g.: applied to flood prone areas to increase flood water infiltration), and engineered wetlands, to reduce pollution and nutrients; manure management; riparian buffer zones; use of sand-dams to reduce sediment loads while storing freshwater; etc. For each successful demonstration, Replication Strategies tailored to the specificities of the basin will be prepared for broad dissemination.

Finally, under this Component the project will focus on the "source to sea" continuum that the basin represents, and facilitate exchanges, coordination, and synergies among the various relevant GEF funded initiatives dealing with its upstream and downstream sections and with its estuary and coastal marine environment.

3.1.1 Water security for vulnerable populations.

Creating the conditions to enable most vulnerable populations in selected areas of the main drought-prone sub-basins, to secure availability of water of adequate and sustainable quality by introducing policies and practices for improving water productivity, reducing pollution, build small hydraulic infrastructure, expanding the use and productivity of groundwater, and others nature-based means.

(Number and areas to be determined during PPG)

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

3.1.2 Nutrient reduction

In vulnerable wetlands, reduced risks of eutrophication of inland waters, achieved through interventions targeting pollution mitigation in nutrient hotspots, including trough small-scale wastewater treatment plants, wastewater reuse, managed water and/or aquifer recharge, artificial wetlands, recovery of associated ecosystems and their environmental functions, and promotion of sustainable crop production practices. This output will accrue GEBs measurable under CI 3 to be defined during PPG. Coordination with the GEF5 IW project "Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nutrient Management System INMS implemented by UNEP will be facilitated.

(Demonstration area and synergies with the UNEP initiative will be determined during PPG).

3.1.3 Quality and quantity monitoring

This demonstration sub-project in the Uruguay River Basin and the Rio de la Plata will include:

- Design and installation of systems for monitoring and forecasting the quantity and quality of water (pollution, algal blooms of cyanobacteria, sedimentation, among others) in real time and of a visualizer of the basin, integrated to the Environmental Observatory and the SSTD of Cuenca del Plata; This activity will coordinate and with the project "Improving knowledge about the environmental health of water bodies and their evolution" executed by CONAE INA, a pilot initiative for monitoring spatiotemporal dynamics in bodies of water in 4 countries of the La Plata Basin (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay) using satellite data

- Diagnostic analysis of the causes that generate algal blooms (cyanobacteria) and other contamination of surface waters, and of the conditions of the biological corridors and wetlands in the Basin in order to define the necessary mitigation actions and tools.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii*) *Private sector:* To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. iv) *Indigenous communities*: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary.

3.1.4 Environmental revitalization

implementation of short and medium-term environmental recovery demonstration projects, aimed at reducing erosion/sedimentation and flooding, and increasing the infiltration of water into the soil, in addition to the design of possible incentive mechanisms.

(Number and areas to be determined during PPG).

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii*) *Private sector:* To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. iv) *Indigenous communities*: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary.

3.1.5 Mechanism for identifying and leveraging synergies in a Source to Sea continuum framework

This output will unravel the possible synergies in reducing contamination, as well as erosion in the basin upstream sections, sedimentation in its lower part and in the Rio de La Plata, and sediment discharges in its Maritime Front and in the Patagonian LME, that might exist with three IW projects recently completed, ongoing or under preparation:

- Integrated water resources management in the Bermejo River basin (CAF)
- Reducing and preventing land-based pollution in the Rio de la Plata/Maritime Front through implementation of the FrePlata Strategic Action Program (UNDP)
- Foster transboundary cooperation and capacities for the sustainable management of the marine biodiversity of the Southwest Atlantic Large Marine Ecosystems through regional and national actions. (CAF)

The output will design and establish an exchange mechanism to leverage and enhance these synergies including through the involvement of CARP and CTMFM.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. ii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. iii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

Component 4 - Communication and Knowledge Management

The Component expected result is the enhanced role in SAP implementation of key regional and national stakeholders, including the private sector, and of women, indigenous peoples and traditional communities. The CIC will also be a main actor in the management, storage and dissemination of the knowledge generated by the project through the yearly Bulletins (output 1.1.3), and more so through the Hydro-environmental Observatory that will make the information accessible to all (output 1.1.4).

4.1.1 The Annual Stocktaking Meetings (ASM)

The ASMs, along with media outreach, will be key project activities. They will be large regional events with broad participation of stakeholders, held with the aim of establishing exchange of experiences, synergistic interactions with relevant initiatives and actors in all the countries of the Basin. They will serve a dual purpose: 1) to provide a forum for face-to-face knowledge sharing and peer learning and catalyze regional attention on progress made toward basin-wide impact, and 2) Disseminate knowledge generated by the project, exchange experiences, capture synergistic interactions with relevant initiatives and actors in all the countries of the Basin; 3) foster the wider adoption by countries of the polices, approaches and solutions promoted by the project. The project management, stakeholders and beneficiaries will have the opportunity to learn from each other, draw on each other's tacit knowledge, and at the same time benefit from the experiences and knowledge generated by the project. Additionally, project management will have the opportunity to showcase implementation progress, discuss issues encountered, and interact with a wide audience of peers and stakeholders. Regional and global media participation will increase public awareness in the La Plata Basin countries and beyond. These knowledge exchanges will further enhance cooperation, strengthen the institutions they

represent, and ultimately influence policies and regulations for better management of the basin's natural resources. The meetings will include: relevant government agencies of the participating countries, the implementing and executing agencies of the project, the GEF Secretariat and the Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), the Secretariats of the relevant Conventions, as well as the main regional NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors, IFIs and major private sector players, water users, tourism associations. Representatives of women's organizations, youth organizations, indigenous communities, media specialists, among other relevant groups, will also be invited to participate in these events, following a specific stakeholder analysis (PPG). Annual reports will be submitted on the project's contributions to the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

4.1.2 Participation in IW LEARN activities

The project will actively participate in IW LEARN events and activities, including the IWCs, create a project website, and produce Experience Notes (at least 3).

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. *ii) social organizations and local stakeholders*: Direct participation in project preparation. They will be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. Iii)

Private sector: To be informed, consulted and involved during project preparation and implementation. iv) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. v)

Indigenous communities: strengthen resource management through the incorporation of traditional knowledge on water management that respects their rights and customs. vi) *Academic institutions and research centers:* Consultation and advice during project design and implementation as necessary. vii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1.1 This Component will establish operational project M&E systems, to assess progress and inform adaptive management. It will produce Annual Work Plans, Annual Progress Reports, progress and contribution to the project's

indicators and policy framework, with a particular focus on gender, Budgeted Monitoring &Evaluation Plan, Mid-Term Evaluation Report, Terminal Evaluation report drafted according to established deadlines (output 5.1.1).

This component will look at the project's progress and contributions to reducing gender gaps and empowering women and girls at all levels, particularly in the public sector.

Main stakeholders involved: i) Governments at national, regional and local level: Direct participation in project preparation and leadership. ii) *Women:* incorporate the gender perspective to reduce gaps and empower women and girls in water policies. iii) *Media:* Awareness raising and dissemination of project progress and results. Liaison with local communities.

---

[1] As recommended in the GEF8 IW Programming Directions (page 180, para 597)

[2] The ISAT NASA/OAS program

[3] This will be done following the methodology developed by the GEF funded FAO-World Bank-UNESCO project "Groundwater Governance."

[4] The plans will be developed with a gender approach following the action matrix defined in the Gender and Interculturality Workshop in the MSP - Basin of Cuenca del Plata Bridge Project.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The project will establish effective coordination/cooperation mechanisms with ongoing GEF funded projects addressing a critical sub-basin and groundwater resources:

- Transboundary cooperation for the conservation, sustainable development and integrated management of the Pantanal - Upper Paraguay River Basin (UNEP)
- Strengthening the integral and sustainable management of biodiversity and forests by indigenous peoples and local communities in fragile ecosystems of the dry forests of the Bolivia Chaco (FAO)
- Integrated water resources management in the transboundary Bermejo River Basin and other CIC initiatives with support of other cooperation agencies. (CAF)
- Implementation of the Guarani Aquifer Strategic Action program: enabling regional actions. (CAF)

- Foster transboundary cooperation and capacities for the sustainable management of the marine biodiversity of the South West Atlantic Large Marine Ecosystems through regional and national actions. (CAF).

- Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nutrient Management System INMS implemented (UNEP).

In addition, the project will greatly benefit from the cooperation with the preparation of the Pluri-national Water Resources Plan (2021 - 2025) funded by CAF, the World Bank, and IDB, and other mobilized investments.

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,000.00			

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)
400000	0	0	0

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
400,000.00			

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

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

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)

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	La Plata			
Count	1	0	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagonostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
La Plata	2			

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
La Plata	3			

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
La Plata	2			

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN throgh participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
La Plata	2			

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	100,000			
Male	100,000			
Total	**200,000**	**0**	0	**0**

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

The International Waters Focal Area has only one core indicator, measuring the level of cooperation and commitment to action of countries sharing a waterbody. In the case of the proposed project, at the time of PIF submission, all targets have already been achieved (TDA, SAP, ICM etc.). The project will also produce results to be measured under Core Indicators 3, 4 and 11. The tentative values are: CI3: at least 5000 ha under output 3.1.2, reached through demonstration projects targeting nutrient reduction; CI4: the amount shown is based on the assumption that through the project, in particular through the introduction of sound groundwater governance in one selected aquifer in each country (Component 2), and the reduction of nutrient discharges in selected freshwater ecosystems (Component 3) an amount to at least 400,000 ha will be reached; CI11: High intensity beneficiaries: Components 2 and 3; low intensity beneficiaries: all Components). At this stage of project development however, it is not possible to provide sound estimates of the values (hectares) of CI3 and 4. The same applies to Core Indicator 11 for the number of high and low intensity beneficiaries. These values will be assessed during the project preparation phase (PPG). Incidental Co-benefits will also be generated by the project, in particular through Component 3 activities, whose values will be estimated during PPG. Incidental Co-benefits will also be generated by the project, in particular through Component 3 activities, whose values will be estimated during PPG.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation-such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Moderate	The project occurs in a region with high exposure to climate change, but

		at the same time the project components will contribute to improve the adaptation capabilities of local communities. Therefore, it is concluded that this Project is categorized as “Moderated climate Risk”. A deeper and extent analysis is intended to do, during the prodoc construction
Environment and Social	Low	This Project is categorized as: “Without Environmental and Social Risk”
Political and Governance	Low	The project will build on the strong political determination to strengthen cooperative efforts and will maintain a high level of engagement of political and administrative institutions.
Macro-economic	Moderate	The region's average primary deficit narrowed from 5.4% of GDP in 2020 to 1% of GDP in 2021. It is also expected that this trend will continue during 2022 in most countries, which can be expected to converge to deficit levels consistent with those necessary to stabilize debt
Strategies and Policies	Low	The project has strong basis of strategies and policy coordination at local, national and regional levels. The strong alignment of different actors allows us to expect a low risk in this category.
Technical design of project or program	Low	There are strong technical bases of this project supported by previous programs and developments made by OAS, GEF, CIC and other national and international stakeholders
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Low	A low risk is expected because of the active role of technical institutions of La Plata Basin working with GEF, CIC, CAF and other national and international stakeholders.

Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	The implementing agency, CAF, will play a critical role mitigating this risk. It has been developing specific regulation, guides and procedures in order to improve fiduciary standards capabilities of monitoring them with executing partners.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	The project will strive to achieve an effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders in countries, and provide opportunities for the overall improvement of the National monitoring standard.
Other	Low	According to current projections the COVID-19 pandemic will persist till at least end 2022. In a worst-case scenario COVID-19 effects will expand in time and affect project implementation. In such a case, the project will use the “know-how” developed and same means used in similar projects during 2020 and 2021: on-line meetings of the steering committee, conferences etc. using, virtual modes of interaction with stakeholders. The project implementation arrangements will include one project officer/national coordinator based in each of the project countries allowing “in- situ” interaction with country counterparts and stakeholders for the implementation of all activities. Based on the relaxation measures that governments adopt in their jurisdictions, face-to-face meetings will be scheduled and arranged.
Financial Risks for NGI projects	Low	N/A
Overall Risk Rating	Low	Based on the project purpose, supported by the components, outcomes and outputs that define its structure, during the PPG phase, an in-depth environmental and social assessment will be conducted in terms of i) Analysis of systemic

		vulnerability to climate variability and change, ii) Social and stakeholder analysis and iii) Analysis of gender, indigenous peoples and vulnerable communities, in line with the geographical location, hazards, barriers and general causes identified in the FIP. The analysis will be carried out on the basis of existing information and in consideration of the terminal evaluation of the preceding project (MSP), to strengthen and define the strategic context of the project. Once the main intervention pathways of the project have been pre-identified - according to the established components and outputs - the identification of potential social and environmental risks and impacts can be adjusted, and if appropriate, the necessary plans for their management will be designed with an emphasis on generating resilience in the communities to the risks and impacts to which they may be exposed. These will include: i) Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ii) - Gender, Indigenous Peoples and Vulnerable Communities Action Plan, iii) Plan for alignment with international frameworks, Agenda 2030, GBF, iv) Plan for the reduction of systemic vulnerability to major hazards. The project must ensure that all its procedures, structures, activities and deliverables are integrated within a culture of prevention and risk reduction, supporting its beneficiaries and stakeholders in building broad and deep social capacities, both public and private, for emergency response at all levels in support of the project's GEBs. Safeguards Rating (PIF level): This project will not cause or enable to

		cause any negative environmental or social impacts.

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

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

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The objectives and interventions of this project are consistent with the International Waters GEF-8 Programming Directions, Objective 3: Enhance water security in shared freshwater ecosystems. More in particular, as recommended in the GEF8 IW Programming Directions (page 180), the project will support the following interventions:

- Update to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programs.
- Implementation of SAP priorities through regional and national actions.
- National reform of policies, strategies, and regulations in accordance with regional agreements and MEA commitments
- Improved conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources
- Build capacity to gather and synthesize scientific, local and people science and mainstream into decision making processes
- Establishment of flood and drought early warning systems and disaster risk management plans
- Nature-based Solutions to improve water quality, freshwater ecosystem health, including wetlands and curb floods, droughts, climate change impacts, river/lake shoreline deterioration and to further aquifer recharge.

The proposed project is aligned with and supports the relevant legislation and strategic documents of the La Plata Basin riparian counties and responds to the priorities indicated therein. It will also foster (i) consideration of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Protection and use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and (ii) the achievement of relevant SDG targets.

<u>Argentina</u>

National Water Plan (2017) – PNA and,

Federal National Water Plan under development (2023). (PFNA) – In development

National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC

National Action Program (PAN) under UNCCD

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD

National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC

Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC

National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)Potable water and sanitation: expand the provision of potable water and sanitation services, including potable water and sewage treatment plants.

Bolivia

The Pluri-national Water Resources Plan to 2025.

The Plan reinforces the importance of protecting and restoring basins, preserving the quantity and quality of water and ecosystems, guaranteeing the supply and demand of surface and groundwater for all uses and sectors, protecting communities and urban population from the greater occurrence of disaster risks due to droughts or floods and promoting sustainable and participatory governance in the basins, are keys that will be addressed so that no one is left behind in the country. The political vision of WATER FOR LIFE, WATER FOR ALL, based on 'Water Sustainability', guaranteeing the supply and demand of surface and groundwater for all uses and sectors, reinforces the importance of protecting and restoring watersheds, preserve the quantity and quality of water and ecosystems, protect communities and the urban population from the greater occurrence of disaster risks due to droughts or floods, and promote sustainable and participatory governance in basins.

Brazil

National Water Resources Plan, including: Revitalization of Watersheds; Adaptation Measures to Climate Change; Management of Water Resources in Border and Transboundary Region; Communication, Training and Environmental Education for Water Resources Management; Innovation, Science and Technology for Resource Management; Groundwater Management; Quali-Quantitative Monitoring of Water Resources; Critical Hydrological Events and Conflicts for the Use of Water; Supply and Efficient Use of Water, among others.

National Basic Sanitation Plan, including Supply of drinking water; Sanitary sewage; Urban cleaning and solid waste management and rainwater drainage and management

National Program for the Revitalization of Hydrographic Basins

National Water Security Plan

Paraguay

National Climate Change Plan (2022-2030): Objective 20: Strengthen water resources management instruments from public policy to provide informed responses to the challenges inherent in water supply and demand; Objective 21 of 'Access to safe water and promote its efficient use, through appropriate technologies for collection and storage, considering local vulnerability and climate variability; Objective 22 of “Installing a culture of conservation and sustainable use of water through multi-level and multi-stakeholder management” and “Create monitoring systems for the quantity and quality of surface water and aquifers, which allow the collection, exchange, analysis and dissemination of data and information to promote coordination between actors and sectors to support the effective management of the resource.”

Uruguay

National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC; National Action Program (PAN) under UNCCD; National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD; National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC; Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC; National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD; Poverty Reduction Strategy Document (PRSP); Biennial Update Report (BUR) under the UNFCCC; National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC; National Action Program (PAN) under UNCCD; National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD; Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC; National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Focus on gender and Indigenous people

The role of women in water stewardship and management, and the water related perspectives and traditional knowledge of indigenous communities are critical aspects of sustainability of environmental resources of the Plata Basin, and cannot be overestimated. The project will have a special focus on both, and will be aligned with CAF Gender Equality Policies, and with the GEF Gender policies, Gender Implementation Strategy, and Principles and Guidelines for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples. A Gender and Indigenous Peoples Action Plan will be developed during the project's detailed design phase (PPG) to ensure that gender, indigenous peoples and traditional communities' considerations are taken into account in all project activities, and through specific activities aimed at strengthening gender equality and women participation and empowerment. It is important to note that in developing this plan, inputs from the workshop '*Incorporating the Gender Perspective and Interculturality in the Program of Strategic Actions of the Plata Basin*,'

organized by CIC in collaboration with the Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS and the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the outcomes of the consultations conducted during PIF reparation (see box) will be considered as a reference.

The consultation processes for the mainstreaming of gender equality and interculturality in the Strategic Actions Program of the La Plata Basin in relation to indigenous peoples, local communities and gender (with emphasis on women's rights) were carried out over four sessions between July 3 and 24, 2023, with the participation of representatives of government organizations as well as civil society actors with a presence in the territory and teachers with experience working with indigenous populations and independent professionals with experience in gender. A total of 143 participants attended the sessions. As a result of the work sessions, the participants recognized that:

• The gender approach must address the social, economic and environmental gaps that affect women, but should not be limited to them.

• The intercultural approach is essential to promote the equal participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

• The implementation of the Strategic Actions Program of the La Plata Basin must strengthen the approach to the gender and intercultural approach, within the framework of water security and water governance.

• It is necessary to fill the gaps in qualitative and quantitative knowledge regarding gender, indigenous peoples and water resources, as well as account for the impacts of climate change on the rights of boys, girls, women and older adults.

• Strengthen capacities of government and civil society actors in gender and interculturality applied to the management of water resources.

Stakeholders' engagement

The proposed project will systematically engage through the CIC all relevant stakeholders, including all national water related entities, bilateral and national sub-basin commissions, the private sector in particular the major hydropower companies, water users' associations, NGOs and CSOs, indigenous peoples, the scientific community, bilateral and multilateral donors and IFIs, etc. The purpose is to share project advancements and approaches and receive feedback, suggestions, and recommendations, unravel water nexus interlinkages, and strengthen overall commitments to SAP implementation, while providing capacity building opportunities. In addition, this major effort in stakeholders' engagement is expected to expand the visibility of the project to a broader audience and help stakeholders to adopt a coherent regional framework with shared basin-wide objectives, and avoid or overcome the fragmentation of the many ongoing and planned national initiatives dealing with, or impacting freshwater resources and ecosystems.

It is important to involve all of these stakeholders in water resources management in order to ensure that water is used sustainably and equitably. This will be done through a variety of mechanisms, such as:

- Establishing consultative mechanisms where stakeholders can come together to discuss water issues and to provide input to decision-making processes.

- Supporting capacity building initiatives to help stakeholders develop the skills and knowledge they need to participate effectively in water resources management.

The main stakeholders in water resources management in the La Plata Basin include:

- Governments at the national, regional, and local levels. They are responsible for developing and implementing water policies and regulations, as well as providing water services to their citizens. They will have a pivotal role in the reform of CIC (Component 1) and will actively be engaged in the implementation of Component 2 aquifer governance frameworks.

- Private sector companies that use water in their businesses, such as agriculture, industry, and energy. They have a responsibility to use water sustainably and to protect water quality. Private companies (agriculture, energy) are major actors in the basin, and will play a critical role as participants to the Stocktaking meetings where special focus will be given to ways to identify and address water nexus conflicts and will be engaged in the setting up of the Hydro-environmental Observatory (Output 1.1.4). Private sector companies can also invest in water conservation and efficiency measures, reduce their pollution footprint, and support sustainable water management initiatives in the communities where they operate. During PPG consultations with the private sector, in particular hydropower companies, will clarify willingness to contribute to project activities.

- Civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, community groups, and indigenous people's organizations. They play an important role in advocating for sustainable water management and in ensuring that the voices of marginalized groups are heard. In addition to actively contributing to the Stocktaking meetings, Civil Society will be involved in the definition of Component 3 demonstrations (PPG), and in their implementation.

- Women and indigenous communities are often disproportionately affected by water problems, such as water scarcity and pollution. They should be involved in water resources management to ensure that their needs and priorities are considered. Women will participate to all project activities in different roles, from being water users to management decision makers: the details of their engagement will be defined during PPG. The same apply to local/indigenous communities, particularly in relation to Component 3 activities. Indigenous communities can also share their traditional knowledge of water management with other stakeholders and can be involved in the development and implementation of water management plans that respect their rights and customs.

- Academic institutions and research centers can provide valuable scientific and technical expertise to support water resources management. Academia will be engaged in Component 2 activities related TO TDA update and groundwater assessment. Will also participates to the Stocktaking meetings.

- Media organizations can play an important role in raising awareness of water issues and in holding governments and businesses accountable for their water management practices. The Project Management Unit will maintain a constant flow of information with the media on project advancements and findings, and engage them as participants to the Stocktaking meetings.

Here are some specific examples of how the private sector, women, and indigenous communities can be involved in water resources management in the La Plata Basin:

- Private sector companies can invest in water conservation and efficiency measures, reduce their pollution footprint, and support sustainable water management initiatives in the communities where they operate.
- Women can be involved in water management decision-making bodies and can lead and participate in community-based water management initiatives.
- Indigenous communities can share their traditional knowledge of water management with other stakeholders and can be involved in the development and implementation of water management plans that respect their rights and customs.

Stakeholders consulted during the PIF phase

i) Face-to-face meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina - July 7-8, 2022

Approval of Table B for the FSP - "Implementation of the La Plata Basin SAP priorities through regional and national actions".

Country /Agency	Organization	Participant
MSP Implementation Agency – PPM	CAF – Development Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean	René Gómez García
MSP Executing Agency - PPM	Organization of American States	Andrés Sanchez
MSP-PPM Management	SG – Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Countries of the River Plate Basin	Juan Carlos Alurralde Adriana Oreamuno
Consultant	Consultant	Andrea Merla
Argentina	Ministry of Public Works	CN. Gustavo Villa Uría
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Nicolas Rebok
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Baldomero Casillo
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Griselda Ziehr
	Ministry of Public Works	María Laura Rustichelli
	Ministry of Public Works	Gonzalo Garola
Bolivia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	CN. Marissa Castro
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	David Rada
	Technical advisor	Andrea Mejía

Brazil	Embassy of Brazil in Argentina	Hayle Melim Gadelha
	Ministry of Regional Development	Iraní Braga Ramos
	Ministry of Regional Development	Anderson Bezerra
Paraguay	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Jose Silvero
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Clarisse Benitez
Uruguay	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Carlos Mata Prates
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Jimena Hernandez
	Ministry of Environment	Viviana Pesce
	Ministry of Environment	Silvana Alcoz
	Ministry of Environment	Ana Laura Martino

ii) Minute N°560 CIC Plata, approval of the 15 prioritized project profiles of the MSP on which the design of the new PIF was based. April 27, 2023.

iii) II Meeting of Transboundary Water Resources Management Organizations of the La Plata Basin – November 06, 2023, Montevideo, Uruguay.

iv) Virtual consultations on addressing the gender approach, indigenous peoples and local communities with actors from the la plata basin

For further information see Annex H

The private sector will be consulted and involved in the project as appropriate, in particular hydropower companies. Some ways envisaged are through investments in water conservation and efficiency measures, reducing their pollution footprint and supporting sustainable water management initiatives in the communities in which they operate. The specific way in which the private sector will be involved in the project will be designed during the PPG phase, and this will be done within the framework of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Environmental and Social Safeguards Screen and Rating

According to the agency's analysis the project has been categorized as 'no environmental and social risk', this project will not cause or allow any negative environmental or social impacts. Based on the project purpose, supported by the components, outcomes and outputs that define its structure, during the PPG phase, an in-depth environmental and social assessment will be conducted in terms of i) Analysis of systemic vulnerability to climate variability and change, ii) Social and stakeholder analysis and iii) Analysis of gender, indigenous peoples and vulnerable communities, in line with the geographical location, hazards, barriers and general causes identified in the FIP. The analysis will be carried out on the basis of existing information and in consideration of the terminal evaluation of the preceding project (MSP), to strengthen and define the strategic context of the project. Once the main intervention pathways of the project have been pre-identified - according to the established components and outputs - the identification of potential social and environmental risks and impacts can be adjusted, and if appropriate, the necessary plans for their management will be designed with an emphasis on generating resilience in the communities to the risks and impacts to which they may be exposed. These will include:

i) Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ii) - Gender, Indigenous Peoples and Vulnerable Communities Action Plan, iii) Plan for alignment with international frameworks, Agenda 2030, GBF, iv) Plan for the reduction of systemic vulnerability to major hazards.

The project must ensure that all its procedures, structures, activities and deliverables are integrated within a culture of prevention and risk reduction, supporting its beneficiaries and stakeholders in building broad and deep social capacities, both public and private, for emergency response at all levels in support of the project's GEBs.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
CAF	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-3	Grant	10,605,000.00	954,450.00	11,559,450.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**10,605,000.00**	**954,450.00**	**11,559,450.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

300000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

27000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
CAF	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-3	Grant	300,000.00	27,000.00	327,000.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**300,000.00**	**27,000.00**	**327,000.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
IW-3	GET	10,605,000.00	221300000

Total Project Cost		**10,605,000.00**	**221,300,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Argentina	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	720000
Recipient Country Government	Argentina	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	100940000
Recipient Country Government	Bolivia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1460000
Recipient Country Government	Bolivia	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	60600000
Recipient Country Government	Brazil	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	380000
Recipient Country Government	Brazil	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	31000000
Recipient Country Government	Paraguay	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2200000
Recipient Country Government	Paraguay	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	14000000
Recipient Country Government	Uruguay	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800000
Recipient Country Government	Uruguay	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	5600000
Others	OAS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1600000
GEF Agency	CAF	Other	Investment mobilized	2000000
Total Co-financing				**221,300,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Mobilized Investments

The values listed include the investment amounts related to (i) the planning, evaluation, and design of structural solutions, and (ii) non-structural solutions relevant to the project. These sources of co-financing will provide data, information, experiences, and best practices, all of them relevant for supporting SAP implementation. They will consist of number of ongoing investments in the five project countries such as preparation of master plans for rainwater and river works; river stabilization and channeling works; productive drainage systems; storm drainage and flood control master plans; hydraulic and hydrodynamic study for the protection of riverbanks; integrated management plans for tributary micro-basins; Implementation of surface water monitoring networks.

The high dollar amount shown as “Public investment” represents the approximate value of the components relevant for the project of the following ongoing and planned investments . Investments mobilized will be analyzed in detail during PPG and finalized by the time of CEOP endorsement.

Argentina: Preparation of the Master Plans for stormwater and fluvial works (Jujuy); Torrent stabilization works (Salta); Channeling of the San Antonio River (Salta); Productive drainage systems (Chaco); Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan (Formosa); Hydraulic and hydrodynamic study for the protection of the Bermejo River banks (Formosa).

Bolivia: It has recently approved the Pluri-national Water Resources Plan (2021 - 2025) funded by CAF, the World Bank, and IDB, which is made up of five Programs related to water resources and six Programs on irrigation issues. The Pluri-national Water Resources Plan has prioritized interventions in 51 basins, of which 16 are in the La Plata Basin in Bolivian territory, in this sense, the mobilized investments respond to the 5 programs in the 16 basins within the River Plata Basin. Likewise, investments from current Basin Master Plans have been incorporated.

Brazil: Ministry of Integration and Regional Development (MIDR) Water Security plan, to be implemented in the next 24 to 36 months includes construction and maintenance of dams, improvement of channels, conservation of areas of springs through monitoring of the main tributaries of the upper Paraguay basin and actions for draining rainwater, developed in the states of Rio Grande de Sul, Santa Catarina, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás and the Federal District.

National water policy and National Water Resources Plan (NRP), to be implemented in the next 48 months, and long term. Actions Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA), protection aquifer recharge areas, Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas, adaptation of climate change.

Paraguay: Asunción Green City of the Americas Project; Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas - World Wildlife Fund (WWF); Integrating Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land Management into production practices in all bioregions and biomes in Paraguay – Green Commodities.

Uruguay: Adaptation to climate change in cities and vulnerable coastal ecosystems of the Uruguay River; Building resilience to climate change and variability in vulnerable smallholders.

It is expected that the project will interact with all the above sectoral initiatives of the five governments, in the framework of a sustainable financial operational strategy for 2030 to achieve a coherent overall view, a better understanding of the conflicts that might arise among sectors at the water nexus, shedding light on the benefits that might derive from the consideration of solutions based on conjunctive surface and groundwater management, and of the value of the ecosystem services, in the continuity of SAP implementation in the medium and long term.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
Project Coordinator	René Gómez-García	9/13/2023	René Gómez-García	+59896181288	rgomez@caf.com
GEF Agency Coordinator	René Gómez-García	10/2/2023	René Gómez-Garcia	+59896181288	rgomez@caf.com
Project Coordinator	Cecilia Guerra	9/28/2023	Cecilia Guerra	+55(61)99446260	cguerra@caf.com

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Lilian Portillo	Director of Strategic Planning Division	Ministry of Planning and Development - Paraguay	11/27/2023
Livia Farias Ferreira de Oliveira	Directora General - Operational Focal Point for GEF	MINISTÉRIO DA FAZENDA Secretaria de Assuntos Internacionais Subsecretaria de Financiamento ao Desenvolvimento Sustentável Coordenação-Geral de Finanças Sustentáveis	11/30/2023
Cr. Robert Bouvier	Minister of Environment	Ministry of Environment of Uruguay	11/30/2023
Carlos David Guachalla Terrazas	Viceminister of Plannig and Coordination	Ministry of Planning and Development of Bolivia	11/30/2023
Martin Manuel Illescas	Director General of Projects with External Finance and Cooperation	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina	11/28/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

The Plata Basin is located at the parallels 15° south latitude and 35° south latitude and the meridians 68° west longitude and 44° west longitude
A map has been annexed in the section 'Roadmap - documents'.

Coordinates

-15.797256, -47.892302
-15.595414, -56.092582
-19.572274, -65.754990
-24.782127, -65.423198
-33.123092, -64.349353
-34.905501, -56.185115
-21.294442, -50.343739

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title
Climate Risk Analysis Report
Preliminar Risk Assessment CAF-GEF

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Transform policy and regulatory env Strengthen institutional capacity/dec Convene multi-stakeholder alliances Deploy innovative financial instrume	(multiple selection)	(multiple sele
Stakeholders	Indigenous peoples		(multiple sele
	Private sector	Capital providersSMEs Financial intermediaries and m Individual/Entrepreneurs Large corporations	
	Beneficiaries		
	Type of engagement	Participation	
	Communications	Awareness raising Education Strategic Communications Behaviour change	
	Civil society	Community Based Organization Academia Non- Governmental Organizati Trade Unions and Workers Un	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Knowledge Generation and Exchang	Conference Field visit, Peer-to-peer South-South Training Workshop Seminar	(multiple sele
	Learning	Teory of change	
	Capacity Development		
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming	Beneficiaries Sex- disaggregated indicators	(multiple sele
	Gender results areas	Access to benefits and service Capacity development Awareness raising Knowledge generation	
Focal Area/Theme	International Water	Freshwater	River Basin