Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10855

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

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

Project Title
Conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS), under an institutional framework and the development of rural community initiatives in Ecuador

Countries
Ecuador

Agency(ies)
FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE); National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP)

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approache, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Capacity Development, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Significant Objective 1

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

Significant Objective 1

Submission Date

9/27/2022

Expected Implementation Start

1/2/2023

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2025

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee($)

82,008.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	863,242.00	6,036,928.45
		Total Project Cost($)	**863,242.00**	**6,036,928.45**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To strengthen institutional systems for the implementation and enforcement of measures for the registration, in situ conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, as a complementary scope for the incorporation of CWR and EWS in local, national and global strategies for the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of the rural population.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Improved institutional framework, for the definition of in situ conservation areas of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).	Technical Assistance	**1.1** CWR and EWS are identified and conserved in situ in the pilot sites of the Amazon (Napo) and the northern highlands (Imbabura), based on the analysis of roles and priorities of use and conservation by men and women in the conservation areas and pilot sites. ***Indicator:*** *2,000 ha of in situ conservation of CWRs and ESWs established in Napo (1,000 ha) and Imbabura (1,000 ha) according to PA zoning (GEF Core Indicator 1.2)* ***Indicator:*** *1,000 ha of CWR and EWS in situ conservation in private areas of Napo (500 ha) and Imbabura (500 ha) (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)*	**1.1.1** Methodological guide and toolbox prepared for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS, based on the Voluntary Guidelines of the Genetic Resources Commission, the gender and cultural relevance approach, and national circumstances. **1.1.2** Inventory and in situ conservation status of priority wild species, for the two pilot in situ areas, developed. **1.1.3** Definition of in situ conservation areas and sustainable use of CWR and ESW, according to zoning of protected areas and in private areas	GET	240,732.00	3,255,229.76
		1.2. Strengthen				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2. Implementation of in situ conservation measures and sustainable use of CWR and EWS.	Technical Assistance	**2.1.** The areas of in situ conservation, use and utilization of prioritized CWR and EWS constitute demonstration scenarios and community learning for the conservation and sustainable use of local agrobiodiversity. ***Indicator:*** *Level of in situ conservation of the CWR and EWS in the managed areas reported by the information system.*	**2.1.1.** Management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS implemented and evaluated in Napo and Imbabura, based on the project's exit strategy and processes of community participation and training of men and women. **2.1.2.** Guide elaborated for the use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS based on voluntary guidelines and national regulations, and on the gender and cultural relevance approach. **2.1.3.** Plans for the use and utilization of CWR and EWS approved and implemented, considering each of the links in the prioritized chains of the associative companies of Napo producers, in coordination with national incentives and	GET	380,858.00	2,246,568.93

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3. System of information monitoring, evaluation and dissemination		**3.1.** Knowledge management and M&E to report project results and lessons learned about in situ conservation of CWR and EWS to stakeholders and communities ***Indicator:*** *Results of the measurement of sustainability criteria that demonstrate comparatively, and at different times, the achievements of the project.*	**3.1.1.** Establishing the baseline: TAPE tool **3.1.2.** Monitoring and evaluation of the project to achieve the results **3.1.3.** Project evaluation **3.1.4.** Developments and dissemination of results publications to stakeholders **3.1.5.** Dissemination and communication of the project's actions (corporate image, merchandising, campaigns, App, social networks, among others)	GET	163,736.00	335,129.76
			Sub Total ($)		**785,326.00**	**5,836,928.45**

Project Management Cost (PMC)		
GET	77,916.00	200,000.00
Sub Total($)	**77,916.00**	**200,000.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)		
Total Project Cost($)	**863,242.00**	**6,036,928.45**

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	MAATE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,550,028.45
Recipient Country Government	INIAP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,090,000.00
Other	Catholic University of the North	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	620,000.00
Other	Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador - Ibarra venue	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	720,000.00
Other	IKIAM	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	336,900.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	UNORCAC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	320,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Corporation of Associations of the Amazon Chakra	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	60,000.00
Donor Agency	GIZ - BioValor program	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	90,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**6,036,928.45**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Regarding the FAO contribution as investment mobilized, which corresponds to activities from other projects that will be oriented to support and complement this project, FAO Ecuador executes related and complementary projects, such as the Mechanism for Forests and Farms (approximately 300,000 USD from component especially from the Component 2 ?Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets and financing,

through gender equitable value chains produced by new capacities to offer sustainable business incubation systems?). Also, the Project National Forest Inventory ?To support the forest information gathering in the project sites?. Co-financing of this project will be approximately USD 200,000 from component 2 Implementation of in situ conservation measures and sustainable use of CWR and EWS.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	863,242	82,008	945,250.00
				Total Grant Resources($)	**863,242.00**	**82,008.00**	**945,250.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,750	**54,750.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**50,000.00**	**4,750.00**	**54,750.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

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

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Colonso Chalupas	555593903	Strict Nature Reserve	1,000.00	1,000.00			55.00		

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Cotacachi Cayapas	555698082	Strict Nature Reserve	1,000.00	1,000.00			60.00		

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)
1000.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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)
1,000.00	1,000.00		

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

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

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

Title	Submitted

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	600	624		
Male	600	696		
Total	1200	1320	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1.a Project Description

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

Global environmental significance

Ecuador is a country characterized by its high biodiversity. The 91 terrestrial ecosystems that are distributed throughout the country are home to approximately 18,198 species of vascular plants, with more than a quarter of this total being endemic species of the country (MAE and INB, 2015). The preceding, added to the important level of endemism among vertebrates (birds, mammals and amphibians) contribute to the fact that the country consolidates three of the ten "hot spots" of biodiversity and is recognized for its floristic wealth, particularly orchids. This reality explains why Ecuador is among the 17 most megadiverse countries, since in an area equivalent to 0.2% of the total Earth, the country contains 6% of global biodiversity (Mittermeier et al., 1998). Among this megadiversity, the important agro-biodiversity stands out, placing Ecuador, along with Peru and Bolivia, among the eight world centers of origin of cultivated plants (CBD, 2018).

Much of the country's biodiversity is found in conservation or environmental management areas that include the area of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP), forests and protective vegetation. In the continental territory, this area amounts to 35.03%. Another part of biodiversity, especially agricultural biodiversity, is present in territorial spaces where ancestral knowledge and practices on agrobiodiversity are concentrated; seed conservation; the adaptation of biodiversity to new climatic and productive conditions. In the case of the Amazon and the Sierra, these spaces are the productive systems of the chakra, conceived as the place of raising and growing food, medicine, knowledge and reproduction of the life of the communities. The chakras interact with the geographical areas containing environmental biodiversity such as forests, moors, water sources and protected areas where it is still possible to find crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).

This important agrobiodiversity is cultivated or collected by farmers, especially peasants, in the four natural regions of the country (Coast, Sierra, Amazon and the Galapagos or insular region). Since the dawn of agriculture, CWRs and EWSs have been used to improve the yield and nutritional quality of crops. Farmers often plant these relatives alongside domesticated crops to promote the natural crossbreeding of beneficial traits. Genes from wild plants have also provided cultivars with pest and disease resistance and improved tolerance to abiotic stress. Genetic transfer of beneficial traits from wild varieties has been so widespread that most modern crops contain some genes derived from a wild relative.

The various geographical regions are very rich in CWR and EWS related to the cultivated species. For example: the wild materials of potatoes, beans, tomatoes, tropical and subtropical fruit trees. The country's natural forests also contain wild relatives of species such as avocado (*Persea spp.*), papaya (*Carica spp.*), and cocoa (*Teobroma cacao*), among others. Only a very small part of the diversity that exists in the country is being used. An example of the use of germplasm is the genetic material of native Ecuadorian tomatoes *Solanum licopersicum var. cesariforme, S. habrochaites* and *Solanum pimpinellifolium*, used to improve the content of vitamin C and soluble solids, as well as to expand the range or crop coverage of domesticated varieties. *Solanum cheesmani*, endemic to the Galapagos Islands, tolerates high levels of soil salinity, drought, and its genotypic characteristics facilitate mechanical harvesting when introduced into commercial varieties. The same situation occurs with medicinal species, which, with a wide diversity, are used routinely for the treatment of innumerable ailments and diseases, thanks to traditional knowledge developed over millennia and advances in ethnobotany (Estrella and Picasso Botto, 1995).

The project will intervene in the provinces of Imbabura and Napo (see Section 1.b). Both provinces are located in biomes of global significance (Andean and Amazonian respectively) and form exceptional and particular biocultural zones, a product of the harmonious interaction between native peoples and nature, highlighting the development of systems of cultural values, knowledge and unique social structures, which have allowed ancestral and contemporary processes of conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and agrobiodiversity, such as the Andean chakra and the Amazon chakra. The importance of these systems can be seen in the fact that each Amazonian chakra can contain around 40 species that are used for family consumption, intended for sale and are the basis of an important culinary tradition. As a whole, in the Andean chakras, the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP) has come to determine 172 species and varieties used for different purposes: food, medicine, ornamentation, fuel, fodder and ritual (FAO et al., 2020).

The global environmental problem

The wealth that the country contains contrasts with the limited knowledge about biodiversity and its potential uses. As stated in the Sixth Report to the CBD: ?Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet and only 5% of that potential is known? (2018), while the *National Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2030* states that "in the last 13 years, 2,433 plant species new to the country have been reported, of which 1,663 are also new to science" (MAE, 2016).

Given the location of Ecuador in the tropical Andes and its high population density, the pressures on the remaining ecosystems are chronic, with which the wealth of agrobiodiversity in CWR and EWS is threatened. Although the country does not have detailed information on the distribution and current status of wild species and local cultivars, it is clear that the destruction of habitats by deforestation processes; the development of mining and hydrocarbon activities; changes in land use for agricultural activities, aquaculture, industrial monocultures, opening of roads and other infrastructures; changes in the eating patterns of the population; low prices of smallholder farmers agricultural production;

migration and abandonment of the rural environment; are, among other factors, causing the loss of populations of wild relatives and genetic erosion.

On the other hand, the important biodiversity that the country contains, unfortunately, has not been used in favor of improving the living conditions of the population. The surrounding populations or those living within the protected areas, for example, have a poverty rate higher than the national average. For the year 2020, the percentage of poverty in Ecuador was 32.4% (EC INEC, 2020), in relation to the 70% and 80% that can be found in parishes surrounding protected areas.

The chakras are key areas for the conservation of agrobiodiversity as they act as reservoirs of species and varieties and are, at the same time, a fundamental contribution to environmental regulation. In addition, they are test spaces to test the value of varieties that respond to the livelihood needs of the population -plant selection and domestication laboratories- while providing material for genetic improvement. Their survival, however, bears risks derived from the low value perceived by agricultural products, from the limitations faced by producers for marketing, of the weight of acculturation processes with the consequent introduction of foreign consumption patterns, of the fragmentation of the landscape due to the introduction of extractive economic activities and the prioritization of crops aimed at satisfying the commodity market (wheat and barley in the Andean zone or oil palm, cocoa and coffee in the Amazon), as well as the urgency of complementing sources of income that push peasant families, mainly young people and men, to temporary or permanent migration, with the consequent abandonment of the field. The survival of the chakra finally faces the effects associated with climate change. The abrupt changes in temperature and the variation in the intensity and seasonality of the rains, together with the overflow of rivers and estuaries and landslides, augment the increase in pests and diseases, soil erosion and the consequent loss of nutrients and the lack of ripening and fall of fruits[1][1].

Added to the aforementioned problems is the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to an extraordinary contraction of the Ecuadorian economy, with a drop in GDP of between 7.3% and 9.6%, according to estimates by the Central Bank of Ecuador, or a contraction of 10.9% according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (OECD, 2020). This situation has left a large population in rural areas unemployed, who now see the exploitation of natural resources as the first emerging option for economic income, causing changes in land use that have almost doubled in some buffer zones of protected areas since the appearance of the virus (Escand?n, personal communication in Cabrera, 2021).

Remaining Barriers

Despite the high wealth of agrobiodiversity existing throughout the country and the efforts made to improve the processes of conservation, use and sustainable use *in situ* and *ex situ*, still barriers persist that have not been reduced by initiatives and/or programs of the Ecuadorian Government and other national and international agencies and cooperation organizations; barriers that are most evident when it comes to the conservation and management of CWR and EWS, and which are described below:

Barrier 1: In Ecuador there are no defined sites for the in situ conservation of CWR and EWS populations

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador (CRE), in its Article 400, expressly recognizes sovereignty over biodiversity, whose administration and management will be carried out with intergenerational responsibility, and declares the conservation of agricultural and wild biodiversity and the country's genetic heritage to be of public interest. Ecuador has also developed important work in the declaration of protected areas at the national level that, according to Article 405 of the CRE, have the function of "guaranteeing the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological functions".

Public institutions develop ex situ and in situ conservation policies. The latter are specified in the SNAP, covering the whole of biodiversity, without particularizing the conservation of CWR and EWS. However, the conservation of CWR and EWS within public protected areas in sites with other conservation categories is only partially assured. In the legal and operational instruments related to the management of protected areas, an analysis, planning, use or utilization of this type of species is not included, so there is no inventory or monitoring of their populations.

There are no defined sites for the conservation of CWR and EWS populations in situ. There are no procedures, methodologies or tools available to define in situ conservation sites at the national level and/or characterize CWRs and EWSs. Nor are there previous initiatives of studies for the preparation of files to recognize the declaration of *in situ* conservation sites, use and sustainable use for CWR and EWS in Ecuador.

Outside of protected areas there are experiences in carrying out plans for the use of wild species at the national level. For example, in the province of Imbabura, the plan for the use of morti?o (*Vaccinium floribundum*) was carried out, together with associations of local producers. A management plan for the sustainable use of morti?o has been developed in community areas of Cotacachi located around the Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve. However, there are no previous experiences of sustainable use of CWR and EWS in *in situ* conservation sites at the national level. The situation of these species is worse outside protected areas. According to the literature, possibly more than 60% of the CWR and EWS are outside the limits of legal protection, so their protection is scarce or null, endangering entire populations of this type of biodiversity.

There are no incentives for the sustainable use and utilization of CWR and EWS. The use and utilization of biodiversity in Ecuador has enormous potential. The existing diversity combined with the knowledge and traditional use of the species positions the country among world leaders. Since 2018, through the Organic Code of the Environment (CODA), clear options for the use and utilization of biodiversity were generated for the first time in Ecuadorian legislation. However, in practice, it is necessary to develop a series of technical and legal tools of an operational nature. For example, for the planning of protected areas of MAATE according to CODA, the Sustainable Use Zone (ZUS) is proposed as part of the territorial zoning, which allows the use of biodiversity for self-consumption by the communities and/or indigenous peoples that live within the protected area, but does not allow its use, that is, the production of biodiversity for sale. The situation, that if analyzed from a biocentric aspect, is fully justified because if there were no possibilities of making use of biodiversity within

protected areas without clear rules, situations of misuse and abuse of biodiversity could arise that would generate, among other things, change in land use and loss of "worthless" biodiversity, a situation that economists call "perverse effect".

If the situation is analyzed from a more anthropocentric point of view, it is evident the imbalance that exists between the potential that biodiversity has in Ecuador and the options that local people have to use it to improve their livelihoods, a situation that Peluso (1994) cited in Naughton -Treves, Holland and Brandon (2005) called rich forests, poor people syndrome. For this reason, there is an urgent need to make sustainable use and utilization of biodiversity, especially that related to CWR and EWS, but with clear rules so that the risks mentioned above are minimized.

In Ecuador there have been several programs led by the Environmental Authority in terms of positioning the sustainable use of biodiversity as an opportunity for the generation of products with added value, thus contributing to the development of the Bioeconomy in Ecuador, to the diversification of the productive matrix and the fight against poverty. Within this framework, the environmental authority has worked at the national level mainly with young people, women and men, smallholder farmers and agricultural associations that live inside and outside protected areas, in association with institutions that share the same interest or objective. All these interventions have been developed within the broad framework of biodiversity without considering specific and concrete elements that allow the conservation, use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS to be enhanced.

Barrier 2: Limited knowledge of conservation status of CWR and EWS populations.

Ecuador maintains an important record of plant species at the national level. However, INIAP and other national institutes have limited knowledge about the conservation status of CWR and EWS populations.; in many cases there are only specific collections in germplasm banks that concentrate collections and information on cultivated species. There are no specific inventories that characterize their status.

On the other hand, the intermittent or reduced institutional priorities and the investment of resources for research by CWR and EWS have determined that the information available is scarce and that there are no programs and initiatives for its conservation. This problem has also affected the interaction with indigenous communities and peoples and nationalities, to the extent that the value of the wealth of existing ancestral knowledge on the use of CWR and EWS is still limited, evidencing the absence of a dialogue of knowledge and the lack of participatory processes and knowledge exchange to record, systematize and socialize this knowledge.

In a context of global climate uncertainty, wild species constitute a reserve of genetic variability for plant breeding and food security, being able to improve agricultural production and sustain productivity. The generation of information on these species is the basis for crops to adapt to changing environmental conditions that influence the distribution parameters of species and to combat the presence of invasive species, pests and disease vectors.

Conservation of CWR and EWS that has traditionally been carried out by rural populations, especially women and indigenous peoples, is not valued or recognized by local populations. According to the

local inhabitants in sites that are part of the process of recognition of sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIASH)[2][2] knowledge is being lost in the management of these spaces that should be seen as a sustainable management strategy of the territory. For example, the unsustainable consumption of wild species seriously endangers the future of food and livelihoods, as well as health and the environment. It is very important to collect all this information through the comprehensive inventory of CWR and EWS species, in order to contribute to making appropriate decisions for their management and protection, both *in situ* and *ex situ*.

Barrier 3: Weaknesses in the legal, institutional and technical framework for the conservation, use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS.

In accordance with Article 6 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), of which Ecuador is a signatory, ?the contracting parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?. In this context, Ecuador has developed laws and regulations for the conservation of agrobiodiversity, which have focused mainly on the use and management at the level of areas destined for agricultural production and on the farms of producers. Although the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador (CRE) guarantees rights with respect to biodiversity, as well as the Organic Code of the Environment (CODA) and its Regulation, currently in the country there are only guides, procedures or protocols for the conservation, use and exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and other bio-trade products, some of which may belong to CWR and EWS. There is no specific regulatory framework that promotes the identification, registration, management, conservation, use, utilization and monitoring of the status of CWR and EWS. In this sense, it is necessary to generate specific rules and procedures, through Ministerial Agreements, instruments that are part of the hierarchical order of application of the rules in Ecuador, in accordance with the provisions of Article 425 of the CRE, to guarantee the *in situ* conservation of this type of species and facilitate their use and sustainable utilization through institutional, legal and technical strengthening, and in this way, promote direct support for initiatives related to CWR and EWS, among the populations that live in buffer zones and within protected areas.

In the area of planning, Ecuador does not have a national CWR and EWS conservation plan. There is the red book of the endemic species of Ecuador, but there is no direct reference about CWR and EWS. The National Biodiversity Strategy (2015) mentions in its result 15 the sustainable use of genetic resources, linked to the change of the productive matrix and food sovereignty. However, rights are not recognized, including those of intellectual property, on derived or synthesized products obtained from the collective knowledge associated with national biodiversity. On the other hand, territorial planning instruments such as the protected area management plan, PDOT and PUGS do not incorporate the CWR and EWS.

In the institutional and technical spheres, there are some weaknesses related to insufficient technical tools, limited information for decision-making, and poor capacity building in relation to CWR and EWS. Although there are official procedures for the zoning of protected areas, local planning tools by

the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GAD) and local initiatives for the creation of areas for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (ACUS), there are no technical procedures for the identification and prioritization of CWR and EWS *in situ* conservation sites. For their part, institutions such as the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIAP) and other public and private research institutions have and/or are conducting studies of wild species, however, there are no technical guidelines or strategic lines for the identification and prioritization of CWR and EWS species. There are also no tools for the preparation of inventories, prioritization and determination of the conservation status of CWR and EWS. There is also a lack of methodologies for monitoring populations and agreements on their management options within protected areas and other conservation spaces in community or private areas.

Limitations of support information for decision-making for in situ conservation, use and utilization of CWR and EWS are recorded. Through the Single Environmental Information System (SUIA), the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) manages a total of six systems/tools related to the generation, use and publication of information on protected areas[3][3]. However, this information system is general and does not include specific information on CWR and EWS.

In Ecuador, few specific education and training initiatives have been developed in isolation regarding the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, so few technical and scientific officials from the public sector know and/or apply concepts of CWR and EWS. There is no training program in a consensual and articulated manner among the institutions involved in the processes of conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, and there are insufficient specific experiences at the national level on in situ conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS.

In relation to the sustainable use of EWS agrobiodiversity, the powers of the public institutions that have powers to authorize its use are not clearly defined. This is the case, for example, of guayusa (*Ilex guayusa*) or vanilla, where the decision on which Ministry should issue the usage authorization (MAATE or Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock MAG) is still pending. The sustainable use of biodiversity within protected areas is not allowed, although it is known that there is currently secondary legislation in the approval phase that would allow such an activity.

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline programs

Institutional Framework

The **MAATE** is the governing Ministry for environmental issues at the national level and is nationally responsible for the management of state protected areas. The MAATE exercises the governing role of environmental management with the following attributions: (1) issue the national environmental policy;

(2) establish standards and control and monitoring mechanisms for the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of biodiversity and natural heritage; (3) grant and control environmental authorizations within the framework of its powers, and (4) create, promote and implement environmental incentives. The **National Institute of Biodiversity (INABIO)** is attached to MAATE and has the mission of planning, promoting, coordinating, executing and transferring processes of research, science, technology and innovation of biodiversity and its components, to achieve the development of knowledge and the strengthening of its conservation, use and sustainable utilization. INABIO is the entity responsible for the National Research Agenda on Biodiversity.

The MAATE chairs the **National Committee for Natural Heritage**, also made up of national authorities: water; agriculture; aquaculture and fishing; research, science, technology and innovation; industry and productivity; defense; internal security; electricity and renewable energy; mining; hydrocarbons; and telecommunications. Among the powers of this Committee, in addition to others related to biodiversity and conservation policies, the following stands out: ?Coordinate the establishment of intersectoral policies and regulations that promote the sustainable use of biological resources and that contribute to the development of biotrade, the bioeconomy, the conservation of environmental services, sustainable production and consumption, the extended responsibility of the producer, the use of waste for industry, environmental incentives, among others?. The National Committee has the authority to create subcommittees to deal with specific issues.

The **MAG** is the governing body, coordinator and regulator of public policies on rural land for agricultural production and the guarantee of food sovereignty. The National Institute of Agricultural Research (**INIAP)** is an agency attached to the MAG with the mission of researching, developing technologies, generating innovation processes and technology transfer to contribute to the sustainable development of Ecuador through the application of science. The management and conservation of natural resources of interest for agriculture and food is one of its strategic areas of research. It is responsible for the germplasm bank, and is the qualified evaluation entity for the genetic resources of cultivated and domesticated organisms, as well as wild species and varieties related to crops.

The **National Intellectual Rights Service (SENADI)** is a technical body and competent national authority to protect and defend intellectual rights; to organize and manage the information on the records of all types of intellectual property rights. Its functions include promoting respect for traditional knowledge and plant varieties; and promote the rescue, conservation and protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions of indigenous, Montubio, Afro-Ecuadorian nationalities and peoples, communes and ancestral communities.

At the territorial level, the Decentralized Autonomous Government (**GAD**s) have fundamental responsibilities in the field of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in their respective territories. They have various functions that are complementary to those performed by the MAATE, such as: a) promote the sustainable development of its provincial territorial constituency; b) prepare and execute the development plan and land use planning; c) promote productive and agricultural activities, in coordination with the other decentralized governments; d) assume environmental management in their territories.

Policy Framework

The **2021-2025 National Development Plan Creating Opportunities** establishes the country's priorities in alignment with the 2021-2025 Government Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Each of the policies proposed refers to issues of relevance to Ecuador. The plan is structured around five axes: (1) Economic and Employment Generation; (2) Social; (3) Comprehensive Security, (4) Ecological Transition, and (5) Institutional. Each axis has objectives, policies and goals. Relevant to this project are Objective 8 of the Social axis, which aims to generate new opportunities and well-being for rural areas, with an emphasis on peoples and nationalities; and Objective 11 of the Ecological Transition axis, which includes the conservation, restoration, protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

The **2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy** has strategic objectives that are also relevant to CWRs and EWSs, in particular: (1) Incorporate biodiversity, associated ecosystem goods and services, in the management of public policies; (2) Reduce pressures and inappropriate use of biodiversity to levels that ensure its conservation; (3) Distribute in a fair and equitable manner the benefits of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, considering gender and intercultural specificities; (4) Strengthen the management of knowledge and national capacities that promote innovation in the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and (12) Promote the management, use and complementary conservation (*ex situ* - *in situ*) of agrobiodiversity through the promotion of sustainable agrobiodiversity production systems in the Ecuadorian territory.

The **National Plan for the Promotion of the Use, Processing and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity 2022-2030** is currently in the approval process. This plan seeks to directly promote the use and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, in addition to institutional and capacity building to reinforce the sustainable management of biodiversity. The **Strategic Plan of the National System of Protected Areas 2019-2030** aims to: (1) Conserve the biological diversity and genetic resources contained in the SNAP; (2) Provide alternatives for the sustainable use of natural resources and the provision of environmental goods and services; and (3) Contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the inhabitants. The **National Climate Change Strategy 2012-2025** seeks to guide concerted, ordered and planned action on issues of adaptation and mitigation of climate change in Ecuador. It is structured in two Strategic Lines: (1) Adaptation to climate change; and (2) Climate change mitigation. Under the Strategic Line of Adaptation to Climate Change, Objective 5 refers to the conservation and sustainable management of the natural heritage and its terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to improve its capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change.

At the regional level, the **Amazon Comprehensive Plan 2021-2035** is a territorial planning and ordering instrument to promote a sustainable socioeconomic, cultural and environmental model in the six Amazonian provinces of the country. Its vision is of a "sustainable development model in which the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage, respect for the rights of the population and the sustainable use of the resources of the Amazon basin prevail." In its environmental component, the plan proposes comprehensive management for the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources. At the local level, the provinces of Napo and Imbabura - areas of intervention of the project - have **Territorial Development and Planning Plans** which express objectives and programs to improve the quality of life of their populations, socioeconomic development without

undermining the environment, and respect for the socio-cultural particularities of the peoples and nationalities that inhabit the territories of the provinces.

Legal Framework

Since 2008, the **CRE** recognizes the rights of nature as a fundamental element for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and in this context, expressly establishes in Art. 14 the right of the population to live in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment. Likewise, in Art. 261 it determines that the Central State will have exclusive powers over biodiversity resources. The preservation of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity are declared to be of public interest. It is important to highlight that Art. 57, numeral 12 guarantees indigenous communities, peoples and nationalities the conservation and promotion of their biodiversity management practices, executing programs with the participation of the community to ensure conservation, likewise, food sovereignty constitutes a strategic objective and an obligation of the State to achieve self-sufficiency in healthy and culturally appropriate food on a permanent basis, promoting the preservation and recovery of agrobiodiversity and the ancestral knowledge linked to it, in accordance with Art. 281. Article 322 prohibits any form of appropriation of collective knowledge, in the field of science, technology and ancestral knowledge. The appropriation of genetic resources containing biological diversity and agrobiodiversity is also prohibited. Art. 400 provides that the State shall exercise sovereignty over biodiversity, declaring its conservation of public interest, and in this context Art. 408 provides that the State has the inalienable, imprescriptible and unattachable property of biodiversity and their genetic heritage. The CRE considers biodiversity and genetic heritage as a strategic sector that will be controlled, regulated and managed by the State, in accordance with the principles of environmental sustainability, precaution, prevention and efficiency (Art. 313) and establishes exclusive powers over the biodiversity (Art. 261). The competencies on biodiversity are complemented by other articles aimed at GADs adopting sustainable development policies in order to protect biodiversity.

The SNAP will guarantee the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological functions. The SNAP is made up of four subsystems, which are: state, decentralized autonomous governments, community and private, whose stewardship and regulation is exercised by the State (Art. 405 of the CRE). Ecuador has developed manuals, regulations and specific legal frameworks for the management of Protected Areas, the inclusion of agrobiodiversity in public policies, the sustainable management of agriculture, climate-smart strategies for livestock, the strengthening of sustainable practices that help reduce pressure on natural resources, and land use planning, among others. Likewise, the Ecuadorian State has proposed to have an efficient management model for the State Subsystem of Protected Areas (SEAP) that meets conservation objectives, takes into account social participation and ensures the sustainable use of environmental goods and services as well as through the identification of opportunities, the development of capacities and the promotion of conditions to ensure stable and long-term financing.

The **National Regulation for the Common Regime of Access to Genetic Resources** was approved in 2011 in application of Decision 391 of the Andean Community. The main objective of this regulatory framework is to ensure that the application of the terms of access to genetic resources associated or not with the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and the distribution of

the benefits derived from their use, is carried out in the terms specified in the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The **Organic Code of the Environment (CODA)**[4][4] approved in 2018, and its Regulations, unifies and updates the environmental legal framework of the country and seeks to guarantee the right of people to live in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, as well as protect the rights of nature recognized by the CRE. Among the purposes of CODA is to establish, implement and encourage mechanisms and instruments for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems, biodiversity and others. In terms of biodiversity, the CODA details a series of provisions referring to the generation of guidelines, directives, standards and control and monitoring mechanisms for the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of biodiversity and natural heritage (Art. 24), and regulates the powers of provincial, municipal, metropolitan and parish GADs linked to biodiversity (Arts. 26, 27 and 28). These include the development of plans, programs and projects for the protection, management, restoration, development, research, industrialization and marketing of forest resources and wildlife. The CODA regulates the conservation of biodiversity (Art. 29) and one of the State's objectives is to conserve and use biodiversity in a sustainable way (Art. 30).[5][5].

From Article 37 of the CODA, the provisions on the SNAP are promulgated. In order to promote orderly territorial planning and the conservation of the natural heritage, the GADs must take into account and compulsorily incorporate in the Territorial Ordering Plans (PDOT), the categories of direct representation, among these the National System of Protected Areas, Forests and Protective Vegetation and the special areas for the conservation of biodiversity. It is important to highlight that Article 55 of the CODA provides that special areas for the conservation of biodiversity complementary to the SNAP may be incorporated in order to ensure the integrity of the ecosystems, the functionality of the landscapes, the sustainability of the dynamics of territorial development, the sustainable use of natural resources or the recovery of areas that have been degraded or are in the process of degradation.

For its part, the CODA Regulation establishes in Art. 7 that the National Environmental Authority will exercise the stewardship and management of the strategic sector of biodiversity, developing the intersectoral management model, and also incorporates provisions aimed at regulating *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation (Art. 90). In the first, the provisions for the management of nurseries, botanical gardens, zoos, aquariums, rescue centers, sustainable breeding and reproduction centers, passage centers and *ex situ* sanctuaries stand out (Art. 180), while *in situ* conservation provisions are established for the SNAP, the decentralized autonomous governments, community and private subsystems and the administration and management procedures (Arts. 125-168). It is necessary to highlight that Art. 146 determines the activities allowed in the SNAP and will be those related to the protection, conservation, research, use and sustainable exploitation of biodiversity, education, cultural aspects, recreation, and controlled tourism, among others, based on the management category of the protected areas and the respective management plan.

The validity of the CODA and its Regulations represent an important opportunity to develop integrated approaches to territorial management, which address both the areas of sustainable use recently defined within the SEAP, as well as its now legally recognized buffer zones. This also represents an opportunity to build on recent GEF-supported initiatives related to protected areas and their effective management.

In relation to traditional knowledge and genetic resources, they are regulated by the **Organic Code of the Social Economy of Knowledge, Creativity and Innovation (COESC)**, known as the Ingenuity Code. According to this legal body, traditional knowledge is "all that collective knowledge, such as practices, methods, experiences, abilities, signs and symbols of peoples, nationalities and communities that are part of their cultural heritage and have been developed, updated and transmitted generation to generation? (Art. 511). Ancestral knowledge includes, according to the same article, ancestral and local knowledge, the intangible component associated with genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions and can refer, among other aspects, to ecological, climatic, agricultural, medicinal, artistic, artisanal items, fishing and hunting.

The Ingenuity Code, by characterizing the powers of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (SENESCYT), grants it the power to support the processes of prior, free and informed consent for access, use and utilization of traditional knowledge; define the conditions of access, use and utilization of the knowledge derived from biodiversity in coordination with the environmental authority and define the way in which the benefits of the utilization of biodiversity will be distributed.

Within the scope of the MAG, **Ministerial Agreement No. 095** stands out, which establishes the administrative and technical guidelines and procedures for the registration, use, circulation, import and export of timber and non-timber forest products from forest plantations for commercial purposes and agroforestry production systems, as well as the regulations applicable to the processes of conservation, use and utilization of agrobiodiversity in production areas. Similarly, within the MAATE, the **Ministerial Agreement No. MAAE-2020-10** is mentioned, which defines the methodology for the zoning of protected areas and the guidelines of the activities allowed or not allowed in each of them.

The **Law on Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture**, approved in 2017, aims to contribute to food sovereignty, strengthen agrobiodiversity, conservation and production of seeds, the germplasm bank, as well as support small and medium producers. This law recognizes the Farmers' Rights agreed in the ITPGRFA, and allows the exchange of seeds from small traditional farmers and recognizes areas for seeds of certified commercial varieties that require specific regulations for their production and marketing. The agrobiodiversity conservation areas proposed in the aforementioned law are a strategy under construction in Ecuador, which still requires regulatory approval for its execution. In a study carried out by INIAP in 2018, areas where environmental characteristics allow the best development and conservation of some native varieties are prioritized. Based on these provisions, national and local actors have the possibility of developing actions to promote the conservation of agrobiodiversity.

Baseline initiatives for in situ and ex situ conservation of agrobiodiversity

In Ecuador, the conservation of agrobiodiversity is carried out *in situ* and *ex situ*, to avoid genetic erosion and the loss of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Various actors and institutions participate in these two conservation modalities. Regarding *ex situ* conservation, **INIAP**, for more than 30 years, has worked in the National Germplasm Bank that preserves the genetic material of cultivated species and their wild relatives, totaling some 29,000 collections, of which 18,885 are preserved as seeds in the Base Bank. INIAP also has approximately 300 accessions of wild relatives. INIAP's work is complemented by the initiatives of some universities, which preserve some 6,719 collections. This material serves to maintain the germplasm of the native species and varieties of Ecuador, which can be multiplied to be used again, or be the source of genetic information to produce more resistant varieties.

INIAP, together with universities and local governments, have developed some Centers for Bioknowledge and Agrarian Development (CBDA). These spaces allow the conservation of agrobiodiversity through: restitution of vegetative material, obtaining seeds, participatory research, training, validation and technology transfer, among others. The CBDA seeks to consolidate the relationships between nature, culture and individual and collective identities. In these spaces, local species and varieties of interest for agriculture and food are managed and cultivated, which are delivered to small local family farmers with an interest in cultivating them as part of their food sovereignty. The Germplasm Bank and the CBDA, that are in the process of strengthening and development in different places of the four regions of the country, are part of the National Biodiversity Strategy (Goal 15.3) and are included in the Law of Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Promotion of Sustainable agriculture.

In relation to in situ conservation, the main strategy present in the country is the SNAP, which is combined with several initiatives for the conservation of agrobiodiversity led by INIAP, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and small farmer organizations, in which the exchange of seeds is promoted in fairs, the training of local seed guardians (conservation farmers), the recovery of ancestral practices of management and conservation of food heritage, among other activities. One of the most important initiatives in the country was the Agrobiodiversity project, which was financed by the GEF and executed by INIAP, FAO and the Heifer Foundation, in coordination with the MAG, local governments, universities and small farmer organizations. This project supported the conservation of approximately 90 native varieties with the participation of more than 4,000 families of smallholder family farmers.

In Ecuador, *in situ* conservation has been related to the alternative agriculture movement led by NGOs and small farmer organizations that seek the transition to more sustainable agricultural management systems, based on principles of: organic agriculture, agroecology, permaculture, among others. For some years now, these actions have had government support from the MAG and MAATE, the latter through climate change adaptation initiatives for the agricultural sector, and the management of buffer zones in protected areas.

In recent years, the provincial and parish GADs, thanks to their skills in conservation, production and environmental quality at the local level, have become relevant actors for the management of this project; including the availability of technical and extension staff, and various incentives such as machinery, tools, supplies, logistics, etc. The coordination that the GEF projects have maintained with the GADs demonstrates the institutional and management base that they represent for the mobilization

of resources in co-financing and the achievement of results. Thus, from these competencies, initiatives are being carried out that are strengthening agrobiodiversity management processes and experiences, highlighting seed fairs, agrotourism and community tourism, the development of spaces to stimulate short circuits for the exchange of agricultural products, the positioning of bio-companies with value-added products marketed in special markets at the national and international levels.

Universities develop research and extension activities related to biodiversity. The **Technical University of the North (UTN)** has a microbial biotechnology research and development laboratory to develop research and innovation related to the food industry, agro-industrial production and the development of pharmaceutical technology. The **Pontifical Catholic University - Ibarra Headquarters (PUCESI)** has a School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and conducts research on local species and the exploration of alternative uses of local biodiversity for income generation, and in this direction, is promoting the recognition of inventories, and the maintenance of an herbarium. The **Amazon Regional University (IKIAM)** offers careers such as agroecology, biotechnology, biocommerce, with the perspective of training professionals who can promote the conservation and sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity. In an agreement with INABIO, it has established 8 germplasm banks. The **University of the Americas (UDLA)** has nine projects underway in biotechnology, nine in the environment, and 11 in agribusiness. In this last field, the project to enhance the blueberry stands out, which studies its functional compounds, phenology and in vitro production.

In the province of Imbabura, Cotacachi canton, area of intervention of the project, the **Union of Indigenous Organizations of Small Farmers of Cotacachi (UNORCAC)** has been developing in recent years a plan of activities aimed at the management and conservation of agrobiodiversity in communities with a view to their food security. With the collaboration of INIAP, Heifer and other organizations, agroecological plots have been implemented with an emphasis on the conservation of native crops. In the last twelve years, about 400 families have been trained in the management of the components of agroecological plots and the conservation of agrobiodiversity. The production of these plots is marketed at a weekly fair in the city of Cotacachi, where more than 200 women producers participate, selling the diversity of smallholder farmer production directly to consumers. In addition, for fourteen years a seed exchange fair has been held in Cotacachi with the participation of at least 150 producers, of which 80% are women. UNORCAC also manages an ethnobotanical garden where more than a hundred species of crops and medicinal plants are preserved, and it is a teaching center for the conservation of agrobiodiversity and a tourist attraction visited by at least a thousand people a year, mainly students. Together with INIAP, an agrobiodiversity inventory was carried out in the Cotacachi canton and an agrobiodiversity catalog was published, both as instruments to sensitize farmers and community leaders about the values of agricultural diversity. This program of activities has generated a 40% increase in the availability of food for self-consumption in the families that implement agrobiodiverse production on the plots. In addition, community participation has improved, especially of women within the smallholder farmer organization.

UNORCAC in association with INIAP and the Technical University of the North are currently executing the project ?Strengthening of the indigenous communities of Cotacachi -Ecuador in the conservation and use of Phytogenetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) as a mechanism

for the fair and equitable distribution of benefits?, with financing from the ITPGRFA benefit sharing fund. The objective of this project is to support 1,500 farmers to strengthen the use and conservation of their agrobiodiversity.

In addition, UNORCAC has developed several food processing activities such as the production of corn chicha from local varieties in a processing plant managed by women, the dehydration of native fruits and vegetables (uvilla *Physallis peruviana L.*, morti?o, garlic) and the dehydration of medicinal plants. All these industrial micro-enterprises use native species and varieties for their production processes and incorporate traditional knowledge of food preparation and conservation. The management is communitarian, with a high participation of women, and most of the initiatives mentioned generate direct jobs (four people, on average). Processed products are marketed in the communities and at weekly agro-ecological fairs, and in some cases there are also regular wholesale customers.

In the province of Napo there is an important network of associative companies that produce and market a variety of value-added products from local agrobiodiversity. One of the most representative instances is the **Corporation of Associations of the Amazon Chakra of Napo**, made up of five organizations, four in the province of Napo and one in Orellana, representing around 2,400 members, 58% women and 25% youth. Its objective is to defend and promote chakra products to improve the lives of its associates, managing the value chains of cocoa, guayusa, vanilla, banana, among others; with products that are marketed in the national and international market. The Corporation has developed the Participatory Guarantee System (SPG) for the award of the "Chakra Seal" which is based on the application of production and marketing standards and guidelines aligned with fair trade. In the province of Napo, the development of cooperation and co-management alliances with initiatives aligned with the conservation and sustainable use of local agrobiodiversity stands out, such as those generated through the GEF Project "Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, forests, soil and water as a means to achieve Good Living / Sumak Kawsay in the province of Napo?.

The **German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)** implements the program "Biovalor - Sustainable Valorization of Biodiversity in the Amazon and the Coast", as a continuation of the recently completed bioeconomy project. In the province of Napo, Biovalor will contribute to strengthening three value chains: guayusa, Amazonian cinnamon (ishpingo) and vanilla. The project has a research fund with the purpose of promoting new uses of biodiversity. The **Amazon Regional Table for Non-Timber Forest Products** is made up of 41 organizations from civil society, communities, indigenous peoples and nationalities, and private enterprises. Its purpose is to establish a common roadmap in favor of the forests and the communities that inhabit and care for them. The cooperative work of the Table allows the creation of alliances and encourages investments for entrepreneurship and research. The **Maquita Foundation** supports the empowerment of Kichwa women in the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity, and has experience in fair trade and with local cocoa producers. The Italian NGOs **European Committee for Training and Agriculture (CEFA)** and **ENGIM Internazionale**, the NGO **Maquita Cushunchic**, and the **Ecuadorian Fund for Development Cooperation (FECD)** are also present in the area.

The **Chakra Interinstitutional Group** is an interinstitutional provincial space in which public entities (MAG, MAATE, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, SENADI, Provincial Government of Napo)

participate, as well as academic entities (IKIAM), international cooperation, local NGOs and social organizations linked to the Network of Associations of the Amazon Chakra. The Chakra Group defined, in December 2021, an action plan for the conservation and promotion of the chakra in Napo that includes its GIAHS recognition and, among other actions, plans a chakra school for the training of technical teams and a new outreach.

In the two intervention areas of the project (Imbabura and Napo) the mechanism of the **Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)** is in operation, which focuses on the direct strengthening of the **Organizations of Forest Agricultural Producers (OPFA)** as the main agents of change to achieve climate change, resilient landscapes and better livelihoods. Capacity building for OFPA occurs in several areas: governance and social organization; access to markets and financing; climate change adaptation/mitigation/resilience practices and access to social and cultural services. This initiative will be valid until 2022. The FFF has financing from countries such as Finland, Sweden, Germany and the United States and is operated in Ecuador by FAO and MAATE. The FFF landscape management experiences will provide lessons learned for the implementation of this proposal.

The **Amazonian Integral Forest Conservation and Sustainable Production Program - PROAmazon?a** is a program of the MAATE and the MAG initiative that is part of the REDD+ Ecuador Action Plan, and which seeks to reduce deforestation, promotes sustainable and integrated management of natural resources contributing to the eradication of poverty and sustainable human development. The program is financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through the Project "Promotion of financial instruments and land use planning for the reduction of emissions and deforestation" and the GEF through Project #9055 ?Integrated management of multiple use landscapes and high conservation value for the sustainable development of the Amazon?. This project will capitalize the experiences of PROAmazon?a in managing incentives for local communities.

Due to the exceptional characteristics of the Imbabura and Napo biocultural production systems, these two sites have developed pioneering initiatives for the recognition of the Andean Chakra (Imbabura) and the Amazon Chakra (Napo) as GIAHS. In this process, the procedures for the preparation of the application files, the presentation and endorsement of the MAG, the sending of the file to the FAO GIAHS Secretariat, the reception and correction of the first observations of the GIAHS Scientific Committee have been completed, as well as the planning of a mission of the Committee for the verification of the systems in Ecuador. The project will interact with this recognition process, providing relevant information on the management of CWR and EWS within these traditional systems of use and production, as well as with the development of processes and regulations to ensure the conservation, promotion and sustainability of GIAHS.

Despite these advances, in the baseline scenario these efforts are not yet sufficient to remove the identified challenges. Without the intervention of the GEF, the weaknesses identified and described in detail in Section 1.a Project Description - Remaining Barriers will persist. Institutional weaknesses in terms of gaps in the legal framework and the need to complement existing regulations; insufficient technical and methodological tools to incorporate the proper management of CWR and EWS; limited knowledge of the conservation status of CWR and EWS populations; the lack of defined sites for the in

situ conservation of CWR and EWS populations constitute barriers that hinder the scaling up and wide adoption of sustainable practices to reduce pressures on these valuable species. Under these conditions, baseline initiatives will then not have enough momentum to generate transformational change and learning, with the appropriate scaling and replication to reduce and reverse the processes of loss of agrobiodiversity and to promote the sustainable development of rural communities, ensuring the conservation of biodiversity resources and food sovereignty. This is the entry point of the GEF.

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

Project intervention strategy

The strengthening of policies and institutions in the field of conservation, use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS is a priority need in the country, therefore, the Government of Ecuador has requested the support of the GEF to consolidate the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, as a complementary area for the fulfillment of local, national and global strategies for the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its contribution to improving the quality of life of the rural population.

The project will be framed for this in the opportunities of the current political and institutional context, represented by: (1The Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2) the ratification of the ITPGRFA, (3) the constitutional guidelines on biodiversity, agrobiodiversity, ecosystem services and food security; (4) the generation of policies and laws from the national authority (MAATE and MAG) and, (5) the development of proposals for laws and secondary regulations related to the management of wild species, non-timber forest products, compliance with agroecological production standards, among others.

In this context, the intervention strategy rests on two fundamental and interrelated dimensions, which are not currently being adequately covered by the baseline activities, with interventions of a systemic nature at the level of institutions and interventions at the field level, designed to remove the barriers identified, and which underlie the Theory of Change of the project (see Figure 1 below).

The first dimension will contribute to removing barriers 2 and 3 through the **improvement of the institutional, technical and legal framework** to create the conditions for adequate conservation, use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS. At this level, it will seek to develop interinstitutional, intersectoral, and inclusive spaces for analysis and strengthening of Ecuador's institutional framework for the generation and/or updating of legislation that regularizes and facilitates the conservation, sustainable use, and utilization of CWR and EWS, with procedures that are inclusive, that is, that are managed by the producers themselves and their organizations or companies, with the guidance and permanent support of the entities in charge of monitoring compliance. Participatory systems, methodologies and instruments will be established for the definition and recognition of CWR and EWS conservation sites or areas, both in protected areas and in other important places, permitted by current legislation; procedures that will be validated in pilot management areas, for subsequent promotion or

expansion in Ecuador, both in the short and medium term. Likewise, the capacities of public sector entities and the human talent in charge of managing CWR and EWS will be strengthened, including improving information management to monitor *in situ* conservation practices, sustainable use and utilization of priority CWR and EWS, based on the experiences and initiatives of local companies that have developed value chains of agrobiodiversity products, in order to promote the bioeconomy and contribute to improving the quality of life of the local population.

The second dimension will aim to remove barrier 1, and will implement the measures previously developed through interventions on the ground in two biomes of global significance (Andean and Amazonian), specifically in the Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve, Cotacachi canton of the province of Imbabura, and in the Sumaco - Napo Galeras National Park, the Llanganates National Park and the Colonso Chalupas Biological Reserve, in the Archidona, Tena and Arosemena Tola cantons of the province of Napo (see the description of these intervention areas in Section 1.b). In the context of this proposal, the sustainable use of biodiversity is that which is carried out as a means of subsistence or self-consumption, and sustainable use is one that can economically influence the livelihoods of local people living in and around protected areas, but protecting their wild relatives and ensuring a rate of natural replenishment and regeneration of wild food species, without promoting monocultures or encouraging the exploitation of these species in the territory. For this reason, it is proposed to promote the use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS within protected areas and in the Amazonian and Andean chakras. This axis includes the creation of the CWR and EWS conservation sites as well as the application of practices and mechanisms for their conservation, use and sustainable utilization. These actions will be carried out in a participatory manner and in close relationship and coordination with the actors, including implementing partners, local producers, academia and research bodies, and promoting synergies and strategic alliances with them and the various initiatives underway in the areas of intervention.

To achieve broad participation and empowerment of local actors, the project will apply gender, generational and intercultural approaches transversally and with the definition of precise activities and respective budgets. The design of the project recognizes the important role of women and indigenous populations in the access, control and management of production systems and in the local conservation of agrobiodiversity; as well as the need to facilitate intergenerational dialogue so that children and young people continue to apply these cultural values of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Likewise, the guidelines and procedures for the protections of traditional knowledge of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied with the indigenous peoples and nationalities involved, motivating their active participation in the management, decision-making and development of the different strategic and operational actions of the project.

Problem	Cause	Barriers	Solutions	Strategies - project products	Results	Components	Assumptions	I
Agrobiodiversity of CWR and EWS is lost in Ecuador	Low priority and resources to collect information from CWR and EWS	Barrier 2. Limited knowledge of the conservation status of CWR and EWS populations	Increase knowledge about CWR and EWS	*Methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS, based on the Voluntary Guidelines of the Commission on Genetic Resources, gender and cultural belonging approach, and national conditions. *Inventory and conservation status of priority wild species, for the two pilot areas developed *Definition of areas of conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, according to the zoning of protected areas and private areas	CWR and EWS are identified and conserved in pilot sites of the Amazon (Napo) and the northern highlands (Imbabura), based on the analysis of roles and priorities of use and conservation by men and women in the conservation areas and pilot sites.	Improved institutionality for the definition of conservation areas for crop wild relatives (CWR) and wild edible species (EWS).	Developed knowledge is incorporated into institutional procedures for the conservation, use and utilization of CWR and EWS	
	Limited institutional development for the conservation and use of CWR and EWS	Barrier 3. There are no specific regulations and procedures for the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	Improve regulations and institutional capacities	*Secondary regulations for the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, generated and/or updated within the capacity of the MAAE and MAG *Protocol for digital, geographic and statistical monitoring of the conservation status of priority CWR and EWS developed. *Geographic and statistical information system of CWR and EWS developed.	Strengthening and implementing the regulatory framework and conservation information of CWR and EWS.		Regulations facilitate the development of procedures for the conservation, use and utilization of CWR and EWS	
				*National biodiversity strategy incorporates guidelines for the conservation and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS. *Regional exchange experiences on creation and management of reserves of CWR and EWS (triangular cooperation), established. *Report on process and products of the project, through the national report on biodiversity related to Aichi goal 13 (CWR and EWS). *Technicians of MAAE, the Department of Plant Genetic Resources of INIAP, and the Environment Directorates of local GAD trained	National, institutional and local government capacities strengthened for the conservation, use, exploitation, management and reporting of CWR and EWS.		New capacities allow the availability of talents and resources for the sustainable management of CWR and EWS	
	The CWR and EWS have not been a decision factor to define biodiversity conservation areas	Barrier 1. In Ecuador there are no defined sites for the conservation of CWR and EWS populations in situ.	Define CWR and EWS use and conservation sites based on community initiatives as demonstration scenarios	*Management plans for CWR and EWS conservation areas implemented and evaluated in Napo and Imbabura, based on the the project completion strategy and community participation and training processes for men and women *Guide for the sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS based on voluntary guidelines and national regulations, on the approach of gender and cultural belonging. *Plans of use and exploitation of CWR and EWS approved and implemented, considering each of the links in the prioritized chains of the associative enterprises of Napo's producers, in coordination with national incentives and those of the GADs.	Areas of conservation and use of prioritized CWR and EWS are constituted in demonstrative scenarios and community learning for the conservation, and sustainable utilization of local agrobiodiversity.	Implementation of in situ conservation measures and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	Local participation ensures the development of practical processes and scenarios for the conservation, use and utilization of CWR and EWS	
				*Recognition and logo of the products of enterprises applying plans of sustainable utilization, and conservation of CWR and EWS. *Publication of materials, educational and communicative mechanisms for the dissemination of the importance and positioning of the products of CSP and ESC enterprises.	Recognition and promotion of CWR and EWS products		The display of products that preserve CWR and EWS allows their preference in green markets	
				*Establishing the baseline - TAPE tool *Monitoring and evaluation of the project to achieve the results *Project evaluation *Publications of results developed and disseminated among interested parties *Disclosure and communication of the project actions (corporate image, merchandising, campaigns, App, social networks, among others)	Knowledge management and M&E to inform project results and lessons learned on conservation from CWR and EWS to stakeholders and communities	System of monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination of information		

Figure 1 ? Theory of Change

(Also uploaded as Annex O of the Agency Project Document)

Objective, outcomes and outputs of the Project

The objective of the project is *to strengthen institutional systems for the implementation and enforcement of measures for the registration, in situ conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, as a complementary scope for the incorporation of CWR and EWS in local, national and global strategies for the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of the rural population.*

To that end, the project has been organized into three components:

1. Improved institutional framework, for the definition of in situ conservation areas of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).

2. Implementation of *in situ* conservation measures, sustainable use and utilization of crop wild relatives (CWR) and wild edible species (EWS).

3. Information monitoring, evaluation and dissemination system.

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Component 1: Improved institutional framework, for the definition of in situ conservation areas of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).

The purpose of this component is to establish the enabling conditions in the institutional, technical, and legal spheres to ensure the conservation, use, and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS, in order to obtain global environmental benefits. To this end, GEF support will be aimed at implementing two approaches: (1) strengthening the legal, technical and institutional framework, and (2) strengthening the capacities of institutional technical teams.

The first approach includes the development of regulations that allow specific treatment to be given to CWR at the national level that they currently do not have, especially in places of high vulnerability, where there is a permanent risk of changing land use, such as areas buffer of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP); complement regulations and laws regarding the use of CWR and EWS on which the existing legislation is rather general; and the development of tools and instruments for the planning, implementation and monitoring of actions for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS.

The second approach covers the education and training of key national and local actors to apply the regulations, tools and instruments developed. In the development of actions, this component will take into account the views and opinions of key actors, and mainly of indigenous peoples and nationalities

considering the role they have historically played in the conservation and use of agrobiodiversity and particularly of CWR and EWS. The project will work jointly with various institutional actors with competencies in agrobiodiversity, mainly MAATE, MAG, INIAP and INABIO. Likewise, the development of actions, especially those related to regulations, methodologies and tools, will be discussed and validated within the scope of the National Natural Heritage Committee and/or specific sub-committees that may be formed to deal with these issues.

Outcome 1.1: CWR and EWS are identified and conserved in situ in the pilot sites of the Amazon (Napo) and the northern highlands (Imbabura) based on the analysis of roles and priorities of use and conservation by men and women in the conservation areas and pilot sites.

Indicator: Area (in hectares) of in situ conservation of CWR and EWS established in Napo and Imbabura according to PA zoning (GEF Indicator BD 1.2)

Baseline: 0

Goal: 2,000 ha (1,000 ha in Napo and 1,000 ha in Imbabura)

Indicator: Area (in hectares) of in situ conservation of CWR and EWS in private areas established in Napo and Imbabura according to PA zoning (GEF Indicator BD 4.3)

Baseline: 0

Goal: 1,000 ha (500 ha in Napo and 500 ha in Imbabura)

Indicator: Increase in the management effectiveness score of four protected areas (PA) measured by a monitoring tool (METT) applied at mid-term and end (GEF Indicator BD 1.2)

Baseline: Baseline: i) Sumaco-Napo Galeras National Park: 58; ii) Cotacachi National Park: 60; iii) Llanganates National Park: 61; iv) Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve: 56

Goal: i) Sumaco-Napo Galeras National Park: 63; ii) Cotacachi National Park: 61; iii) Llanganates National Park: 65; iv) Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve: 60

Output 1.1.1. Methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species in situ conservation sites of CWR and EWS, based on the Voluntary Guidelines of the Genetic Resources Commission, the gender and cultural approach, and national circumstances.

The project will work with MAATE, MAG, INIAP and INABIO to develop, in a participatory manner, clear methodologies and a specialized toolbox for the identification and prioritization of CWR and EWS that must be conserved and/or used sustainably. For this, among the tools to be developed, a multi-criteria matrix must be prepared, with clear criteria established in an agreed upon manner between the competent entities, which allows a participatory rating and weighting of CWR and EWS, and thus prioritize them according to the reality of the situation of each region. For the generation and management of information on the state of conservation of CWR and EWS, it will be necessary to know in an adequate, clear and transparent manner the potential of this type of biodiversity that exists in Napo and Imbabura. With the support of academia and expert groups, indicators and methods will be developed for conducting CWR and EWS inventories within protected areas. In the same way in the Amazonian and Andean chakras that are located in their buffer zones, and that are part of the GIAHS files for Ecuador, to know their state of conservation under a cultural landscape approach associated with this traditional agricultural practice. The intention of generating this information is to establish: (1) the distribution of a certain taxon in specific regions and ecosystems; (2) patterns of intraspecific diversity; (3) the relationships between survival and frequency of variables, and the associated ecological conditions (Hunter and Heywood, 2011), which will later serve to carry out ecogeographical studies and establish *in situ* conservation sites for prioritized species.

For the development of these methodological tools, previous efforts and experiences that MAATE and INIAP have had to complement and/or strengthen previous processes should be considered; the local knowledge that the inhabitants have on issues of use or distribution of wild species should be included; and the relevance of taking advantage of the most appropriate technology for this type of study will be reviewed, such as the use of spectral signatures, satellite image processing, the use of drones with multispectral cameras, among others. The procedures that will be generated for the collection, analysis and storage of information will be in accordance with the guidelines of the MAATE technical units existing within the Ecuadorian Biodiversity Information System (SIB).

Finally, there will be a technical document for the identification and prioritization of CWR and EWS *in situ* conservation sites, which will also form part of the educational materials. In a complementary manner, and based on the technical document, work will be done in coordination with the provincial, cantonal and parish GADs, support will be given to changing or updating local planning instruments such as PDOT or PUGS so that specific uses of land suitable for *in situ* conservation of CWR and EWS around protected areas that are of local competence. The prioritized sites within these zones, which are also buffer zones for protected areas, will be the Amazonian and Andean chakras within the polygons of what is proposed in the framework of the creation of GIAHS sites in Ecuador.

Output 1.1.2: Inventory and in situ conservation status of priority wild species, for the two developed pilot in situ areas.

The consultations carried out during the PPG through workshops developed with socio-productive organizations made it possible to identify the interest in guayusa and vanilla in the province of Napo, and the morti?o in the province of Imbabura. This product will carry out the inventory and state of

conservation of the three prioritized CWRs and EWS. During the implementation of the project, the prioritization criteria and procedures developed for the final definition of the species will be validated.

The CWR and EWS baseline components will need to gather a wide range of information on target species, their distribution, habitat, uses and presence in protected areas, and on the existence of germplasm collections (Hunter and Heywood, 2011). Information will be identified and generated on the existing CWR and EWS within the Amazonian and Andean chakras that are part of the GIAHS areas, in the buffer zones of protected areas, in order to know their state of conservation within the local cultural landscape; and within protected areas; for which an inventory will be made in conjunction with INIAP, MATTE and Universities and local people who know the distribution of species within the natural environment. With the information generated, a statistical database will be created based on the criteria defined for the characterization of the species; jointly, and using the geographic information collected in the field (such as geographic coordinates and altitude), a Geographic Information System (GIS) will be established about the distribution of the CWR and EWS. The collection of information will be accompanied by the collection of vegetative material of the most promising species, to be incorporated into the INIAP germplasm bank, as a strategy to strengthen the in situ conservation mechanisms of CWR and EWS. The project will support the collection of field information that will be carried out by the professionals hired for this purpose and the brigade teams and with the technological equipment for the collection and analysis of data collected for the CWR and EWS inventory. Workshops will be held to validate the CWR and EWS inventories and the information collected, with the community, experts on the subject, and local officials.

The CWR and EWS information generated in and around the protected areas and in the Amazonian and Andean chakras will respect the approach of ancestral agricultural practices, protecting the traditional knowledge that surrounds them. For this, an analysis of the cultural landscape associated with the species prioritized by the project will be carried out with the support of local producers. In addition to the implementing partners of the project, this product will be coordinated with SENADI to guarantee the rights over ancestral knowledge related to the chakras that local communities and indigenous peoples and nationalities have.

Output 1.1.3: In situ conservation areas and sustainable use of CWR and EWS defined, according to zoning of protected areas and in private areas

The characterization and inventory of the CWR and EWS will be the basis for carrying out an ecogeographical study within the Amazonian and Andean chakras that are part of the GIAHS areas, the same ones that are found both in buffer zones and within protected areas. This is a *process by which ecological, geographic and taxonomic information is collected and synthesized* (Hunter and Heywood, 2011). The results of this study will be fundamental for the determination of the in situ conservation sites of three prioritized species.

The ecogeographic study will use combined methodologies that will include criteria based on local knowledge; a theoretical geographic distribution analysis of the target CWR and EWS species; satellite image analysis and processing; and information gathering in the field with the help of specialized

equipment and tools such as differential GPS and drones with multispectral cameras and the participation from the beginning of the personnel of the protected areas. Because a comprehensive survey of these species may take too long, relative to the duration of this project, distribution information, as well as taxonomic data, will be obtained from a variety of existing primary and secondary sources (Hunter and Heywood, 2011).

When the CWR and EWS in situ conservation sites are identified in the territory, coordination will be made with the administrators of the MAATE protected areas to ensure the monitoring of the species described and included in the area's zoning, as a relict and/or in the Annual Operational Management Plans (PGOA). In the same way, the project will promote that the sites identified around the protected areas, that is, in their buffer zones, be recognized and integrated into the territorial planning instruments that the GAD (PDOT and PUGS),who work in this territory with land use and management competencies, have.

From the beginning of the project activities, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes will be carried out, in accordance with current national legislation and with the GEF and FAO guidelines (see Annex J containing the analysis of indigenous peoples in the area of intervention of the project and the strategy to carry out FPIC), also considering the guidelines of Ministerial Agreement 116 and the National Consultation Guide for the Implementation of REDD+ Actions, and for the access, use and exploitation of traditional knowledge of indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio peoples and nationalities, the COESCCI constitutes the legal instrument that obliges third parties to obtain the "Free, prior and informed consent" of the legitimate holders of said knowledge (Article 73; Article 512; Article 529). With the aim of requiring the participation of the communities and their inhabitants during the collection of information in their chakras and adjoining areas and requesting access, use and utilization of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and nationalities.

The 1000 ha of in situ conservation of CWR and EWS in private areas correspond to the chakras, GIAHS sites and properties of the project participants, as well as polygons inserted in communal areas that are not necessarily officially categorized as private reserves by the environmental authority.

Outcome 1.2: Strengthening and implementation of the regulatory framework and information on in situ conservation of CWR and EWS.

Indicator: The institutions involved apply the new skills acquired for in situ conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, measured by the increase in the score with respect to the baseline of the GEF Capacity Tracking Tool adapted to the theme of the legal and information framework, applied at the beginning of the project, at the mid-term and at the end.

Baseline: Capacity monitoring tool applied at the start of the project to the selected institutions. Baseline scores and goals defined and validated in the Start-up Workshop.

Goal: 20% improvement with respect to the baseline achieved according to goals established at the beginning of the project.

Output 1.2.1: Secondary regulations for in situ conservation, sustainable use of CWRs and EWS, generated and/or updated within the scope of the MAATE and MAG-INIAP

The project will provide technical assistance to develop proposals for secondary regulations that complement the legal framework. For this, an analysis of the current regulations will be carried out to determine legal gaps and options to generate new secondary regulations for the definition and management of conservation sites.

Among the gaps that will be analyzed include, for example: (1) the procedures for the zoning of protected areas, not including CWR and EWS and in the zoning process, methodologies that are not established for identifying species to locate them geographically; (2) the lack of technical/legal mechanisms at the GAD level that guarantee the conservation of native plant cover in the buffer zones of the SNAP, nor of the CWR and EWS; (3) permits have been granted for the production, commercialization, sale and export of products derived from wild species, however there are still existing legal loopholes; (4) lack of clarity in terms of responsibilities between the MAATE and the MAG regarding the production, marketing, sale, and export of products derived from wild species; (5) lack of recognition mechanisms for products derived from CWR and EWS.

The proposals for regulations will be created in a participatory manner with both the community and the institutions involved, and, depending on the nature of the created regulation, it will be presented to the corresponding institution for its analysis, approval and officialization. The project will carry out the respective follow-up and political influence on said process.

Output 1.2.2: Development of protocol for digital, geographic and statistical monitoring of the in situ conservation status of priority CWR and EWS.

The protocol will be based on a baseline of information structured in a technical and scientific manner; and will include the steps to follow to maintain updated data on the state of conservation of the CWR and EWS through digital, geographic and statistical monitoring.

A monitoring protocol will be developed and agreed upon that will have a community approach to guarantee long-term monitoring, due to the interest that local producers would have in knowing the conservation status of the wild relatives of the products they market. The responsibility for monitoring and the procedures to follow will be detailed in the protocol, based on the scope of competence of each of the related entities, including local producers. For example, for CWR and EWS in situ conservation sites within protected areas, monitoring should be coordinated with MAATE and for the same sites, around protected areas, it should be coordinated with INIAP and GAD. Likewise, it is expected that the academy will play a very important role in the generation of the baseline and local producers in the permanent monitoring that guarantees the sustainability of this result.

Output 1.2.3: Development of CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information system.

Through the Unique System of Environmental Information - SUIA, the MAATE manages the different systems and platforms. There are a total of 6 systems/tools related to the generation, use and publication of information: (I) Interactive Map, (II) National System of Environmental Indicators, (III) National System of Protected Areas of Ecuador, (IV) Biodiversity Information System, (V) Forest Administration System Early Warning System and (VI) SMART The information system managed by the environmental authority regarding the conservation of biodiversity in the country is general and does not include specific information on CWR and EWS.

The design of the information module will take into account the requirements for its incorporation into the MAATE information system, including, among others, the needs for technological equipment (computers, servers, interfaces), the needs of adjustments in the existing database, change of interface, and other aspects of a computer nature, as well as the personnel required for the digitization of the information collected in the field. Once the module has been developed, operational tests will be carried out based on the collection of information in situ and that will be fed to the module for the generation of reports, their validation and subsequent start-up.

The information generated will complement the information systems that MAATE currently has, as well as links with other official platforms related to the project, such as the BioWiki platform on biodiversity, created by MAATE and INABIO so that public institutions, companies, universities, producers, entrepreneurs, researchers and other actors in the bioeconomy, have a useful knowledge base on the attributes, conservation status, uses, applications and distribution of existing species in Ecuador.

Outcome 1.3: Capacities of national institutions and local governments strengthened for in situ conservation, use, utilization, management and reporting of CWR and EWS.

Indicator: Increase in the management effectiveness score of four protected areas (PA) measured by a monitoring tool (METT) applied at mid-term and end

Baseline: Baseline: i) Sumaco-Napo Galeras National Park: 58; ii) Cotacachi National Park: 60; iii) Llanganates National Park: 61; iv) Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve: 56

Goal: i) Sumaco-Napo Galeras National Park: 63; ii) Cotacachi National Park: 61; iii) Llanganates National Park: 65; iv) Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve: 60

Output 1.3.1: Strategic plan for the in situ conservation of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, which includes a methodological proposal for the construction of the Red Book of agrobiodiversity and its wild relatives in Ecuador, presented as contributions for the updating of the National Strategy for biodiversity

This product will seek to develop a strategic plan for the conservation of the CWR and EWS. Through work with species and pilot sites in two provinces, it will generate inputs to measure the status of this type of biodiversity in Ecuador. It will work with competent entities to define the mission and vision at the national level and establish the national goals and objectives for the conservation of CWR and EWS; the conservation strategies that should be considered, as well as the most appropriate strategies for their sustainable use and utilization; and the roles and responsibilities of the public and private actors involved. The preparation of this document will be participatory, with the inclusion of representatives of competent public entities, private entities, academia, smallholder farmers organizations and indigenous groups. A socialization event of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS will be held, and it will be part of the educational materials.

Likewise, this product will produce a methodological proposal for the construction of the Red Book of Agrobiodiversity and its Wild Relatives in Ecuador, which will have among its objectives, knowing and disseminating the different degrees of threat and pressure that CWR and EWS have in Ecuador.

The formulation of the Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWRs and EWSs will enable the country to have sufficient inputs so that the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS are included as part of the updating of the national biodiversity strategy, as well as for the Red Book. In the construction of these products, the opinions, experiences and points of view of women and indigenous peoples will be considered due to the high role they have played in in situ conservation. In this way, the CWR and EWS conservation plan will become a collective construction effort that guides and generates guidelines based on the most successful experiences in the country and other contexts.

Output 1.3.2: Establishment of **r**egional exchange network on experiences of creation of reserves and in situ management of CWR and EWS (triangular cooperation).

Two exchanges of experiences will be held, one at the national level and the other at the regional level. The planning and carrying out of the exchange at the national level will take into account, among others, experiences of INIAP and planned actions such as those of the Heifer Foundation with morti?o in Imbabura, and GIZ through its BioValor program in Napo with guayusa (*Ilex guayusa*) and vanilla, among other projects/programs related to the topic. The regional exchange will take place with Bolivia to learn about the results and lessons of the project "In situ Conservation of Wild Relatives of Crops through Information Management and its Application in the Field", financed by the GEF (Project #1259) as well as to know the conservation status of crop wild relatives that are the object of the project after its completion. The regional exchange of experiences will include not only aspects related to public institutions, and the participation and appropriation of the communities, but also the experiences and lessons learned from in situ conservation by local populations and communities. The local exchange will emphasize the identification of critical issues and problems encountered in the process and the search for solutions, and assignment of responsibilities, in order to manage them at the local and inter-institutional level.

Output 1.3.3: Training of technicians from the MAATE, from the Department of Plant Genetic Resources of MAG-INIAP, and from the Environmental Directorates of GAD.

In Ecuador, few specific training initiatives have been developed regarding the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in situ. Officials from the institutions involved have received training processes on conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, particularly from CWR and EWS. Therefore, there is no training program in a continuous, consensual and articulated manner among the institutions involved in the processes of conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS.

The project, through this product, will strengthen the capacities of the technical teams of the competent entities in relation to in situ conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS. This training process will be coordinated between the project and the different public entities such as the MAG, the MAATE, the MAG-INIAP and the GADs in order to optimize or reactivate the use of existing training platforms and spaces such as the MAATE Green Classroom.

The project will identify and propose, based on the demands for strengthening, the specific training topics, their contents and pedagogical methodologies, so that they can be incorporated into the different existing platforms, according to the target groups. In this way, the proposed capacity development will be integrated into the regular training programs carried out by the institutions, thus ensuring its best use and adoption. For the training to have the desired impact, the pedagogical materials designed will go through pedagogical mediation. The preparation of the curriculum will also be coordinated with INABIO and SENADI, which will contribute with issues related to the management of biodiversity and the protection of traditional knowledge, voluntary deposits, use of trademarks, respectively. The training content will include both the gender and intercultural perspective, considering that a large part of the country's biodiversity and agrobiodiversity is the result of conservation and management work historically carried out by women and indigenous peoples and nationalities.

The training will be carried out based on the capacity building program prepared and agreed upon. Through workshops and courses related to biodiversity management, emphasizing CWR and EWS, the training of a total of 100 officials from the MAATE of the Department of Phytogenetic Resources of the INIAP, and of the local GAD, as well as other key institutions participating in the project, is expected.

Component 2: Implementation of *in situ* conservation measures, use and sustainable utilization of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).

GEF support in this component will be aimed at implementing on the ground the capacities, methodologies, tools and regulations developed under Component 1, and build local capacities for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS. The regulations, methodologies and toolbox will be applied for the production of inventories, prioritization and determination of the conservation status of wild species, and for the creation of *in situ* conservation sites of CWR and EWS within the protected areas, and around them within Amazonian and Andean chakras in GIAHS areas. The guide to promote the sustainable use of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites, will directly support three production chains derived from the sustainable use of three species to be prioritized with

the institutions involved; and the digital, geographic and statistical monitoring of the conservation status of these wild species, in conjunction with the environmental authority and local communities, will allow the generation and continuous updating of support information for the systems managed by the environmental authority, INIAP and other institutions through different platforms. Support will be provided for the development of sustainable use and utilization plans for the three prioritized species, together with the development of recognition and promotion mechanisms for associated undertakings.

The component will work directly with the rural communities that are part of the project, providing training and disseminating information and educational materials, as well as providing technical support for the conservation, sustainable use and utilization of CWR and EWS, seeking to contribute to food security and the improvement of their livelihoods. The actions to be implemented by the project will incorporate a gender and intercultural approach.

Outcome 2.1: The areas of in situ conservation, use and utilization of prioritized CWR and EWS constitute demonstration scenarios and community learning for the conservation and sustainable use of local agrobiodiversity.

Indicator: Level of in situ conservation of the CWR and EWS in the managed areas reported by the information system.

Baseline: In Ecuador there are no defined sites for the conservation of CWR and EWS populations in situ (0 ha.)

Goals: 10% increase in the level of in situ conservation of prioritized CWR and EWS in the managed areas at the end of the project reported in the information system

Output 2.1.1: Management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS implemented and evaluated in Napo and Imbabura, based on the project's exit strategy and processes of community participation and training of men and women.

Based on the results of the evaluation, and through participatory workshops in 10 communities, a total of 10 management plans will be prepared for in situ conservation sites in GIAHS zones and in the buffer zones of protected areas. The development of management plans will be used as an experiential training tool (learning by doing) in order to expand the number of people, especially women, who strengthen their capacities on issues related to the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS. The implementation of the plans will be supported through materials and supplies for the implementation of the practices included in the plans. With GEF funds, the implementation of priority actions of the management plans will be supported, such as motivation and awareness towards the conservation of the CWR and EWS, including good practices of agrobiodiversity, chakra management, etc.

Output 2.1.2: Guide for the use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS based on voluntary guidelines and national regulations, and on the gender and cultural relevance approach.

This product will seek to incorporate the use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS in a document in order to avoid misuse or abuse in the use of biodiversity. As previously mentioned, the sustainable use of biodiversity is one that is carried out as a means of subsistence or self-consumption, and sustainable utilization is one that can economically influence the livelihoods of local people who live in and around protected areas, but protecting their wild relatives and ensuring a rate of natural replenishment and regeneration of wild edible species, without promoting monocultures or encouraging the exploitation of these species in the territory.

Within the framework of these concepts, the guide will be prepared with the support of the competent entities such as MAATE, INIAP, SENADI, Universities and INABIO and in a participatory manner through workshops, to guarantee the consideration of all aspects related to the respect for biological diversity, including: (1) the scope of the concept of sustainability; (2) the ecological roles of CWR and ESC within their native ecosystems and their influence on the provision of ecosystem services; (3) recognition of the intellectual property and ancestral knowledge of local people who use these species and that are part of the chakras and/or local cultural landscapes, and (4) equitable and fair access to the benefits derived from the sustainable utilization of biodiversity. The aforementioned support entities will ensure that the content of this guide is consistent with local and national regulations regarding biodiversity (CODA, RCODA, Agreements and resolutions of Local Governments), as well as international agreements to which the country is a party.

Finally, there will be a technical document for the use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS, which will also be part of the educational materials to be produced and disseminated by the project for the use of institutions in charge of conservation, GADs and local communities.

Output 2.1.3: Plans for the use and utilization of CWR and EWS approved and implemented, considering each of the links in the prioritized chains of the associative companies of Napo producers, in coordination with national incentives and the GADs.

The project will assist in the development of three plans for the sustainable use and utilization of prioritized CWR and EWS species. Three products derived from the prioritized species will be selected on which an evaluation of the critical nodes of the productive processes will be made to produce and approve actions of plans for the use and sustainable utilization of these species within the chakra or outside of it and support their implementation. It is important to emphasize that the support and strengthening of the productive chain of these products must guarantee the conservation of their wild relatives within the *in situ* conservation sites, strengthen the conservation of agrobiodiversity within the cultural landscape associated with the prioritized species, as well as related food sovereignty. With GEF funds, the implementation of priority actions foreseen in the plans for the use and utilization of three CWR and EWS will be supported under the figure of incentives and mechanisms to strengthen chains, which in most cases are under development, the mechanisms will be defined together with the local actors and the institutions participating in the project.

Outcome 2.2: Recognition and promotion of products preserved in situ by CWR and EWS.

Indicator: Number of direct beneficiaries of associative enterprises in Napo and Imbabura, who improve their productive activities by practicing the sustainable use of CWR and EWS to improve their livelihoods, of which 50% are women.

Baseline: 0

Goals: 1,200 beneficiaries (50% women and 50% men)

Indicator: Number of value chains in the province of Napo and Imbabura have the recognition and logo of differentiation for the sustainable use of CWR and EWS.

Baseline: 0

Goals: 2 value chains from the province of Napo and 1 from Imbabura

Output 2.2.1: Recognition and logo of differentiation for the products of the companies that apply plans for sustainable use and utilization and in situ conservation of CWR and EWS

For the implementation of this product, it will be important to know and understand the recognition mechanisms that can be applied to products derived from CWR and EWS. For example, in Napo, activities have been developed for the structuring and functionality of the Participatory Guarantee System (SPG) for the award of the Chakra seal, which is based on the application of standards and production and marketing guidelines aligned with the principles of the chakra system, and that are being fulfilled by the Napo bio-ventures for their differentiation in the market. An intermediate analysis and evaluation of the incentive strategies will be carried out to identify the pros and cons for their application according to the needs of conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS.

The relevance of using existing mechanisms, described in the previous paragraph, that can be adapted to products derived from CWR and EWS will be analyzed, or new mechanisms customized to the needs of this type of wild species should be generated. According to the critical nodes found in the production processes of the products derived from CWR and EWS, the most appropriate recognition mechanism(s) will be used, which could include, among others: the creation of a seal of conservation of wild relatives of commercialized products, the implementation of tax incentives for having crops within biodiversity conservation areas; financing schemes proposed by the Napo Provincial Sustainable Development Fund (FODESNA); prioritization of financing for this type of enterprise with competitive funds proposed by other projects, such as the Forest and Farm Facility; the BioValor program implemented by GIZ, among others.

With the local GAD, their predisposition to generate and implement acknowledgments of in situ conservation of CWR and EWS will also be explored. In this direction, among the closest

acknowledgments and with the greatest demand by women, it is important that the GADs support the holding of food fairs, seed fairs, culinary festivals, local festivities linked to agrobiodiversity. The accomplishment of this type of activities will contribute to position the importance of agrobiodiversity, as well as to value the role of the populations that conserve CWR and EWS.

Additionally, and in coordination with the local GADs, the formation and operation of schools of local knowledge will be encouraged, such as the school of "pajus" (people who concentrate wisdom in planting and collecting seeds) or guardians of agrobiodiversity, which imply direct recognition of the role played by women in the conservation of local agrobiodiversity.

Output 2.2.2: Generation of educational and communicative materials and mechanisms for the dissemination of the importance and positioning of the products of the companies maintained by CWR and EWS.

The project will develop educational and communication materials and mechanisms for CWR and EWS, considering two strategic aspects: (1) *in situ* conservation and (2) sustainable use and utilization. The first will emphasize the importance of conserving this type of wild species and the impact that its loss can cause at the local, national and global levels. The second will open the possibility that these species can be used in a sustainable way, in this sense, educational materials and mechanisms should be developed in such a way that they spread clear messages about their use and utilization, but respecting the associated cultural landscape that is around, and thus avoid misuse and/or overuse of species that are CWR and EWS.

In a complementary manner, with the implementation of this product, training materials will be prepared for community organizations that participate in the project, on specific topics such as, for example: (1) community protocols, (2) intellectual property rights, (3) protection of traditional knowledge, (4) ancestral agricultural practices, among others. For this activity, they will coordinate with SENADI to guarantee its content, as well as with other public or private initiatives that offer training to local residents in the same areas of work of the project. For example, within the Chakra Group, the topics, mechanisms and other aspects for assertive communication are being coordinated among its members, so the project implementers must be part of this group to guarantee complementarity between initiatives.

Similarly, among the dissemination and communication mechanisms of the project's actions, training events will be held focused on the local population linked to the chakra production system or the management of areas containing CWR and EWS, with an emphasis on women. It is expected that through the training processes, the actors involved learn about collective rights with emphasis on the rights related to the use of ancestral knowledge, in situ conservation, use and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, women's rights and property rights, in the perspective of contributing to the constitution of local populations empowered about their role in the conservation and use of biodiversity.

Component 3: Information monitoring, evaluation and dissemination system

The objective of Component 3 is to monitor and evaluate the progress of the project, the achievement of indicators, monitor compliance with safeguards and risk mitigation measures, and identify new measures to address unforeseen risks, and extract lessons learned (including success and failure) resulting from the implementation of the project that will be disseminated throughout Ecuador, the region and the rest of the world, and that will help projects to be implemented in similar regions. The GEF support will be used for M&E activities, including the monitoring of project progress and compliance with indicators, and final external evaluations, the development of a communication strategy and an advocacy plan for the sustainability of project results, the systematization of projects, the preparation and dissemination of actions of knowledge products aimed at integrating the gender approach, safeguards, and cultural relevance in the project.

Outcome 3.1: Knowledge management and M&E to report project results and lessons learned about in situ conservation of CWR and EWS to stakeholders and communities.

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Indicator: Results of the measurement of sustainability criteria that demonstrate comparatively, and at different times, the achievements of the project.

Baseline: N/A

Goal: 100% scope in achieving results. Proven Sustainability

Output 3.1.1. Establishing the baseline: TAPE tool

A baseline will be established to compare the progress and achievement of the project products and their results. This will be done based on the application of the FAO tool "Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation" (TAPE)[6][6], which allows the attainment of a multidimensional diagnosis and in a variety of contexts.

Output 3.1.2: Monitoring and evaluation of the project to achieve the results.

The project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy will be designed with the relevant actors (INIAP, MAATE, MAG), clearly defining the roles and responsibilities, as well as expected results, the expected time frames for their achievements and their confirmation through objective indicators and means of verification and monitoring of established safeguards. Annual work plans and corresponding budgets will also be developed based on the expected results and their respective progress, including the progress and milestones required for measurable achievements. To help in this process, the annual work plans will be articulated with annual progress indicators for each result. The M&E System will

record data disaggregated by gender, including, among others, the level of acceptance by women of the proposals and results of the projects, as well as the level of compliance with the activities and the chain of results, as well as the execution of the budget allocated for the incorporation and participation of women. To the extent that the project involves the active participation of indigenous peoples and women, and in accordance with the approach of the FPIC process, conceived as a recurring strategy, during the preliminary and execution phase, semiannual monitoring workshops or meetings are planned in which women and representatives of indigenous peoples participate in order to introduce adjustments or corrections in a timely manner.

The Project Execution Unit will be responsible for the implementation of the M&E plan, including the kick-off workshop; annual progress review workshops and preparation of the annual work plan and budget; monitor project activities and results and indicators as well as compliance with socio-environmental safeguards; risk monitoring and mitigation measures; the completion of the GEF Indicator Sheet in the mid-term and at the end of the project; monitoring of the gender action plan and the stakeholder participation plan. Also, the preparation of project progress reports, including the Project Progress Report (PPR) every six months and the Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR).

Output 3.1.3: Project evaluation

In accordance with the FAO evaluation policy, the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will carry out a final evaluation of the project, which will start within six months of the project closure date. Its objective will be to identify the achievements of the project, its sustainability and its actual or potential effects. It is also intended to indicate the future measures necessary to guarantee the continuity of the process developed through the project. FAO?s OED will carry out the evaluation in consultation with project and donor stakeholders, and will share with them the evaluation report, which is a public document.

Output 3.1.4: Developments and dissemination of results publications to stakeholders

The processes, experiences and lessons learned from the project will be systematized and publications will be prepared that will be shared with all those related and interested actors. Depending on the different audiences, information and key messages will be shared in digital formats, through the different digital platforms or websites of the partner institutions of the project. The publications may also include additional results that have been developed jointly during the implementation of the project, by the implementing partners. A visual or written document will also be prepared that systematizes the life stories of women who conserve agrobiodiversity in the intervention provinces. This material is conceived as a contribution to make visible the work carried out by women and thus contribute to its appreciation and recognition. Documents will also be prepared that contribute to the national reports on compliance with the goals of Aichi, Biodiversity, and conservation of protected areas.

With the actions described in the previous paragraph, other complementary actions developed by the project and the lessons learned, it is expected that the knowledge generated can be used, reused and shared without restrictions, since it has both the legal and technological characteristics to be accessed by anyone, at anytime and anywhere in the world. It will also strengthen the exchange of information and expertise among the actors involved, in order to improve the performance of the processes aimed at in situ conservation of CWR and EWS. Over time, this accumulation of experiences and learnings serves to build a shared knowledge base with the potential to facilitate the execution of work and accelerate innovation.

The project will develop a communication and knowledge management strategy that incorporates not only dissemination of the project's actions, but also includes and plays a leading role in knowledge management, impact on public policies and the sustainability of the project. The communication strategy will be clear and will define effective communication channels with the strategic partners that allow a deep, comprehensive, updated and frequent knowledge of the actions carried out, the results obtained and the problems and challenges addressed, in a way that promotes project appropriation strategies and contributes to the development of progress focused on CWR and EWS conservation results

Output 3.1.5: Dissemination and communication of the project's actions (corporate image, merchandising, campaigns, App, social networks, et al.)

The project will develop a comprehensive strategy for knowledge management and communication, and will have the assistance of a communication specialist for this purpose. A knowledge management plan will be developed, identifying the knowledge products to be generated, and the mechanisms for generating and disseminating knowledge throughout the project. Both the communication strategy and the knowledge management strategy will integrate a gender and intercultural approach that also contribute to the social sustainability of the project.

A communication strategy will also be developed to help influence public policies and other private and local initiatives that promote the sustainability, replicability, and scalability of the project's experiences and results. The strategy will include edu-communication instruments, links with the media, the management of websites and social networks, as well as the development of dissemination and awareness campaigns. Special attention will be given to ensuring that the materials and messages generated by the project internalize gender and intercultural approaches.

This activity will be coordinated with requests of the MAATE and all the communication directorates of the entities involved, particularly with the Integrated Ecological Transition System for Environment and Water (SITEAA, formerly SUIA), for the purpose of periodically disclosing disseminate the information, products and results of the project, and count on the participation of these requests in the follow-up of the process.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The project is consistent with the GEF criteria and is directly aligned with the Biodiversity Focal Area, specifically with objective BD 1-1: *Integrate biodiversity in different sectors, as well as within productive and marine landscapes*; through the point of entry *Sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources.*

The project will contribute to the strategic objective of GEF through the development of an enabling environment to consolidate the conservation, sustainable and resilient use and utilization of CWR and EWS in two biomes of global significance, intervening within the protected areas and outside them in the Andean and Amazonian chakras of the intervention areas. Component 1 will consolidate the national institutional framework and the necessary processes for the establishment of CWR and EWS reserves, while Component 2 will implement conservation, use and sustainable utilization measures through the protection and establishment of sites for the *in situ* conservation of CWR and EWS and in the conservation and management of farms *in situ* (Vavilov centers). In this way, global environmental benefits will be generated by maintaining the important wealth of diversity of CWR and EWS that is part of the heritage of global agrobiodiversity, and that constitute a basic source element for food security and livelihoods of rural and urban populations, and through replication and scaling to the rest of Ecuador.

5) Incremental/additional costs reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

GEF support constitutes a strategic, dynamic and highly incremental investment that will allow Ecuador to integrate, complement and strengthen the current political and regulatory framework and institutional capacities, for the development of a systematic and articulated process of conservation and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS, as a transcendental segment of biodiversity and a strategic pillar for the sustainability of local and regional food security programs. The project will generate synergies between MAATE and MAG from an intersectoral landscape and management perspective, by integrating areas under conservation or protected categories with agroecosystems rich in agrobiodiversity and their wild relatives.

In Component 1, the GEF investment will contribute to addressing barrier 1, complementing the regulations and technical procedures to establish national guidelines and the first conservation sites for CWR and EWS, both in protected areas and in other conservation spaces, as well as contributing to national policies on CWR and EWS.

In Component 2, the GEF investment will contribute to addressing barriers 2 and 3, specifically by generating sufficient information on the conservation status of CWRs and EWSs; the establishment and development of guidelines and practical procedures for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization

of CWR and EWS, based on the experiences and capacities achieved by the associative companies of producers in the areas of intervention of the project; mobilizing national and local incentives to strengthen compliance with agroecological and quality standards, including strategies to make visible the contribution of the sustainable management of value chains in the conservation of CWR and EWS for their access to special markets. The role of competencies and financial resources managed by the GADs will make it possible to define and complement technical support plans and the sustainability of incentives in the medium and long term.

In Component 3, the incremental financing from GEF will be aimed to the realization of the final evaluation, as well as the monitoring global environmental benefits, developing and disseminating knowledge management products; and the development of a strategy for communication and dissemination of information, key messages, as well as knowledge management, in order to share experiences and promote the use of successful lessons at the local, regional and national levels.

The co-financing resources, which reach a total of USD 6,036,928.45, include contributions in grant and in kind by the national and provincial governments; private sector; local organizations, civil society, and FAO as a GEF Agency. Considering the significant contributions of the co-financing partners of the project, the GEF resources, for a total value of USD 863,242, will be used, as planned, to develop the enabling environment that allows progress towards adequate conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS, thereby generating significant global environmental benefits. The financial resources of the GEF will be added to the investments currently underway by the project partners, and therefore the project is considered as fully incremental.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The project will allow, from the realization and development of local and demonstrative scenarios of sustainable management of CWR and EWS, to scale towards the generation of national policies, regulations and capacities, to complement the conservation systems of Ecuador's agrobiodiversity; establishing institutionalized processes, conservation areas and monitoring systems as inputs to contribute to the achievement of global environmental benefits.

Ecuador, being one of the countries with the greatest biodiversity in the world and being part of the centers of origin of cultivated plants, is home to a great wealth of diversity of CWR and EWS that is part of the heritage of global agrobiodiversity, a staple of food security and livelihoods for rural and urban populations. In this sense, the establishment of CWR and EWS i*n situ* conservation sites in the system of protected areas and in other areas of interest, represents an innovative process and mechanism to ensure the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity.

In particular, the main benefits expected for the global environment from the project are:

? 2,000 hectares defined for *in situ* conservation of CWR and EWS within protected areas (GEF Indicator 1.2)

? 1,000 hectares defined for *in situ* conservation of CWR and EWS in private areas (GEF Indicator 4.3)

? Increase in the management effectiveness score of protected areas measured by a monitoring tool (METT) applied at the mid-term and end: Cotacachi National Park: 60 to 61; Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve: 56 to 60. (GEF Indicator 1.2). The results obtained from the project are expected to also benefit other protected areas such as Sumaco-Napo-Galeras National Park and Llanganates National Park are expected to also benefit in their management, and will be reported in Terminal Evaluation.

? 1,200 beneficiaries (50% women and 50% men) sensitized and participating in the implementation of conservation practices and sustainable use and utilization of CWR and EWS; as well as approximately 120 persons from institutions - 50% of the technicians of MAATE, MAG-INIAP and the local GAD, of which at least 20% are women (GEF Indicator 11).

In addition to the scope of the noted indicators, the achievement of the outputs, outcomes and objectives of the project will contribute directly to the generation of the following co-benefits: development of value chains of innovative products of local associative companies; evaluation of the CWR and EWS based on the food supply and demand of smallholder farmer family farming; make visible and revalue the ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples and nationalities; establish spaces for regional exchange and training; among others.

Likewise, the project will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially Goal 2: *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,* in particular with targets 2.4: *By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality*, y 2.5: *By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed*. It will also contribute to Goal 15: *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss* and its target 15.1: *By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements*.

In addition, the project will contribute to Objective 5 *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* and its target 5.5 *Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life*.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up[7][7] ?

The project has been designed to remove the identified barriers, facilitating an enabling environment to advance towards the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS in Ecuador. In this way, socio-cultural, environmental and economic benefits will be generated for local and regional actors, thus guaranteeing the sustainability of the results and the replication of experiences and lessons learned, while reducing and reversing the risk of loss of agrobiodiversity inside and outside Ecuador's PAs complying with socio-environmental safeguards.

The two provinces of intervention form exceptional and particular biocultural zones, product of the harmonious interaction between the native peoples and nature, highlighting the development of cultural value systems, knowledge and unique social structures, which have allowed ancestral and contemporary processes of conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and agrobiodiversity. This constitutes an advantage that will be used by the project as a basis to ensure the sustainability of the results.

It is expected that, as of the third year of the project, the institutions, communities and actors involved will be in a position to give continuity to the activities undertaken by the project. The factors that will favor sustainability in its social, environmental, economic and capacity development dimensions are detailed below.

Social sustainability

The social sustainability of the project results will be achieved through sustainable management and conservation of traditional agricultural practices, as a mechanism of food sovereignty in Ecuador, and in a complementary way, the conservation of CWR and EWS will contribute to the security of crop production that could be affected by changing environments, at the same time to reduce and reverse the threats to biodiversity and whose benefits will lay the foundations for social sustainability through the sustainable and resilient management of the territory. The implementation of the project will include defining factors that ensure social sustainability.

In the preparation phase of the project, a gender analysis was carried out that made it possible to identify the degree of participation and roles of women in agricultural work and natural resource management, as well as gender gaps and barriers to participation. The project will promote the participation of women in all of its activities, while at the same time promoting greater sensitivity in relation to the problems that affect women producers in the countryside, between national and local public institutions, social organizations and various entities that will be linked to its implementation. This will include, among others: (1) ensuring technical assistance and training for women, (2) promoting that local governments facilitate adequate working conditions for women, for example, premises equipped for product and food fairs; (3) promote incentives aimed at women producers, as

well as the positioning of their products in the markets, (4) promote recognition and visibility of women's work, (5) promote participation in project actions and decisions, (6) monitoring will collect information disaggregated by gender, in order to monitor the participation of women and men; and (7) documentation of project lessons will pay particular attention to recording and publicizing the contribution and role of women in implemented activities (see Section 3 on gender equality and Annex J for further details).

Indigenous peoples are present in the area of intervention of the project and will also be beneficiaries of the execution of the project. The project will promote the participation of indigenous peoples through reflection sessions that will take place at least once a year during the life of the project, including, among others, the dialogue of knowledge and respect and appreciation of local identities. Likewise, for the design and implementation of activities, FPIC mechanisms are expected to be put in place, working with the community councils or committees which will be in charge of convening the community assembly. In this way, respect for the collective rights of indigenous peoples and the signing of agreements for the execution of the project will be guaranteed (see Annex J with the description of the FPIC strategy), also considering the guidelines of the Ministerial Agreement 116 and the National Consultation Guide for the Implementation of REDD+ Actions, and for the access, use and exploitation of traditional knowledge of indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio peoples and nationalities the COESCCI, which constitutes the legal instrument that obliges third parties to obtain the ?Free, prior and informed consent? of the legitimate holders of such knowledge (Art. 73; Art. 512; Art. 529).

The Results Framework in Annex A1 includes gender-sensitive indicators. Gender and cultural relevance considerations were reviewed in the Environmental and Social Analysis of the project.

Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability will be ensured through the development of regulations, methodologies and technical tools for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of priority CWR and EWS. The increase in knowledge through field work and CWR and EWS inventories to be carried out, the development of guides for sustainable use and utilization, together with the dialogue of knowledge and the respect and appreciation of local identities will contribute to environmental sustainability. The project will promote the strengthening of the capacities of women and men, contributing to their active participation and empowerment so that they can support monitoring, registration and conservation activities of the CWR and EWS in the field and give them continuity as well as the monitoring of environmental safeguards as a guarantee of environmental sustainability. The implementation of the use plans and good practices, with the support of the incentives that will be developed, will support the continuity of the interventions initiated, which will ensure environmental sustainability. The communication strategy will serve to create awareness about the importance of proper management of CWR and EWS for their conservation, use and sustainable utilization. All these factors will contribute to environmental sustainability, for the maintenance or improvement of livelihoods, productive means and other sources of income.

Financial and economic sustainability

The project will facilitate the design and application of incentives and will contribute to strengthening the skills of provincial and cantonal GADs, the strengthening of community associative enterprises that contemplate representative value chains and/or with a high degree of consolidation based on current processes of compliance with agroecological certification standards, good manufacturing practices (BPM), traceability and other quality standards, to which the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of the priority CWR and EWS will be added, which will allow them to innovate the offer towards special markets, and generate additional benefits to the producers associated with the associative companies. The addition of value to CWR and EWS products, based on compliance with environmental regulations for use and the application of quality standards in their processing, will allow the strengthening of green production technologies and the diversification of products offered in special markets, constituting an articulated strategy for productive reactivation in the face of the crisis caused by COVID 19 in the country.

Sustainability of developed capacities

The project will address two dimensions of capacity development according to the approach developed by FAO regarding sustainability: i) individuals (producers, members of their families and communities, women and indigenous peoples); and, ii) institutions (public and private, national and subnational). The interaction between local actors and national and local government institutions, and between institutions will also be addressed.

The project defines several strategies to ensure the sustainability of the capacities developed. On the one hand, the strengthening of the institutional and legal framework with the generation of the appropriate regulatory framework, methodologies and toolboxes, inventories, guide for sustainable use and utilization, guidelines for the management of CWR and EWS associated with the bioeconomy; the definition of conservation areas of the CWR and EWS in the protected areas and their buffer zones; and the development of information and monitoring systems for CWR and EWS. The monitoring will allow the generation of updated information for national and international reports on the state of conservation of the CWR and EWS, which will make it easier for the authorities and their allies to make decisions and continuously innovate strategies and actions for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of the CWR and EWS. This process is complemented by strengthening the capacities of the technical teams of the governing bodies of Ecuador (MAATE and INIAP/MAG) as well as local governments, along with work and dialogue in inter-institutional spaces such as the National Committee for Natural Heritage.

At the beneficiary level, the project will strengthen capacities through training actions, dissemination and exchange of experiences, and valuing and reinforcing traditional and ancestral knowledge, and making visible the role played by women. Among the strategies to be considered, for example, the construction of women's life stories that concentrate the wisdom of agricultural management and the uses of agrobiodiversity; the production of videos and other promotional materials in order to make visible that the agrobiodiversity that we have is based largely on the knowledge and wisdom that women have transmitted from generation to generation; and explore, together with women and communities, various alternatives to position their products in the markets in order to prioritize those that are best suited to local realities and contribute to their empowerment.

The communication strategy and knowledge management of the project will support the development of capacities across the entire project by creating awareness and helping to spread the key messages of the project in relation to the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS within the protected areas and outside in the Andean and Amazonian chakras. The systematization of lessons learned will also contribute to the sustainability of the capacities to be installed.

Appropriate technology and cost efficiency

The project design is cost-efficient, since it is based on baseline initiatives, as well as existing national and local policies and regulations, competencies and infrastructures. The technical feasibility is based on the presence in the areas of intervention of entities with technical capacity for the transfer of technologies and innovations, among them, the MAATE, the MAG-INIAP, the GADs and other actors, who also have previous experience in the implementation of projects financed by GEF and in the formation of strategic alliances between national and local actors.

During project preparation, a number of complementary and synergistic strategies and methodologies have been identified as a cost-effective way to remove barriers and address threats to global environmental benefits. These strategies and methodologies are detailed below:

? Supporting producers with culturally adapted and gender-sensitive technical assistance, the participation of youth, indigenous peoples and women, and the promotion of work and decent employment will promote local sustainability and improve the prospects for the sustainability of livelihoods.

? The promotion of good practices of conservation and sustainable utilization of the CWR and EWS within the framework of the dialogue of wisdom and ancestral knowledge, accompanied by the proposed incentives, will ensure success and also the potential for replication to promote changes in the behavior of the beneficiaries towards sustainability.

? The training and technical assistance methodologies currently in use and that are known and accepted by both technicians and producers will be used, and that will contribute to the appropriation of good practices as well as the results of the project in the field.

? Existing experience in multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration at the national and local levels will be leveraged by the project, enhancing synergies, avoiding duplication of efforts, and reducing implementation costs. The participation of the key actors will ensure that the decision-making and the execution of the project will be aligned with the development priorities and national and local planning tools.

? The training and awareness of the beneficiaries will contribute to the sustainable use and utilization, to the application of appropriate technologies, and to an increase in the sustainability of the CWR and EWS. The training of technical personnel of the institutions and the awareness of national and local authorities will help ensure the continuity of direct assistance to beneficiaries.

? The exchange and dissemination of experiences will contribute to learning and dissemination of information and experiences, contributing to its scaling. The systematization of experiences and lessons learned available to the project partners and the different actors will also contribute to a cost-efficient replication of the project results throughout the country.

Innovation and replicability

The project is highly innovative for the conservation processes in Ecuador, since it constitutes the first initiative to generate the regulatory framework, institutional capacities and processes to define CWR and EWS in situ conservation sites, both in protected areas and other important sites (landscape management approach). In addition, it will establish the development of guidelines and the application of the first measures for the sustainable use and utilization of prioritized CWR and EWS, through the establishment of inter-institutional platforms for coordination and management of incentives, and under the leadership and experience of representative companies of local community organizations of Napo and Imbabura; allowing a more horizontal approach in biodiversity conservation processes.

The project's replicability potential is high, given its complementarity with policies and regulations, as described in Section 1.a Project Description ? Baseline Scenario. The provinces of intervention present important biophysical conditions and institutional and socioeconomic processes, which position them as demonstrative scenarios to expand the processes of conservation of wild and cultivated diversity to other provinces and regions of Ecuador.

The project will build on experiences that are being worked on from the GAD competencies, which are strengthening the processes and experiences of agrobiodiversity management, with activities such as seed fairs, agrotourism and community tourism, the development of spaces to stimulate short circuits for the exchange of agricultural products, the positioning of bio-companies with value-added products marketed in special markets at the national and international levels. These types of actions are also implemented in other areas, so that the replication of the added value of the project can be scaled to the rest of the country.

The project will promote the dissemination and exchange of experiences through exchange activities to facilitate the introduction and replication of cost-efficient approaches and practices for the adequate management of CWR and EWS. The systematization of experiences and lessons learned will serve to promote the replication of the project results at a national and international level. The FAO Representation in Ecuador will disseminate information on the results and lessons learned with other FAO projects in the country, and through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, with other countries in the region with similar characteristics, challenges and opportunities.

8) Summary of changes in alignment with the project design from the original PIF

The main changes with respect to the PIF refer to adjustments in the wording, combination of products for a better organization of the intervention logic and its coherence. These changes do not imply a modification in the objective, intentions and scope of the PIF.

Table 1 ? Summary of project design changes

Change	PIF	Proposed change in the PRODOC
Change in the General Objective		
In situ conservation is specified	**Objective:** Strengthen institutional systems for the implementation and compliance of measures for the registration, conservation, use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, as a complementary scope for the incorporation of CWR and EWS in local, national plans and strategies and global conservation measures for agrobiodiversity, and its contribution to improving the quality of life of the rural population	**Objective:** Strengthen institutional systems for the implementation and compliance with measures for the registration, in situ conservation measures and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, as a complementary area for the incorporation of CWR and EWS in local, national plans and strategies and global measures for the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its contribution to improving the quality of life of rural populations
Changes in components, results and products		
Component: In situ conservation is specified	**Component 1. Improved institutional framework for the definition of conservation areas for crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).**	**Component 1. Improved institutional framework for the definition of in situ conservation areas for crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).**
In situ conservation is specified	1.1 CWR and EWS are identified and conserved in the pilot sites of the Amazon (Napo) and the northern highlands (Imbabura), using as a basis for analysis, the roles and priorities of use and conservation of men and women in the conservation areas and pilot sites.	1.1 CWR and EWS are identified and conserved in situ in the pilot sites of the Amazon (Napo) and the northern highlands (Imbabura), using as a basis for analysis, the roles and priorities of use and conservation of men and women in the conservation areas and pilot sites.

Change	PIF	Proposed change in the PRODOC
In situ conservation is specified	1.1.1 Methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS developed, based on the Voluntary Guidelines of the Commission on Genetic Resources, the gender and cultural belonging approach, and national circumstances.	1.1.1 Methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS developed, based on the Voluntary Guidelines of the Commission on Genetic Resources, the gender and cultural belonging approach, and national circumstances.
In situ conservation is specified	1.1.2 Inventory and conservation status of priority wild species, for the two developed pilot in situ areas.	1.1.2 Inventory and in situ conservation status of priority wild species, for the two developed pilot in situ areas.
In situ conservation is specified	1.1.3 Definition of conservation areas and sustainable use of CWR and ESW, according to zoning of protected areas and in private areas	1.1.3 Definition of in situ conservation areas and sustainable use of CWR and ESW, according to zoning of protected areas and in private areas
In situ conservation is specified	1.2 Strengthening and implementation of the regulatory framework and information on conservation of CWR and EWS.	1.2 Strengthening and implementation of the regulatory framework and information on in situ conservation of CWR and EWS.
In situ conservation is specified. The institution is specified as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP) as a single actor	1.2.1 Secondary regulations for conservation, sustainable use of CWR and EWS, generated and/or updated within the scope of the MAATE and MAG	1.2.1 Secondary regulations for in situ conservation, sustainable use of CWR and EWS, generated and/or updated within the scope of the MAATE and MAG-INIAP
In situ conservation is specified	1.2.2 Development of protocol for digital, geographic and statistical monitoring of the conservation status of priority CWR and EWS.	1.2.2 Development of protocol for digital, geographic and statistical monitoring of the in situ conservation status of priority CWR and EWS.

Change	PIF	Proposed change in the PRODOC
In situ conservation is specified	1.2.3 Development of CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information system.	1.2.3 Development of CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information system.
In situ conservation is specified	1.3. Capacities of national institutions and local governments strengthened for conservation, use, utilization, management and reporting of CWR and EWS.	1.3. Capacities of national institutions and local governments strengthened for in situ conservation, use, utilization, management and reporting of CWR and EWS.
Due to the horizon of the project, the National Biodiversity Strategy will still be in force, therefore, the preparation of a National Plan for in situ Conservation of the CWR and EWS is proposed, that contributes inputs to the update of the Strategy and the construction of the Red Book of agrobiodiversity of Ecuador	1.3.1. National Biodiversity Strategy incorporates guidelines for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS	1.3.1 Strategic plan for the in situ conservation of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, which includes a methodological proposal for the construction of the Red Book of agrobiodiversity and its wild relatives in Ecuador, presented as contributions for the updating of the National Strategy for biodiversity
In situ conservation is specified	1.3.2. Establishment of regional exchange network on experiences of creation of reserves and management of CWR and EWS (triangular cooperation).	1.3.2. Establishment of regional exchange network on experiences of creation of reserves and in situ management of CWR and EWS (triangular cooperation).
The original approach of the PIF was adjusted to the current context (for example, there are no longer Aichi targets) and it is considered appropriate to incorporate it as part of the output 1.3.1	1.3.3. Report on the processes and products of the project, through the national report on biodiversity related to Aichi target 13 (CWR and EWS).	
The numbering is adjusted. The institution is specified as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock MAG and the National Institute of Agricultural Research INIAP as a single actor	1.3.4. Technicians from the MAAE, the Department of Phytogenetic Resources of the INIAP, and the Environmental Directorates of the GAD, trained.	1.3.3. Training of technicians from the MAATE, from the Department of Phytogenetic Resources of MAG-INIAP, and from the Environmental Directorates of GAD.

Change	PIF	Proposed change in the PRODOC
No change	**Component 2. Implementation of in situ conservation measures and sustainable use of CWR and EWS.**	**Component 2. Implementation of in situ conservation measures and sustainable use of CWR and EWS.**
In situ conservation is specified	2.1. The areas of conservation, use and utilization of prioritized CWR and EWS constitute demonstration scenarios and community learning for the conservation and sustainable use of local agrobiodiversity.	2.1. The areas of in situ conservation, use and utilization of prioritized CWR and EWS constitute demonstration scenarios and community learning for the conservation and sustainable use of local agrobiodiversity.
In situ conservation is specified	2.1.1. Management plans for conservation areas of CWR and EWS implemented and evaluated in Napo and Imbabura, based on the project's exit strategy and processes of community participation and training of men and women.	2.1.1. Management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS implemented and evaluated in Napo and Imbabura, based on the project's exit strategy and processes of community participation and training of men and women.
In situ conservation is specified	2.2.1 Recognition and logo of differentiation for the products of the companies that apply plans for sustainable use and utilization and conservation of CWR and EWS	2.2.1 Recognition and logo of differentiation for the products of the companies that apply plans for sustainable use and utilization and in situ conservation of CWR and EWS
Numbering is corrected	2.2.3. Generation of educational and communicative materials and mechanisms for the dissemination of the importance and positioning of the products of the companies maintained by CWR and EWS.	2.2.2. Generation of educational and communicative materials and mechanisms for the dissemination of the importance and positioning of the products of the companies maintained by CWR and EWS.
No change	**Component 3. System of information monitoring, evaluation and dissemination**	**Component 3. System of information monitoring, evaluation and dissemination**

Change	PIF	Proposed change in the PRODOC
Numbering is corrected	3.1.3. Establishing the baseline: TAPE tool	3.1.1. Establishing the baseline: TAPE tool
Numbering is corrected	3.1.3. Developments and dissemination of results publications to stakeholders	3.1.4. Developments and dissemination of results publications to stakeholders
Indicator changes		
	Outcome 1.2 Results	**Outcome 1.2 Results**
The original indicator in the PIF, considering it at a product level, is transferred to product 1.2.1 and a new indicator is proposed at the result level.	Indicator: 2 secondary regulations incorporate the procedures for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS in situ	Indicator: The institutions involved apply the new skills acquired for in situ conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, measured by the increase in the score with respect to the baseline of the GEF Capacity Tracking Tool adapted to the theme of the legal and information framework, applied at the beginning of the project, at the mid-term, and at the end
The original indicator in the PIF for considering it at product level is transferred to product 1.2.3	Indicator: A digital, geographic and statistical information system to monitor the state of conservation of the CWR and EWS of national application	
Co-financing		

Change	PIF	Proposed change in the PRODOC
Update the ?Invested Mobilized?	The MAAE is executing a project of ?Promotion of financial instruments and land use planning for the reduction of emissions and deforestation? financed by the Green Climate Fund with a high synergy potential in component 2 ?Transition to sustainable production system? with an amount of $1,200,000?. Also, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) is financing a ?Program for the Amazon Productive Transformation and Sustainable Agro-productive Reconversion in the Amazon?, with public resources. ($1,200,000 component 2, through the provision of incentives framed in the integral productive planning of each farm. Both initiatives contemplate the definition of conservation areas, institutional strengthening, conservation of agrobiodiversity and development of innovative associative ventures. FAO Ecuador executes related and complementary projects, such as the Mechanism for Forests and Farms (approximately 100,000 USD from component especially from the Component 2 ?Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets and financing, through gender equitable value chains produced by new capacities to offer sustainable business incubation systems?). Also, the Project ?Implementation of conservation, restoration and sustainable land management mechanisms in forest and productive landscapes?), financed by European Union which contemplate the strengthening of associative enterprises, definition of conservation agreements and the conservation of agrobiodiversity. Co-financing of this project will be approximately USD 200,000 USD from component 2.	FAO Ecuador executes related and complementary projects, such as the Mechanism for Forests and Farms (approximately 300,000 USD from component especially from the Component 2 ?Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets and financing, through gender equitable value chains produced by new capacities to offer sustainable business incubation systems?). In addition, the Project Implementation of mechanisms for conservation, restoration and sustainable management of land in forests and productive landscapes, financed by the European Union, which contemplates the strengthening of associative companies, definition of conservation agreements and conservation of agrobiodiversity. The co-financing of this project will be approximately USD 200,000 USD from component 2. Access to markets and financing, through equitable gender value chains produced by new capacities to offer sustainable business incubation systems.

Change	PIF		Proposed change in the PRODOC	
Budget changes				
Components	**GEF**	**Co-financing**	**GEF**	**Co-financing**
Component 1	430,000.00	2,605,500.00	240,732.00	3,255,229.76
Component 2	312,000.00	1,864,600.00	380,858,00	2,246,568.93
Component 3	80,135.00	398,948.00	163,736.00	335,129.76
Subtotal	822,135.00	4,869,048.00	785,326.00	5,836,928,45
PMC	41,107.00	280,952.00	77,916.00	200,000.00
Total	**863,242.00**	**5,150,000.00**	**863,242.00**	**6,036,928.45**

[1] The climate risk analysis carried out by the *Program for Increased Resilience against Climate Change through the Protection and Sustainable Use of Fragile Ecosystems (ProCambio II)* of the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), determined that in all the parameters proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Amazon chakra has medium indicators, while the indicators that measure adaptive capacity were classified as low.

[2] ?The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIASH) are agroecosystems inhabited by communities that live in an intrinsic relationship with their territory. These ever-evolving sites are resilient systems characterized by remarkable agricultural biodiversity, traditional knowledge, invaluable cultures and landscapes, sustainably managed by farmers, herders, fishers and forest peoples in a way that contributes to their livelihoods and food security?. https://www.fao.org/giahs/en/

[3] (I) Interactive map, (II) National System of Environmental Indicators, (III) National System of Protected Areas of Ecuador, (IV) Biodiversity Information System, (V) Forest Administration System Early Warning System y (VI) SMART

[4] Official Registry Supplement 983 of April 12, 2017.

[5] Organic Code of the Environment, 2017, Art. 30.- Objectives of the State. The objectives of the State related to biodiversity are: 1. Conserve and use biodiversity in a sustainable way; 2. Maintain the structure, composition and functioning of ecosystems, in such a way that their resilience capacity and the possibility of generating environmental goods and services are guaranteed.; 3. Establish and implement biosafety standards and others necessary for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity and its components, as well as for the prevention of pollution, loss and degradation of terrestrial, insular, oceanic, marine, marine-coastal and aquatic ecosystems.; 4. Regulate access to biological resources, as well as their management, utilization and sustainable use; 5. Protect genetic resources and their derivatives and prevent their misappropriation; 6. Regulate and encourage the participation of individuals, communes, communities, peoples and nationalities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as in the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources; 7. Adopt a comprehensive and systemic approach that considers the social, economic, and environmental aspects for the conservation and sustainable use of hydrographic basins and water resources, in coordination with the Single Water Authority; 8. Promote scientific research, the development and transfer of technologies, education and innovation, the exchange of information and the strengthening of capacities related to biodiversity and its products, to promote the generation of bioknowledge; 9. Contribute to the socioeconomic development of the country and the strengthening of the popular and supportive economy, based on the conservation and sustainable use of the components and of biodiversity and by promoting biotrade initiatives and other; 10. Protect and recover the traditional, collective and ancestral knowledge of the communes, communities, towns and nationalities associated with biodiversity, and incorporate said knowledge and knowledge in the management of public policies related to biodiversity, and; 11. Incorporate sustainability criteria of the natural heritage in the planning and execution of land use plans, ground use plans and development models, at all levels of government.

[6] https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7407en/

[7] System-wide capacity development (CD) is essential to achieve more sustainable, country-driven and transformational results at scale as deepening country ownership, commitment and mutually accountability. Incorporating system-wide CD means empowering people, strengthening organizations

and institutions as well as enhancing the enabling policy environment interdependently and based on inclusive assessment of country needs and priorities.

- Country ownership, commitment and mutual accountability: Explain how the policy environment and the capacities of organizations, institutions and individuals involved will contribute to an enabling environment to achieve sustainable change

- Based on a participatory capacity assessment across people, organizations, institutions and the enabling policy environment, describe what system-wide capacities are likely to exist (within project, project partners and project context) to implement the project and contribute to effective management for results and mitigation of risks.

- Describe the project?s exit / sustainability strategy and related handover mechanism as appropriate.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The project will intervene in the provinces of Napo and Imbabura. These two provinces present important biophysical constraints and institutional and socioeconomic processes, which position them as demonstrative scenarios to expand the processes of conservation of wild and cultivated diversity to other provinces and regions of Ecuador. Both provinces are located in biomes of global importance (Amazonian and Andean respectively), which is why they are viewed as important expanses with protected areas. Likewise, the two provinces form exceptional and special biocultural zones, a product of the harmonious interaction between the native peoples and nature, highlighting the development of cultural value systems, knowledge and unique social structures, which have allowed ancestral and contemporary processes of conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and agrobiodiversity, such as the Andean chakra and Amazon chakra systems and which are currently in a process of naming GIAHS areas. At an institutional and governance level, these provinces have the advantage that they have been working on the preparation of plans and projects applied from the GAD proficiencies, which are strengthening the processes and experiences of agrobiodiversity management, highlighting the seed fairs, agrotourism and community tourism, the development of spaces to stimulate short circuits for the exchange of agricultural products, the positioning of bio-businesses with value-added products sold in special markets at the national and international level.

In the province of Napo, the areas of direct intervention include the cantons of Archidona, Tena and Arosemena Tola. 59,797 inhabitants live in these three cantons, which corresponds to 57.67% of the provincial population, with a higher proportion of men than women: 51.46% and 48.54%, respectively. Of this population, 53.34% self-identify as belonging to indigenous nationalities and peoples, equivalent to 31,897 people. The project will have interventions in the Sumaco - Napo Galeras National Park, the Colonso Chalupas Biological Reserve and the Llanganates National Park, and in Amazon chakras in the process of being recognized as GIAHS sites.

In the province of Imbabura, the intervention area includes the Cotacachi canton, Imantag and Quiroga parishes. The population living in these two parishes amounts to 11,395 inhabitants, 50.7% men and 49.3% women, which represents 36.6% of the total population of the Cotacachi canton and 2.9% of the province of Imbabura. In these two parishes, about 6 out of 10 people (57.74%) self-identify as the Kichwa indigenous population. The project will have interventions in the Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve in Imbabura and in Andean chakras in the process of being recognized as GIAHS sites.

A detailed description of the intervention areas is included in the Gender and Indigenous Peoples Report in Annex J. Figure 2 shows the location of the intervention areas. Annex E includes maps with additional information on the areas of intervention.

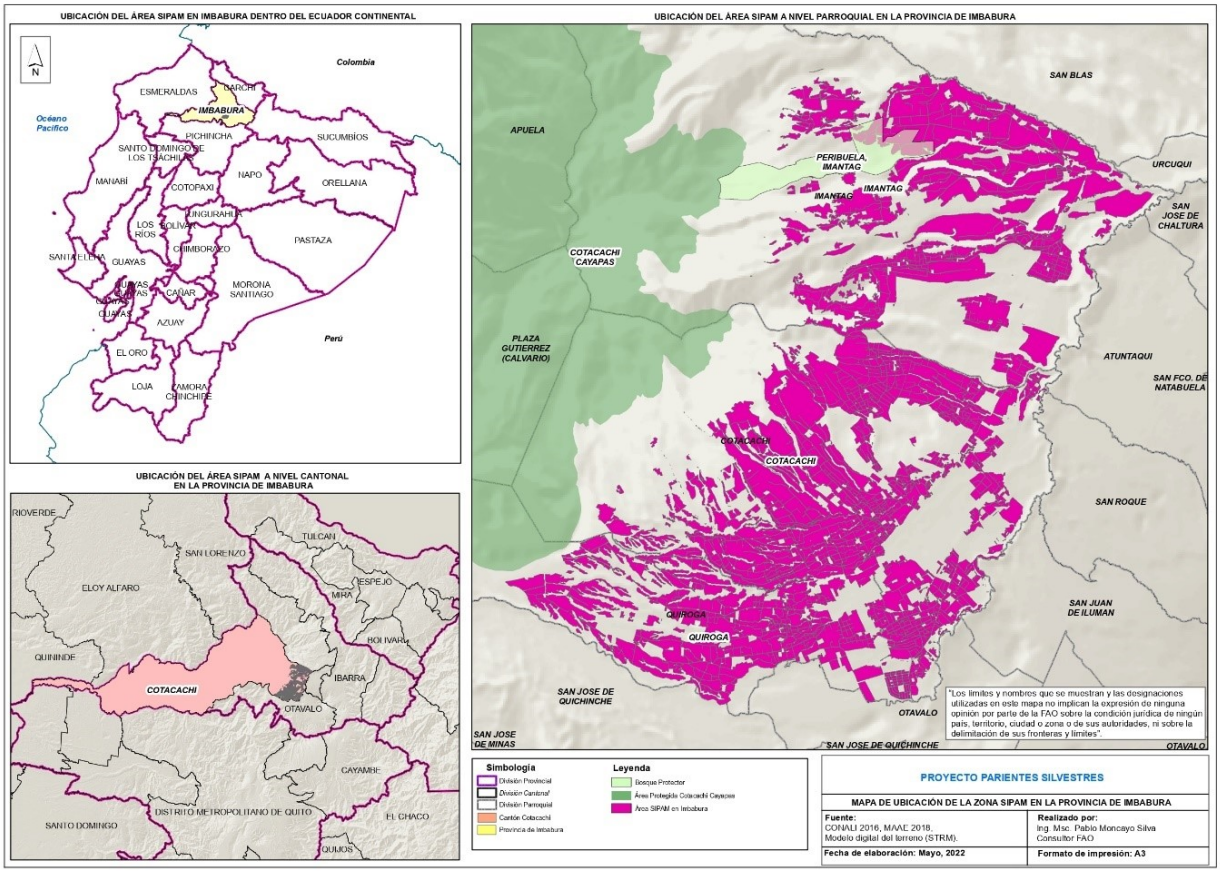

Figure 2a ? Location map of intervention areas in the province of Imbabura

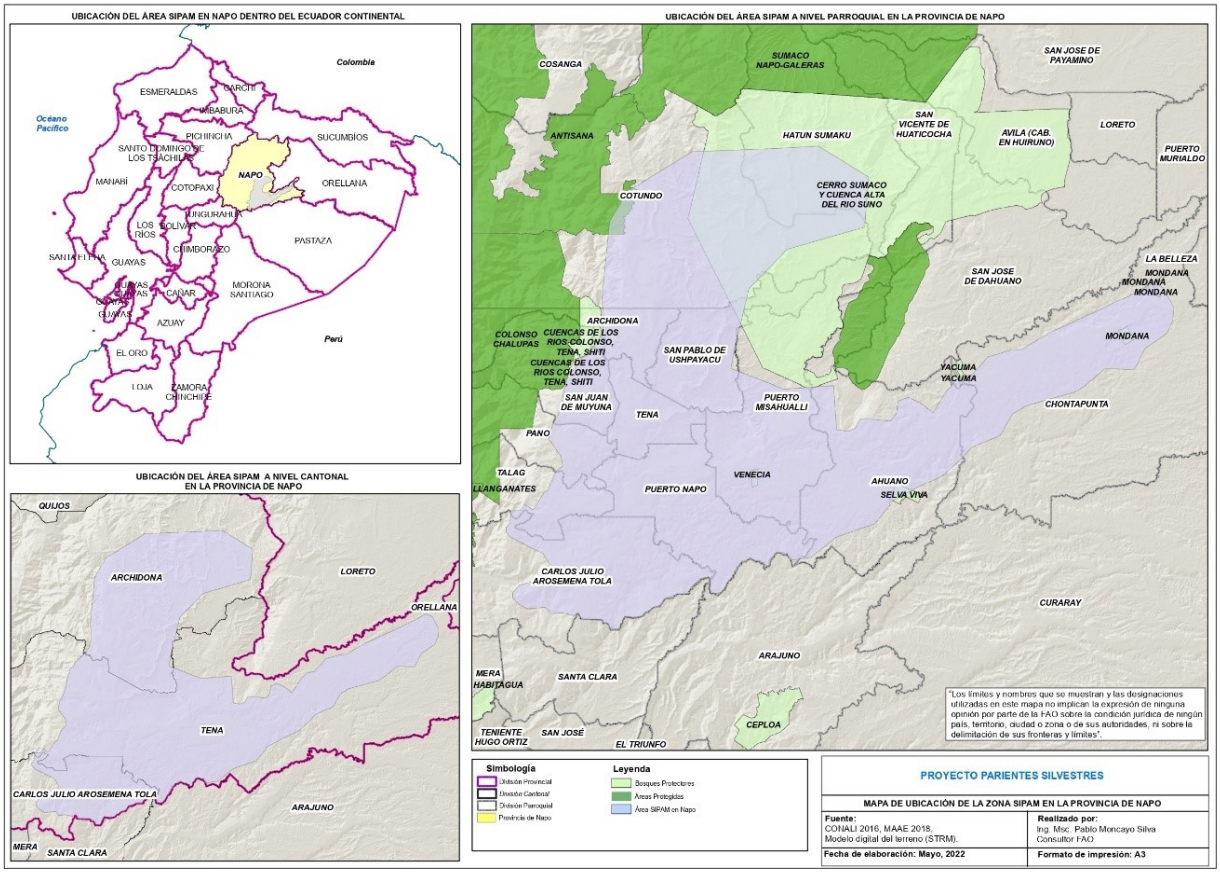

Figure 2b ? Location map of intervention areas in the province of Napo

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

NA

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder participation during the design phase of the project

Throughout the design process of this project, several consultations were carried out during February and March of 2022. A start-up workshop was held in the first week of February in which officials of MAATE and INIAP participated. Thereafter, regular work meetings occurred with the purpose of agreeing on the focus, scope and contents of the project. From the first weeks of February to the end of March 2022, regular visits to the provinces of Imbabura and Napo were made in order to hold bilateral meetings with local authorities, social organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and other institutional and organizations in order to socialize the scope of the project as well as to come to an understanding of the political priorities in each province, the presence of other interventions similar or complementary to management, the characteristics of the social fabric and the problems present in the territory.

Table 2 (below) summarizes the stakeholders consulted during the visits to the provinces, and afterward is an explanation of the main findings:

Table 2. Synthesis of the stakeholders consulted (through bilateral meetings)

Level	Type and number of actors	Number of actors consulted
Imbabura	Local governments (2) NGO (2) Organization of the popular and solidarity economy (1) Social organizations of indigenous peoples and nationalities (8) Academia (2)	15

Level	Type and number of actors	Number of actors consulted
Napo	Local governments (2) International Cooperation (2) NGO (1) Associations and organizations of agricultural producers (4) Governance and consultation spaces (1) Social organizations of indigenous peoples and nationalities (2) Academia (2)	14
National/Regional	SENADI (1) INABIO (1) Technical secretary of the Special Amazon Circumscription (1)	3
Total direct consultations		32

A more detailed description of the institutions contacted and the findings of the consultations is included in the stakeholder participation matrix in Annex I2 of the Agency project document.

Touring both of the affected provinces has allowed certain conclusions to be drawn:

? There is growing concern on the part of indigenous peoples' and nationalities?organizations about the control of the territory they occupy ancestrally in light of threats that have tended to worsen in recent years. Indeed, Imbabura, Cotacachi is a canton that is facing a process of their land transitioning to foreign owners, mainly US immigrants, together with the expansion of conventional agricultural activities, while in Napo, the unbridled growth of illegal mining has caused the contamination of land and rivers. This reality explains the organizational strengthening that has taken place and is expressed in the presence of more solid organizations than in other areas of the country, such as UNORCAC in Cotacachi and the Coordinator of Associations of the Amazon Kichwa Chakra in Napo, which together with defending their territories, are determined to strengthen their traditional production systems, which they recognize as "their supermarkets, their pharmacies, as the spaces for socialization and cohesion of their identity" (testimony gathered in the workshop with Napo organizations, March 13, 2022).

? The decentralized autonomous governments at their different levels (provincial, municipal, parish), reflect different capacities and different approaches and priorities within their management. In this sense, it is possible to identify provincial GADs such as that of Napo with an interest in supporting sustainable production and traditional practices, issuing, in 2017, an

ordinance that declares the Amazon chakra as a sustainable system that promotes production, research and marketing of agroecological food. From this ordinance, it was possible to create the "Chakra Group" as an inter-institutional space to promote the conservation and consolidation of this productive system. There are also parish GADs that, despite their small budgets and lack of sufficient technical personnel, have assumed the management of their territories with will and commitment. This is particularly noticeable in those parishes made up of an indigenous population where the parish government has become one of the main places for territorial organization.

? In the two provinces there are community and associative initiatives, of varying degrees of development, that are promoting sustainable productive management schemes, with emphasis on agroecological production and the use of biodiversity. Some of these initiatives have arisen from the intervention of cooperation projects or local NGOs, others have developed in response to environmental deterioration in the areas where they operate, and still others have emerged as strategies to supplement family income. Although each experience has a different level of development, they generally require strengthening their commercialization and marketing capabilities, achieving a better position in the market, strengthening design strategies and approaching them with credit and training services. The project will in part seek to develop and apply incentives hand in hand with public and private institutions and with the GAD of the intervention area.

? Universities in the provinces not only have careers linked to the themes that the project will promote, but also have important installations for sustainable management such as laboratories, research centers, and forest areas or spaces for experimentation. Almost all the universities are involved in rural extension processes, research on agricultural practices, provision of technical assistance, are in alliances with GAD and associations and producer organizations, and have a special interest in local biodiversity.

? Among the actors interviewed, there is a weak understanding of the gender gaps and inequities that women endure, which contrasts with the recognition of their role in the development of productive activities and the conservation of local agrobiodiversity and food security. This lack of understanding results in the absence of policies aimed at promoting their empowerment, and in gaps in the organizational agendas for women's rights claims. To illustrate this, note that the Central Women's Committee of UNORCAC, recognized for its work in seed conservation and in the implementation of food fairs, has no place within the organizational structure of UNORCAC, reducing the capacity of women to influence organizational decision making.

? A similar reality exists in relation to the young population in the countryside, which has managed to access higher levels of education and whose expectations go beyond work in agricultural production. There are no policies aimed at generating employment for this population, nor are there initiatives that promote their integration in the development and provision of support services for agricultural production in which young men and women could participate more actively.

? Among the social actors, indigenous peoples and women have notoriously limited knowledge of their rights. In the consultations and dialogues, the indigenous peoples mentioned not having participated in prior, free and informed consultation processes, in the same way that women do not

know about their property rights or the channels that exist to report domestic violence. Given this reality, the project will enable both the exercise of rights as well as training for those linked to the protection of ancestral knowledge and intellectual property, as well as policies and legislation on access to the benefits derived from biodiversity.

Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities

? In the intervention areas of the project, there is a presence of indigenous peoples and nationalities, so it will be important that they participate in all aspects to ensure an adequate relationship. The project plans on the participation of indigenous peoples through reflection days that will be held at least once a year during the life of the project. In all interventions, the application of FPIC is considered.

The conclusions and recommendations of the analysis carried out and that should be considered in the execution phase of the project are summarized below. The complete document regarding indigenous peoples can be reviewed in Annex J of the Agency Project Document.

? The *chakras* and the GIAHS zones that contain them are key areas for the conservation of agrobiodiversity, since they act as reservoirs of species and varieties and are, at the same time, a fundamental contribution to environmental regulation. In addition, they are research spaces to test the value of varieties that respond to the population's livelihood needs -plant selection and domestication laboratories-, while providing material for genetic improvement. Their survival, however, is at risk due to the perceived low value of the agricultural products, the marketing limitations faced by producers, the burden of acculturation processes with the consequent introduction of foreign consumption patterns, the fragmentation of the landscape due to the introduction of economic activities of an extractive nature and the prioritization of crops aimed at satisfying the *commodity* market (e.g. wheat and barley in the Andean zone or oil palm, cocoa and coffee in the Amazon), as well as the urgency of complementing sources of income that push smallholder farm families, mainly young people and men, to temporary or permanent migration, with the consequent abandonment of the countryside.

? Beyond the environmental and productive characteristics, the indigenous worldview sees the *chakras* as a central element of their identity and of the understanding of geophysical processes, of life cycles (flowering, fruiting, germination, nesting, etc.) and the management and recovery of ecosystems and landscape management. The *chakras* represent the link with the world and a strategy of community cohesion. The conservation and strengthening of the chakra system is, therefore, a strategy that at the same time will contribute to the strengthening of cultural, identity and organizational processes of indigenous peoples.

? The appreciation of ancestral knowledge and practices linked to the *chakra*'s agro-productive system opens up opportunities to promote a dialogue of knowledge and respect and appreciation of local identities, something very necessary in a country plagued by discriminatory and racist practices, as well as to advance the fulfillment of the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from biodiversity, in correspondence with the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity to which Ecuador is a party.

? In the Sierra, the existing conflict over access to wild edible species, specifically the morti?o, requires supportive actions to clarify the limits of community lands, as well as the strengthening of control over access to the p?ramos by nonresident populations. In the control and surveillance of the p?ramo, the communities themselves could act as community park rangers, replicating successful initiatives carried out in protected areas of the country. In any case, it is important to have agreed management plans between the communities and the competent institutions in relation to the management of areas containing CWR and EWS.

? The process of free, prior and informed consent requires respect for the forms of organization of the communities. Consent must be made directly with the community councils or councils that will convene the community assembly where the minutes will be signed. In addition, it requires the participation of interpreters and the use of graphic material.

? The initiatives underway, linked to CWR and EWS, can be strengthened through technical assistance capable of processing the demands of the communities: management plans, market information, achievement of the appellation of origin and strengthening of the "Chakra Seal".

? The project's emphasis on CWR and EWS merits, additionally, developing actions aimed at guaranteeing compliance with the environmental and social safeguards (ESS 3) of the FAO, in reference to genetic resources for food and agriculture. In the country, progress in relation to the usurpation and illegal trafficking of biodiversity has been insufficient, as recognized by the latest National Report to the CBD (2018). To prevent the improper use of species and genetic resources, it is important to train communities in the use and application of the so-called "community protocols" that the public institutions of Ecuador have begun to implement. These protocols are a tool that allows communities to have an instrument for managing biodiversity resources and their use and avoiding illegal access to traditional knowledge related to biodiversity. In addition, they seek fair and equitable participation in the benefits derived from the use of traditional knowledge, as well as innovations or new uses associated with natural resources.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Participation during the implementation phase of the project

The participation of actors in the implementation of the project will be ensured through various instances and mechanisms that are proposed to ensure full and effective participation of the actors and avoid negative impacts on human rights, and which are summarized below:

Governance mechanisms: At the executive level, stakeholder participation and representation will be driven by governance structures for project management, specifically the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The project will promote inter-institutional coordination and the articulation and participation of actors at the political and technical levels; the CDP will make decisions regarding the general management and will ensure that the project is

executed within the agreed strategic framework. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be in charge of executing project activities with an approach aligned with GEF policies. The technical staff of the project will be responsible for leading and guiding the processes of participation among the interested parties under the supervision of the National Project Coordination and likewise to execute the activities foreseen in the Annual Operational Plans and thus ensure compliance with the chain of results and the proper execution of resources.

Inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination mechanisms: The project will promote coordination between interested parties at different levels, for example, the discussion of the various products generated by the project within the scope of the National Natural Heritage Committee (or its sub-committees) and working with existing coordination mechanisms at the local level and with other partners or strategic allies of the project.

Communication and information strategy of the project: At the beginning of the implementation of the project, a communication strategy will be prepared with specific elements for the key different audiences and for the areas of intervention. The communication strategy will aim to develop effective management of the key messages, results and visibility mainly of women and young people, as well as the innovations that result from the project, to inspire the involvement and commitment of key actors such as socio-productive organizations, local governments, in the project activities. The communication strategy will use an understandable language for all stakeholders trying to sensitize local and national actors by creating awareness about the value of CWR and EWS. The strategy will be implemented together with the communication teams of the project partners. The design of the strategy will take into account criteria and considerations of cultural sensitivity, social inclusion and gender perspective.

Training: The project will implement training aimed at national and local institutional technical teams, and the beneficiaries in the intervention areas. These trainings will be designed to encourage participation by the stakeholders, by incorporating the gender approach and cultural relevance; be designed according to the differentiated needs of the target audiences to encourage their participation; and include participatory learning methodologies. For the institutions, the action of replication of the topics addressed in the training is considered, in such a way that the knowledge generated in the process is multiplied.

Gender Action Plan and CLPI Strategy for Indigenous Peoples: The project has a Gender Action Plan and a strategy for the implementation of CLPI (see Annex J) to ensure the due participation of women and indigenous peoples and nationalities present in the intervention areas. These plans include the definition of criteria and conditions of participation, communication, complaints and co-responsibilities in the different aspects of the project and its activities, so that their participation and impact can be carried out considering the conditions in which women and indigenous people operate in the areas of intervention, as well as the different knowledge, needs and roles, so that these are recognized and addressed in the intervention. In the case of indigenous populations, the CLPI processes proposed in correspondence with the FAO guidelines are found in ?Free, prior and informed consent, will be carried out as a fundamental step prior to any activity. A right of Indigenous Peoples and a good practice for local communities? (2016) and the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (2011). In addition, the guidelines of the Ministerial Agreement 116 and the National Consultation Guide for the Implementation of REDD+ Actions and for the access, use and exploitation of traditional

knowledge of indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio peoples and nationalities are considered the COESCCI that constitutes the legal instrument that obliges third parties to obtain the ?Free, prior and informed consent? of the legitimate holders of such knowledge (Art. 73; Art. 512; Art. 529).

M&E System and Knowledge Management Plan: The project's M&E system will include consultations with the actors, to collect their testimonies regarding the project and their participation and contribution to it, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the progress in achieving the project results and objectives will be carried out based on the goals and indicators established in the Project Results Framework (see section 9 Monitoring and Evaluation).

The project's knowledge management approach will focus on systematically cultivating and embracing knowledge sharing among stakeholders. Its objective is to facilitate the access and flow of information and knowledge about the importance of CWR and EWS conservation in defined sites for in situ conservation and to facilitate the access and flow of information by disseminating said knowledge. The project will prepare a conservation-focused knowledge management plan for CWRs and EWSs that will include knowledge and communication outcomes on practices for their in situ conservation and sustainable use and utilization that can be applied. (see section 8 Knowledge Management)

System for attention to and resolution of complaints: Finally, the project will have a mechanism for attention and resolution of complaints, which will be disseminated among the key actors of the project to inform of its existence and mode of operation. The National Project Coordination will be responsible for documenting all claims and ensuring that they are addressed in a timely manner (see Annex I2 of the Agency Project Document).

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain) Yes

Civil society organizations (NGOs, grassroots organizations, producer associations, indigenous nationalities, women's groups) will be invited to become involved in participatory processes in the project components. Component 1 provides for the participatory development of regulations and technical tools, a strategic plan for the conservation, use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, as well as a monitoring protocol with a community approach, which is of interest to local producers, in order to know the conservation status of the wild relatives of the products they sell and consume. In the

development of policies and regulations, an important reference should be the experience of the Network of Associations of the Napo Amazon Chakra.

Component 2 will seek to implement measures for in situ conservation, sustainable use and exploitation of CWR and EWS, for which the participation of civil society, such as the case of the Amazon Regional Table for Non-Timber Forest Products, will be significant in existing coordination spaces with which the project will interact and with which it will coordinate to develop joint actions,. The project will coordinate with NGOs that work in the intervention areas, such as the Heifer Foundation, which has initiatives to support the production and marketing of morti?o, and the Maquita Foundation, which has experience in fair trade working with local producers. The project will involve producer associations, as well as second-tier organizations. Among the latter, UNORCAC in Imbabura, which has played an active role in preparing the SIPAM file for the Andean chakra, and in its work plan highlights the protection and promotion of traditional knowledge linked to agriculture and the protection of native biodiversity and The Network of Associations of the Napo Amazon Chakra, which has experience in structuring an SPG, has broad coverage and a solid organizational structure. The associations of producers, communities and organizations will participate directly in the activities that the project will carry out. This includes, among others, participation in the development and implementation of plans for the use and exploitation of CWR and EWS, development of recognition mechanisms, and they will be beneficiaries of technical assistance, training and incentives. The participatory approach will be present in all phases of project implementation seeking the empowerment of beneficiaries, with an emphasis on women, indigenous peoples, and citizens.

With the indigenous peoples and nationalities, the project will launch capacity building processes in the mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge. To this end, it will coordinate with the community government structures (community councils or boards of directors in the province of Napo and the councils in the province of Imbabura) as appropriate to define the scope and dynamics for the development of FPIC. With the leaders, the implementation of a FPIC process will be planned in a way that takes into account particular forms of organization and representation, and that results in a document that specifies the consent of the community to act in its territory and that records, in addition, the responsibilities of the project and the community, define the monitoring and evaluation procedures and communication channels, claim mechanisms and, eventually, for the withdrawal of consent. To carry out the CLPI workshops, the project will make available to the organizations, communities/communes and the general population information materials that are culturally appropriate and with gender language that complement the direct dialogue that will be established with the communities (see a detailed description of the FPIC strategy in Annex J of the Agency Project Document).

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

The project strategically and operationally establishes the application of the gender approach, recognizing the differentiation of access, use and control of biodiversity that is maintained between women and men, for which an analysis process will be established to make visible the transcendent role of women in the conservation and use of agrobiodiversity and systematizing their knowledge, wisdom and related cultural values. The actions of gender approach will be based on national policies aimed at gender equality, FAO - GEF gender approach manuals, and other guidelines on social safeguards.

In this sense, during the design of the project, a gender analysis was carried out from which an action plan was drawn up aimed at closing the most significant gaps and on which this intervention can affect. The most significant findings and the strategies envisaged to overcome the asymmetries identified are summarized below. Thus, the main gaps identified are the following:

? As a result of the pandemic and the social and economic deterioration that the country is going through, poverty has grown and is concentrated in women. According to official data, between 2018 and 2021, poverty among women increased by 8 percentage points to reach 33%, reaching indicators similar to those recorded a decade ago (in the case of men, poverty went from 24% in 2018 to 31.4% in 2021) (Central Bank of Ecuador, 2021).

? This reality is superimposed on the already existing difficulties in relation to the economic autonomy of women. They have been assigned responsibility for the subsistence of the families (food, hygiene, health, care) and carrying out agricultural activities fundamentally through unpaid productive work.

? Although it is women who are mainly dedicated to agriculture and particularly to the care of the *chakra* and the consequent conservation of agrobiodiversity, their control over resources and income is partial due to asymmetries in land ownership and the consequent limitation for access credit and financing. National data warn that only a quarter of the total agricultural production units in the country are in the hands of women producers.

? Poverty, the differentiated access to education between women and men, the higher rates of illiteracy among women, especially indigenous women, their long working hours (which on average represent 77:39 hours a week in the countryside), and the persistence of cultural norms that relegate women to the sphere of reproduction and care, explain the serious weaknesses they face in generating their own income or accessing paid work. At the rural level, only 11.2% of women have adequate employment (ENEMDU, 2021). In the case of the Amazon, it is estimated that only 13% of rural women have a stable job. In these jobs, their salaries are 17.8% less than that of men and 50.5% less if they are indigenous women (PROAMAZON?A, 2020: 77).

? Seed management, crop care, harvesting and management, as well as gastronomic culture and health care, have historically been carried out by women from the perspective of reproduction and care of life, guaranteeing the safety and food sovereignty beyond their communities. This important role, however, lacks recognition. Not only has their knowledge been made invisible and devalued, but their conservation work has historically been unpaid.

? The work carried out by women in agriculture and the conservation of agrobiodiversity requires the availability of land, water, seeds, and forests, which gives women greater ability to provide subsistence and decent living conditions to their families. The maintenance of these conditions is exposed to a series of threats (extractive activities, river contamination, expansion of the agricultural frontier, devaluation of traditional knowledge, etc.) that make up a panorama of growing obstacles for women.

? In terms of autonomy for decision-making, there are inequalities that limit the equal participation of women both in social and community organizations, as well as in local governments. Existing power structures naturalize gender distinctions and intertwine with racial discrimination. In addition, there is a higher rate of illiteracy among women. The participation of women in public and community spaces, although greater than in previous times, continues to be dominated by social norms that give little value to the words of women who are still afraid to express their opinions, according to testimonies collected during visits to the countryside.

? In the pursuit of physical autonomy for women, high rates of violence and high rates of teenage pregnancy limit the opportunities they have to exercise their rights. Napo and Imbabura are among the five provinces with the highest rates of violence: 77.7% and 73.6%, respectively, compared to a national average of 64.9%. On the other hand, the deficit in access to basic services and opportunities for education and training, contribute to accentuating the inequities they experience.

In the face of this reality, the following are the main lines of action that the project will develop to help close the current gaps utilizing an intersectional effort in order to cover several dimensions:

? To help improve women's economic autonomy and generate benefits, actions are required to improve their income and reduce poverty. In this direction, the women interviewed expressed the importance to meet the demand for technical assistance in formulation of management plans and access to market information. Similarly, in the productive ventures that they have already developed, they need technical assistance with business plans, administration, management and associativity in order to guarantee that these ventures are sustained, strengthened and become sources of employment and income for women as well as to close gender gaps in access to and control of natural resources

? In addition, to improve women's participation and decision-making the project will encourage local governments to facilitate places with adequate conditions for women to work, such as places equipped to hold food fairs and carry out promotion campaigns on local agrobiodiversity and the importance of a healthy diet.

? On the other hand, the project should promote the discussion and carrying out of studies and proposals that lead to the design of incentive policies to support rural producers and local populations in the conservation and improvement of their production systems. There are conservation incentive programs that could be recreated and adapted to support the conservation of *chakras* and the management of *in situ* conservation sites, such as the Socio Bosque program[1], which consists of providing economic incentives to smallholder farmers and indigenous

communities when they voluntarily commit to the conservation and protection of their forests, paramos or other native vegetation.

? The conservation work of agrobiodiversity carried out by women demands effective recognition. In the field of knowledge, it is necessary to promote the formation of community promoters or "guardians of agrobiodiversity" within the framework of a training process that values and reinforces the ancestral knowledge that women have. One of the initiatives in this regard is the formation of a school of *pajus* (powers for the reproduction of seeds) that appears in the work of the coordinator of Amazonian Chakra Associations and the Chakra Group.

? In order to make visible the role of women in the conservation of agrobiodiversity, the project will promote various dissemination strategies that contribute to making the role played by women visible. Among these strategies will be considered the construction of women's life stories that concentrate the wisdom of agricultural management and the uses of agrobiodiversity, the making of videos and other promotional materials in order to make visible that the agrobiodiversity that we have is largely supported in the knowledge and wisdom that women have transmitted from generation to generation. In addition, in coordination with the decentralized autonomous governments, events will be planned to promote local gastronomy, including culinary festivals, days dedicated to a product of agrobiodiversity, etc., and the recreation of local festivities associated with agrobiodiversity, agricultural cycles and their relationship with nature (Pawkar Raymi, Inti Raymi, Kulla Raymi and Kapak Raymi).

? The progress made by women in terms of participation in public and organizational spaces needs to be expanded and strengthened. The women interviewed demand a school of leadership, in which, among other topics, women's rights and the existing institutional channels to guarantee their fulfillment are addressed, including patrimonial matters and gender-based violence.

? There is recognition among producers that the availability of certification mechanisms or seals can contribute to improving the market position of the production generated in the *chakras*. At the same time, there is awareness of the difficulties and limitations to access certifications due to demanding procedures and high costs. Hence the need to explore, together with women and communities, various alternatives to position their products in the markets: denominations of origin, brands, collective brands, in order to prioritize those that are best suited to local realities.

- The execution of the previous actions requires providing the technical teams of the project and the partner institutions with tools to incorporate the gender approach in the technical assistance processes, as well as in the dissemination of information and in the adaptation of training schedules to the needs of women

- [1] This program was created in 2008 and is executed through the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE). The delivery of incentives is conditional on compliance with an agreement between the community and MAATE for the protection and conservation of forests.

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

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes
4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The private sector will be a key actor and partner in the development of the following project activities. In Component 1, agreements will be established with universities and other private actors that have information regarding the ecology, management, distribution, use and utilization of CWR and EWS. Working with them will be essential when developing the proposed technical documents, especially those related to generating information on this type of biodiversity. Additionally, universities will serve as research and training centers that will survey, validate and analyze the inventory data collected in the conservation sites; will actively participate in developing the technical documents that define conservation processes, use and sustainable use of CWR and EWS; will propose investigative documents for publication and support the preparation of the publications; will play an important role in the training processes for the technical teams of the different institutions involved.

In Component 2, work will be done directly with associative private companies, for the development of plans for the sustainable use of CWR and EWS, which includes the establishment of commercial alliances that drive the value chain towards a differentiated market that recognizes the processes of conservation of biodiversity. Potential partners from the private sector include actors from the popular and solidarity economy sectors, agroecological certifiers, local suppliers, national and international stores, community associations, collection centers, and supermarkets, among others. The private sector will participate in an important and direct way in the adaptation of the incentive mechanisms defined in the management and use plans and sustainable use of the three prioritized CWR and EWS. This will include analyzing the potential of including the "Chakra" certification seal, or something similar, analysis and identification of market needs, design and definition of the offer of products and services from CWR and EWSs, development of business models for bio-enterprises as well as inclusive businesses with local communities; and development of commercial alliances that drive value chains

towards a differentiated market that recognizes the conservation efforts of CWR and EWSs and sustainable production.

Support will be provided to strengthen community business centers as an associative business model that facilitates producers' access to better supplies (e.g., seeds, support services) through direct negotiation with suppliers. The foundation of community business centers can provide concrete benefits (e.g., lower costs) and facilitate access to locally produced supplies (e.g., biols, organic fertilizers) for the adoption of production practices in the *chakra*. The project will provide agricultural inputs, strengthen management capacities and encourage the participation of young people and women in the management process. In addition, bidding funds are available for the acquisition of minor equipment and/or the implementation of initiatives that can add value with low investment requirements.

Other manners of involvement will be collaborations with organizations in the intervention areas to raise awareness among the population in general of the importance of CWR and EWS conservation, as well as with the socio-productive sector in the search for strategies that promote livelihoods and improved access to economic benefits for local actors. For the conservation of CWR and EWS, the socio-productive sector will intervene in the community monitoring of the CWR and EWS, collecting field information that will later be validated and processed by the implemented information module. In addition, cooperation agreements and incentive management will be defined to declare conservation sites in strategic areas that contain CWR and EWS within private areas. Similarly, students who are fulfilling their research programs will contribute to information generation by carrying out CWR and EWS inventories.

In component 3, the systematization and publication of part of the results obtained in the execution of this project, will be carried out jointly with the private company associations, knowing that it is in the interest of the project to be able to emphasize the relevance of the work of women in traditional agricultural activities such as the *chakra*. Academia will work similarly, in that they will not only support the systematization of publications, but will also contribute with information and knowledge generated by them in previous stages of the project, which will significantly contribute to the content of said documents.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The risks to the project have been identified and analyzed during the project preparation phase and the mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project design. With the support and supervision of FAO, the Project implementation Unit (PIU) will be responsible for the management of said risks as well as the effective implementation of the mitigation measures. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will serve to monitor results and output indicators, project risks, and mitigation measures. The PIU, in collaboration with their partners, will also be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation

measures and adjusting mitigation strategies as necessary, as well as identifying and managing any new risks not identified during project preparation.

The semi-annual Project Progress Reports (PPR) constitute the main instrument for monitoring and managing risks and safeguards. The PPRs include a section that covers the systematic monitoring of risks and mitigation actions that were identified in the previous PPRs. The PPRs also include a section for the identification of possible new risks or risks that still need to be addressed, their qualification and mitigation actions, as well as those responsible for monitoring said actions and their estimated deadlines. FAO will closely monitor project risk management and follow-up as necessary, providing support for adjustment and implementation of mitigation strategies. The preparation of reports on risk monitoring and its qualification will also be part of the Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) prepared by FAO and sent to the GEF Secretariat.

The risks to the project have been identified (Table 3), including political, institutional, environmental, social, economic and cultural risks.

Table 3. Project Risks and mitigation measures

Description of Risk	Impact	Probability of occurring	Mitigation Measures	Responsible parties
Institutional Insufficient will and commitment of the actors (MAATE, MAG, INIAP, GAD) for inter-institutional coordination and the complementarity of actions, staff changes and cuts together with budget restrictions in public institutions, can cause delays for the project.	Moderate	Medium	At the beginning of the project, inter-institutional coordination agreements will be signed in which the responsibilities of the actors are clearly established. In addition, the project will support the development of mechanisms for dialogue, coordination and exchange of information, the promotion of participation and continuous monitoring to ensure the execution of activities according to the agreed planning. The establishment of alliances with territorial actors will be promoted - local governments, cooperators and other initiatives that are being implemented in the selected areas, in order to consolidate an institutional social fabric that supports, appropriates and facilitates the exit strategy.	PIU

Description of Risk	Impact	Probability of occurring	Mitigation Measures	Responsible parties
Political-Institutional The next sectional elections (February 2023) could affect project execution due to changes in the priorities of the new authorities.	Moderate	Medium	The new authorities will be informed about the project and the established commitments, and the involvement of technical teams with greater chances of stability within the institutions will be prioritized in capacity-building activities.	PIU
Environmental-social The expansion of the extractive frontier, such as illegal mining in Napo, has deteriorated the environment and has affected the quality of life of the population, affecting the quality of the land and water. Although illegal mining has stopped for the time being, it may intensify in the future.	High	Medium	The project will prioritize areas away from illegal mining activities and will establish CWR and EWS in situ conservation sites in established conservation areas (national parks, protective forests), making sure results are maintained.	PIU
Environmental Risks caused by the effects of climate change in agricultural areas and in protected areas, especially flooding of rivers, landslides, severe climatic variations and droughts.	Moderate	Medium	The capacity-building process aimed at national and local institutions, as well as local communities, will include climate change among its topics to improve understanding of its effects. In addition, in the development of activities with the communities, emphasis will be placed on the use of sustainable production practices, including the promotion of actions for adaptation to climate change. for example, soil conservation ? barriers, crop terraces, not planting down the slope, restoration of degraded areas ? forestry?.	PIU

Description of Risk	Impact	Probability of occurring	Mitigation Measures	Responsible parties
Economic and cultural The low valuation of native agrobiodiversity puts pressure on agricultural producers to prioritize the cultivation of species with market potential, affecting the loss of species variability.	Moderate	Medium	Among the actions planned to face this risk: training/awareness campaigns on the importance of local agrobiodiversity, the development of a brand, and support for three CWR and EWS value chains as pilot programs that will be replicable in other contexts. In addition, the implementation of community monitoring actions is proposed as a complementary measure to the actions of the environmental authority in the management of protected areas.	PIU
- Sanitary The risk associated with the presence of COVID cases	Moderate	Low	Biosecurity measures will be maintained in the event of COVID cases and vigilance of the authority's provisions	PIU

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

a. Institutional arrangements for project implementation.

The Ministry of the Environment, Water and Economic Transition (MAATE) is the main government counterpart and will be the executing institution, in coordination with the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP). FAO will provide technical assistance and oversight as the implementing agency of GEF and will be responsible for achievement of results, timely reporting and effective use of GEF resources for their intended purposes and in accordance with FAO and GEF policy requirements. The project will have the strategic support of specialized actors (to be defined following FAO procedures) who will act as Specialized Operating Partners (SOE), its role will be to execute specialized actions foreseen in the project, for which FAO will sign Letters of Agreement where the scope of support, roles, budgets and products will be developed are defined.

The project will promote interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination through various strategies: i) strengthen institutional agreements and facilitate inter-institutional coordination at the national level to

promote collaboration between stakeholders at different levels and integrate CWR and EWS in situ conservation actions into national policies and land-use planning instruments; ii) Support the operation of the Natural Heritage Subcommittee in the field of conservation of CWR and EWS that frame supervision activities with local stakeholders and the academy in the sites defined for in situ conservation; iii) work with existing coordination mechanisms at the national and subnational levels; iv) prepare the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS in which it will propose a national governance model on this issue; and v) develop participatory implementation plans for the management and conservation of 3 prioritized CWRs and EWSs.

The Project organization structure is as follows:

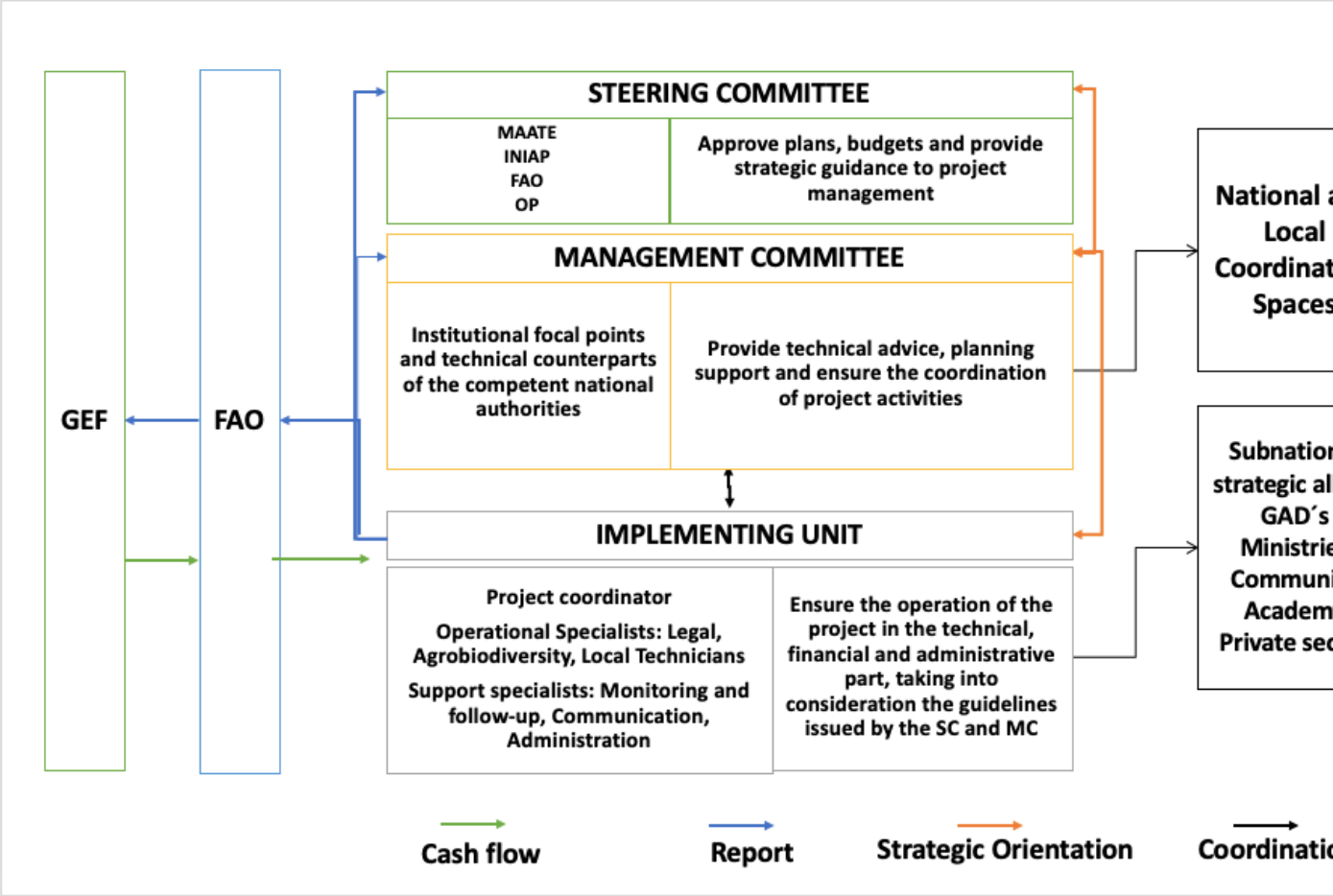

Figure 3? Project organization structure

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing support services and project cycle management as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF Implementing Agency, FAO has overall accountability and responsibility to GEF for delivering results. In the IA function, FAO will use the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex K of the Agency Project Document for more details):

? The budget holder, who is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will oversee the day-to-day execution of the project;

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

? Funding Liaison Officers within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is carried out and reported according to agreed standards and requirements.

The responsibilities of FAO, as an agency of the GEF, will include:

? Manage GEF funds in accordance with FAO rules and procedures;

? Implement the project in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers and other FAO rules and procedures;

? Sign Letters of Agreement with Specialized Operating Partners to execute actions planned in the project that, due to their expertise and knowledge of specific issues, will provide a substantial contribution to the achievement of results;

? Provide technical guidance to ensure that the appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;

? Carry out at least one supervision mission per year; and

? Report to the GEF Secretariat and the Evaluation Office on the progress of the project, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Final Evaluation and the Project Closure Report;

? Financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

A representative of MAATE, as the GEF coordination center, will chair the **Project Steering Committee (PSC)**, which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve the annual work plans and budgets and provide strategic guidance to the project management team and to the specialized operational partners with which FAO signs the Letters of Agreement. The PSC will be composed of representatives of FAO (1 vote), MAATE (1 vote) and MAG-INIAP (1 vote) and specialized operating partners can be invited in individual cases (with the right to speak only); the PIU coordinator will act as secretary. Each of the members of the PSC will guarantee the role of technical and political counterpart of the project in their respective organizations. The participants of MAG-INIAP and MAATE are their respective ministers or their delegates. As focal points, PSC members will: i) technically supervise

activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid exchange of information and knowledge between your agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and linkages between project activities and their agency's work plan; and iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project. The PSC will meet at least twice a year to ensure: i) follow-up and technical guarantee of product quality; (ii) Strengthen the links between the project and other ongoing projects and programs relevant to the project; (iii) Availability and timely effectiveness of co-financing assistance; (iv) Sustainability of key project results, including scaling and replication; (v) Effective coordination of the work of government partners in this project; (vi) Approval of Semiannual Progress Reports, Financial Reports, Annual Work Plan and Budget; (vii) make management decisions by consensus when CHTA guidance is required.

The government will designate two focal points in MAATE and MAG-INIAP, who will be in charge of coordinating activities with all national agencies involved in the different project components, as well as with the specialized operating partners with which FAO signs Letters of Agreement. They will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Technical Project Coordinator on government policies and priorities.

In addition, a **Project Management Committee (PMC)** will be created as a technical support body, which will be in charge of: i) support the planning of project activities, advise and accompany the PSC; (ii) provide technical advice to the project; (iii) advising PSC on other ongoing and planned activities, facilitating cooperation between the project and other programs, projects and initiatives. The PMC can also participate in the technical evaluation of the progress and results of the project, and in the eventual elaboration of an agreed adjustment plan in the project execution approach, if necessary. It will be composed of the MAATE and MAG-INIAP focal points, the Ecuadorian GEF operational focal point, technical counterparts from the participating institutions (with up to two delegates from each), and with the accompaniment of the FAO. The Chief Technical Advisor who represents the Project Execution Unit and the thematic specialists of the project when and if an additional thematic contribution is required. The PMC will meet at least quarterly and its members will ensure that project management is linked to national priorities and official inter-institutional coordination spaces.

The **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)** will be co-financed by the GEF. The main functions of the PIU, following the guidance of the PSC, are to guarantee the efficient management, coordination, execution and monitoring of the project through the effective application of Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB). The PIU will be made up of a Chief Technical Advisor (who will work full-time during the life of the project and who will also be the Agrobiodiversity Specialist. In addition, the PIU will include the following thematic specialists: (1) A part-time Legal Specialist for a period of one year; (2) two local specialists who will be the link in the territory with the community and the project; (3) an M&E Specialist who will work part time for the 36 months, (4) a Communication Specialist who will work part time for the 24 months; and, (5) a Finance and Administration Assistant who will work part-time for 36 months. The PIU will work in coordination with the PMC and the national and subnational strategic partners in the intervention sites.

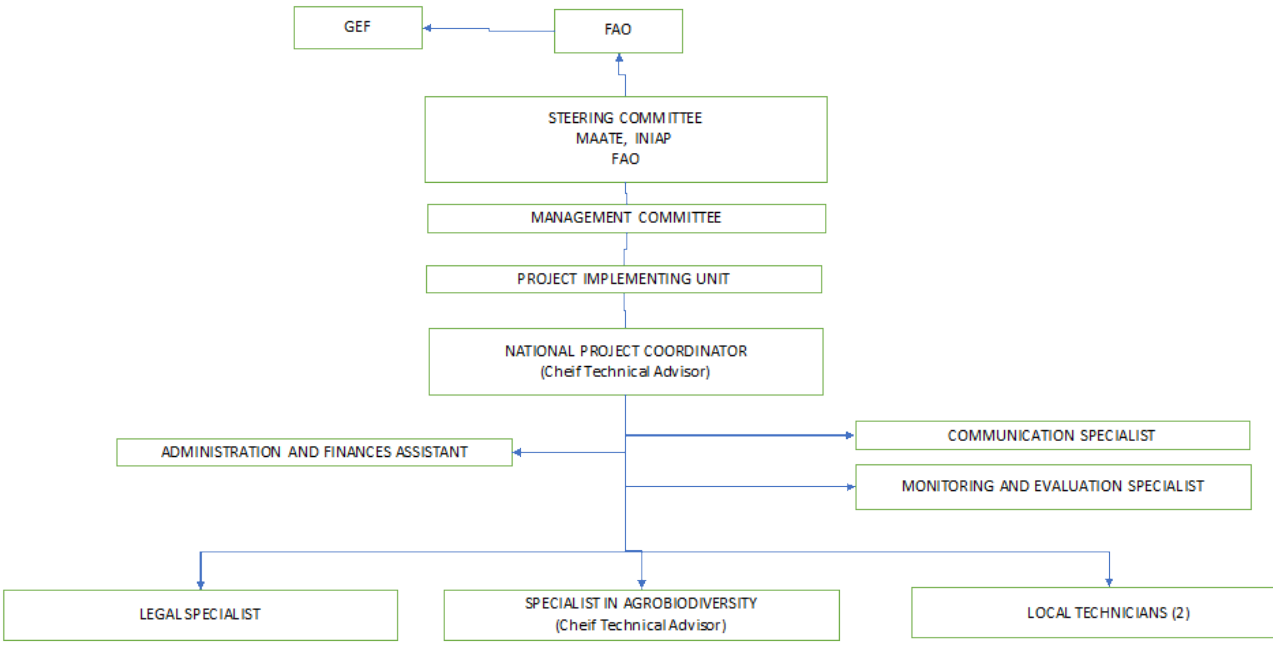

Figure 4 ? Organization chart of the Project Implementation Unit

The Chief Technical Advisor (ChTA) will be the Specialist in Agrobiodiversity and will be in charge of the functions and activities that correspond to the position according to the activities and components related. In addition, the ChTA will supervise the implementation, management, administration and daily technical supervision of the project, and within the framework described by the PSC. Terms of Reference are provided in Annex M of the Agency Project Document.

b. Coordination with other relevant projects financed by the GEF and other initiatives.

The project will coordinate on the ground with the actions initiated by several completed projects financed by the GEF. In this sense, Project #4777 *Incorporation of the use and conservation of agrobiodiversity in public policies through integrated strategies and in situ and ex situ implementation in three high Andean provinces* is included. This project, focused on the integration of agrobiodiversity practices in policies, sustainable development of agricultural systems, capacity building; as a result, it is obtaining important experiences in the management of the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its sustainable use. One of its areas of attention was the province of Imbabura.

Likewise, Project #4774 *Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, forests, soil and water as a means to achieve Good Living/Sumak Kawsay in the province of Napo*, an initiative that generated the development of technical and financial instruments and mechanisms to improve the institutional framework and environmental governance in the province of Napo; developing demonstrative scenarios for the application of good agricultural practices, productive forest restoration processes, implementation of co-management plans in protective forests, instruments for wood traceability. In addition, it applied management and value chain plans for biotrade products, community tourism, development of the participatory system to guarantee the chakra seal and the nomination of the chakra system for its recognition as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

In addition, the project will coordinate and provide feedback on the processes of the projects in execution. Project #9055 *Integrated management of multiple use landscapes and high conservation value for the sustainable development of the Amazon* developed guides, manuals and training plans for sustainable production, the generation of participatory monitoring systems; and integration of the landscape approach in the PDOT.

Currently approved, the execution of which is expected in 2022, the Project #10396 *Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the areas of sustainable use of the State Subsystem of Protected Areas of Ecuador and its buffer zones (SEAP)*, that will develop processes for the integrated management of protected areas, establishment of areas of sustainable use and management of buffer zones; development and strengthening of regulations and management instruments for their application from the MAATE and local institutional partners; will manage the land tenure regulation processes under the new CODA, and will generate processes to strengthen productive initiatives and value chains for sustainable production.

Similarly, approved and to start in 2022 is the Project #10219 *Development of an enabling environment for sustainable businesses based on the native biodiversity of Ecuador*, one of its components is to establish the conditions for the development of sustainable businesses based on local biodiversity; and demonstration of pilot interventions. Within the first component, it is planned to work jointly on the institutional arrangements that are being planned in order to develop businesses based on the sustainable use of native biodiversity. Similarly, within the third component mentioned, this project will work four companies/businesses, among which is the morti?o in the province of Imbabura. In this case, conversations have begun with the executing entity (Heifer Foundation) and MAATE as the environmental authority responsible for the project, to coordinate actions and complement the work that both projects will carry out in the same province.

The *Sustainable Valuation of Biodiversity in the Amazon and Coast of Ecuador ? BioValor* program, carried out by GIZ, has the objective of implementing economic development strategies that conserve

biodiversity in four landscapes (two coastal and two Amazonian), together with key actors from local and indigenous communities, the private sector, local governments, academia and the central government. Among its actions is the work with two prioritized value chains in Napo, which are guayusa and vanilla. For this reason, conversations were held with technicians from the entity to coordinate possible actions and complement territory strategies.

The Forest and Farm Fund (FFF) regularly calls for proposals to support leading local organizations of forest and agricultural producers. In 2019, the FFF focused on ways organizations can improve service delivery to their members. Currently in Ecuador, the FFF project is supporting, among others, local initiatives located within the provinces of Napo and Imbabura, so it will be coordinated with this project so that these funds can be granted to organizations that conserve wild relatives.

The Maquita Foundation is a social and solidarity economy organization that works in partnership, sustainable production, fair trade and responsible consumption, to improve the quality of life of vulnerable families in Ecuador. Among its projects, it is mentioned: *Empowerment of Naporuna women and sustainable management for local development in Napo, Ecuador. Phase II; Organic production, fair trade and responsible consumption, Ecuador; Comprehensive economic, social and rural development in indigenous communities in the province of Napo*, among others that will complement the actions proposed by this project.

The Payment for Results project to Ecuador for Deforestation Reduction 2014 ? PPR contributes to the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan, giving continuity and complementing actions previously promoted by other initiatives such as PROAmazon?a that began in 2018 and the REM program that during 2019 began its execution in Ecuador. The project is designed according to the same theory of change as PA-REDD+. Through the Policies and Institutional Management for REDD+ component, the aim is to support the articulation of intersectoral and governmental policies and the mainstreaming of climate change and REDD+ in public policies and in the main land use planning instruments at the level of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GAD) and communities, peoples and nationalities, to support this result, the REDD+ PA identifies four measures (or products). The Payment for Results project will support two of these measures: 1.1 Implementation of land use plans at the local level, through the Performance-Based Payment Agreement tool; and 1.2 Improved management of land rights within protective forests and national protected areas.

The academy will be an important partner in the implementation of the project. There are two strengths that have been identified in the joint work with four universities, the link with society and the research projects and programs that they carry out. It is expected that these universities can support directly in the construction of methodologies for the generation of information on CWR and EWS and the collection of information in the field, with the support of students. The universities identified in this project are IKIAM, UDLA, UTN, and PUCESI-Ibarra headquarters.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The project is aligned with the **National Development Plan 2021-2025 Creating Opportunities**, in particular with its Social axis, which in its Objective 8 proposes to generate new opportunities and well-being for rural areas, with an emphasis on peoples and nationalities.; and with the axis of Ecological Transition, whose Objective 11 contemplates, among others, "Conserve, restore, protect and make sustainable use of natural resources", which has a direct impact on the project that promotes *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of the CWR and EWS.

The project is consistent with the **National Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2030**, in particular with its strategic objectives 1: Incorporate biodiversity, associated ecosystem goods and services, in the management of public policies; 2: Reduce pressures and inappropriate use of biodiversity to levels that ensure its conservation; 3: Fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, considering gender and intercultural specificities; 4: Strengthen the management of knowledge and national capacities that promote innovation in the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and 12: Promote the management, use and complementary conservation (*ex situ - in situ*) of agrobiodiversity through the promotion of sustainable agrobiodiversity production systems in the Ecuadorian territory. As a complement, the project is aligned with Result 9: Ecuador ensures the sustainable management of agricultural, agroforestry and forestry production systems through the use of clean technologies and energies, guaranteeing the conservation of biodiversity; and Result 15: Ecuador makes sustainable use of its genetic resources, linked to the change in the productive matrix and food sovereignty.

The project is consistent with the **National Research Agenda on Biodiversity**, since it seeks to strengthen conservation and contribute to changing the productive matrix of Ecuador. The project also responds to what is identified in the **National Plan for the Promotion of the Use, Processing and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity 2022-2030** which is in its approval phase, because among its objectives is not only the direct promotion of the use and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, but it also proposes the strengthening of institutions and capacities to reinforce the sustainable management of biodiversity, proposing among its principles are environmental sustainability, equitable distribution of benefits, gender equity and inter-institutional management.

The project is aligned with the **Strategic Plan of the National System of Protected Areas 2019-2030**, whose objectives are: 1) Conserve the biological diversity and genetic resources contained in the SNAP; 2) Provide alternatives for the sustainable use of natural resources and the provision of environmental goods and services; and 3) Contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the inhabitants. Likewise, it is aligned with the **National Climate Change Strategy**, specifically with Objective 5 of the Strategic Line of Adaptation to Climate Change: Conserve and sustainably manage the natural heritage and its terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to improve its capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Due to the geographical location of the intervention areas, the project is also linked to the **Comprehensive Amazon Plan 2021-2035**, through the environmental component, because it proposes comprehensive management for the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources. At the local level, the project is aligned with the **PDOT** of the provinces of Napo and Imbabura, which express

objectives and programs to improve the quality of life of their populations, socio-economic development without undermining the environment, and respect for the socio-cultural particularities of the peoples and nationalities that inhabit the territories of the provinces.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The project's knowledge management approach will focus on systematically cultivating and embracing knowledge sharing among stakeholders. Its objective is to facilitate the access and flow of information and knowledge about the importance of the conservation of CWR and EWS in sites defined for *in situ* conservation and to facilitate the access and flow of information by disseminating said knowledge.

The project will prepare a knowledge management plan focused on the conservation of CWR and EWS that will include knowledge and communication results in the practices for their *in situ* conservation and their sustainable use and utilization that can be applied.

Knowledge sharing will facilitate interactions between project partners and stakeholders. Knowledge management will be a transversal activity throughout the project, to prepare an institutional report, promote continuous learning, and produce documentation that supports the scalability of project results and visibility strategies for the development and promotion of institutional and local capacities. Knowledge management will promote a culture of collaboration and continuous learning**.**

The actions aimed at meeting the objectives of the project's Knowledge Management strategy will be, among others: (i) Organize Knowledge Exchange Fairs that bring together project partners and other initiatives with related topics and stakeholders to exchange ideas, experiences and lessons learned; (ii) Provide training, guidance and support to strengthen the exchange of ideas and information in online and face-to-face networks and communities; (iii) Provide support and facilitation to enable better knowledge sharing within involved institutions and stakeholders; (iv) Develop the skills of staff from participating institutions through training in basic skills related to knowledge sharing; (v) Disseminate through publications the knowledge and experiences generated in the project.

The knowledge disseminated through publications aimed at government actors, project beneficiaries and other interested actors, will consider cultural perceptions and include the following guidelines in their design and implementation: a) Adopt a participatory and gender approach, b) Underpin continuous processes of high acceptance and focused on finding solutions to local problems, c) Differentiated training for the type of actor at multiple scales, and d) Implement a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the results and impact of the capacity building program.

The knowledge products will include the following technical documents on: i) Identification of sites for *in situ* conservation of CWR and EWS inside and outside of protected areas, ii) Guide for the prioritization of CWR and EWS in *in situ* conservation sites; iii) Guide for the use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS inside and outside protected areas, iv) National Strategic Plan for the conservation and sustainable use and utilization of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, v) Methodological proposal for the construction of the

red book of agrobiodiversity and its wild relatives in Ecuador, vi) study of the role of women and their impact on the conservation of CWR and EWS in defined *in situ* conservation sites.

The products of knowledge outputs will be produced in suitable formats and in a language adapted to the different audiences of the project, such as authorities, technicians and communities. The project website will be linked to the web platforms of FAO, MAATE, MAG and other partner organizations with the aim of providing continuous and updated information on the progress of the project to the various actors and partners, as well as to the public. It will be regularly updated to continuously share experiences, disseminate information, develop policies and highlight results and progress and facilitate replication of processes throughout the project.

The gender approach will be an important part of the knowledge results generated by the project, encompassing, for example, experiences in incorporating gender; successful cases of women implementing CWR and EWS conservation practices, women benefiting from incentives, and women-led organizations with market access; tools used for gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle, and others identified during implementation.

Communication Strategy

At the beginning of the implementation of the project, a communication strategy with specific elements for the actors and stakeholders and for the areas of intervention will be prepared. The communication strategy will aim to inspire the involvement and commitment of key actors in the conservation of CWR and EWS in the intervention areas. The communication strategy will seek to increase relevant information with a scientific/technical basis for decision-making in an understandable language for all stakeholders, sensitize local and national actors by creating awareness about the value of CWR and EWS and the urgent need to act to ensure their conservation and sustainable use and utilization. The strategy will be implemented together with the communication teams of the project partners. The design of the strategy will take into account criteria and actions to promote participation and dialogue, as well as considerations of cultural sensitivity, social inclusion and gender perspective.

As this is a new issue for the country, the communication strategy will compile the lessons learned and support the positioning of the project, its results and activities, aimed at implementing partners and institutional and community actors at the national and subnational levels who participate in the project and are beneficiaries of it. This strategy will include a logo, emblematic images and campaigns or events at the local level to position important concepts and ideas about the conservation of CWR and EWS.

Many of the project activities will address the high visibility of the project, and the communication strategy will ensure that the project activities and messages are effective and contribute to this visibility. Key messages include the importance of CWR and EWS value for agrobiodiversity conservation. The Project also includes participatory coordination actions involving stakeholders from the public, private, community, academic and civil society sectors, who will widely disseminate the project. The development of plans for the use and sustainable utilization of three CWR and/or EWS in a participatory manner will be widely disseminated among local actors, contributing to the visibility of the project. Information and training materials will support the communication of key project messages, including, but not limited to, the importance of CWR and EWS in situ conservation practices. The communication process will promote

the visibility of the project, promoting the empowerment of producers and their organizations, and facilitating and promoting the implementation and replication of practices for the sustainable use and utilization of CWR and EWS, as well as improving local capacities for value chain management. The availability of incentive mechanisms to promote the adoption and access to conservation practices by the beneficiaries. The project's M&E System will serve to measure its progress and impacts in terms of multiple global environmental benefits, social and economic benefits, which will be made known through the systematization of experiences and lessons learned and published and disseminated. The project will guarantee the mechanisms for a maximum dissemination of the documents prepared by the project and the final report, the technical reports and the mid-term and final evaluation reports. The project website and partner institutions will serve to disseminate information to a wide audience to raise awareness of the importance of in situ conservation of CWRs and EWSs. The project also shares information with relevant platforms of various interested organizations.

Table 4: Knowledge Management Cost Summary

Activity	Responsible Parties	Frequency / Time Period	Budget (USD)
Design, editing, layout and dissemination of 8 technical - legal publications in physical and digital versions	PIU	Permanent	16,700.00
Sensitization of the residents of the intervened populations as well as local institutions through the formation of topics related to the conservation of CWR and EWS through massive campaigns	PIU	Permanent	9,000.00
Joint workshops with residents of intervened populations as well as local institutions to generate new processes and knowledge about the identification and in situ conservation of CWR and EWS	PIU	Permanent	52,060.00
Exchange of information at the international and national levels, which allow improving the performance and results of the project through the formation of a regional network	PIU	1st year - 2nd year	10,250.00
Accumulation and management of information through databases and computer systems to generate learning and build a shared knowledge scheme among various actors with the potential to facilitate the execution of work and accelerate actions in the in situ conservation of CWR and EWS.	PIU	Permanent	26,600.00

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the progress in achieving the project results and objectives and the monitoring of safeguards will be carried out based on the goals and indicators established in the Project Results Framework (Annex A1) and their description in Section 1.a. Project monitoring and evaluation activities have been budgeted for completion. Monitoring and evaluation activities will follow FAO and GEF monitoring and evaluation policies and guidelines. The monitoring and evaluation system will also facilitate learning and replication of project results and lessons related to protected area and natural resource management.

Supervisory and monitoring responsibilities

The monitoring and evaluation functions and responsibilities specifically described in the monitoring and evaluation table will be carried out through: (i) day-to-day project progress monitoring and supervision missions by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU); (ii) technical monitoring of indicators to measure improvements in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (PIU and LTO in coordination with partners); (iii) final evaluation (independent consultants and FAO-OED Evaluation Office); and (v) monitoring and supervision missions (FAO).

At the beginning of the execution of the GEF project, the PIU will establish a system to monitor the progress of the project. Participatory mechanisms and methodologies will be developed to support the monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators and results as well as compliance with socio-environmental safeguards. During the project start-up workshop the monitoring and evaluation tasks will include i) presentation and explanation of the project Results Framework with all project stakeholders; (ii) review of monitoring and evaluation indicators and their baselines; (iii) consulting contracts for compliance with follow-up and monitoring processes and external evaluations, as well as reporting (if applicable); and iv) clarification of the division of monitoring and evaluation tasks between the different stakeholders of the project. The M&E Specialist will present the monitoring and evaluation matrix that will be implemented during the execution of the project. The **results matrix** will be a management tool for the Chief Technical Advisor (TPC) and the Project Partners to: i) monitor the achievement of indicators; ii) annually monitor the achievement of results indicators; iii) clearly define responsibilities and means of verification; iv) select a method for processing indicators and data.

The **M&E** Plan will be prepared by the M&E Specialist together with the project partners in the first three months of year 1 and validated by the PSC. The M&E Plan will be based on the Results Framework and will include: (i) the updated results framework, with clear indicators per year; (ii) updated baseline, if necessary, and selected tools for data collection; (iii) description of the monitoring strategy, including roles and responsibilities for data collection and processing, reporting flows, monitoring matrix, and a brief discussion of who, when, and how each indicator will be measured. Responsibility for project activities may or may not overlap with responsibility for data collection; (iv) updated enforcement provisions, if necessary; (v) integration of monitoring tool indicators, data collection and monitoring strategy to be included in the mid-term review and final evaluation; (vi) calendar of evaluation workshops, including self-evaluation techniques.

The Chief Technical Advisor supported by the M&E Specialist, will be responsible for the daily monitoring of project execution, which will be reflected in the preparation and implementation of the monitoring of the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) through six-months Project Progress Reports

(PPR) The preparation of the AWPB and the six-months PPRs will represent the product of consolidated planning among the main stakeholders of the project. As results-based management (RBM) tools, the AWPB will identify the actions proposed annually for the project and provide the necessary details about the results and achievements to be achieved; the PPR will report on the follow-up of the implementation of actions, the achievement of objectives and scope of results obtained. PPRs will be prepared based on participatory planning and review with the coordination of all stakeholders through planning and progress review workshops in management committees.

An annual project planning and review meeting will be held with the participation of the same project partners, and once the AWPB and PPRs have been prepared they will be sent to the FAO LTO for technical approval and to the Project Steering Committee for approval. The AWPB will be developed in a manner consistent with the Project Results Framework to ensure proper compliance and monitoring of project results and achievements. After project approval, the Year 1 AWPB will be adjusted to sync with the annual reporting schedule. In subsequent years, AWPBs will follow an annual cycle of preparation and reporting.

Indicators and Sources of Information

To monitor project results and achievements, including contributions to global environmental benefits, a set of indicators is established in the Results Framework. The indicators and means of verification in the results framework will be applied to monitor both project performance and impact. Following FAO's monitoring procedures and progress reporting formats, the data collected should be sufficiently detailed to allow monitoring of specific results and achievements and to identify risks to the project in advance. Output indicators will be monitored every six months and outcome indicators will be monitored annually and at the final evaluation.

The principal source of information to the monitoring and evaluation process will be i) participatory workshops to review the progress made with actors and beneficiaries; ii) on-site monitoring of the implementation of interventions on the ground; iii) progress reports prepared by the TPC with input from partners, project specialists and other stakeholders; iv) consulting reports; v) training reports; vi) final evaluation; vii) financial reports and budget reviews; viii) Project implementation reports prepared by the FAO LTO with the support of the FAO Representation in Ecuador; and ix) FAO supervision mission reports.

Reporting Plan

The reports that will be specifically prepared within the framework of the monitoring and evaluation program are: (i) the project start-up report, (ii) the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), (iii) the Project Progress Reports (PPR), (iv) the Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR), (v) the Technical Reports, (vi) the Co-financing reports, and (vii) the Final Report.

Project inception report. At the start of project activities, a project start-up workshop will be held with the participation of partners and stakeholders. Immediately after the workshop, the TPC will prepare a project start-up report in consultation with the PSC and the FAO Representation in Ecuador. The report will include a description of the institutional duties and responsibilities and coordination of project

stakeholders, the progress made in its establishment and start-up activities, as well as an update on any changes in external conditions that may affect the execution of the project. It will also include the detailed AWPB for the first year and the Monitoring Matrix, a detailed monitoring plan. The draft commissioning report will be circulated to FAO and PSC for review and comment prior to finalization.

Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB). The Chief Technical Advisor will submit a draft AWPB to the PSC before the end of each calendar year. This will include detailed monthly activities to be carried out for each outcome and goal, and the dates that the outcome goals and milestones will be achieved during the year. A detailed budget of the project activities to be carried out during the year will also be included, along with all necessary monitoring and supervision activities during the year. The FAO Representation in Ecuador will distribute the draft AWPB to the FAO Projects Working Group (PWG) and will consolidate and present the comments of the FAO. The PSC will review the AWPB and the PIU will include any comments. The final AWPB will be sent to PSC for approval and to FAO for final no objection.

Project Progress Reports (PPR). PPRs are used to identify constraints, issues, or bottlenecks that prevent timely implementation and take corrective action accordingly. The PPRs will be developed in accordance with the systematic monitoring of the output and results indicators identified in the Project Results Framework, the AWPB, and the Monitoring Plan. Each semester, the TPC will prepare a draft PPR and compile and consolidate comments from the FAO LTO. The TPC will submit the PPR to the FAO Representative in Ecuador every six months, before July 10 (from January to June) and before December 15 (from July to December). The report, which runs from July to December, should be accompanied by the following year's AWPB for review and without objection by the FAO LTO.

Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR). The Chief Technical Advisor, under the supervision of the LTO and the BH and in coordination with the national partners of the project, will prepare the PIR for the period of July (previous year) and June (current year). The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, the LTO and the BM will discuss the PIR and its qualifications. The LTO is responsible for the final review of the APER and provides technical approval. The BM will present the final version of the PIR to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for final approval. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will present the PIR to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office as part of the FAO-GEF Annual Portfolio Monitoring Review.

Technical reports. Technical reports will be prepared as part of the project results and will serve to document and disseminate lessons learned. The Chief Technical Advisor TPC must submit the drafts of all the technical reports to the PSC and to the FAO Representation in Ecuador, which in turn will share them with the LTO for review and approval and with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for information and comments, before its completion and publication. Copies of technical reports will be distributed to PDC and other project stakeholders, as appropriate.

Co-financing reports. The Chief Technical Advisor will be responsible for compiling the necessary information on in-kind and cash co-financing provided by all co-financers, i.e., those mentioned in this document and new co-financers. Each year, the Chief Technical Advisor will submit these reports to the FAO Representation in Ecuador before June 15, reporting from July of the previous year to June of the year of the report. This information will be included in the PIR.

Final Report. Two months before the project completion date, the Chief Technical Advisor will submit a draft final report to the PSC and the FAO Representation in Ecuador. The main objective of the final report is to help the authorities with the political decisions necessary for the follow-up of the project and to present information to donors on the use of the funds. Therefore, the final report will consist of a summary of the main results, achievements, conclusions and recommendations of the project. The writing of the report will be done in an understandable language for people who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the political implications of the findings and the technical needs to ensure the sustainability of project results. The final report will evaluate the activities, summarize the lessons learned and express the recommendations in terms of their application to the conservation of EWR and CWS in situ, in the context of development priorities at the national and provincial levels, as well as in terms of application practice. This report will specifically include the conclusions of the final evaluation. A project evaluation meeting will be held to discuss the draft final report with the PSC prior to its finalization by the Chief Technical Advisor and approval by the BH Coordination Unit, LTO and FAO-GEF.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Table 5 contains a summary of the main monitoring and evaluation reports, those responsible for producing them, and a timeline.

Table 5- Summary of main monitoring and evaluation activities

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Period of time/Frequency	Budgeted Costs (USD)
Inception workshop	ChTA FAO-Ecuador (with the support of the LTO, and the FAO-GEF unit)	Two months after starting the project	USD 2,536
Project start-up report	M&E expert and FAO-Ecuador with the approval of the LTO, BH and the FAO-GEF unit	Immediately after the start-up workshop	-
Impact monitoring ?on the ground?	ChTA; project partners, local organizations	Continuous	USD 36,720

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Period of time/Frequency	Budgeted Costs (USD)
Supervision visits and assessment of progress in PPR and PIR	ChTA; FAO (FAO-Ecuador, LTO). The FAO-GEF unit may participate in the visits if necessary.	Annual, or whenever required.	FAO visits will be covered by the fees of the GEF agencies. Project coordination visits will be covered by the project travel budget.
Project progress reports (PPR)	ChTA, with contributions from stakeholders and other participating institutions	Semi-annual	Covered by the project budget.
Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR)	Drafted by the CHTA, with the supervision of the LTO and BM. Approved and submitted to the GEF by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	Annual	FAO staff time is funded by GEF agency fees. PIU time covered by the project budget.
Meetings of the National Steering Committee and the Project Management Committee	CHTA with contributions from other co-financiers	Annual or more	USD 5,300
Co-financing Reports	CHTA, FAO (LTO, FAO-Ecuador)	Annual	-
Technical Reports	FAO-Ecuador, Consultor External, in consultation with the project team, including the FAO-GEF unit and others.	As required	PIU time covered by the project budget

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Period of time/Frequency	Budgeted Costs (USD)
Oversight mission	FAO-Ecuador in consultation with the project team, including the FAO-GEF unit and others.	Halfway through project implementation	Included in the budget
Final Evaluation (FE)	CHTA; FAO (FAO-Ecuador, LTO, the FAO-GEF unit, Report Unit (TCS)	At the end of the implementation of the project	USD 36,550 managed by the OED with an external evaluation team and final report and editing. FAO staff time and travel costs will be funded from GEF agency fees.
Total Budget			**USD 81,106**

Assessment Provisions

The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and large size projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides: (i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; (ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and (iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

The BH will be responsible to contact the **Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES)** within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the ?GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects.? FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralized Evaluation Support team ? in particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, Terms of Reference of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings.

After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within 4 weeks and share it with national partners, GEF OFP, OED and the FAO-GEF CU.

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Dissemination of Information

The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. Dissemination of information will be ensured through publication on websites and dissemination of findings through pamphlets and events. Project reports will be widely and freely disseminated, and findings and lessons learned will be made available.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The main benefit of the project will be the improvement of the capacities of the national and local actors in the areas of intervention of the project, to face the challenges for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of the CWR and EWS. In this sense, the project will contribute to the improved capacities of:

•Improved management for the conservation of CWR and EWS of protected areas expressed in the increase in the management effectiveness score of the GEF monitoring tool (METT): Cotacachi National Park: from 60 to 61; Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve: from 56 to 60. (GEF Indicator 1.2). Other potential protected areas such as Sumaco-Napo-Galeras National Park and Llanganates National Park are expected to also benefit in their management, and will be reported in Terminal Evaluation.

•50% (120) of institutional officials from MAATE, INIAP, MAG and local GADs (at least 20% women) for the conservation and management of the CWR and EWS.

•1,200 beneficiaries (50% women and 50% men) sensitized and participating in the implementation of practices for the sustainable use of CWR and EWS to improve their livelihoods.

Conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS. The conservation of CWR and EWS is a strategy that not only promotes the preservation of biodiversity *per se*, but also encourages the creation of "genetic reserves" representing vast and untapped potential for future crop improvement and coping with uncertainty caused by climate change and other negative environmental impacts. For example, the genetic contribution of wild species could increase crop productivity by as much as 1% per year (Flynn 2006 in Hunter and Heywood 2011). The project "*In situ* Conservation of Wild Relatives of Crops through Information Management and its Application in the Field", through its manual that was carried out in 2012, determined that wild relatives may have desirable characters that serve to provide crops with resistance to adverse environmental conditions, resistance to pests and diseases, increase nutritional properties, resistance to biotic and abiotic stress, among others (Hunter and Heywood 2011).

In the short term, the project will promote opportunities in the use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS, as a strategy to support the economic reactivation of highly vulnerable populations, whose reality worsened after the COVID-19 pandemic that led to social and economic impacts of great proportions. According to the analysis carried out in the National Development Plan 2021-2025 Creating Opportunities,

it is estimated that among the effects of COVID-19 in the country, the Ecuadorian economy decreased by 6.44%, the average nominal labor income was reduced by 12.6% for men and 7% for women, losing 532,000 jobs, of which approximately 76,000 were for women. This situation has left a large population in rural areas unemployed, who now see the exploitation of natural resources as the first emerging option for economic income, causing changes in land use that have almost doubled in some buffer zones of protected areas since the appearance of the virus.

The benefits for the global environment are visualized, because the project aims to contribute to strengthening the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of biodiversity as a strategy to include or reinforce this issue within public policies, strategies and practices that link public and private actors that have an impact on biodiversity, but that at the same time can promote a balance between conservation, use and utilization of biodiversity.

Food security and sovereignty. The Constitution of Ecuador, in its article 281, establishes that food sovereignty constitutes a strategic objective and an obligation of the State to guarantee that individuals, communities, peoples and nationalities achieve self-sufficiency in healthy and culturally appropriate food on a permanent basis. In the context of the project, the Andean and Amazonian chakras are seen as a cultural landscape that maintains strong identity and cultural ties between the population and nature, and promotes the maintenance of a high diversity of wild edible species. The project will promote sustainable management and conservation of these traditional agricultural practices, as a mechanism of food sovereignty in Ecuador, and in a complementary way, the conservation of wild relatives of crops will contribute to the security of crop production that could be affected by changing environments.

The resulting socio-economic impacts mentioned above due to the presence of COVID-19 also materialize in terms of food security. Studies carried out at the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean show that 40% of the poorest households are experiencing hunger and 50% are changing their consumption to less healthy diets.

Unfortunately, the natural wealth contained in Ecuador is not only exposed to various threats, but also has not been used to improve the well-being of the Ecuadorian population. The indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural populations that have historically contributed to protecting and conserving the mega-biodiversity that Ecuador has, generally bear great deficiencies. The country has also not been able to take advantage of its agrobiodiversity to face some of its most felt needs, such as the high rates of malnutrition, which is particularly high among the child population.[1]

Thus, the project proposes to generate direct benefits in terms of food security and sovereignty, as a response to the existing crisis. To meet this challenge, the project will launch various activities aimed at strengthening the knowledge of various actors about the importance and value of agrobiodiversity, especially CWR and EWS, in the perspective of revaluing its potentialities in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Social role of protected areas

The increase in the size of protected areas worldwide occurs more clearly in regions that are home to the highest levels of biodiversity, where it is also very common to find conditions of high poverty, rapid

population growth and political instability (Naughton-Treves, Holland, and Brandon 2005, 221). Studies show spatial overlaps between poverty, inequality and biodiversity in many countries located in the tropics. Spatially, rural poverty may be highest where biodiversity is greatest, i.e., the ?rich forests, poor people? syndrome. (Peluso 1994 cited in Naughton-Treves, Holland, and Brandon 2005, 241). That situation is clearly evident in Ecuador, with the conditions of poverty present around protected areas, and that was previously analyzed.

This reality has generated conflicts between the local population and conservation initiatives (Roe 2008 cited in Oldekop; Holmes, Harris y Evans 2015, 134; Cumming and Allen 2017, 1709). Above all, the establishment of the protected areas that make up the National System of Protected Areas, in many cases, have been the beginning of socio-environmental conflicts that continue today. Possibly little or no prior socialization with owners or possessors; decisions to evict or relocate people; or, the lack of political decision that at the time did not have enough firmness to apply current legal provisions, have been, among others, the causes of these problems and conflicts (EC MAE 2015, 202-05). As can be seen, and it is important to emphasize, even when the identification of the social component has repercussions on the management of protected areas, it has not yet been directly visualized by the national environmental authority. For example, it analyzes how the bad administration of the area affects society, or how human actions affect the state of conservation of the area; but very little has been analyzed and documented on the social impact of protected areas from an eminently social approach (Bruner et al., 2001; Butchart et al., 2010 cited in Porter-Bolland et al. 2011, 7). In this context, the project will be able to work as a pilot, with populations living in and around four protected areas, in order to contribute to the improvement of their livelihoods, based on the use and utilization of biodiversity.

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[1] The high rates of chronic child malnutrition - where 3 out of 10 children under two years of age suffer from it - has made Ecuador the country with the second highest proportion of child malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean, after Guatemala. (UNICEF, 2021).

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The project is classified as moderate risk to the extent that it emphasizes the conservation of agrobiodiversity through the strengthening of the institutional framework for the registration, in situ conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS in pilot sites in the Amazon (Napo) and the northern Sierra (Imbabura). The project, therefore, will not introduce new species or foreign species, will not promote the use of external inputs (agrochemicals) that may negatively affect the environmental surroundings of the communities, nor will it implement infrastructure works of any kind.

Table 6. Environmental and Social Risks of the Project

Social and environmental risks and their impacts	Mitigation measures	Responsible parties	Cost	Timeline
ESS 1: Management of Natural Resources				
N/A				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				

Social and environmental risks and their impacts	Mitigation measures	Responsible parties	Cost	Timeline
Will this project be implemented within a legally declared protected area or its buffer zone?	The actions that the project implements will be developed in a coordinated manner with MAATE, local GADs, MAG-INIAP and other public entities with understandings of biodiversity, in order to guarantee that the intervention is articulated with the existing regulations in relation to protected areas and buffer zones. Project activities revolve around conservation and protection, which will contribute to improving the state of biodiversity in the selected areas. In the activities related to the strengthening of value chains, management plans and technical assistance will be aimed at improving and strengthening sustainable practices for the collection, cultivation and processing of CWR and EWS and to the definition of the regulations.	PIU		Years 1, 2 and 3
Will this project involve access to genetic resources for use and/or access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources of indigenous, local and/or producer communities?	The project will strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the conservation of CWR and EWS, which among other aspects implies compliance with constitutional provisions and international agreements and conventions signed by Ecuador. Both the current Constitution and the international agreements ratified by the country contain provisions that explicitly highlight the protection, access, and respect for traditional and collective knowledge linked to phytogenetic resources. To this end, the project will promote, in coordination with the Nacional Intellectual Rights Service (SENADI), training processes aimed at indigenous peoples and nationalities so that they are aware of their rights linked to traditional knowledge and the use of community protocols as traditional knowledge protection mechanism and planning prepared by indigenous communities that integrate rules of organization, decision-making, access, use, utilization, and management of associated traditional knowledge within a given territory.	PIU		Year 1
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				

Social and environmental risks and their impacts	Mitigation measures	Responsible parties	Cost	Timeline
N/A				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic resources for food and agriculture.				
N/A				
ESS 5: Pest and pesticide management				
N/A				
ESS 6: Resettlement and involuntary displacement				
N/A				
ESS 7: Decent Employment				
N/A				
ESS 8: Gender Equity				
N/A				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
Will project activities affect indigenous peoples living outside the project area?	Outreach and communication will have a broader scope than the area of intervention of the project and, therefore, will also cover indigenous populations living outside of the area. Hence, in outreach and communication materials, as well as all the documents and studies generated by the project, the intercultural and gender approach will be incorporated. In addition, the expected results in terms of methodologies and legislation related to the conservation of EWR and CWS, with national impact, will be prepared taking into account the point of view of the indigenous and non-indigenous populations and will be supported by the principle of equity and intercultural respect, recognizing the role that indigenous peoples and nationalities have played in the protection and conservation of CWR and EWS.	PIU		Years 1, 2 and 3

Social and environmental risks and their impacts	Mitigation measures	Responsible parties	Cost	Timeline
Are there indigenous peoples living in the project area where activities will be taking place?	In the intervention area of the project there is an important presence of indigenous peoples and nationalities that in general experience low social indicators and great deficiencies. The project seeks, within specific areas, to support indigenous communities in strengthening the Amazonian and Andean *chakras*, as well as in the conservation of their collective lands. The activities that are carried out will be preceded by capacity building on traditional knowledge protection mechanism processes in order to comply with both environmental and social safeguards, as well as respect the rights of peoples and nationalities enshrined in the Constitution (Art. 57) Organic Code of Knowledge OESCCI and in international agreements.	PIU		Years 2 and 3

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Climate Change screening 702505	**Project PIF ESS**	
ESS 702505	**Project PIF ESS**	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Annex A1: Project Results Framework

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Objective: Strengthen institutional systems for the implementation and compliance with measures for the registration, in situ conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, as a complementary scope for the incorporation of CWR and EWS in local and national plans and strategies, and global measures for the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its contribution to improving the quality of life of rural populations						
Component 1: Improved institutional framework, for the definition of in situ conservation areas of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS).						
Outcome 1.1: CWR and EWS are identified and conserved in situ in the pilot sites of the Amazon (Napo) and the northern highlands (Imbabura), using as a basis for analysis, the roles and priorities of use and conservation of men and women in the conservation areas and pilot sites.	Project indicator 1: (GEF BD Indicator 1.2): Area (in hectares) of in situ conservation of CWR and EWS established in Napo and Imbabura according to PA zoning	In Ecuador there are no defined sites for the conservation of CWR and EWS populations in situ (0 ha.). Public institutions develop ex situ and in situ conservation policies. The latter are specified in the National System of Protected Areas, encompassing all biodiversity, without specifying the conservation of CWR and EWS.	1,000 ha (500 ha in Napo and 500 ha in Imbabura)	2,000 ha (1,000 ha in Napo and 1,000 ha in Imbabura)	Data / reports, cartography, documents that support the definition of prioritized sites Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR) Final Evaluation (FE) Reports	The project partners have the will and commitment to move towards the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in the in situ conservation sites.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
-	Project Indicator 2 (GEF BD Indicator 4.3): Area (in hectares) of in situ conservation of CWR and EWS in private areas established in Napo and Imbabura according to the PA zoning		500 ha (250 ha in Napo and 250 ha in Imbabura)	1000 ha (500 ha in Napo and 500 ha in Imbabura)		

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output.1.1.1 Preparation of a methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS, based on the Voluntary Guidelines of the Genetic Resources Commission, the gender and cultural relevance approach, and national circumstances.	Project indicator 3: Number and type of technical documents that make up the toolbox for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS	There are official procedures for the zoning of protected areas, local planning tools by the GADs and local initiatives for the creation of ACUS. There is no specific technical document for the identification of in situ conservation and sustainable use sites of CWR and EWS There are no technical guidelines or strategic lines for the identification and prioritization of CWR and EWS species, however, INIAP as a national entity and other public and private research institutions have and/or are conducting studies of wild species	1 proposed technical document (Methodological Guide) for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS within and outside PAs	Methodological guide for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS within and outside PAs, disseminated and in process of approval	Technical documents prepared and approved Citizen participation reports for the construction of documents Project Progress Report (PPR)	The national authorities are willing to advance in the definition of standards and both technical and legal tools.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.1.2: Inventory and in situ conservation status of priority wild species, for the two developed pilot in situ areas.	Project indicator 4: Number of CWR and EWS inventories carried out, characterizing the state of conservation in the defined sites in Napo and Imbabura	INIAP and other national institutes have limited knowledge about the conservation status of CWR and EWS populations, and in many cases there are only specific collections, in germplasm banks that have concentrated on collections and information on cultivated species. There is little information available regarding the conservation status of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, there are no specific inventories that characterize their status	1 prioritized CWR or EWS inventory document	3 prioritized CWR or EWS inventory documents	Inventory documents elaborated Technical sheets PPR	The field conditions allow the collection of information according to what was planned Communities actively participate in data collection The research team has the relevant permits to collect information

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.1.3: Definition of in situ conservation areas and sustainable use of CWR and ESW, according to zoning of protected areas and in private areas	Project indicator 5: Number of sites for the in situ conservation of CWR and ESC in Napo and Imbabura defined	There are no previous initiatives of studies to define in situ conservation sites, use and sustainable utilization for CWR and EWS in Ecuador	1 file prepared to define a site in Napo or Imbabura	3 files prepared in Napo and Imbabura	File documents prepared PPR	The project partners have the will and commitment to move towards the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in the in situ conservation sites.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Outcome 1.2: Strengthening and implementation of the regulatory framework and information on in situ conservation of CWR and EWS.	Project indicator 6: The institutions involved apply the new competencies acquired for in situ conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, measured by the increase in the score with respect to the baseline of the GEF Capacity Tracking Tool adapted to the theme of the legal and information framework, applied at the beginning, middle and end of the project	Capacity monitoring tool applied at the start of the project to the selected institutions. Baseline scores and goals defined and validated in the Start-up Workshop	10% Level of improvement with respect to the baseline achieved according to goals established at the beginning of the project.	20% Level of improvement with respect to the baseline achieved according to goals established at the beginning of the project.	Results of the application of the capacity monitoring tool PIR FE reports	The national authorities are willing to advance in the definition and application of legal standards. The technical and operational units are actively involved and participate in the development of regulations

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.2.1: Secondary regulations for in situ conservation, sustainable use of CWR and EWS, generated and/or updated within the scope of the MAATE and MAG-INIAP	Project indicator 7: Number and type of secondary regulations that incorporate the procedures for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS in situ	In Ecuador there is no specific regulatory framework for CWR and EWS. There is a legal tool for zoning in protected areas that identifies sustainable use zones. There are several related legal bodies. For example: Organic Code of the Environment and its regulations; Organic Law on Agrobiodiversity, seeds and promotion of agriculture and its regulations; Provincial ordinance that declares the Kichwa chakra as a sustainable system in the province of Napo. The competences between public institutions are not clearly defined	1 legal diagnosis document of the legal instruments necessary to promote the conservation of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation and sustainable use sites.	2 approved secondary legal regulations that incorporate the procedures for the conservation, use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS in situ	Resolutions, Ministerial Agreement PPR	The national authorities are willing to advance in the definition of legal standards. The technical and operational units are actively involved and participate in the development of regulations

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.2.2: Development of protocol for digital, geographic and statistical monitoring of the in situ conservation status of priority CWR and EWS.	Project indicator 8: Protocol for digital, geographic and statistical monitoring of the in situ conservation status of priority CWR and EWS with a community approach	In Ecuador there is no specific monitoring protocol with a community approach for the in situ conservation of CWR and EWS	1 technical document of the monitoring protocol with a proposed community approach	1 technical document of the monitoring protocol with a community approach applied in the sites defined for the in situ conservation of CWR and EWS	Technical document prepared and approved Reports of citizen participation for the construction of the protocol PPR	The national authorities are willing to advance in the definition of standards and both technical and legal tools.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.2.3: Development of CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information system.	Project indicator 9: Digital, geographic and statistical information system to monitor the state of conservation of the CWR and EWS for national application	The environmental authority maintains general information and dissemination systems related to the management and conservation of biodiversity in Ecuador, however, it does not include specific modules on the conservation, use and utilization of CWR and EWS. Through the Unique System of Environmental Information - SUIA, the MAATE manages the different systems and platforms.	Design of the information module developed and validated with field tests for the monitoring of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites	1 information system for monitoring CWR and EWS in established conservation and sustainable use sites, feeding the SUIA integrated information system of the environmental authority Two annual reports of the information system on the level of conservation of the CWR and EWS in the in situ conservation sites	Design of the monitoring system, user manual and technical manual of the system. System design and implementation report Protocols for data loading and report generation MAATE staff training reports for the use of the information system Memos and reports generated locally and uploaded to the Information System MAAE institutional reports PPR	Commitment of MAAE in the development of the information system. MAATE staff is trained and makes use of the information system, generating the necessary information for management and decision making The community gets involved and supports the efforts of the MAAE staff

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Outcome 1.3: Capacities of national institutions and local governments strengthened for in situ conservation, use, utilization, management and reporting of CWR and EWS.	Project indicator 10: (GEF BD Indicator 1.2): Increased management effectiveness score of four protected areas (PA) measured by monitoring tool (METT) applied at the mid-term and end -	Scores obtained based on the application of the METT tool: Sumaco-Napo Galeras National Park: 58 Cotacachi National Park: 60 Llanganates National Park: 61 Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve: 56	Parque Nacional Sumaco-Napo Galeras:60 Parque Nacional Cotacachi:61 Parque Nacional Llanganates:65 Reserva Ecol?gica Colonso Chalupas:59	Parque Nacional Sumaco-Napo Galeras:63 Parque Nacional Cotacachi:61 Parque Nacional Llanganates: 65 Reserva Ecol?gica Colonso Chalupas:60	METT Tool Scorecards APER FE reports	The project partners have the will and commitment to move towards the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in the in situ conservation sites.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.3.1: Strategic plan for the in situ conservation of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, which includes a methodological proposal for the construction of the Red Book of agrobiodiversity and its wild relatives in Ecuador, presented as contributions for the updating of the National Strategy for biodiversity	Project indicator 11: National strategic plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, specifically contemplating the role of women and their importance in the process	Ecuador does not have a national conservation plan for CWR and EWS The red book of the endemic species of Ecuador is available, but there is no direct reference on CWR and EWS In 2015, Ecuador developed the national biodiversity strategy, where result 15 mentions the sustainable use of genetic resources, linked to the change in the productive matrix and food sovereignty. However, no rights are recognized, including those of intellectual property, on derived or synthesized products obtained from the collective knowledge associated with national biodiversity.	1 document of the National Strategic Plan proposed for the conservation of CWR and EWS in Ecuador, specifically contemplating the role of women and their importance in the process 1 Document developed of the methodology for the production of the red list of the CWR and EWS in Ecuador	National Strategic Plan disseminated for the conservation of CWR and EWS as an input for updating the Biodiversity Strategy of Ecuador	National Strategic Plan for the Conservation of CWR and EWS Study on the role of women and their incidence in the conservation of CWRs and EWS in defined conservation sites A document with the methodological proposal for the construction of the red book on agrobiodiversity and its wild relatives in Ecuador PPR	The national authorities are willing to advance in the definition of standards and both technical and legal tools.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.3.2: Establishment of **r**egional exchange network on experiences of creation of reserves and in situ management of CWR and EWS (triangular cooperation).	Project indicator 12: Number of exchanges of experiences on the creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, with balanced participation between men and women	There are no previous events in Ecuador on the creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	1 regional exchange of experiences on the creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, with balanced participation between men and women	1 national exchange of experiences on the management, conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS, with balanced participation between men and women	Photographs of the event, memories, systematizati on documents PPR	Human resources from MAATE and other institutions involved are interested in training; actively participate in education and training programs; and apply the acquired knowledge Leaders with skills and motivations are identified to integrate the training program for trainers.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 1.3.3: Training of technicians from the MAATE, from the Department of Plant Genetic Resources of MAG-INIAP, and from the Environmental Directorates of GAD.	Project indicator 12: (GEF Indicator 11): 50% of technicians from MAATE, from the Plant Genetic Resources Department of MAG-INIAP and from the Environment Directorates of local GADs trained in in situ management of CWR and EWS, of which at least 20% are women	In Ecuador, few specific training initiatives have been developed in isolation regarding the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in situ. Officials from the institutions involved have received few training processes in isolation on conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, particularly from CWR and EWS. There is no training program in a consensual and articulated manner between the institutions involved in the processes of conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS.	25% of technicians from MAATE, from the Plant Genetic Resources Department of MAG-INIAP and from the Environment Directorates of local GAD trained in in situ management of CWR and EWS, of which at least 20% are women	50% of technicians from MAATE, from the Plant Genetic Resources Department of MAG-INIAP and from the Environment Directorates of local GAD trained in in situ management of CWR and EWS, of which at least 20% are women	Education and Training Program Documents Training materials, including workshop programs and courses Record of people trained by year and locality/AP, disaggregated by sex Photographic record and attendance lists PPR	Human resources from MAATE and other institutions involved are interested in training; actively participate in education and training programs; and apply the acquired knowledge That trained officials remain in office within their institution
Component 2: Implementation of in situ conservation measures and sustainable use of CWR and EWS						

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Outcome 2.1: The areas of in situ conservation, use and utilization of prioritized CWR and EWS constitute demonstration scenarios and community learning for the conservation and sustainable use of local agrobiodiversity.	Project indicator 13: In situ conservation level of CWR and EWS in the managed areas reported by the information system.	In Ecuador there are no defined sites for the conservation of CWR and EWS populations in situ (0 ha.) Public institutions develop ex situ and in situ conservation policies. The latter are specified in the National System of Protected Areas, encompassing all biodiversity, without specifying the conservation of CWR and EWS. Scores obtained based on the application of the METT tool:	Baseline of the level of in situ conservation of the prioritized CWRs and EWS in the managed areas reported in the information system	10% increase in the level of in situ conservation of prioritized CWRs and EWSs in the managed areas at the end of the project reported in the information system	Conservation level measurement methodology Results reports Reports of the published report	The national authorities are willing to advance in the definition of standards and both technical and legal tools. Communities actively participate in the process of establishing and managing conservation areas

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 2.1.1: Management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS implemented and evaluated in Napo and Imbabura, based on the project's exit strategy and processes of community participation and training of men and women.	Project indicator 14: Number of management plans for CWR and EWS in situ conservation sites prepared with the participation of women and indigenous peoples and with priority actions implemented	There are no management plans for CWR and EWS in situ conservation sites.	5 management plans	10 management plans	Management Plan Document Follow-up reports on the implementation of priority actions PPR	Communities and their organizations recognize the importance of the sustainable use of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites, participate in the design of actions and adopt the practices and technologies The GAD actively participate and facilitate the processes of formulating local regulations Commitment of the GAD to adopt and promote measures for the conservation of CWR and EWS in sites defined for in situ conservation in a coordinated manner with the MAATE

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 2.1.2: Guide for the use and sustainable utilization of CWR and EWS based on voluntary guidelines and national regulations, and on the gender and cultural relevance approach.	Project indicator 15: Number and type of tool for sustainable use of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites with a gender and cultural relevance approach	Ecuador does not have a specific technical document that guides the sustainable use of CWR and EWS	1 technical document approved, containing the guidelines for the sustainable use and utilization of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites with a gender approach and cultural relevance	1 technical document of the guidelines for the sustainable use and utilization of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites disseminated and socialized	Technical documents prepared and approved Citizen participation reports for the construction of technical/legal tools PPR	The national authorities are willing to advance in the definition of standards and both technical and legal tools.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 2.1.3: Plans for the use and utilization of CWR and EWS approved and implemented, considering each of the links in the prioritized chains of the associative companies of Napo producers, in coordination with national incentives and the GAD.	Project indicator 16: Number of plans for the use and utilization of CWR and EWS prepared with the participation of women and indigenous peoples and with priority actions implemented	Several plans for the use of wild species have been carried out at the national level. For example, in Imbabura, the plan for the use of morti?o was carried out, together with associations of local producers. A management plan for the sustainable use of morti?o has been developed in community areas of Cotacachi located within and around the Cotacachi Cayapas protected area. There are no previous experiences of sustainable use of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites at the national level.	1 plan of use and utilization	3 plans of use and utilization	Documents of the use and utilization plans Reports on the implementation of priority actions PPR	Communities and their organizations recognize the importance of the sustainable use of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites, participate in the design of actions and adopt the practices and technologies The GAD actively participate and facilitate the processes of formulating local regulations Commitment of the GAD to adopt and promote measures for the conservation of CWR and EWS in sites defined for in situ conservation in a coordinated manner with the MAATE

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Outcome 2.2: Recognition and promotion of products preserved in situ by CWR and EWS.	Project indicator 17: (GEF indicator #11) Number of direct beneficiaries of associative enterprises in Napo and Imbabura, who improve their productive activities by practicing the sustainable use of CWR and EWS to improve their livelihoods, of which 50% are women	0 Conservation of CWR and EWS that has traditionally been carried out by rural populations, especially women and indigenous peoples, is not valued or recognized by local populations	600 beneficiaries (50% women and 50% men)	1,200 beneficiaries (50% women and 50% men)	List of project beneficiaries, project progress reports, monitoring reports PIR DOM/FE reports	Communities and their organizations recognize the importance of the sustainable use of CWR and EWS in in situ conservation sites, participate in the design of actions and adopt the practices and technologies

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
	Project indicator 18: Number of value chains in the province of Napo and Imbabura that have the recognition and logo of differentiation for the sustainable use of CWR and EWS	There are several initiatives for the sustainable use of biodiversity and associative experiences underway in the provinces of Imbabura and Napo, not always linked to CWR and EWS	1 value chain from the province of Napo and 1 from Imbabura	2 value chains from the province of Napo and 1 from Imbabura	Value chains with logo certifications, progress reports PIR FE reports	Interest and commitment of institutions to develop and promote incentives. Producers are interested in accessing incentives and participating in CWR and EWS conservation actions in defined in situ conservation sites

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 2.2.1: Recognition and logo of differentiation for the products of the companies that apply plans for sustainable use and utilization and in situ conservation of CWR and EWS	Project indicator 19: Number and type of incentive mechanisms strengthened and implemented for the conservation and sustainable use of CWR and EWS in established in situ conservation sites	0 There are several initiatives for the sustainable use of biodiversity and associative experiences underway in the provinces of Imbabura and Napo, not always linked to CWR and EWS. Example in Napo, activities of structuring and functionality of the Participatory Guarantee System (SPG) have been developed for the award of the Chakra seal	3 incentive mechanisms (2 mechanisms aimed at women and 1 at men)	5 incentive mechanisms (3 mechanisms aimed at women and 2 at men)	Documents of incentive schemes and the different mechanisms Implementing Partner Reports PPR	Interest and commitment of institutions to develop and promote incentives. Producers are interested in accessing incentives and participating in CWR and EWS conservation actions in defined in situ conservation sites Women actively participate in the processes of definition and implementation of mechanisms and incentives.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 2.2.2: Generation of educational and communicative materials and mechanisms for the dissemination of the importance and positioning of the products of the companies maintained by CWR and EWS.	Project indicator 20: Number and type of educational materials on the importance of CWR and EWS in situ conservation	N/D	1 WEB of the developed project. Communication strategy with gender perspective and culturally appropriate developed and validated. At least 3 gender sensitive and culturally appropriate communication materials disseminated (e.g., videos, manuals, guides, brochures, infographics, webinars).	At least 8 gender sensitive and culturally appropriate communication materials disseminated (e.g., videos, manuals, guides, brochures, infographics, webinars).	Communication strategy document with a gender perspective and culturally appropriate. Published communication materials (videos, manuals, guides, brochures, infographics, webinars). Press reports	The communication strategy is suitable for three target audiences with a gender perspective and culturally appropriate. Indigenous women and communities actively participate in the process of designing and validating educational and communication materials
Component 3: Information monitoring, evaluation and dissemination system						
Outcome 3.1: Knowledge management and M&E to report project results and lessons learned about in situ conservation of CWR and EWS to stakeholders and communities	Project indicator 21: Results of the measurement of sustainability criteria that demonstrate comparatively, and at different times, the achievements of the project.	N/A	100% scope in achieving mid-term goals	100% scope in achieving results. Proven Sustainability	The Project meets the milestones and goals of monitoring, evaluation and learning, delivers the expected results and shares lessons learned	The project partners have the political will to move towards the sustainable use of natural resources, they take ownership of the project and ensure its sustainability

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 3.1.1: Establishing the baseline - TAPE tool.	Project indicator 22: Baseline prepared based on the TAPE tool	N/A	Baseline prepared based on the TAPE tool	TAPE tool applied at the end of the project.	EF reports	The project partners have the political will to move towards the sustainable use of natural resources, they take ownership of the project and ensure its sustainability
Output 3.1.2: Monitoring and evaluation of the project to achieve the results	Project indicator 23: Project results framework with outcome and output indicators, baseline and targets Gender perspective incorporated in project management and actions	N/A	3 progress reports (PIR), including analyzes on the situation of women and peoples and nationalities in relation to the project 1 annual audit 1 LTO mission to territory	6 progress reports (PPR), including analyzes on the situation of women and peoples and nationalities in relation to the project 3 annual audits 3 LTO missions to territory	Reports issued	M&E system of the designed project, including the follow-up of activities, verification mechanisms for compliance with results and output indicators, and M&E responsibilities, deadlines and budgets.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 3.1.3: Project evaluation	Project indicator 24: final evaluation concluded	N/A		1 final evaluation carried out	Mission report Final evaluation report	The results of the Final Review are used to review the progress of the project and define corrective actions to achieve the results and objective, as well as to channel the experiences of the project and generate lessons learned for new initiatives.

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 3.1.4: Developments and dissemination of results publications to stakeholders	Project indicator 25: Number and type of publications on the actions and results of the project disseminated	N/A	1 knowledge management plan identifying knowledge products to be generated, with a gender and intercultural approach developed and validated with key actors 1 document published on the role of women and their incidence in the conservation of the CWR and EWS in the defined in situ conservation sites	7 documents and publications systematizing experiences and lessons disseminated incorporating the gender approach and cultural relevance (inventories, guides, methodologies, etc.)	Knowledge management plan Published documents Evidence on the dissemination of publications	The project partners are open to the challenges, successes and lessons learned from the project so that these can be identified, published and disseminated. Indigenous women and communities actively participate in the process of designing and validating educational and communication materials

Chain of Results	Indicators	Base line	Mid-term targets	End of project targets	Means of verification	Hypothesis
Output 3.1.5: Dissemination and communication of the project's actions (corporate image, merchandising, campaigns, App, social networks, et al.)	Project indicator 26: Communication and information strategy, with a gender and intercultural approach implemented	N/A	1 communication and information strategy, with a gender and intercultural approach, developed and validated with key actors	1 communication and advocacy strategy implemented through community radio, digital media and printed materials 3 documents and publications systematizing experiences and lessons disseminated (incorporating the gender approach and cultural relevance)	Photographic records, press releases, social networks, website Press releases, digital media, virtual posts, etc. Disseminated reports and technical documents PPR	The partners of the project do not present limitations so that the information on the execution and progress can be identified, published and disseminated.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

NA

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Grant approved in the PIF: 50,000			
Project Preparation Activities	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted	***Spent to date***	***Committed***
Consultants	35,200	27,414	14,786
Travel	4,950	1,186	
Contracts	3,969	0	
Training	3,500	669	2.864
Wages (BM)	2,381	0	2,381
Total	**50,000**	29,969	20,031

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

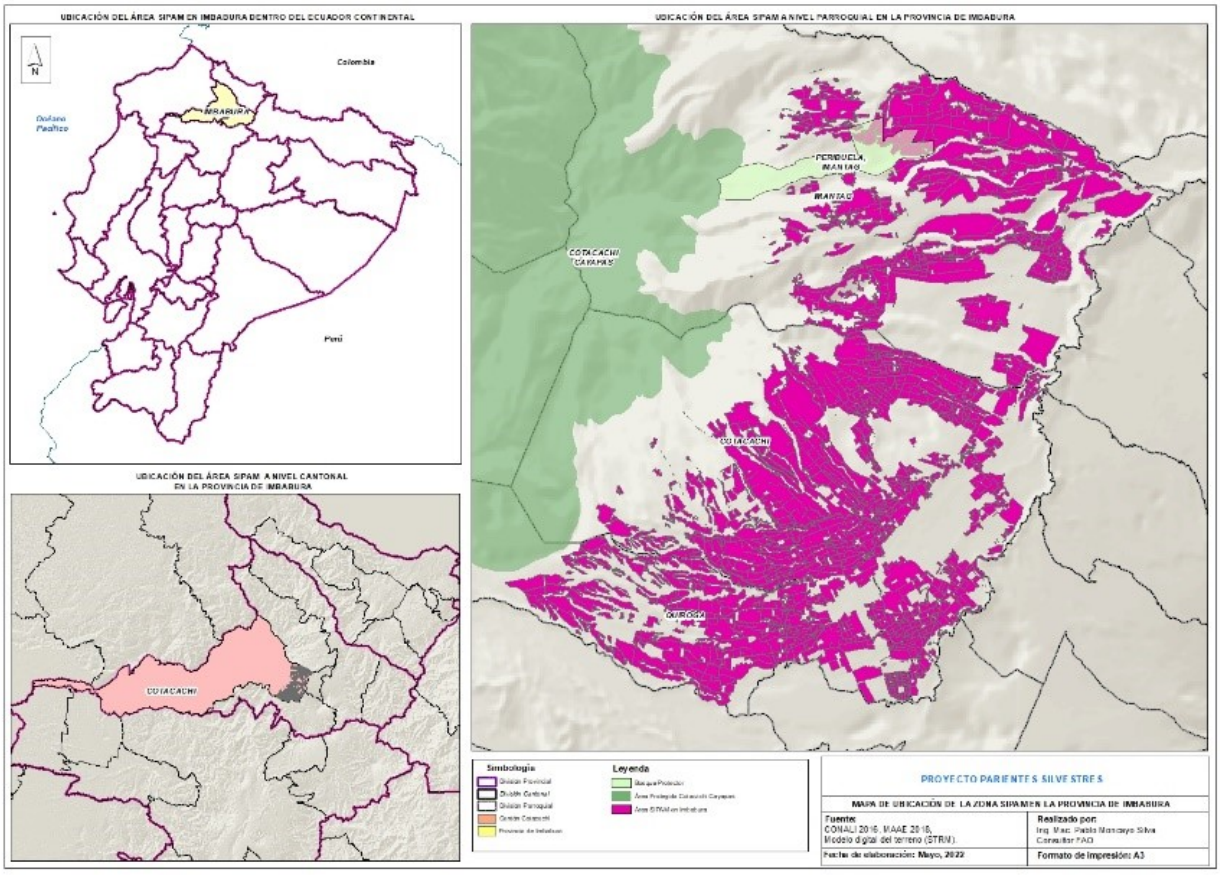
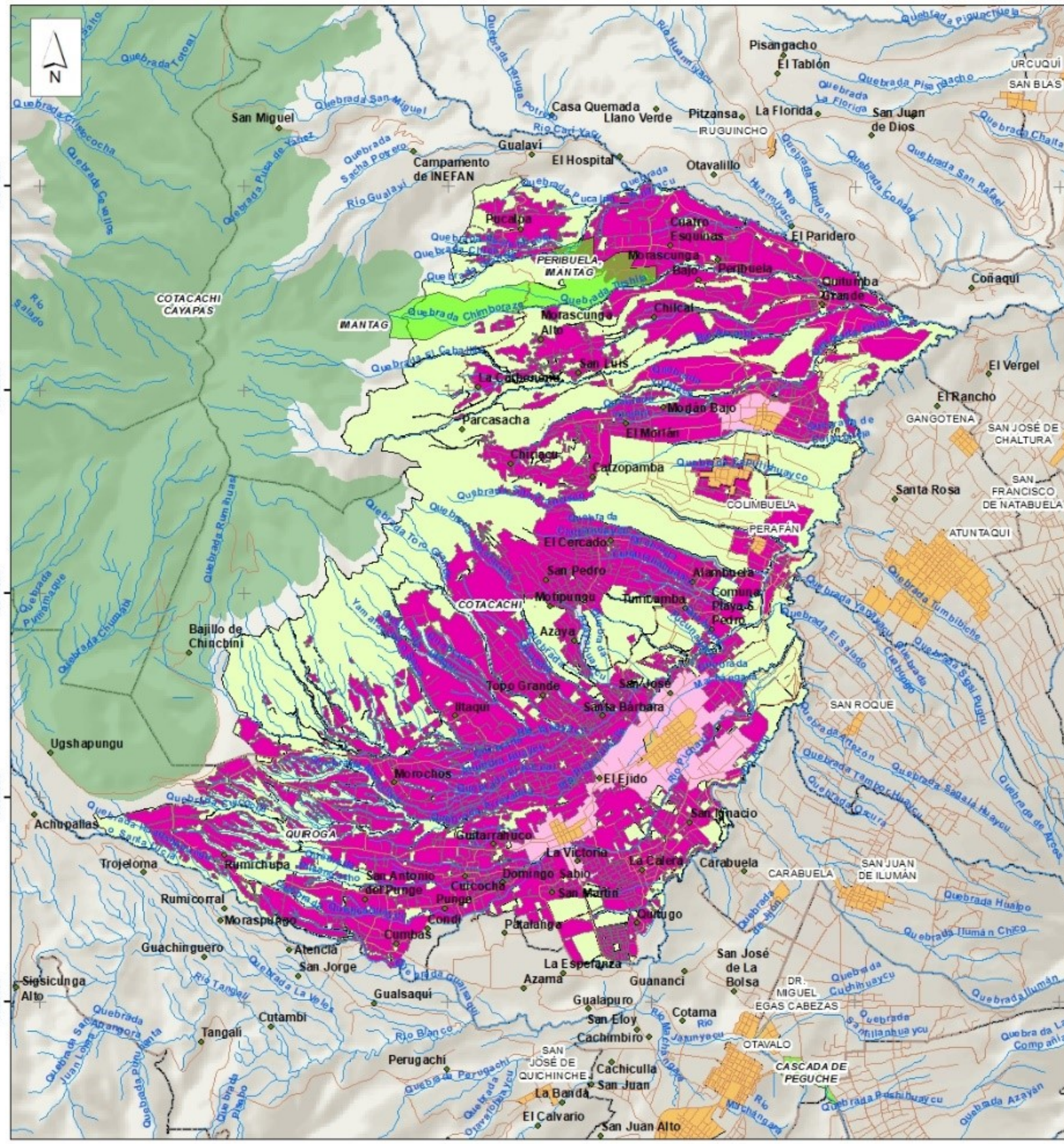


Figure 1: Map of Cotacachi canton ? GIAHS site and protected areas

The following figure shows the GIAHS area in Cotacachi, which is 6,171.23 hectares. It has as neighboring areas, the rural and urban zone of Cotacachi. Close to this GIAHS zone is the protected area, Cotacachi Cayapas and the Peribuela Mantag Protected Forest.

MAPA BASE DEL ÁREA SIPAM EN LA PROVINCIA DE IMBABURA EN EL CANTÓN COTACACHI



0 1 2 4 Km

Datum WGS 84
Proyección Universal Transversal
de Mercator (UMT), Zona 17 Sur.

COBERTURA	ÁREA (ha)	
CATASTRO RURAL	6152.86	ÁREA DE INFLUENCIA SIPAM
CATASTRO URBANO	625.80	ÁREA DE INFLUENCIA SIPAM
CHACRA ANDINA	6171.23	ÁREA SIPAM

Simbología
- División Provincial
- División Cantonal
- División Parroquial
- Poblados
- Ríos
- Vías
- Zona Urbana

Leyenda
- Bosque Protector
- Área Protegida Cotacachi Cayapas
- Chacra Andina. Área SIPAM en Imbabura
- Catastro Rural
- Catastro Urbano

PROYECTO PARIENTES SILVESTRES

MAPA BASE DE LA ZONA SIPAM EN LA PROVINCIA DE IMBABURA EN EL CANTÓN COTACACHI.

Fuente:
CONALI 2016, MAAE 2018, IGM, I.M. Cotacachi. UNORCAC. Modelo digital del terreno (STRM).

Realizado por:
Ing. Msc. Pablo Moncayo Silva.
Consultor FAO.

Escala de impresión: 1:75,000

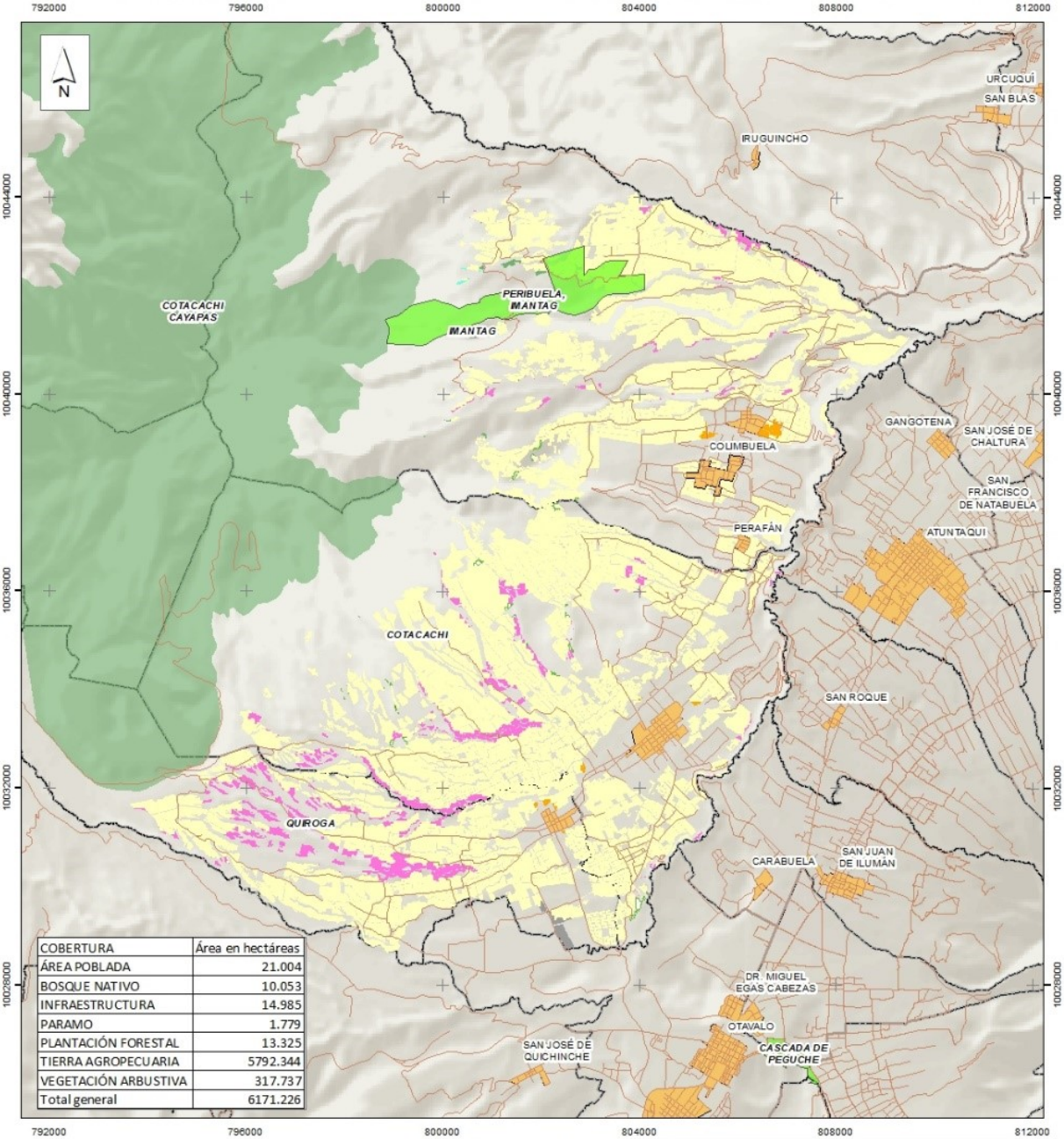
Fecha de elaboración: Mayo, 2022

Formato de impresión: A3

Figure 2 ? Base map of the GIAHS site in Cotacachi

The following figure shows the land cover (2018, Ministry of the Environment) of the GIAHS area of Cotacachi, which has: Populated Area, Native Forest, Infrastructure, P?ramo, Forest Plantation, Agricultural Land and Shrub Vegetation.

MAPA DE COBERTURA DEL SUELO DEL ÁREA SIPAM EN LA PROVINCIA DE IMBABURA EN EL CANTÓN COTACACHI



COBERTURA	Área en hectáreas
ÁREA POBLADA	21.004
BOSQUE NATIVO	10.053
INFRAESTRUCTURA	14.985
PARAMO	1.779
PLANTACIÓN FORESTAL	13.325
TIERRA AGROPECUARIA	5792.344
VEGETACIÓN ARBUSTIVA	317.737
Total general	6171.226

0 1 2 4 Km

Datum WGS 84
Proyección Universal Transversal
de Mercator (UMT), Zona 17 Sur.

Simbología

- División Provincial
- División Cantonal
- División Parroquial
- Ríos
- Vías
- Zona Urbana

Leyenda

- Bosque Protector
- Área Protegida Cotacachi Cayapas

COBERTURA DEL SUELO

- ÁREA POBLADA
- BOSQUE NATIVO
- INFRAESTRUCTURA
- PARAMO
- PLANTACIÓN FORESTAL
- TIERRA AGROPECUARIA
- VEGETACIÓN ARBUSTIVA

PROYECTO PARIENTES SILVESTRES

MAPA DE COBERTURA DEL SUELO DE LA ZONA SIPAM EN LA PROVINCIA DE IMBABURA EN EL CANTÓN COTACACHI.

Fuente: CONALI 2016, MAAE 2018, IGM, I.M. Cotacachi. UNORCAC. Modelo digital del terreno (STRM).	**Realizado por:** Ing. Msc. Pablo Moncayo Silva. Consultor FAO.
	Escala de impresión: 1:75,000
Fecha de elaboración: Mayo, 2022	**Formato de impresión: A3**

Figure 3 ? Land cover map of the GIAHS site in Cotacachi

The following table shows the coverage, with its surface area and the percentage that each covers in the GIAHS site in Cotacachi.

Table 1 ? Land cover in the GIAHS site of Cotacachi

COVERAGE	Area in hectares	Percentage of coverage
POPULATED AREA	21,004	0.34
NATIVE FOREST	10,053	0.16
INFRASTRUCTURE	14,985	0.24
PARAMO	1,779	0.03
FOREST PLANTATION	13,325	0.22
AGRICULTURAL LAND	5,792,344	93.86
SHRUB VEGETATION	317,737	5.15
Total	6,171,226	100.00

The following figure shows the GIAHS area in Napo, which has 196,504.59 hectares. Close to this GIAHS zone, there are the protected areas: Llanganates, Colonso Chalupas, Antisana and Sumaco-Napo-Galeras, as well as the Protected Forests: Cerro Sumaco and Cuenca Alta del R?o Suno; Watersheds of the Colonso, Tena, Shiti; Yaguma; Habitagua; Ceploa and Mondana Rivers.

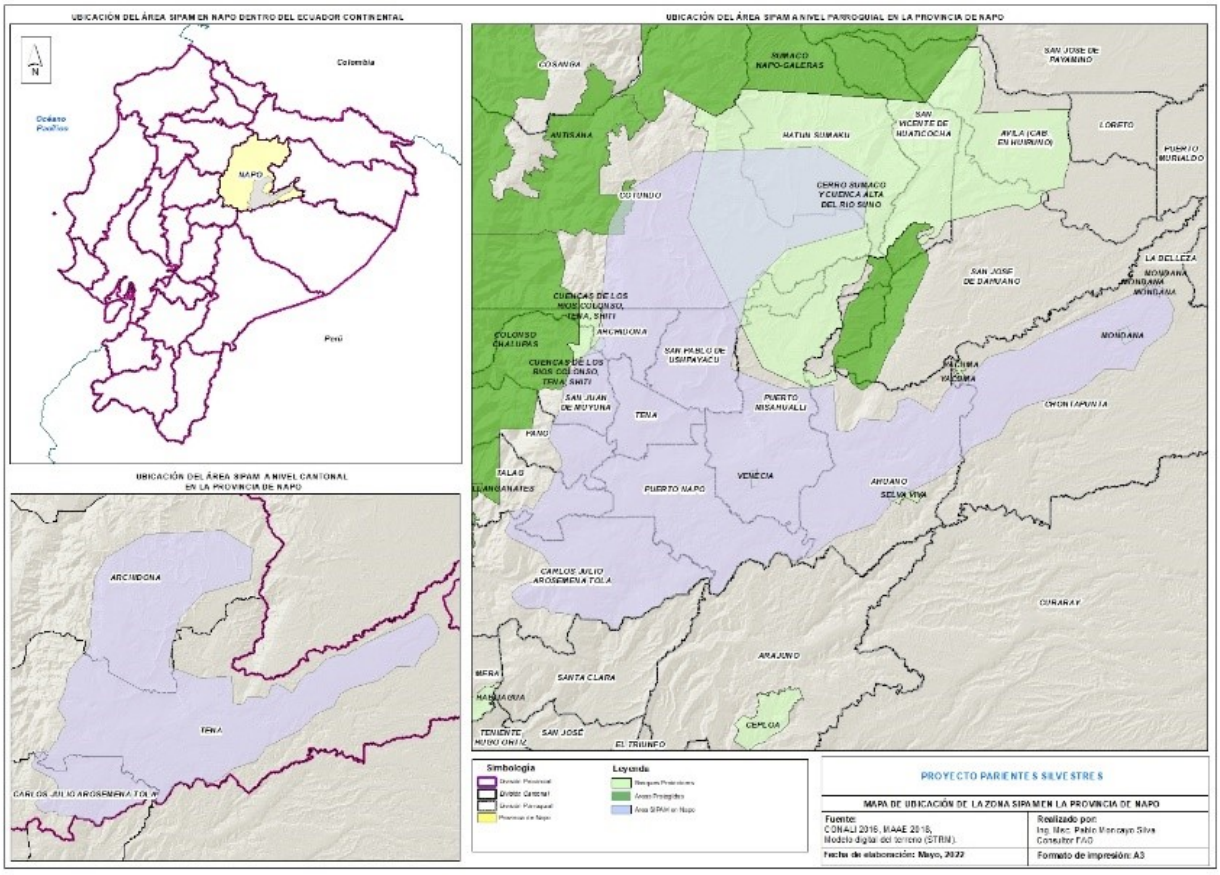
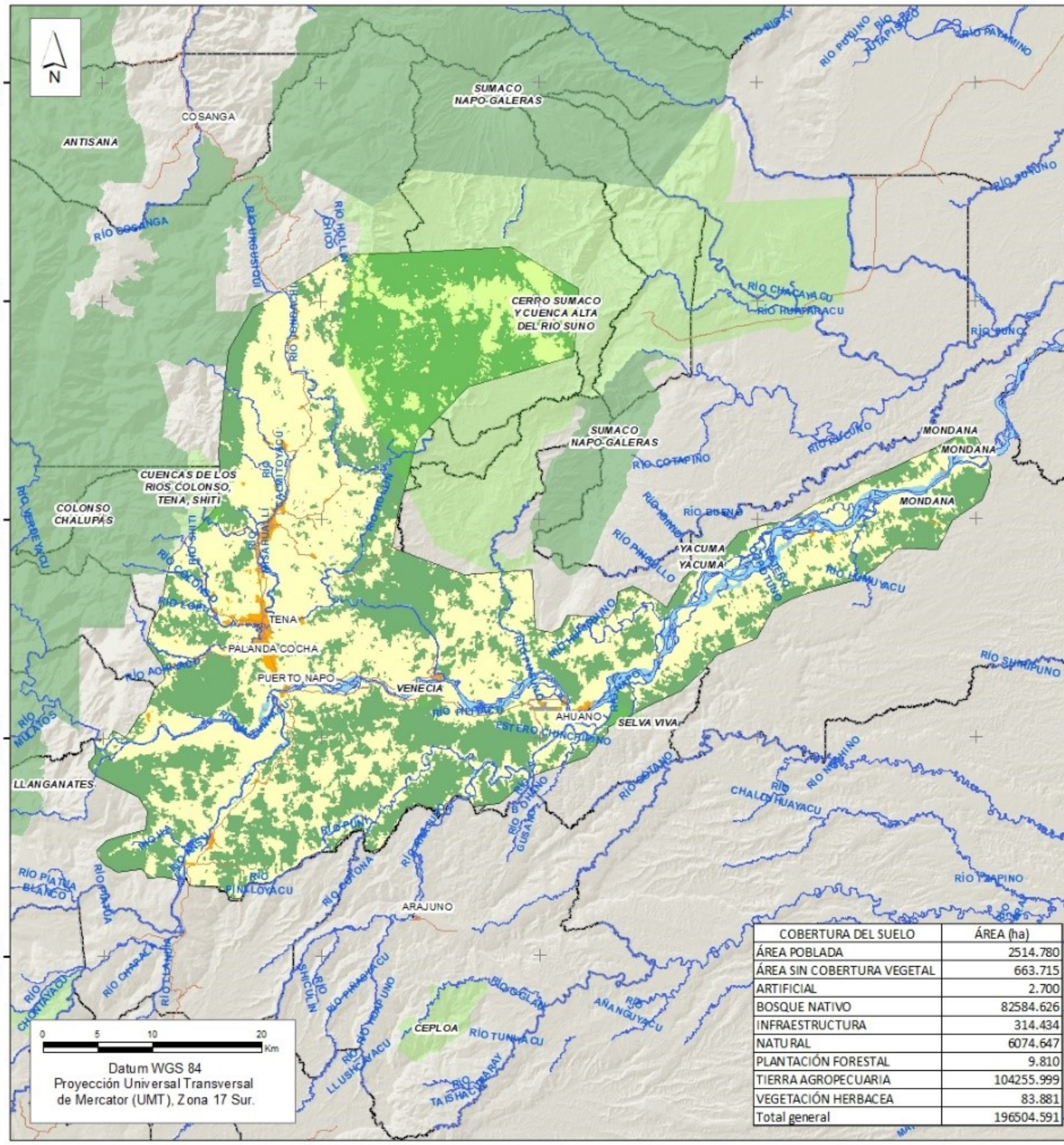


Figure 4 ? Location map of the GIAHS site and protected areas in Napo

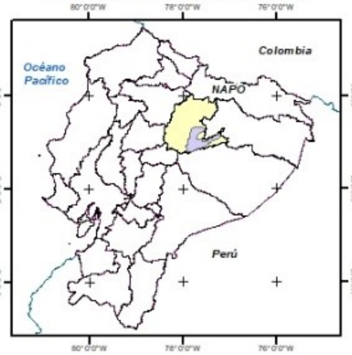
The following figure shows the land cover of the GIAHS area of Napo (2018, Ministry of the Environment) with: Populated Area, Areas without Vegetation Cover, Bodies of Water (Artificial), Native Forest, Infrastructure, Bodies of Water (Natural), Forest Plantation, Agricultural Land and Shrub Vegetation.

MAPA DE COBERTURA DEL SUELO DEL ÁREA SIPAM EN LA PROVINCIA DE NAPO.



COBERTURA DEL SUELO	ÁREA (ha)
ÁREA POBLADA	2514.780
ÁREA SIN COBERTURA VEGETAL	663.715
ARTIFICIAL	2.700
BOSQUE NATIVO	82584.626
INFRAESTRUCTURA	314.434
NATURAL	6074.647
PLANTACIÓN FORESTAL	9.810
TIERRA AGROPECUARIA	104255.999
VEGETACIÓN HERBACEA	83.881
Total general	196504.591

UBICACIÓN EN EL ECUADOR CONTINENTAL



Simbología
- División Provincial
- División Cantonal
- División Parroquial
- Ríos
- Vías
- Zona Urbana

Leyenda
- Bosque Protector
- Áreas Protegidas

COBERTURA SUELO SIPAM NAPO
- ÁREA POBLADA
- ÁREA SIN COBERTURA VEGETAL
- ARTIFICIAL
- BOSQUE NATIVO
- INFRAESTRUCTURA
- NATURAL
- PLANTACIÓN FORESTAL
- TIERRA AGROPECUARIA
- VEGETACIÓN HERBACEA

PROYECTO PARIENTES SILVESTRES

MAPA DE LA COBERTURA DEL SUELO DE LA ZONA SIPAM EN LA PROVINCIA DE NAPO.

Fuente: CONALI 2016, MAAE 2018, IGM, Corporación de Asociaciones de la Chacra Amazónica. Modelo digital del terreno (STRM).

Realizado por: Ing. Msc. Pablo Moncayo Silva. Consultor FAO.

Escala de impresión: 1:350,000

Fecha de elaboración: Mayo, 2022

Formato de impresión: A3

Figure 5 ? Land cover map of the GIAHS site in Napo

The following table shows the coverage, with its surface area and the percentage that each cover.

Table 2 ? Land cover at the GIAHS site in Napo

GROUND COVER	AREA (ha)	Coverage Percentage
POPULATED AREA	2,514,780	1.280
AREA WITHOUT PLANT COVER	663,715	0.338
ARTIFICIAL	2,700	0.001
NATIVE FOREST	82,584,626	42.027
INFRASTRUCTURE	314,434	0.160
NATURAL	6,074,647	3.091
FOREST PLANTATION	9,810	0.005
AGRICULTURAL LAND	104,255,999	53.055
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	83,881	0.043
Total	196,504,591	100.000

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Annex A2 of the Agency Project Document contains the Excel file with the Budget.

FAO category costs				Subtotal Components
	Total Comp. 1	Total Comp. 2	Total Comp. 3	

5013 - Consultants				
National Consultants				
Legal specialist Personnel 1/2 time 12 months	12,480.00	-	-	12,480.00
Specialist in agrobiodiversity Personnel (Chief Technical Advisor)	-	58,608.00	-	58,608.00
Environmental Social Territorial Technical Personnel	-	88,920.00	-	88,920.00
Administrative assistant Personnel 1/2 time	-	-	-	-
Specialist in communication Personnel 1/2 time	-	-	24,960.00	24,960.00
Specialist Monitoring and Follow-up Personnel 1/2 time	-	-	18,720.00	18,720.00
SUBTOTAL National consultants	**12,480.00**	**147,528.00**	**43,680.00**	**203,688.00**
International Consultants				
Final evaluation	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL International Consultants	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
5650 - Contracts				
Contract for the preparation of the methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS both within and outside the PA	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00
(1) Design, edition, layout of the methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS (digital)	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00
Contract for the collection of information and preparation of inventories of three CWR and/or EWS species in the sites defined for in situ conservation in Napo and Imbabura	27,000.00	-	-	27,000.00
(2) Design, layout and publication of the inventories prepared for CWR and EWS	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00
Contract with universities for the preparation of files for the definition of the conservation sites of the CWR and EWS	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00

(3) Design, layout and publication of the protocol for digital, cartographic and statistical monitoring of the CWR and EWS conservation status	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00
Contract for collecting information in situ to feed the tests of the geographic and statistical information system of 3 prioritized CWRs and EWS	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00
Contract for the elaboration of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS and the elaboration of the red book methodology	20,000.00	-	-	20,000.00
Contract for the study of the role of women in the conservation of CWR and EWS	7,662.00	-	-	7,662.00
(4) Design, layout and publication on the role of women and their impact on the conservation of CWR and EWS in defined conservation sites	2,800.00	-	-	2,800.00
(5) Design, editing, layout and printing of copies for the publication of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS Digital and physical document	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00
Contract for the development of training materials at the regional exchange event	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00
(6) Systematization, design, layout and publication of regional exchange experiences	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00
Contract with formal educational institutions for training in conservation and management of CWR and EWS for technical teams from the institutions involved	10,080.00	-	-	10,080.00
(7) Design, edition, layout of the document, for the publication of the guide for the use and sustainable utilization of the CWR and EWS. It will be distributed in physical form to the communities	-	2,100.00	-	2,100.00
Contract for the design of incentive mechanisms for the three chains prioritized within the use and utilization plans	-	9,000.00	-	9,000.00

8) Systematization of experiences, design, layout and publication of experience in the application of practices and incentives for the conservation of CWR and EWS in situ	-	1,800.00	-	1,800.00
Website Design	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
Translation services for indigenous peoples	-	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
Contracts for the development of awareness campaigns in different media and different topics throughout the project	-	-	9,000.00	9,000.00
Publication contract in various media	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
SUBTOTAL 5650 Contracts	**103,042.00**	**18,400.00**	**12,000.00**	**133,442.00**
5021 - Travel				
National travel				
Legal Specialist Travel to Territory (DSA)	6,000.00	-	-	6,000.00
Agrobiodiversity Specialist (DSA) Trips	-	36,000.00	-	36,000.00
Travel communication specialist (DSA)	-	-	12,000.00	12,000.00
Travel specialist in M&E (DSA)	-	-	-	-
International travel				
Travel of participants and facilitators from other countries for the regional exchange event on creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
Travel for training/workshops/meetings				
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of the methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS both inside and outside the PAs	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Participant trips to the workshops of the information collected with the community for the inventory of 3 CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Participants travel to workshops with women and indigenous peoples to define in situ conservation sites based on the FPIC process	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00

Participant trips to the workshops for the elaboration of secondary legal norms for the conservation of CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Participant travel to community monitoring workshops	4,200.00	-	-	4,200.00
Participant trips to workshops for the construction of community rights	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Participant trips to the workshops for the construction of community protocols	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00
Participant trips to the CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information system socialization and training workshops	300.00	-	-	300.00
Travel of participants and facilitators for the regional exchange event on creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00
Lodging of participants to the regional exchange event, it is estimated for 30 participants	1,350.00	-	-	1,350.00
Personnel trips from partner institutions component 1	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of the Guide for the sustainable use and exploitation of CWR and EWS	-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of plans for the use and exploitation of the 3 prioritized CWR	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
Personnel trips from partner institutions component 2	-	24,450.00	-	24,450.00
Participant trips to the workshops for the survey of the TAPE baseline	-	-	300.00	300.00
Personnel trips from partner institutions component 3	-	-	9,700.00	9,700.00
SUB TOTAL 5021 Travel	**32,100.00**	**64,500.00**	**22,000.00**	**118,600.00**
5023 - Training				
Participatory workshops for the preparation of the methodological guide and the toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS both within and outside PA	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00

Validation workshops of the CWR and EWS inventories and of the information collected with the community and local officials	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Workshops with women and indigenous peoples to define in situ conservation sites based on the FPIC process	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Participatory workshops for the creation of legal regulations of a secondary nature for the conservation of CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Workshops for community monitoring according to protocols of the CWR/EWS populations in the defined in situ conservation sites	4,200.00	-	-	4,200.00
Workshops for the construction of community rights with an impact on the conservation of the CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00
Workshops for raising community protocols 10 communities in 7 cantons, with an impact on the conservation of the CWR and EWS	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00
Socialization and training workshops for the CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information module	450.00	-	-	450.00
Participatory workshops for the preparation of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS	6,000.00	-	-	6,000.00
Socialization event of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
Logistics of the regional event on experiences of creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	3,200.00	-	-	3,200.00
Transportation for days of field tour in regional exchange event	1,200.00	-	-	1,200.00
Workshops for training technical teams from institutions involved in CWR and EWS management	23,760.00	-	-	23,760.00
Participatory workshops for the preparation of management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and/or EWS prioritized in 10 communities	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
Participatory workshops for the preparation of the Guide for the use and sustainable utilization of CWRs and EWS	-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00

Participatory workshops for the preparation of plans for the use and exploitation of 3 prioritized CWR and/or EWS	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
Participatory workshops with a technical team from various institutions for the survey of the TAPE tool baseline	-	-	450.00	450.00
Management Committee Meetings	-	-	-	-
Steering Committee Meetings	-	-	-	-
Inception workshop	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL 5023 -Training	**47,560.00**	**4,050.00**	**450.00**	**52,060.00**
5024 - Fungible Acquisitions				
Satellite images, baseline cartography for the geographic information system and statistics on the state of conservation of the CWR and EWS	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
Materials and supplies for the implementation of priority actions established in the CWR and EWS management plans	-	60,000.00	-	60,000.00
Actions to promote ancestral knowledge of the communities in the use and sustainable utilization of the CWR and EWS	-	6,000.00	-	6,000.00
Diffusion material to make the population aware of the project's actions and about the importance of in situ conservation of the CWRs and EWS	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
SUBTOTAL 5024 - Fungible Acquisitions	**10,000.00**	**71,000.00**	**-**	**81,000.00**
6100 - Non-fungible acquisitions				
Field teams for researchers who collect field information on inventories	8,100.00	-	-	8,100.00
Technological equipment for the collection and analysis of data collected for the CWR and EWS inventory	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00
Technological equipment for the implementation of the geographic and statistical information system in the MAATE (computers and servers, interfaces)	10,950.00	-	-	10,950.00
Legal specialist equipment	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00

Implementation of 5 prioritized mechanisms and incentives based on use and utilization plans	-	70,880.00	-	70,880.00
Equipment for agrobiodiversity specialist and local technicians	-	4,500.00	-	4,500.00
Communicator and administrator equipment and M&E	-	-	4,500.00	4,500.00
SUBTOTAL 6100 - Non-fungible acquisitions	**35,550.00**	**75,380.00**	**4,500.00**	**115,430.00**
5028 - General Operating Expenses				
Insurance	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL 5028 - General Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	**240,732.00**	**380,858.00**	**82,630.00**	**704,220.00**

FAO category costs	Subtotal Components	M&E	PMC	Total GEF	Responsible Entity
5013 - Consultants					
National Consultants					
Legal specialist Personnel 1/2 time 12 months	12,480.00	-	-	12,480.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Specialist in agrobiodiversity Personnel (Chief Technical Advisor)	58,608.00	-	37,476.00	96,084.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Environmental Social Territorial Technical Personnel	88,920.00	-	-	88,920.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Administrative assistant Personnel 1/2 time	-	-	37,440.00	37,440.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Specialist in communication Personnel 1/2 time	24,960.00	-	-	24,960.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Specialist Monitoring and Follow-up Personnel 1/2 time	18,720.00	18,720.00	-	37,440.00	Specialized Operating Partner

SUBTOTAL National consultants	**203,688.00**	**18,720.00**	**74,916.00**	**297,324.00**	**-**
International Consultants					
Final evaluation	-	36,550.00	-	36,550.00	FAO
SUBTOTAL International Consultants	**-**	**36,550.00**	**-**	**36,550.00**	**-**
5650 - Contracts					
Contract for the preparation of the methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS both within and outside the PA	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
(1) Design, edition, layout of the methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS (digital)	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract for the collection of information and preparation of inventories of three CWR and/or EWS species in the sites defined for in situ conservation in Napo and Imbabura	27,000.00	-	-	27,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
(2) Design, layout and publication of the inventories prepared for CWR and EWS	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract with universities for the preparation of files for the definition of the conservation sites of the CWR and EWS	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
(3) Design, layout and publication of the protocol for digital, cartographic and statistical monitoring of the CWR and EWS conservation status	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract for collecting information in situ to feed the tests of the geographic and statistical information system of 3 prioritized CWRs and EWS	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract for the elaboration of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS and the elaboration of the red book methodology	20,000.00	-	-	20,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract for the study of the role of women in the conservation of CWR and EWS	7,662.00	-	-	7,662.00	Specialized Operating Partner

(4) Design, layout and publication on the role of women and their impact on the conservation of CWR and EWS in defined conservation sites	2,800.00	-	-	2,800.00	Specialized Operating Partner
(5) Design, editing, layout and printing of copies for the publication of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS Digital and physical document	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract for the development of training materials at the regional exchange event	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
(6) Systematization, design, layout and publication of regional exchange experiences	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract with formal educational institutions for training in conservation and management of CWR and EWS for technical teams from the institutions involved	10,080.00	-	-	10,080.00	Specialized Operating Partner
(7) Design, edition, layout of the document, for the publication of the guide for the use and sustainable utilization of the CWR and EWS. It will be distributed in physical form to the communities	2,100.00	-	-	2,100.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contract for the design of incentive mechanisms for the three chains prioritized within the use and utilization plans	9,000.00	-	-	9,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
8) Systematization of experiences, design, layout and publication of experience in the application of practices and incentives for the conservation of CWR and EWS in situ	1,800.00	-	-	1,800.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Website Design	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Translation services for indigenous peoples	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Contracts for the development of awareness campaigns in different media and different topics throughout the project	9,000.00	-	-	9,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Publication contract in various media	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner

SUBTOTAL 5650 Contracts	**133,442.00**	**-**	**-**	**133,442.00**	**-**
5021 - Travel					
National travel					
Legal Specialist Travel to Territory (DSA)	6,000.00	-	-	6,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Agrobiodiversity Specialist (DSA) Trips	36,000.00	-	-	36,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Travel communication specialist (DSA)	12,000.00	-	-	12,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Travel specialist in M&E (DSA)	-	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
International travel					
Travel of participants and facilitators from other countries for the regional exchange event on creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Travel for training/workshops/meetings					
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of the methodological guide and toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS both inside and outside the PAs	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the workshops of the information collected with the community for the inventory of 3 CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participants travel to workshops with women and indigenous peoples to define in situ conservation sites based on the FPIC process	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the workshops for the elaboration of secondary legal norms for the conservation of CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant travel to community monitoring workshops	4,200.00	-	-	4,200.00	Specialized Operating Partner

Participant trips to workshops for the construction of community rights	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the workshops for the construction of community protocols	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information system socialization and training workshops	300.00	-	-	300.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Travel of participants and facilitators for the regional exchange event on creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Lodging of participants to the regional exchange event, it is estimated for 30 participants	1,350.00	-	-	1,350.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Personnel trips from partner institutions component 1	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and EWS	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of the Guide for the sustainable use and exploitation of CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the workshops for the preparation of plans for the use and exploitation of the 3 prioritized CWR	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Personnel trips from partner institutions component 2	24,450.00	-	-	24,450.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participant trips to the workshops for the survey of the TAPE baseline	300.00	-	-	300.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Personnel trips from partner institutions component 3	9,700.00	-	-	9,700.00	Specialized Operating Partner
SUB TOTAL 5021 Travel	**118,600.00**	**18,000.00**	**-**	**136,600.00**	**-**
5023 - Training					

Participatory workshops for the preparation of the methodological guide and the toolbox for the definition of species and conservation areas of CWR and EWS both within and outside PA	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Validation workshops of the CWR and EWS inventories and of the information collected with the community and local officials	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Workshops with women and indigenous peoples to define in situ conservation sites based on the FPIC process	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participatory workshops for the creation of legal regulations of a secondary nature for the conservation of CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Workshops for community monitoring according to protocols of the CWR/EWS populations in the defined in situ conservation sites	4,200.00	-	-	4,200.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Workshops for the construction of community rights with an impact on the conservation of the CWR and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Workshops for raising community protocols 10 communities in 7 cantons, with an impact on the conservation of the CWR and EWS	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Socialization and training workshops for the CWR and EWS geographic and statistical information module	450.00	-	-	450.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participatory workshops for the preparation of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS	6,000.00	-	-	6,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Socialization event of the National Strategic Plan for the conservation of CWR and EWS	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Logistics of the regional event on experiences of creation and management of in situ conservation sites and sustainable use of CWR and EWS	3,200.00	-	-	3,200.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Transportation for days of field tour in regional exchange event	1,200.00	-	-	1,200.00	Specialized Operating Partner

Workshops for training technical teams from institutions involved in CWR and EWS management	23,760.00	-	-	23,760.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participatory workshops for the preparation of management plans for in situ conservation areas of CWR and/or EWS prioritized in 10 communities	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participatory workshops for the preparation of the Guide for the use and sustainable utilization of CWRs and EWS	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participatory workshops for the preparation of plans for the use and exploitation of 3 prioritized CWR and/or EWS	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Participatory workshops with a technical team from various institutions for the survey of the TAPE tool baseline	450.00	-	-	450.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Management Committee Meetings	-	4,500.00	-	4,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Steering Committee Meetings	-	800.00	-	800.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Inception workshop	-	2,536.00	-	2,536.00	Specialized Operating Partner
SUBTOTAL 5023 -Training	**52,060.00**	**7,836.00**	**-**	**59,896.00**	**-**
5024 - Fungible Acquisitions					
Satellite images, baseline cartography for the geographic information system and statistics on the state of conservation of the CWR and EWS	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Materials and supplies for the implementation of priority actions established in the CWR and EWS management plans	60,000.00	-	-	60,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Actions to promote ancestral knowledge of the communities in the use and sustainable utilization of the CWR and EWS	6,000.00	-	-	6,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Diffusion material to make the population aware of the project's actions and about the importance of in situ conservation of the CWRs and EWS	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner

SUBTOTAL 5024 - Fungible Acquisitions	**81,000.00**	**-**	**-**	**81,000.00**	**-**
6100 - Non-fungible acquisitions					
Field teams for researchers who collect field information on inventories	8,100.00	-	-	8,100.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Technological equipment for the collection and analysis of data collected for the CWR and EWS inventory	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Technological equipment for the implementation of the geographic and statistical information system in the MAATE (computers and servers, interfaces)	10,950.00	-	-	10,950.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Legal specialist equipment	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Implementation of 5 prioritized mechanisms and incentives based on use and utilization plans	70,880.00	-	-	70,880.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Equipment for agrobiodiversity specialist and local technicians	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
Communicator and administrator equipment and M&E	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00	Specialized Operating Partner
SUBTOTAL 6100 - Non-fungible acquisitions	**115,430.00**	**-**	**-**	**115,430.00**	**-**
5028 - General Operating Expenses					
Insurance	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	Specialized Operating Partner
SUBTOTAL 5028 - General Operating Expenses	**-**	**-**	**3,000.00**	**3,000.00**	**-**
TOTAL	**704,220.00**	**81,106.00**	**77,916.00**	**863,242.00**	**-**

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	TOTAL
Component 1	240,732.00
Component 2	380,858.00
Component 3	82,630.00
M&E	81,106.00
PMC	77,916.00

TOTAL	863,242.00

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).