GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Scaling Up Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience in Ecuador's Tropical Dry Forests and Southeastern Andes through Local Community Empowerment	
Region	GEF Project ID
Latin America and the Caribbean	12372
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Ecuador	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
CAF	CAF-GEF/66
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	Others
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Biodiversity	6/10/2026
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Taxonomy	
Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Gender-sensitive indicators, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Drylands, Forest	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	48
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
4,010,092.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
360,908.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
4,371,000.00	33,212,874.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
150,000.00	13,500.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
163,500.00	4,534,500.00
Project Tags	

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

Project Summary

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

1. Ecuador faces accelerated biodiversity loss and increasing climate vulnerability driven by unsustainable land use, ecosystem degradation, fragmented governance, and limited access to finance for biodiversity-positive activities. These pressures are particularly acute in the Ecuadorian Dry Forest landscape of Manabí–Santa Elena and the Southeastern Ridges landscape of Loja–Zamora Chinchipe, where agricultural expansion, forest degradation, fires, mining pressures, weak territorial coordination, and climate-related hazards undermine ecosystem integrity, connectivity, livelihoods, and the provision of ecosystem services.

2. The project aims to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use while strengthening climate resilience and community well-being in these priority landscapes. It will achieve this by strengthening national and subnational governance frameworks, developing and implementing Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs), improving biodiversity and ecosystem risk information, promoting sustainable production systems, and enabling access to finance for biodiversity-positive value chains and MSMEs.

3. The project is intended to be transformative by linking biodiversity mainstreaming, territorial planning, sustainable production, and investment mobilization under one integrated landscape approach. It will align public institutions, GADs, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, producer organizations, MSMEs, financial institutions, academia, and civil society around shared biodiversity and climate-resilience outcomes, while addressing key barriers related to coordination, technical capacity, market access, and finance.

4. Expected global environmental benefits include improved management of 30,000 hectares of landscapes under biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices, reduced pressures on priority ecosystems and threatened species, strengthened ecological connectivity, and potential climate mitigation co-benefits to be calculated during PPG using the EX-ACT tool. The project will directly benefit 6,000 people, at least 40 percent women, and mobilize at least USD 18 million in investment for biodiversity-positive activities.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Ecuador, including priority ecosystems such as the Ecuadorian Dry Forest and Southeastern Ridges, through improved coordination, local empowerment, targeted financial support, and greater private sector participation.

Project Components

1. Realignment of public-sector policies and integrated governance frameworks for effective implementation of the NBSAP and NDCs

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,767,617.00	9,419,506.00

Outcome:

1.1. Strengthened governance structures at national and sub-national levels effectively coordinate biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and sustainable forest management

Indicator 1.1.1 # of intersectoral coordination mechanisms established and operational at national and sub-national levels

Target 1.1.1. At least four (4) intersectoral coordination mechanisms for integrated governance frameworks for effective implementation of the NBSAP and NDCs

Indicator 1.1.2 # of institutional staff trained.

Target At least 600 persons trained, of which at least 40% are women.
1.2 Threatened species of flora and fauna are safeguarded against extinction risks driven by unsustainable biodiversity use and climate change through the establishment and implementation of Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs)

Indicator 1.2.1 # of ecosystem risk analyses completed and aligned with the National Adaptation Plan and NBSAP

Target 1.2.1. At least two (2) risk analyses completed for prioritized sectors and ecosystems

Indicator 1.2.2. # of Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs) developed and endorsed

Target 1.2.2. At least four (4) SBSAPs developed and endorsed

Indicator 1.2.3. # of priority measures from SBSAPs supported for implementation

Target 1.2.3. At least eight (8) priority measures supported for implementation

Indicator 1.2.4 # of biodiversity-related monitoring mechanisms established or strengthened in priority landscapes

Target 1.2.4. At least four (4) biodiversity-related monitoring mechanisms established or strengthened

Output:

1.1.1 Intersectoral coordination mechanisms established to strengthen national and subnational governance structures through the development and implementation of management instruments for biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable forest management, and climate change adaptation.

1.1.2 Institutional strengthening for governmental institutions related to biodiversity conservation (National Environmental Authority, National Protected Areas System)

1.2.1. Complementary Ecosystem Risk Analysis for prioritized ecosystems, based on the provisions of the National Adaptation Plan and the NBSAP

1.2.2. Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs) developed and endorsed for prioritized biodiversity landscapes, encompassing territorial planning processes and including the Integrated Strategy for the Ecuadorian Dry Forest and the Southeastern Ridges landscape

1.2.3. Biodiversity priorities and measures from SBSAPs mainstreamed into relevant policies and supported for coordinated implementation in prioritized landscapes

1.2.4 Institutional biodiversity-related monitoring mechanisms established or strengthened in priority landscapes, including systems such as SIB-EC, SMART, early warning systems, and the National Monitoring System for Forests and Wildlife

2. Biodiversity-based production, value chains and investment for sustainable landscapes

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,666,419.00	19,453,991.00

Outcome:

2.1 MSMEs are empowered and integrated into sustainable value chains through the promotion of sustainable use, conservation, and management mechanisms as strategic approaches to maintain the integrity and connectivity of PFV and Protected Areas, while enhancing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services

Indicator 2.1.1 # of native biodiversity-based businesses incubated and accelerated

Target 2.1.1. At least twenty (20) native biodiversity-based businesses incubated and accelerated

Indicator 2.1.2 # of hectares under sustainable management practices aligned with REDD+ Action Plan leading to reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Target 2.1.2. At least 30,000 hectares of production areas related to native biodiversity are under sustainable management and climate-change adaptation measures aligned with the REDD+ Action Plan leading to measurable reductions in GHG emissions

Indicator 2.1.3. # of beneficiaries adopting sustainable production practices in biodiversity-based value chains

Target 2.1.3. At least 5,400 beneficiaries adopting sustainable production practices in biodiversity-based value chains

2.2 Strengthened capacities of producer organizations and local actors to support sustainable production, biodiversity conservation, and climate change adaptation

Indicator 2.2.1. # of producer organizations strengthened

Target 2.2.1. At least eight (8) producer organizations strengthened in sustainable production, native biodiversity-based value chains, market and economic management, sustainable finance and cooperativism

2.3. Financial mechanisms developed to mobilize investment for biodiversity.

Indicator 2.3.1. Total investment mobilized supporting biodiversity targets through project-supported financial mechanisms

Target 2.3.1. At least USD 18 million mobilized by project completion

Indicator 2.3.2. # of formal partnerships established with financial institutions

Target 2.3.2 At least four (4) formal partnerships with national or regional financial institutions

Output:

2.1.1 Native biodiversity-based businesses incubated and accelerate

2.1.2 Sustainable management and climate-change adaptation practices are implemented

2.1.3 Beneficiaries adopting sustainable production practices in biodiversity-based value chains

2.2.1 Producer organizations strengthened to support sustainable production, biodiversity-based value chains, and conservation outcomes

2.3.1. Financial mechanisms developed and operationalized to mobilize USD 18 million toward biodiversity targets

2.3.2. Strategic partnerships established with financial institutions to prioritize investment into biodiversity-positive value chains

3. Knowledge Management and Strategic Communication for Biodiversity Mainstreaming

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
194,156.00	2,524,858.00
Outcome:	

3.1 Knowledge management and strategic communication strengthen biodiversity mainstreaming in priority landscapes

Indicator 3.1.1 # of territorial planning processes that operationalize biodiversity mainstreaming tools

Target At least four (4) territorial planning processes

Indicator 3.1.2 # of stakeholder institutions formally supported through strategic communication training and mechanisms that adopt biodiversity mainstreaming tools

Target At least eight (8) stakeholder institutions

Output:

3.1.1 Biodiversity mainstreaming in priority landscapes strengthened through knowledge management and strategic communication applied to territorial planning processes

3.1.2 Strategic communication capacities strengthened in relevant organizations to promote adoption of biodiversity mainstreaming tools

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
190,943.00	162,375.00

Outcome:

Project implementation and results are systematically monitored, evaluated and reported to support accountability, adaptive management and compliance with GEF requirements

Indicator: # of direct and indirect beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender, age group, ethnicity, and disability status.

Target: At least 6,000 direct beneficiaries, of which at least 40% are women, and 100,000 indirect beneficiarie

Output:

Project monitoring and evaluation system operationalized to track implementation progress, results and beneficiary data across all components

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Realignment of public-sector policies and integrated governance frameworks for effective implementation of the NBSAP and NDCs	1,767,617.00	9,419,506.00
2. Biodiversity-based production, value chains and investment for sustainable landscapes	1,666,419.00	19,453,991.00
3. Knowledge Management and Strategic Communication for Biodiversity Mainstreaming	194,156.00	2,524,858.00
M&E	190,943.00	162,375.00
Subtotal	**3,819,135.00**	**31,560,730.00**
Project Management Cost	190,957.00	1,652,144.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**4,010,092.00**	**33,212,874.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

5. Ecuador is one of the world's most megadiverse countries, hosting an exceptional concentration of species, ecosystems, and genetic resources across terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine environments (Ministerio del Ambiente - MAE, 2016; Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía - MAE, 2025). Its biodiversity underpins essential ecosystem services, including water regulation, soil fertility, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, pollination, food provision, cultural values, and disaster risk reduction, which are fundamental for rural livelihoods, territorial development, and national economic stability (MAE, 2016; MAE, 2025). The country's constitutional recognition of the rights of nature, its National Protected Areas System (SNAP), Protective Forests and Vegetation (PFV), Areas of

Conservation and Sustainable Use (ACUS), Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and biodiversity-related planning frameworks provide a strong enabling foundation for conservation and sustainable use. Nevertheless, biodiversity continues to face increasing pressure from land-use change, deforestation, ecosystem degradation, unsustainable agricultural and livestock expansion, mining and other extractive activities, forest fires, pollution, and limited integration of biodiversity values into productive and financial systems (MAE, 2017; MAATE, 2025a; MAE, 2025).

6. The global environmental problem addressed by the project is the continued loss, fragmentation, and degradation of biodiversity-rich landscapes that are critical for maintaining ecosystem integrity, ecological connectivity, threatened species habitats, and climate resilience. These pressures are particularly acute in the Ecuadorian Dry Forest landscape of Manabí and Santa Elena and the Southeastern Ridges landscape of Loja and Zamora Chinchipe. The Ecuadorian Dry Forest represents one of the most threatened and fragmented ecosystems in the country and the wider Tumbesian region, with high levels of endemism, strong ecological specialization, and severe exposure to drought, heatwaves, forest fires, and land conversion (IUCN, 2020; MAATE, 2025b). The Southeastern Ridges constitute a complex biogeographic transition zone connecting Andean, Amazonian, montane forest, cloud forest, páramo, and dry forest systems, supporting high biodiversity and ecological connectivity while facing increasing pressures from deforestation, mining, agricultural expansion, and rural socio-economic change (MAE, 2016; MAATE, 2025b). Together, these landscapes include Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), protected areas, PFV, ACUS and other conservation and management mechanisms that are essential to maintain ecosystem functionality and reduce extinction risks.

7. The underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context are systemic and mutually reinforcing. Population dynamics, rural poverty, dependence on climate-sensitive productive systems, limited livelihood diversification, and the continued expansion of agricultural and livestock frontiers increase pressure on natural habitats. Economic development remains strongly linked to primary resource use, including agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, forestry, mining, and infrastructure development, which can generate habitat conversion and fragmentation when not guided by biodiversity-sensitive planning and safeguards (SNP, 2021; MAE, 2025). Climate change further exacerbates these dynamics by increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, landslides, heatwaves, and forest fire risks, particularly in degraded landscapes where vegetation loss reduces ecosystem resilience (ABSEG, 2022a; ABSEG, 2022b; ABSEG, 2022c). Sociocultural and governance factors also influence these trends: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, producer organizations, women, youth, and rural households hold critical knowledge and stewardship roles, but often face limited access to finance, markets, technical assistance, decision-making spaces, and formal incentives for biodiversity-positive practices.

8. Ecuador has established robust policy and institutional frameworks to respond to these challenges. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2025–2030 aligns national priorities with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and emphasizes biodiversity mainstreaming, territorial planning, sustainable use, bioeconomy, participation, knowledge generation, monitoring, and biodiversity finance (MAE, 2025). National frameworks such as the National Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, REDD+ Action Plan, Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2025–2029, territorial planning instruments, and sectoral policies provide additional entry points for integrating biodiversity and climate resilience into development planning (MAE, 2016; MAATE, 2025; SNP, 2025). However, the existence of these frameworks has not yet translated into sufficiently coordinated, financed, and operational implementation in the project landscapes. Subnational authorities and local actors continue to face capacity, coordination, information, and financial constraints to apply

biodiversity and climate priorities in territorial planning, productive systems, and investment decisions.

9. Future trajectories under a business-as-usual scenario are uncertain but clearly unfavorable. If current drivers continue without a coordinated GEF-supported intervention, the target landscapes are likely to experience continued land-use conversion, degradation of ecosystem services, increasing fire and drought risks in the Dry Forest, higher landslide and fragmentation risks in the Southeastern Ridges, reduced habitat suitability for endemic and threatened species, and greater vulnerability of rural livelihoods to climate shocks (ABSEG, 2022c; MAATE, 2025a). Productive sectors would continue to operate with insufficient incentives to internalize biodiversity costs, while biodiversity-positive value chains and sustainable finance mechanisms would remain fragmented and underdeveloped. Existing conservation and restoration investments would continue to generate localized benefits, but without the integrated governance, planning, finance, and market linkages required to shift territorial development pathways at scale.

10. The baseline scenario is therefore characterized by: (i) continued biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in priority landscapes; (ii) limited operationalization of national biodiversity and climate commitments at subnational level; (iii) insufficient integration of biodiversity into PDOTs, ACUS, SPACUS, productive planning and local investment decisions; (iv) limited access to finance and markets for MSMEs, producer organizations and biodiversity-based businesses; (v) weak coordination among public, private, community, academic and financial actors; and (vi) fragmented monitoring and knowledge systems that constrain adaptive management. A central baseline gap is the absence or limited operationalization of Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs) or equivalent subnational instruments capable of translating the NBSAP 2025–2030 and Kunming-Montreal commitments into concrete territorial priorities, implementation measures, investment decisions, and monitoring arrangements. Without such instruments, biodiversity priorities remain insufficiently embedded in territorial planning, local governance, conservation mechanisms, productive systems, and financial frameworks. Existing initiatives, including Socio Bosque II, REDD+ implementation, restoration programs, ecosystem-based adaptation actions, biodiversity-based business initiatives, and international cooperation projects, provide an important baseline of investments and institutional experience. However, they are often implemented through sectoral or project-specific approaches, with limited integration across governance, production, biodiversity monitoring, financial mechanisms, and territorial planning.

11. Ecuador also faces a significant biodiversity financing gap. The NBSAP 2025–2030 and its Biodiversity Financing Plan identify the need to mobilize domestic and international resources more efficiently and to strengthen financial solutions for biodiversity through public finance, private finance, cooperation, financial sector engagement, biodiversity clusters in value chains, and innovative financial mechanisms (MAE, 2025). The BIOFIN-based process estimates a biodiversity financing gap of approximately USD 1.47 billion by 2030, while the project documents identify a substantial financing gap that constrains the implementation of conservation and sustainable use strategies (MAATE, 2025a; MAE, 2025). Existing financial flows remain insufficient or misaligned with biodiversity outcomes, and financial institutions have limited instruments tailored to biodiversity-positive production, restoration, conservation-compatible livelihoods, or MSMEs operating in bioeconomy value chains. These constraints limit the ability of local actors to transition from extractive or high-impact production models toward biodiversity-positive and climate-resilient economic alternatives.

12. The key barriers to be addressed by the project are: (i) fragmented governance and weak coordination across sectors and levels of government, including the lack of operational SBSAPs to translate national biodiversity targets into subnational planning, implementation and investment frameworks; (ii) insufficient technical, institutional, and operational capacity to operationalize the NBSAP 2025–2030, NAP, NDCs, and REDD+ priorities in territorial instruments and investment decisions; (iii) continued ecosystem degradation and land-use change driven by unsustainable production systems; (iv) limited market access, technical assistance, and enabling conditions for biodiversity-based value chains; (v) limited access to tailored finance for MSMEs, producer organizations, and biodiversity-positive activities; and (vi) insufficient systematization and use of biodiversity knowledge for decision-making. At the same time, important enablers exist, including a strong constitutional and legal framework, the updated NBSAP 2025–2030, active subnational planning instruments, existing conservation mechanisms, growing interest in bioeconomy and biocommerce, ongoing REDD+ and restoration investments, and increasing engagement of financial institutions and the private sector in sustainable finance.

13. The objective of the project is to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Ecuador, including priority ecosystems such as the Ecuadorian Dry Forest and the Southeastern Ridges, through improved coordination, local empowerment, targeted financial support, and greater private sector participation. The project has been selected because it directly responds to the systemic nature of the problem: biodiversity loss in the target landscapes is not caused by a single driver, but by the interaction of weak territorial governance, unsustainable production, insufficient finance, and limited mainstreaming of biodiversity across planning and investment systems. A narrowly protected-area-only approach would not be sufficient, because many of the pressures occur in productive landscapes, buffer zones, PFV, ACUS, OECMs, and territories managed by local communities and producers. Similarly, a finance-only intervention would not be sufficient without governance, planning, biodiversity criteria, and local capacities. The selected approach combines governance, sustainable production, biodiversity-positive value chains, financial mechanisms, and knowledge management in one integrated landscape strategy.

14. The GEF Alternative will change the baseline by creating the enabling conditions required to translate Ecuador's biodiversity and climate policy frameworks into coordinated territorial action. A central element of this alternative will be the development and implementation of Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs) in the priority landscapes. These SBSAPs will function as the main territorial instrument to operationalize the NBSAP 2025–2030 and Kunming-Montreal targets at subnational level, linking biodiversity priorities with PDOTs, ACUS, SPACUS, conservation mechanisms, productive planning, investment decisions, and monitoring systems. Under Component 1, the project will also strengthen intersectoral coordination mechanisms, conduct complementary ecosystem risk analyses aligned with the NAP and NBSAP, and strengthen biodiversity monitoring mechanisms in priority landscapes. These actions will improve policy coherence, institutional coordination, and evidence-based decision-making, enabling national biodiversity priorities to be translated into concrete measures with direct relevance for GEB delivery, including improved management of priority landscapes, reduced pressure on threatened ecosystems and species, and stronger ecological connectivity.

15. Under Component 2, the project will address production and finance barriers by supporting native biodiversity-based businesses, strengthening producer organizations, promoting sustainable management and climate-change adaptation practices across at least 30,000 hectares, and developing financial mechanisms to mobilize at least USD 18 million toward biodiversity-positive investments. This

will enable MSMEs, producers, communities, and financial institutions to adopt and scale business models that reduce pressure on ecosystems while improving income opportunities and climate resilience. By linking bioeconomy, sustainable production, value chains, and finance, the project will create incentives for conservation-compatible land use and reduce dependence on practices that drive habitat conversion and degradation. This approach is consistent with the NBSAP 2025–2030 priorities on sustainable use, bioeconomy, biodiversity finance, private sector engagement, and mechanisms for integrating biodiversity into productive and financial systems (MAE, 2025).

16. Under Component 3, the project will strengthen knowledge management and strategic communication to support biodiversity mainstreaming in territorial planning and productive decision-making. The project will systematize lessons, generate tools, communicate results, and promote learning among public institutions, GADs, communities, producer organizations, academia, NGOs, and financial actors. This will address the current fragmentation of biodiversity knowledge and support replication and scaling beyond the initial landscapes. Knowledge management is not treated as a stand-alone communication activity, but as a mechanism to consolidate evidence, support adaptive management, and enable broader uptake of biodiversity mainstreaming tools.

17. The project will generate Global Environmental Benefits by improving the management of at least 30,000 hectares of landscapes under biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices, reducing pressures on habitats and threatened species, enhancing ecological connectivity, strengthening biodiversity monitoring and territorial planning, and generating an estimated 808,814 tCO2e in climate mitigation co-benefits through improved land-use practices and reduced degradation pressures. It will also directly benefit at least 6,000 people, of whom at least 40 percent will be women, through technical assistance, governance participation, sustainable production, biodiversity-based value chains, and access to finance. These benefits will be achieved by shifting incentives and capacities in the landscapes, rather than through isolated activities.

18. Relevant stakeholders are central to the project's rationale and delivery model. The Ministry of Environment and Energy will provide national leadership, technical oversight, policy alignment, and articulation with the NBSAP, NDCs, NAP, REDD+ and biodiversity monitoring systems. Decentralized Autonomous Governments in Manabí, Santa Elena, Loja, and Zamora Chinchipe will be critical for integrating biodiversity and climate priorities into PDOTs, ACUS, SPACUS and other territorial planning and management instruments. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including the Federación Shuar and other IPLC organizations present in the project landscapes, will contribute territorial governance, traditional knowledge, community-based stewardship, life plans, conservation-compatible production and implementation of biodiversity-positive initiatives. Producer organizations, MSMEs and community enterprises will adopt sustainable practices, participate in biodiversity-based value chains, and help demonstrate economically viable models for conservation-compatible livelihoods.

19. The private sector and financial institutions will be critical to the achievement and durability of outcomes. MSMEs and biodiversity-based businesses will serve as vehicles to link conservation objectives with market opportunities, value addition, income generation, and local innovation. Financial institutions will support the design and implementation of biodiversity-positive financial mechanisms and partnerships that reduce perceived risks, improve access to credit or investment, and mobilize resources aligned with biodiversity targets. Academic institutions, NGOs, and technical organizations will support territorial diagnostics, biodiversity monitoring, product development,

capacity building, and knowledge generation. These actors are not peripheral beneficiaries; they are part of the system that must change for GEBs and socio-economic benefits to endure.

20. The project will fit within the current landscape of investments by building on, coordinating, and adding value to ongoing national and international efforts. Existing investments in Socio Bosque II, REDD+, restoration, forest governance, ecosystem-based adaptation, sustainable production, and biodiversity-related cooperation provide a strong baseline. However, these investments require stronger territorial articulation, biodiversity mainstreaming, value chain integration, financial mechanisms, and monitoring linkages to generate systemic change. The project will not duplicate existing investments; it will strengthen the enabling architecture that allows them to produce more coherent, scalable, and durable outcomes. Lessons from previous GEF and non-GEF initiatives in Ecuador indicate that conservation outcomes are more durable when local governance, incentives, sustainable livelihoods, monitoring, and institutional coordination are addressed together rather than separately.

21. The outcomes are expected to endure in the face of future changes in drivers because the project focuses on institutionalization, territorial planning, financial incentives, and local capacities. SBSAPs and strengthened coordination mechanisms will embed biodiversity priorities into subnational governance systems. Financial mechanisms and partnerships will help sustain investment beyond the GEF grant period. Producer organizations and MSMEs will internalize biodiversity-friendly practices through value chains and market incentives. Knowledge management and monitoring systems will support adaptive management as climate and socio-economic conditions change. By working through national policy frameworks, GADs, IPLCs, local organizations, financial institutions, and existing conservation mechanisms, the project strengthens the long-term capacity of the system to respond to future pressures.

22. In this context, GEF resources are justified because they will finance the incremental and catalytic elements that are not sufficiently covered by the baseline or co-financing: intersectoral coordination, subnational biodiversity planning, ecosystem risk analysis, biodiversity monitoring, technical assistance for biodiversity-positive production, design and operationalization of financial mechanisms, and knowledge systems for replication. Co-financing will support implementation at scale in the priority landscapes, while GEF financing will ensure that these investments are aligned, targeted, and leveraged toward measurable global environmental benefits. The project is therefore aligned with Ecuador's national priorities, the NBSAP 2025–2030, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda, and provides a technically justified pathway to transform the baseline toward biodiversity-positive, climate-resilient, and inclusive territorial development.

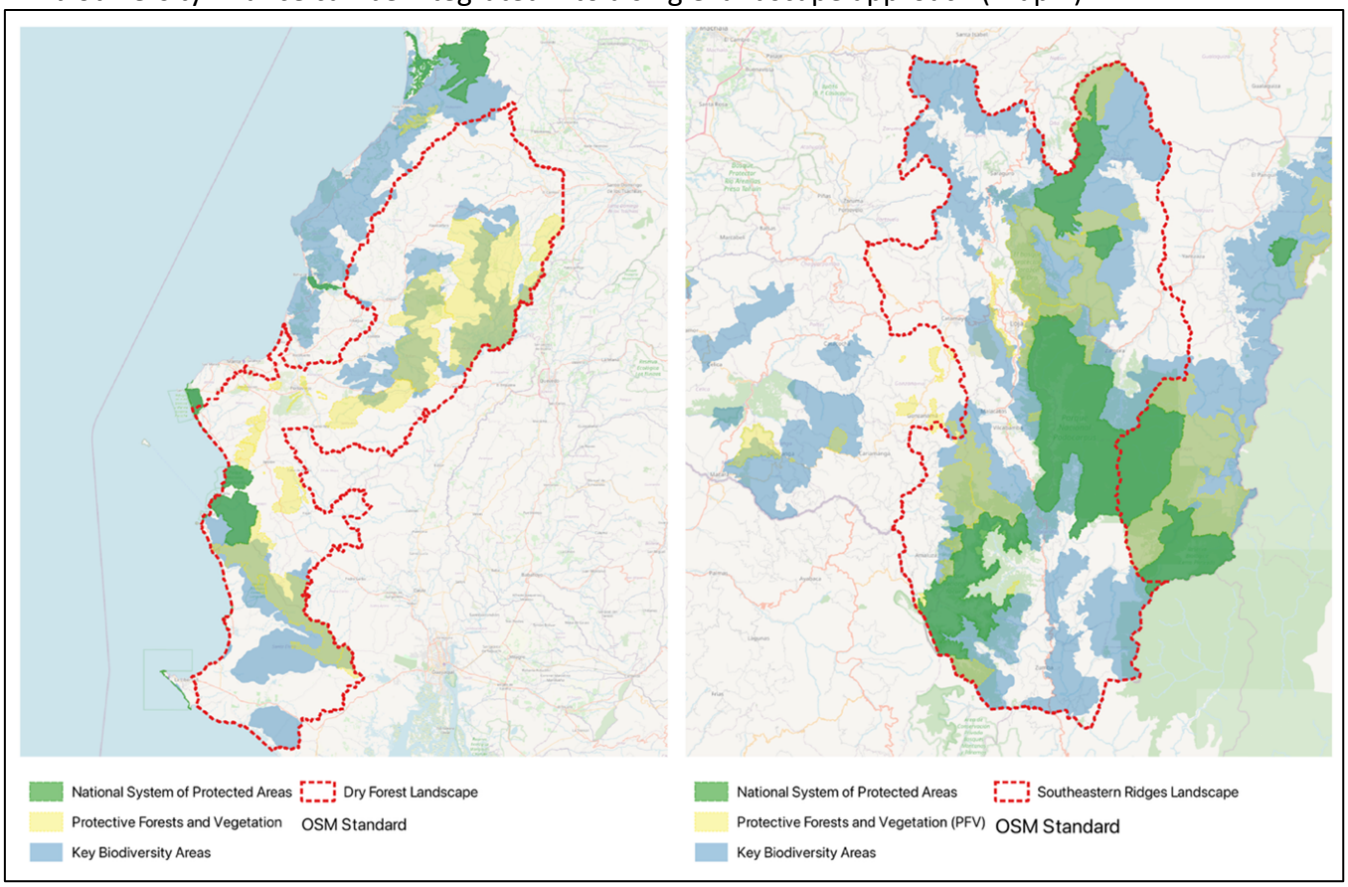
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

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

23. The project will be implemented in two strategic landscapes of continental Ecuador: The Tropical Dry Forest landscape of Manabí–Santa Elena and the Southeastern Ridges landscape of Loja–Zamora

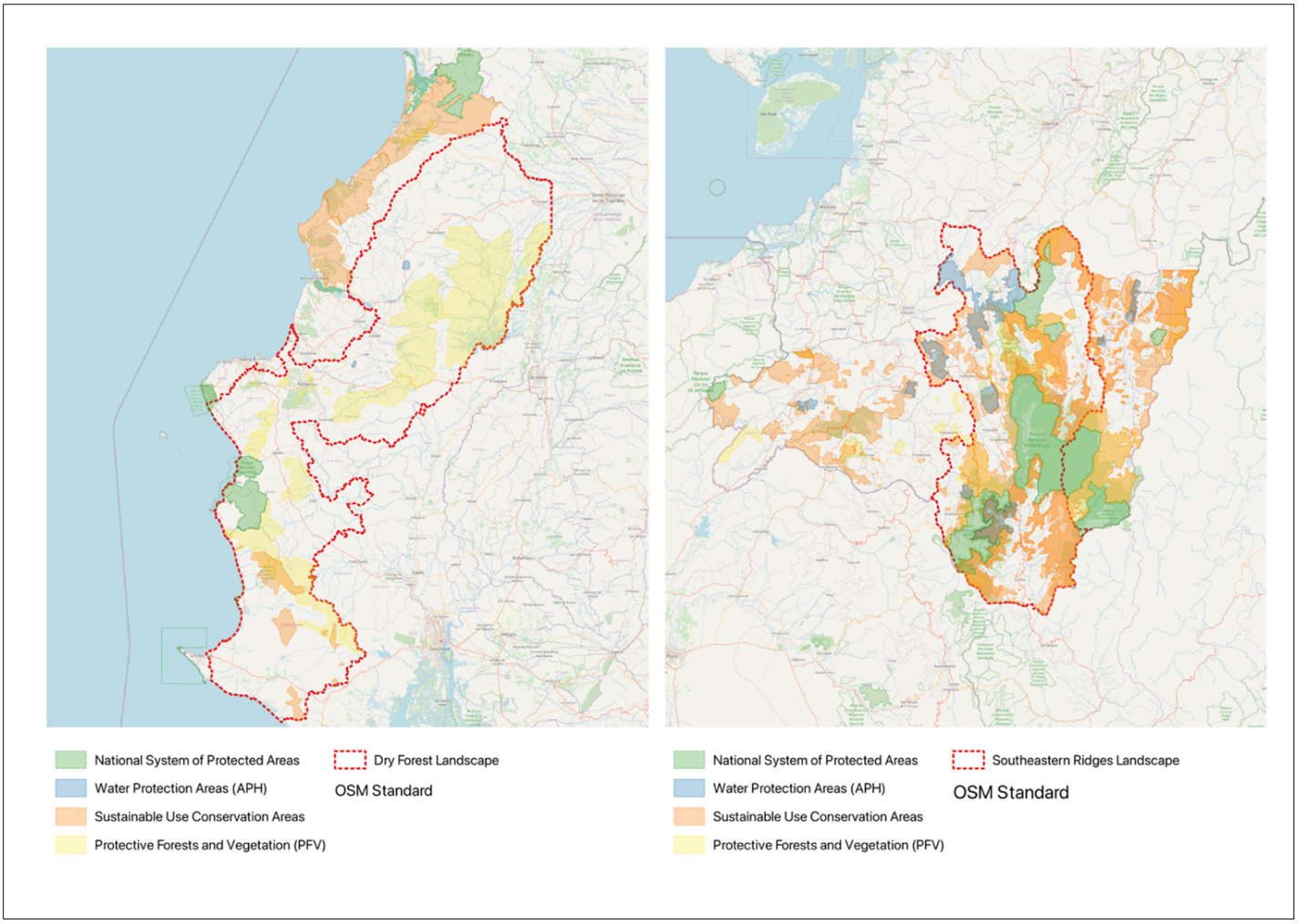
Chinchipe. These landscapes were selected because they combine high biodiversity significance, ecological connectivity, climate vulnerability, ecosystem degradation, and the presence of institutional and social enabling conditions for implementation. Although similar ecosystems occur in other regions of the country, these specific landscapes concentrate critical conservation values and operational opportunities, including Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), protected areas, Protective Forests and Vegetation (PFV), Areas of Conservation and Sustainable Use (ACUS), and other conservation and sustainable use mechanisms. Together, these areas provide an appropriate territorial platform to demonstrate how biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, sustainable production, and biodiversity finance can be integrated into a single landscape approach (Map 1).



Map 1. National system of protected areas; protective forest and vegetation and key biodiversity areas in Tropical Dry Forest - Southeastern Ridges.

24. The Tropical Dry Forest landscape, located in Manabí and Santa Elena, represents one of the most threatened and fragmented dry forest systems in Ecuador and the wider Tumbesian region. It hosts specialized and endemic species adapted to seasonal water stress and includes ecological subtypes that provide critical ecosystem services for rural livelihoods, water regulation, soil stability, and climate resilience. However, this landscape is under severe pressure from deforestation, agricultural and livestock expansion, forest fires, land degradation, and unsustainable land-use practices. Climate change compounds these pressures through prolonged droughts, heatwaves, erratic rainfall, and increased fire risk, reducing ecosystem functionality and agricultural productivity. Despite these threats, the landscape offers significant opportunities for ecological restoration, sustainable land management, biodiversity-based businesses, and community-based conservation, particularly where producer organizations, local governments, and community structures are already active.

25. The Southeastern Ridges landscape, located in Loja and Zamora Chinchipe, is a complex ecological transition zone connecting Andean, Amazonian, montane forest, cloud forest, páramo, and dry forest systems. This landscape is not a single ecosystem, but a mosaic of ecological formations and altitudinal gradients that support high biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and important habitats for endemic and threatened species. It includes areas associated with biosphere reserves, conservation corridors, PFV, and other territorial conservation mechanisms. The landscape faces increasing pressures from deforestation, agricultural expansion, livestock production, mining activities, habitat fragmentation, and rural socio-economic change. At the same time, locally driven initiatives related to sustainable forest management, community-based tourism, native biodiversity use, and producer organization provide a basis for integrated landscape management that combines conservation, cultural values, climate resilience, and inclusive economic development.



Map 2. Tropical dry forest (Manabí - Santa Elena) - southeastern ridges (Loja - Zamora Chinchipe)

26. Across both landscapes, climate risks are spatially differentiated but consistently linked to ecosystem degradation, reduced vegetation cover, and dependence on climate-sensitive production systems. In the Tropical Dry Forest, drought, heat stress, irregular rainfall, and fire risk are central threats. In the Southeastern Ridges, landslides, rainfall variability, deforestation, and fragmentation are particularly relevant. The project will use complementary ecosystem risk analyses and existing climate risk information to identify priority intervention areas, guide the development and implementation of Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs), and target actions where biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and livelihood benefits can be maximized.

27. The project's theory of change responds directly to the barriers identified in Section A. Biodiversity loss and climate vulnerability in the target landscapes are driven by fragmented governance, weak operationalization of national biodiversity commitments at subnational level, unsustainable production systems, limited biodiversity-positive market opportunities, and insufficient access to finance. These barriers prevent existing policies, conservation mechanisms, and investments from generating coherent landscape-scale Global Environmental Benefits. The project therefore combines three mutually reinforcing intervention pathways: strengthening governance and planning frameworks; promoting biodiversity-positive production, value chains, and investment; and improving knowledge management and strategic communication for biodiversity mainstreaming.

28. The first barrier is weak environmental governance and limited coordination across sectors and levels of government. Although Ecuador has a robust national policy framework, including the NBSAP 2025–2030, NDCs, NAP, REDD+ instruments, and territorial planning systems, these frameworks are not yet sufficiently operationalized in the project landscapes. Subnational governments face technical and financial constraints to integrate biodiversity, climate risk, and sustainable production into PDOTs, ACUS, SPACUS, and local investment decisions. The lack of operational SBSAPs limits the translation of national biodiversity targets into territorial priorities, implementation measures, and monitoring arrangements. The project will address this barrier by strengthening intersectoral coordination mechanisms, developing and implementing SBSAPs, and improving biodiversity-related monitoring and ecosystem risk information.

29. The second barrier is continued environmental degradation and deforestation driven by unsustainable land use. In Manabí and Santa Elena, land conversion, extensive livestock systems, fires, and degradation continue to reduce dry forest integrity and ecosystem services. In Loja and Zamora Chinchipe, deforestation associated with agriculture, livestock, mining pressures, and habitat fragmentation weakens ecological connectivity and increases vulnerability to climate hazards. These processes reduce habitat quality, increase extinction risks for threatened flora and fauna, and undermine the ecological functions required for water regulation, soil stability, carbon storage, and climate resilience. The project will address this barrier by promoting sustainable land management and climate-change adaptation practices across at least 30,000 hectares, supporting conservation-compatible production, and aligning these actions with SBSAP priorities and territorial planning instruments.

30. The third barrier is the limited development of biodiversity-based value chains and sustainable business models. Rural producers, MSMEs, and community enterprises often lack technical assistance, market access, product development support, sustainability standards, and incentives to shift from conventional production systems toward biodiversity-positive models. As a result, biodiversity-friendly products and services remain underdeveloped, and producers continue to face pressure to rely on low-value, high-impact land uses. The project will address this barrier by incubating and accelerating native biodiversity-based businesses, strengthening producer organizations, supporting beneficiaries to adopt sustainable production practices, and linking value chains with conservation and climate-resilience outcomes.

31. The fourth barrier is socio-economic vulnerability and unequal development patterns. Rural communities in the target landscapes depend heavily on climate-sensitive livelihoods and have limited access to diversified income opportunities. Women, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, youth, and small producers often face differentiated barriers to participation, access to resources, technical assistance, markets, and decision-making spaces. These conditions increase vulnerability to

droughts, floods, fires, and other climate-related shocks and can indirectly increase pressure on natural ecosystems. The project will address this barrier by integrating gender-responsive and culturally appropriate approaches into governance, capacity building, value chain development, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that women, IPLCs, producer organizations, and community actors participate in and benefit from project interventions.

32. The fifth barrier is limited access to finance for biodiversity-positive investments. MSMEs, producer organizations, and local enterprises face high perceived risks, limited collateral, long payback periods, and a lack of financial instruments adapted to sustainable production, restoration, conservation-compatible livelihoods, and biodiversity-based businesses. This constrains the scaling of biodiversity-positive practices and limits the sustainability of project outcomes beyond grant financing. The project will address this barrier by developing and operationalizing financial mechanisms, establishing strategic partnerships with financial institutions, improving investment readiness among local actors, and mobilizing at least USD 18 million in investment toward biodiversity targets.

33. If these barriers are addressed in an integrated manner, the project will shift the baseline from fragmented conservation and production initiatives toward a coordinated, biodiversity-positive, and climate-resilient territorial model. Under Component 1, strengthened governance, SBSAPs, ecosystem risk analyses, and biodiversity monitoring will enable national biodiversity and climate priorities to be translated into concrete subnational action. Under Component 2, biodiversity-based businesses, sustainable production practices, producer organization strengthening, and financial mechanisms will create incentives for conservation-compatible livelihoods and reduce pressure on ecosystems. Under Component 3, knowledge management and strategic communication will capture lessons, support adaptive management, and promote replication of biodiversity mainstreaming tools in other territories.

34. The project will generate Global Environmental Benefits that would not accrue under the baseline by improving the management of at least 30,000 hectares of landscapes under biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices, reducing pressures on threatened ecosystems and species, strengthening ecological connectivity, improving biodiversity monitoring and territorial planning, and generating estimated climate mitigation co-benefits of 808,814 tCO_2e. It will also generate socio-economic co-benefits by directly benefiting at least 6,000 people, including at least 40 percent women, and by strengthening the capacities of local governments, producer organizations, MSMEs, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and financial actors to sustain biodiversity-positive outcomes beyond the project lifetime.

35. The project's approach is transformative because it does not treat conservation, production, and finance as separate tracks. Instead, it links biodiversity mainstreaming, territorial planning, sustainable production, investment mobilization, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge management under one integrated landscape model. This model is expected to endure because it will be embedded in national and subnational policy frameworks, supported by SBSAPs and planning instruments, implemented through local actors and financial partnerships, and reinforced through knowledge products and lessons that can be replicated in other priority landscapes in Ecuador.

Theory of Change

36. The project's theory of change is based on the premise that biodiversity loss and climate vulnerability in the Tropical Dry Forest and Southeastern Ridges landscapes are driven by the interaction of fragmented governance, weak territorial operationalization of national biodiversity priorities, unsustainable production systems, limited access to biodiversity-positive finance, and insufficient use of biodiversity knowledge for decision-making. If governance and planning frameworks are strengthened through intersectoral coordination mechanisms, Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs), ecosystem risk analyses, and improved biodiversity monitoring; if producers, MSMEs, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and local organizations are supported to adopt biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient production practices; if biodiversity-based value chains and financial mechanisms are developed to mobilize investment; and if knowledge management and strategic communication are used to support learning, replication, and policy coherence, then the project will reduce pressures on priority ecosystems and threatened species, strengthen ecological connectivity, improve the management of productive and conservation landscapes, and generate sustainable livelihood and climate-resilience benefits.

GIVEN	IF	THEN	CONTRIBUTING TO
Biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, climate vulnerability, fragmented governance, weak subnational operationalization of the NBSAP, limited biodiversity finance, weak market integration, and socio-economic vulnerability in the Tropical Dry Forest and Southeastern Ridges landscapes.	The project strengthens governance and SBSAPs; conducts ecosystem risk analyses; improves biodiversity monitoring; promotes biodiversity-positive production systems and value chains; mobilizes investment through financial mechanisms; and reinforces knowledge management, gender-responsive participation, stakeholder engagement, and policy coherence.	Biodiversity priorities are mainstreamed into territorial planning and investment decisions; producers, MSMEs and local actors adopt sustainable practices; biodiversity-positive finance is mobilized; ecosystem integrity and connectivity are improved; and local capacities for climate resilience and adaptive management are strengthened.	30,000 ha under improved practices; 808,814 tCO_2e mitigated; 6,000 direct beneficiaries, at least 40% women; reduced pressure on threatened ecosystems and species; strengthened climate resilience; and sustainable, biodiversity-positive livelihoods.

37. The causal pathway begins with governance and planning. National frameworks such as the NBSAP, NDCs, NAP, REDD+ instruments, and territorial planning systems provide the strategic direction for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, climate resilience, and biodiversity finance. However, these frameworks require stronger subnational operationalization to influence land-use decisions, productive systems, conservation mechanisms, and investment priorities in the target landscapes. The project will address this gap by supporting intersectoral coordination mechanisms and SBSAPs as the main territorial instruments to translate national biodiversity and Kunming-Montreal commitments into concrete subnational priorities, implementation measures, monitoring arrangements, and investment pathways.

38. Through SBSAPs, the project will connect biodiversity priorities with PDOTs, ACUS, SPACUS, PFV, OECMs, productive planning, climate adaptation measures, and local financing opportunities.

Complementary ecosystem risk analyses will provide the scientific and spatial basis to identify priority areas, species, ecosystems, climate hazards, and land-use pressures. Strengthened biodiversity monitoring systems will support adaptive management and improve the capacity of institutions to track progress, adjust interventions, and report contributions to national and global biodiversity targets. This governance pathway is essential because landscape-scale GEBs cannot be sustained if biodiversity priorities remain disconnected from territorial planning and investment decisions.

39. The second causal pathway links sustainable production and biodiversity-positive value chains. In the absence of the project, producers, MSMEs, and local communities face limited incentives and capacities to shift away from practices that contribute to land degradation, habitat fragmentation, and climate vulnerability. The project will support native biodiversity-based businesses, strengthen producer organizations, and promote sustainable management and climate-change adaptation practices across at least 30,000 hectares. These actions will reduce pressure on ecosystems while improving productivity, income opportunities, and resilience of local livelihoods. The assumption is that producers and MSMEs will adopt and maintain biodiversity-friendly practices when technical assistance, market linkages, organizational capacities, and economic incentives are aligned.

40. The third causal pathway addresses finance. Biodiversity-positive production and conservation-compatible livelihoods require investment models that respond to the risk profiles, time horizons, and capacities of MSMEs, producer organizations, and local actors. The project will develop and operationalize financial mechanisms and strategic partnerships with financial institutions to mobilize at least USD 18 million toward biodiversity targets. These mechanisms will help reduce perceived risks, strengthen investment readiness, and direct financial flows toward sustainable production, bioeconomy initiatives, and biodiversity-based value chains. This pathway is critical for additionality because baseline investments are insufficiently aligned with biodiversity outcomes and do not adequately address the financial barriers faced by local actors.

41. The fourth causal pathway is knowledge management and strategic communication. The project will generate technical evidence, tools, lessons learned, and communication products from the implementation of governance, production, finance, and monitoring interventions. This knowledge will be systematized and exchanged among national institutions, GADs, IPLC, producer organizations, academia, NGOs, MSMEs, financial institutions, and other stakeholders. By translating knowledge into practical tools for territorial planning, productive decision-making, and policy dialogue, the project will strengthen biodiversity mainstreaming and support replication beyond the target landscapes.

42. Gender equality, stakeholder engagement, and private sector participation are embedded across the theory of change. Women, IPLC, youth, producer organizations, and community enterprises will be engaged through participatory planning, capacity building, sustainable production support, and governance mechanisms. The project will promote gender-responsive participation, sex-disaggregated indicators, and equitable access to project benefits, including technical assistance, value chain opportunities, and finance. Private sector engagement will focus on MSMEs, biodiversity-based businesses, producer organizations, and financial institutions as key actors for scaling biodiversity-positive economic models. These actors are not only beneficiaries but part of the system that must change to sustain GEBs.

43. The project's expected outcomes are designed to endure beyond the GEF grant period because they will be embedded in institutional, territorial, financial, and knowledge systems. SBSAPs and coordination mechanisms will strengthen policy coherence and create a framework for continued

implementation of biodiversity priorities at subnational level. Sustainable production practices and biodiversity-based value chains will provide economic incentives for producers and MSMEs to maintain conservation-compatible land uses. Financial mechanisms will help mobilize and sustain investment beyond project financing. Knowledge management will support adaptive management, replication, and scaling. Together, these pathways will transform the baseline by shifting fragmented conservation and production initiatives toward an integrated landscape model that delivers measurable GEBs, climate-resilience benefits, and inclusive socio-economic outcomes.

Components and Outcomes

44. Component 1, Realignment of public-sector policies and integrated governance frameworks for effective implementation of the NBSAP and NDCs, will strengthen the governance and planning conditions required to translate national biodiversity and climate commitments into territorial action. The component will address fragmented institutional coordination, weak subnational capacities, and limited operational instruments for biodiversity mainstreaming by establishing and strengthening intersectoral coordination mechanisms, supporting SBSAPs, conducting complementary ecosystem risk analyses, and strengthening biodiversity-related monitoring systems in the priority landscapes.

45. Under Outcome 1.1, strengthened governance structures at national and subnational levels will improve coordination for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, sustainable forest management, and climate change adaptation. The project will support at least four intersectoral coordination mechanisms that bring together national institutions, GADs, technical entities, IPLCs, civil society, academia, and relevant private sector actors. These mechanisms will improve policy coherence, clarify roles, and support coordinated decision-making across planning, conservation, production, climate adaptation, and finance agendas. Institutional strengthening will also target governmental institutions related to biodiversity conservation, including the National Environmental Authority and relevant protected area and biodiversity management systems.

46. Under Outcome 1.2, threatened species of flora and fauna will be safeguarded against extinction risks through the development and implementation of SBSAPs in the priority landscapes. These SBSAPs will be developed through participatory, science-based, and spatially explicit processes, supported by ecosystem risk analyses aligned with the NAP and NBSAP. They will identify priority ecosystems, species, threats, climate risks, conservation and sustainable use measures, and investment needs. The project will support the implementation of at least eight priority measures derived from SBSAPs and strengthen at least four biodiversity monitoring mechanisms to enable adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making.

47. The additionality of Component 1 lies in moving from national policy commitments and fragmented territorial initiatives toward operational subnational biodiversity planning and coordinated implementation. Without GEF support, existing policies and investments would continue to provide strategic direction but would remain insufficiently translated into landscape-level priorities, monitoring systems, and coordinated implementation measures. GEF resources will finance the incremental coordination, planning, risk analysis, technical assistance, and monitoring functions required to generate durable GEBs from existing and future investments.

48. Component 2, Biodiversity-based production, value chains and investment for sustainable landscapes, will address the production, market, and finance barriers that drive ecosystem degradation and limit adoption of biodiversity-positive practices. The component will support MSMEs, producer

organizations, IPLC, and local actors to participate in biodiversity-based value chains, adopt sustainable management and climate-change adaptation practices, strengthen organizational capacities, and access finance for conservation-compatible livelihoods.

49. Under Outcome 2.1, MSMEs and local enterprises will be integrated into biodiversity-positive value chains through the promotion of sustainable use, conservation, and management mechanisms. The project will support the incubation and acceleration of up to 20 native biodiversity-based businesses, providing technical assistance for business model development, product improvement, market access, sustainability standards, and value chain integration. These businesses will be linked to biodiversity and climate-resilience outcomes, ensuring that value creation contributes to reduced pressure on ecosystems, sustainable use of native biodiversity, and improved local livelihoods.

50. The project will also support sustainable management and climate-change adaptation practices across at least 30,000 hectares of priority landscapes. These practices may include biodiversity-friendly production systems, restoration-compatible productive practices, soil and water conservation measures, agroecological and silvopastoral approaches, fire-risk reduction, conservation agreements, and other measures identified through SBSAPs and ecosystem risk analyses. By linking these practices to territorial planning, conservation mechanisms, and value chain incentives, the project will generate landscape-level benefits rather than isolated production improvements.

51. Under Outcome 2.2, producer organizations and local actors will be strengthened to support sustainable production, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. At least eight producer organizations will receive support in organizational management, sustainable production, biodiversity-based value chains, market access, sustainable finance, and cooperative governance. The project will also train at least 600 institutional and local actors, with at least 40 percent women, to strengthen capacities for biodiversity management, sustainable production, climate adaptation, and territorial planning. These actions will improve the ability of local actors to adopt and maintain practices that contribute to GEBs.

52. Under Outcome 2.3, financial mechanisms will be developed and operationalized to mobilize investment for biodiversity. The project will work with financial institutions and development finance actors to establish strategic partnerships, identify investment opportunities, improve investment readiness among MSMEs and producer organizations, and direct financial flows toward biodiversity-positive value chains and sustainable land management. The project will mobilize at least USD 18 million toward biodiversity targets, contributing to the scaling and sustainability of biodiversity-positive production and conservation-compatible livelihoods.

53. The additionality of Component 2 lies in aligning production, markets, and finance with biodiversity outcomes. Under the baseline, producers and MSMEs face limited technical assistance, weak market integration, insufficient incentives, and restricted access to finance, resulting in continued reliance on practices that contribute to degradation and fragmentation. GEF resources will provide the catalytic support needed to shift incentives, strengthen capacities, de-risk biodiversity-positive activities, and link finance with measurable landscape and biodiversity benefits.

54. Component 3, Knowledge Management and Strategic Communication for Biodiversity Mainstreaming, will ensure that lessons, tools, and evidence generated by the project are captured, exchanged, and used to improve decision-making and replication. This component will address the current

fragmentation of biodiversity knowledge by translating project experience into practical tools for territorial planning, productive decision-making, financial engagement, and policy dialogue.

55. Under Outcome 3.1, knowledge management and strategic communication will strengthen biodiversity mainstreaming in priority landscapes. The project will systematize lessons learned and good practices from Components 1 and 2, develop biodiversity mainstreaming tools for use in territorial planning processes, and strengthen communication capacities in relevant institutions and organizations. Strategic communication will support stakeholder engagement, behavior change, and uptake of biodiversity-friendly practices among public institutions, producer organizations, MSMEs, IPLCs, academia, civil society, and financial actors.

56. Knowledge generated by the project will be managed through structured learning processes, participatory exchanges, technical products, communication materials, and dissemination through institutional and stakeholder platforms. This will support adaptive management during implementation and provide evidence for replication in other landscapes. By connecting monitoring, learning, communication, and planning, the component will help ensure that project outcomes are not limited to individual activities but contribute to longer-term biodiversity mainstreaming.

57. Across all components, stakeholder engagement, gender equality, and private sector participation will be embedded in implementation. The Ministry of Environment and Energy will provide strategic coordination and policy alignment; GADs will support territorial planning and local implementation; IPLCs and community organizations will contribute to territorial governance, traditional knowledge, conservation agreements, and sustainable production; producer organizations and MSMEs will adopt biodiversity-positive practices and participate in value chains; academic institutions and NGOs will support technical analysis, monitoring, and capacity building; and financial institutions will help structure and scale biodiversity-positive investment. Women's participation will be promoted through gender-responsive consultation, capacity building, access to benefits, and sex-disaggregated monitoring.

58. The project will strengthen policy coherence by improving alignment between biodiversity, climate, territorial planning, productive development, and finance agendas in the target landscapes. Potential tensions with sectoral priorities related to agricultural expansion, livestock production, mining, fire management, and infrastructure development will be addressed through SBSAPs, intersectoral coordination mechanisms, ecosystem risk analyses, territorial prioritization, safeguards, and biodiversity-positive production criteria. This will help ensure that productive and financial interventions supported by the project do not reinforce ecosystem conversion or degradation, but instead contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP, NDCs, NAP, REDD+ priorities, and Kunming-Montreal targets.

59. The project's transformative potential lies in creating a replicable model for territorial biodiversity mainstreaming that combines governance, sustainable production, biodiversity finance, knowledge management, gender-responsive participation, and private sector engagement. Once demonstrated in the Tropical Dry Forest and Southeastern Ridges landscapes, this model can be scaled through national planning systems, GAD-led territorial instruments, financial partnerships, and the broader implementation architecture of Ecuador's biodiversity and climate commitments. Through this integrated model, the project will generate GEBs and climate-resilience benefits that would not accrue under the baseline and will create the institutional, financial, and local capacity conditions required for outcomes to endure beyond the GEF financing period.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

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

60. CAF, as the GEF Agency, will not play an execution role in this project. Project execution will be led by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, as the national executing partner, with technical and operational support from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), in line with its role as co-executing and technical partner. CAF will provide implementation oversight, fiduciary assurance, quality control, compliance with GEF policies, supervision, and monitoring support, but will not be responsible for day-to-day execution.

61. The project will cooperate with ongoing and recent initiatives in Ecuador related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, sustainable production, biodiversity-based businesses, and biodiversity finance. It will build on the country's existing institutional and investment baseline, including GEF and non-GEF initiatives such as the FAO-implemented project "Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the sustainable use areas of the State Subsystem of Protected Areas (SEAP) and its buffer zones" (GEF ID 10396), the UNEP-implemented "Acción Páramos: conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the páramos in Ecuador" (GEF ID 11386), Socio Bosque II, REDD+ implementation, restoration programs, Bionegocios Ecuador, and initiatives implemented by organizations such as Heifer International.

62. Cooperation will focus on technical complementarity, knowledge exchange, avoidance of duplication, and the use of lessons learned from existing initiatives. The project will draw on experience related to protected area buffer-zone management, sustainable use areas, restoration practices, incentive-based conservation, biodiversity-friendly production models, producer organization strengthening, MSME incubation and acceleration, and sustainable value chain development. These lessons will inform the development and implementation of SBSAPs, biodiversity-positive production practices, financial mechanisms, and knowledge management tools in the Tropical Dry Forest and Southeastern Ridges landscapes.

63. Potential areas for co-location and operational cooperation include Manabí, Loja, and Zamora Chinchipe, where previous and ongoing initiatives have generated experience with producer groups, conservation incentives, biodiversity-based businesses, and territorial governance. Where geographic overlap or thematic complementarity exists, the project will seek coordination with existing institutional platforms, local governments, community organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and financial actors to share technical expertise, data, methodologies, training materials, stakeholder networks, and field experience. This will reduce transaction costs, avoid parallel consultation processes, and strengthen the sustainability of project outcomes.

64. The project will also coordinate with ongoing efforts to mainstream biodiversity into territorial planning, improve management effectiveness in conservation and sustainable use areas, and mobilize finance for sustainable production and bioeconomy initiatives. This coordination will be particularly relevant for aligning project-supported SBSAPs with PDOTs, ACUS, SPACUS, PFV, REDD+ priorities, conservation agreements, and investment pipelines for MSMEs and producer organizations. Through this approach, GEF resources will address incremental barriers—particularly

subnational biodiversity planning, biodiversity finance, and integrated landscape coordination—while ongoing initiatives provide an implementation baseline that can be strengthened, connected, and scaled through the project.

Core Indicators

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)
30000	0	0	0

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
30,000.00			

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2027			
Duration of accounting	4			

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	3,039			
Male	2,961			
Total	**6,000**	**0**	0	**0**

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

65. The Core Indicator targets were defined based on the project's results framework, territorial prioritization, intervention logic, and alignment with Ecuador's NBSAP, REDD+ Action Plan, NDCs, and the needs identified for the Tropical Dry Forest and Southeastern Ridges landscapes. Core Indicator 4 is set at 30,000 hectares, corresponding to the area where the project will promote biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices through sustainable land management, conservation-compatible production systems, ecosystem-based approaches, conservation agreements, and priority measures identified through SBSAPs and ecosystem risk analyses. The target reflects the expected direct area of influence of project-supported interventions where land-use practices will be improved, pressure on priority ecosystems and species will be reduced, and ecological connectivity and ecosystem functionality will be strengthened.

66. 66. Core Indicator 6 has not been assigned an indicative value at PIF stage. The mitigation potential associated with improved land management, sustainable production, and conservation-compatible practices across targeted landscapes will be calculated during PPG using the EX-ACT tool. The corresponding assumptions and results will be submitted with the CEO Approval package.

67. Core Indicator 11 includes 6,000 direct beneficiaries, with at least 40 percent women, reached through sustainable production, biodiversity-based value chains, capacity-building, governance participation, and access to biodiversity-positive finance. Beneficiaries include producers, MSMEs, community members, IPLCs, producer organizations, and institutional actors directly involved in project implementation. The target is consistent with the expected scale of training, technical assistance, value chain support, institutional strengthening, and stakeholder engagement across the four target provinces.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Climate variability and climate-related hazards may affect the achievement of project outcomes, particularly under the potential development of a very strong or "Super El Niño" event. Such an event could intensify drought, heat stress, irregular rainfall, extreme precipitation, forest fire risks, landslides, soil erosion, and ecosystem degradation in the Tropical Dry Forest and Southeastern Andean Ridges landscapes. In the dry forest areas, prolonged dry spells and higher temperatures could increase water stress, reduce ecosystem functionality, affect restoration success, and heighten wildfire risk. In the southeastern Andean ridges, intense rainfall events associated with El Niño could increase landslides, runoff, habitat fragmentation, and damage to community infrastructure and sustainable production systems. These impacts could reduce the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation actions, weaken climate-resilient livelihood practices, and limit expected resilience and well-being benefits for local communities. The project will mitigate this risk by incorporating updated ENSO and seasonal climate forecasts into project planning, conducting complementary ecosystem and climate risk analyses, integrating climate risk information into SBSAPs, prioritizing climate-resilient and biodiversity-friendly practices, strengthening early warning and adaptive management capacities at the community level, promoting fire prevention and water management measures, and aligning interventions with Ecuador's NAP, NDCs, and relevant disaster risk reduction frameworks.
Environmental and Social	Low	Environmental and social risks are expected to be low and consistent with the project's Safeguards risk rating. Potential risks relate to localized impacts from sustainable production activities, unequal access to project benefits, or insufficient consideration of IPLCs, women, youth, and vulnerable groups. These risks will be mitigated through safeguards screening, exclusion of activities that could lead to habitat conversion or degradation, gender-responsive and culturally appropriate stakeholder engagement, grievance

		mechanisms, and monitoring of social and environmental variables during implementation.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Changes in institutional priorities, political turnover, or weak coordination across national and subnational institutions could affect the adoption and implementation of SBSAPs, intersectoral coordination mechanisms, and biodiversity mainstreaming in territorial planning. The project will mitigate this risk by anchoring interventions in existing national frameworks, including the NBSAP, NDCs, NAP, REDD+ instruments, PDOTs, ACUS and SPACUS; formalizing coordination mechanisms; engaging GADs and local actors early; and clarifying roles and responsibilities during project preparation and implementation.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	The project promotes improved institutional coordination, SBSAPs, biodiversity mainstreaming tools, and sustainable finance approaches, which require behavioral and institutional change but build on existing national policies and planning systems. The residual risk is low because the project does not depend on major legal reforms or untested policy instruments. Mitigation measures include participatory development of SBSAPs, alignment with existing territorial planning instruments, capacity building for national and subnational institutions, and continuous engagement with policy and technical stakeholders.
Technological	Low	The project is not primarily dependent on complex or untested technologies. Technological elements may include biodiversity monitoring tools, data management systems, geospatial analysis, and technical tools for sustainable production and value chain support. These tools will be based on available and proven approaches. Risk will be mitigated through technical due diligence, use of existing national information systems where feasible, training, and selection of technologies appropriate to local capacities and maintenance conditions.
Financial and Business Model	Low	The project will support financial mechanisms, biodiversity-positive value chains, and investment mobilization, including the target of at least USD 18 million for biodiversity-positive activities. While challenges may arise from perceived risks, limited investment-ready pipelines, delayed returns, or limited repayment capacity among local actors, the residual risk is assessed as low because the project builds on proven approaches to sustainable production, MSME support, value chain development, and partnerships with financial institutions. Mitigation measures include targeted technical assistance, investment-readiness support, strategic partnerships with financial institutions, and alignment of finance with viable biodiversity-based businesses and conservation-compatible production systems.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	GGGI, as the anticipated executing entity, with oversight from CAF and coordination with relevant government and territorial stakeholders, has the technical and operational basis to support project implementation.

		Achievement of outcomes will require coordination across national institutions, GADs, IPLCs, producer organizations, MSMEs, academia, NGOs, and financial institutions. Risk will be mitigated through clear implementation arrangements, targeted capacity building, technical assistance, coordination mechanisms, territorial engagement, and monitoring systems that support adaptive management.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Fiduciary risks may arise from procurement delays, financial management challenges, contracting of specialized providers, or coordination across multiple partners and territories. These risks could affect timely delivery of outputs and therefore achievement of outcomes. CAF will monitor fiduciary risks through its internal controls, policies, procedures, and GEF-compliant standards. Mitigation measures include clear accountability lines, separation of procurement and financial management functions, performance-based contracts, regular financial reporting, supervision, audits, and mechanisms to identify and report wrongdoing.
Stakeholder	Low	Stakeholder risks may arise if IPLCs, producer organizations, women, youth, GADs, MSMEs, financial institutions, or other local actors are not sufficiently engaged or do not perceive clear benefits from project interventions. The residual risk is low because the project has been designed around participatory planning, territorial engagement, and multi-stakeholder implementation. Mitigation measures include continued consultations, co-design of SBSAPs and local measures, culturally appropriate engagement, gender-responsive participation, involvement of key stakeholder groups in governance arrangements, and grievance mechanisms.
Other	Moderate	External shocks such as health emergencies, mobility restrictions, natural disasters, security constraints, or abrupt changes in market conditions could affect consultations, field activities, value chains, finance mobilization, and implementation timelines. The project will mitigate these risks by maintaining flexibility in work planning, using local implementation partners and territorial teams where feasible, incorporating adaptive management, allowing remote or hybrid coordination when needed, and designing value chain and finance activities with sufficient contingency for changing market and operating conditions
Overall Risk Rating	Low	The overall residual risk rating is assessed as Low, reflecting the expected level of risk after the application of mitigation measures across all categories. Although some contextual and fiduciary risks are rated Moderate, these are considered manageable due to the project's alignment with existing national frameworks, established institutional capacities, CAF oversight, GGGI technical support, participatory implementation approach, and mitigation measures embedded in the design. No individual residual risk is expected to significantly compromise the achievement of project outcomes.

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

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

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

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

69. The proposed project is fully aligned with the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area, particularly Objective 1 on the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of ecosystems, and Objective 3 on the mobilization of financial resources for biodiversity. The project contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), particularly Targets 5, 9, 14, and 19, by promoting sustainable use of biodiversity, strengthening biodiversity-based value chains, enhancing multi-level governance, and mobilizing financial resources. Through these actions, the project supports nature-positive development while maintaining ecosystem integrity across priority landscapes.

70. At the national level, the project supports the implementation of Ecuador's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2025–2030), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which collectively identify land-use change, overexploitation of natural resources, climate change, pollution, and invasive species as key drivers of biodiversity loss. The project responds to these priorities by strengthening governance, promoting sustainable production systems, and enhancing biodiversity financing mechanisms in line with national policy objectives.

71. The project operationalizes national biodiversity and climate commitments through targeted interventions in two priority landscapes: the Tropical Dry Forest (Manabí–Santa Elena) and the Southeastern Ridges (Loja–Zamora Chinchipe). Through the development and implementation of Subnational Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs), strengthened institutional coordination, and support to biodiversity-based value chains, the project translates national priorities into concrete territorial actions. It also reinforces multi-level governance by strengthening coordination among national institutions, subnational governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), and other stakeholders, while integrating biodiversity and climate considerations into territorial planning processes.

72. The project also contributes to addressing Ecuador's biodiversity financing gap by mobilizing investment toward biodiversity-positive activities and strengthening enabling conditions for biodiversity finance. By supporting biodiversity-based enterprises, sustainable value chains, and access to finance, the project will enhance the role of biodiversity as a driver of sustainable development while improving livelihoods and maintaining ecosystem services.

73. Overall, the project contributes to the implementation of key targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including:

GBF Target	Contribution of the Project

Target 5 – Sustainable use of wild species	Promotes sustainable management and use of biodiversity through biodiversity-based enterprises and sustainable production practices that reduce pressure on ecosystems.
Target 9 – Benefits from the sustainable use of biodiversity	Strengthens biodiversity-based value chains and improves income opportunities for local communities and producer organizations while maintaining ecosystem integrity.
Target 14 – Integration of biodiversity into policies and planning	Strengthens governance mechanisms and intersectoral coordination to integrate biodiversity into territorial planning and sectoral decision-making.
Target 19 – Mobilization of financial resources for biodiversity	Mobilizes public and private investment for biodiversity-positive activities and strengthens enabling conditions for biodiversity finance.

74. Potential policy tensions have been identified in relation to agricultural expansion, livestock production, mining, fire management, infrastructure development and land-use policies that may increase pressure on natural ecosystems if not aligned with biodiversity objectives. The project will address these risks through SBSAPs, intersectoral coordination mechanisms, ecosystem risk analyses, safeguards, territorial prioritization, biodiversity-positive production criteria and exclusion of activities that could drive habitat conversion or degradation. By aligning biodiversity, climate, productive development, territorial planning and finance agendas, the project will improve policy coherence and support Ecuador's commitments under the CBD, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

76. During project identification and formulation, consultations were carried out with the participation of CAF, GGGI, the Ministry of Environment and Energy, and national and subnational stakeholders to validate project priorities, risks, intervention areas, productive opportunities, governance mechanisms, and financing needs. The consultation process included territorial engagement in the Tropical Dry Forest landscape of Manabí–Santa Elena and the Southeastern Ridges landscape of Loja–Zamora Chinchipe, as well as targeted engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including representatives of the Federación Shuar. Consultations addressed biodiversity loss, climate risks, ecosystem connectivity, sustainable production, bioeconomy opportunities, territorial planning instruments, conservation mechanisms, finance gaps, and governance arrangements.

77. Manta, Manabí–Santa Elena landscape, August 26, 2025: activity fine-tuning workshop with 23 participants from 14 institutions, including provincial and municipal governments, ancestral community organizations, academic institutions, NGOs and national technical agencies. Participants identified biodiversity risks such as water stress, deforestation, forest fires and limited technical capacity for biodiversity product management, as well as bioeconomy opportunities related to cacao, agroforestry systems, palo santo, paja toquilla, tagua, algarrobo, ceibo fiber and guadua cane

78. Loja–Zamora Chinchipe landscape, August 29, 2025: participatory territorial workshop with 30 participants from 18 institutions, including provincial and municipal governments, academic institutions, ancestral community organizations, national parks, NGOs and technical agencies. Discussions focused on biodiversity risks, including illegal mining, forest fires, water contamination and fauna conflict; bioeconomy opportunities such as coffee, cacao, honey, vanilla, copal, achira and non-timber forest products; governance mechanisms, conservation areas, productive systems, capacity-building needs and territorial planning instruments.

79. Virtual consultation, Loja–Zamora stakeholder territory, September 25, 2025: technical dialogue with representatives of the Federación Shuar and institutional partners. Participants included Washington Tini and Manuel Arturo Pichanga from the Federación Shuar; José Dueñas and Alexis Flores from the Ministry of Environment and Energy; Christian Cutiupala from GGGI; and Mauricio Velásquez and Martín Brasa from CAF. The consultation focused on biodiversity-based livelihoods, territorial governance and environmental risks affecting Indigenous territories in the Southeastern Ridges, including mining, forest fires, water contamination, fauna conflict and loss of sacred species. It also identified biodiversity-based products such as copal, melipona honey, cúrcuma, achiote, vanilla, cinnamon and bamboo-based crafts, and confirmed the Shuar governance structure and Plan de Vida as key entry points for project alignment.

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

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

Low

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

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

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
CAF	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,343,673.00	210,930.00	2,554,603.00
CAF	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	1,666,419.00	149,978.00	1,816,397.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**4,010,092.00**	**360,908.00**	**4,371,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

150000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

13500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)

CAF	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	150,000.00	13,500.00	163,500.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**150,000.00**	**13,500.00**	**163,500.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
CAF	GET	Ecuador	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,534,500.00
Total GEF Resources					**4,534,500.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-4	GET	2,343,673.00	12845292
BD-3-2	GET	1,666,419.00	20367582
Total Project Cost		**4,010,092.00**	**33,212,874.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	MAE – Zonal offices	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1200000
Recipient Country Government	MAE – National coordination	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Recipient Country Government	MAE – National REDD+ Monitoring System / SNMB	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	9983210
Recipient Country Government	MAE – Socio Bosque II Project, fiscal component	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	5740000
Donor Agency	KfW – National Landscape Restoration Project / REM REDD+	Grant	Investment mobilized	2768175

Donor Agency	GCF – REDD+ Results-Based Payment Ecuador	Grant	Investment mobilized	850259
Donor Agency	UK PACT – Forest Governance	Grant	Investment mobilized	350000
Donor Agency	DEFRA UK – Biodiversity Landscape Fund	Grant	Investment mobilized	2850000
Donor Agency	BMUV Germany – Save the Blue Five	Grant	Investment mobilized	1872000
Donor Agency	GIZ – EbA LAC + Mangrove Restoration	Grant	Investment mobilized	6919230
Donor Agency	Andes Amazon Fund – Ecological Restoration	Grant	Investment mobilized	180000
Total Co-financing				**33,212,874.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilized portion includes indicative financial contributions from national and international sources that are aligned with the project's geographic scope and intervention areas. These resources support biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, sustainable production systems, forest governance, climate resilience and biodiversity-positive value chains in Manabí, Santa Elena, Loja and Zamora Chinchipe. Co-financing initiatives were identified based on their relevance to the project components and their expected contribution to complementary landscape-level actions, including restoration of degraded ecosystems, conservation of priority areas, strengthening of sustainable value chains, biodiversity monitoring, forest governance and territorial planning. The project will not duplicate these investments; it will build on them by providing targeted technical assistance, coordination mechanisms, SBSAPs, biodiversity finance tools and catalytic support to improve coherence, effectiveness and scalability of ongoing interventions.

In-kind contributions are provided by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE) through its institutional structure, technical personnel, operational systems and national platforms supporting biodiversity conservation, monitoring and territorial management. These contributions will support sustained institutional engagement, technical inputs, and policy coordination in relation to the priority landscapes, and will facilitate alignment with the NBSAP, REDD+ systems, national monitoring platforms and territorial planning processes. The valuation of these contributions is based on documented institutional budgets, staffing and operational commitments, and will be further validated during project preparation and implementation.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	CAF	6/3/2026	Ignacio Lorenzo	+59899180424	ilorenzo@caf.com
Project Coordinator	CAF	6/3/2026	Mauricio Velasquez	+593994804007	mvelasquez@caf.com
GEF Agency Coordinator	CAF	6/3/2026	Sebastian Rodriguez	+573105060516	srodriguez@caf.com

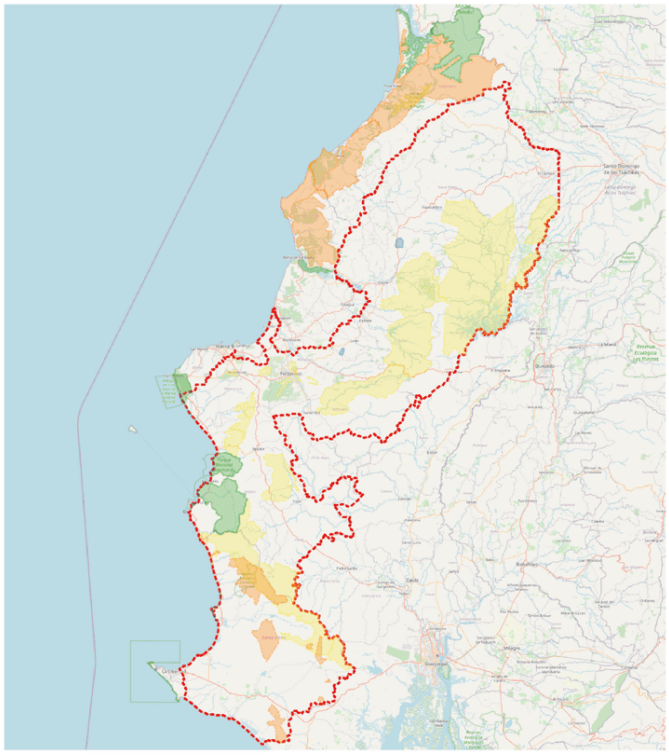
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Madeleine Pertuz	Director of International Cooperation - MAE	Ministry of Environment and Energy - MAE	

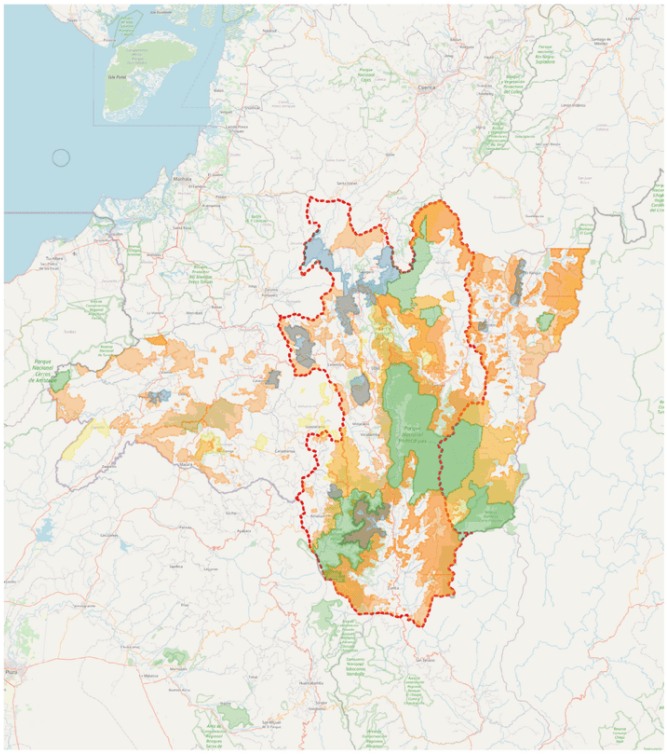
ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Geo Name ID *Required field if the location is not an exact site*	**Location Name** *Required field*	**Latitude** *Required field*	**Longitude** *Required field*	**Location Description** *Optional text field*	**Activity Description** *Optional text field*
	Landscape Southeastern Ridges	-4,1512	-79,1566		
	Landscape Tropical Dry Forest	-1,1341	-80,20311		



National System of Protected Areas
Water Protection Areas (APH)
Sustainable Use Conservation Areas
Protective Forests and Vegetation (PFV)
Dry Forest Landscape
OSM Standard



National System of Protected Areas
Water Protection Areas (APH)
Sustainable Use Conservation Areas
Protective Forests and Vegetation (PFV)
Southeastern Ridges Landscape
OSM Standard

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

Title
Annex D

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity/decision-making		
Stakeholders	Local communities		

Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming		
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity		