

Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Cienaga Grande de Santa Marta

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10567

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Cienaga Grande de Santa Marta

Countries

Colombia

Agency(ies)

IADB

Other Executing Partner(s)

Conservation International - Colombia (CI-Colombia); in coordination with The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS)

Executing Partner Type

CSO

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approach, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Private Sector, Large corporations, Communications, Behavior change, Local Communities, Capacity Development, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

60 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

780,822.00

Submission Date

3/23/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	4,019,178.00	20,100,000.00
BD-2-6	GET	4,200,000.00	21,255,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		8,219,178.00	41,355,000.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To improve the ecosystem health of the Cienaga Grande de Santa Marta –CGSM- as a means to promote the conservation of biodiversity.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Environmental Governance	Technical Assistance	Improved capacities of the public and private institutions governing and managing the biological and hydrological assets of the CGSM.	<p>1.1 Governance Model Action Plan (GMAP) for the CGSM ecoregion (592,748 ha), designed and adopted by public and private stakeholders, including communities and indigenous groups. Target: signed by 10 stakeholders.</p> <p>1.2 A financial sustainability strategy for the CGSM governance model designed. Target: one financial strategy.</p> <p>1.3 Capacity building program tailored for public and private institutions implemented. Target: one program.</p> <p>1.4 Awareness campaign with the stakeholders of the CGSM. Target: one campaign</p> <p>1.5 Policy brief developed for scaling up the project's outcomes. Target: one policy brief</p>	GET	600,000.00	13,092,000.00

2. Protected Areas, Forest Conservation and Restoration	Investment	<p>Improved management effectiveness in the Santuario de Fauna y Flora of the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, and the National Park Isla de Salamanca Parkway (86,613 ha).</p> <p>Increased the forest conservation and water flow (by 20%) into the CGSM from the Fundación and Aracataca rivers.</p>	<p>2.1 Natural canals activities, supporting mangrove ecosystems of the protected areas, restored. Co-financed. Target: 1,650 ha</p> <p>2.2 Monitoring, control, equipment, and surveillance program implemented for the CGSM with emphasis on protected areas. Target: one program</p> <p>2.3 Water allocation systems that consider the ecological requirements of the CGSM for Fundación and Aracataca rivers implemented. Target: Two systems.</p> <p>2.4 A technical study to identify ecological corridors to improve forest connectivity developed. Target: One study.</p> <p>2.5 A strategy for inclusive conservation developed for indigenous territories, aligned with their planning tools. Target: One strategy</p> <p>2.6 Management and Conservation Agreements for the Fundación and Aracataca watershed (320,279 ha) signed by key productive organizations and institutional stakeholders. Target: Two conservation agreements</p> <p>2.7 Area under conservation and restoration measures implemented to protect key habitats and species. Target: 23,750 hectares</p>	GET	3,000,000.00	17,311,750.00
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3.	Investment	Increased the area under improved management to benefit biodiversity in the middle and lower watershed of the Fundación, Aracataca, Sevilla, and Frio rivers.	3.1 Conservation agreements (CA) signed by water users of the Fundación and Aracataca watersheds. Target: 500 CA 3.2 Management plans developed for farms located in the middle and lower watershed of the Fundación and Aracataca watersheds. Target: 500 plans. 3.3 Area under the implementation of sustainable land-use practices focusing on water efficiency. Target: 27,500 ha.	GET	3,927,789.00	7,171,000.00
4.	Investment	Monitoring, evaluation and communications.	4.1 Intermediate and final evaluations with an in-depth analysis of gender and stakeholder engagement developed. Target: Two evaluations. 4.2 Impact evaluation performed. Target: One evaluation. 4.3 Project's communication strategy implemented. Target: One strategy	GET	300,000.00	1,280,250.00
Sub Total (\$)					7,827,789.00	38,855,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET					391,389.00	2,500,000.00
Sub Total(\$)					391,389.00	2,500,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)					8,219,178.00	41,355,000.00

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	CORPAMAG	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	9,700,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development -MADR-	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - MADS-	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Departmental Government of Magdalena	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,425,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Natural Parks of Colombia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,450,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Police and Armed Forces	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,900,000.00
Recipient Country Government	INVEMAR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,700,000.00
GEF Agency	IADB	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,500,000.00
Donor Agency	Conservation International - Colombia	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,600,000.00
Private Sector	Association of Banana growers (BANASAN and others)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Private Sector	Committee of Coffee Growers of Magdalena	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Private Sector	National Federation of Cattle Ranchers –FEDEGAN-	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Private Sector	National Federation of Palm Oil Producers –FEDEPALMA-	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	750,000.00

Beneficiaries	Confederación Indígena Tayrona	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800,000.00
Donor Agency	European Union	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	University of Atlántico and Universidad del Norte	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,080,000.00
Recipient Country Government	IDEAM	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,200,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)				41,355,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

In July 2018 and October 2019, the MADS, IADB, and CI held workshops with key stakeholders for the conservation of the Cienaga Grande de Santa Marta to validate the project scope and identify the sources and type of co-financing. The resources corresponding to staff, equipment, and facilities that will help achieve the project's goal were classified as recurrent expenditures. The activities already included in the public institution's annual budget to implement their official duties were also considered recurrent expenditures (.e.g., a National Park receives financial support from the national government for patrolling activities). Partners' future investments to carry out the studies, works, community projects, equipment, hiring new technical support, etc. contributing to the project outcomes were considered investment mobilized. These actions are not financed by a regular income source and are not included in the current budget allocations. For example, cooperation agreements between public and private organizations to finance specific projects, carry out studies and research, access national funds (National Oil Royalty Program), etc. Furthermore, the reallocation of current resources and new investments from the agricultural private sector to support the project were also considered investment mobilized. Finally, the MADS confirmed the amount and sources of co-financing before submitting the PIF's latest version.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
IADB	GET	Colombia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	8,219,178	780,822	9,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					8,219,178.00	780,822.00	9,000,000.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
Total Project Costs(\$)					0.00	0.00	0.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
83,613.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
83,613.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Cienaga Grande De Santa Marta		Habitat/Species Management Area	27,020.00						
The Park Way Isla de Salamanca		National Park	56,593.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

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

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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

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)
509135.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

95,497.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
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413,638.00

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

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

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

Title	Submitted

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	480			
Male	720			
Total	1200	0	0	0

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

*** Please note that the Core Indicator summary shows a checkmark for Indicator 3, but the project does not contribute to that indicator. It was not possible to convince the GEF Portal Interface to remove the checkmark. The goals for the applicable Core Indicators (#1, #4 y #11) have been duly recorded on the Portal (and will hopefully show up for the reviewers; we have attached a copy of the PIF in PDF in case of any problems.) *** This project is part of a comprehensive initiative of the Colombian government to improve the ecological well-being of the CGSM and its biodiversity. The contribution to GEF core indicators includes the expected outcomes for the Fundacion, Aracataca, Frio, and Sevilla watersheds. The GEF financing will give priority to actions in the Fundacion and Aracataca watersheds. Simultaneously, the European Union funds will have precedence for investment in the Frio and Sevilla watersheds (co-financing). The project will support the Aichi Targets 4, 7, and 14, through supporting the transformation towards sustainable production in Fundación and Aracataca watersheds, focusing on forest conservation and water efficiency. Also, the target 11 by improving the management effectiveness and increasing connectivity of two protected areas (PA). Additionally, the project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): 5 (gender equality) by adopting a family approach to the project that will enhance the role of women; 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land) by increasing the sustainable management of forests to reduce biodiversity loss, land degradation and CO2 emissions; and 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) by strengthening the effectiveness of institutions.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;

The Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta (CGSM) is the largest coastal wetland complex in Colombia, hosting 40,000 hectares of mangrove^[1], and it is the most productive estuarine delta in the greater Caribbean (Hernández & Gocke, 1990 and Knoppers, 1993; in Salzwedel *et al.*, 2016). The CGSM is considered an international biodiversity hotspot as it holds abundant and diverse wildlife, exhibiting an exceptional bird population. This wildlife is mainly preserved in two (2) national Protected Areas (PA) that are part of the wetland complex: first, the Flora and Fauna Sanctuary of the CGSM (SFF CGSM), created in 1977 and subsequently expanded in 1998, with a total extension of 26,810 hectares. It covers areas of mangrove, tropical dry forest, and riparian forests (PNNC & MinAmbiente, 2016). Second, the Isla de Salamanca Parkway (VIPIS), created in 1964 for the conservation of the marine-coastal wetlands complex, covering 56,200 hectares (PNNC, 2004a).

The project intervention area is a priority for conservation, and it holds the following international denominations: Ramsar Site of the Delta Estuarine System of the Magdalena River, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta (1998); International Bird Area (1998); and Biosphere Reserve of the UNESCO (2000). The CGSM is also included within the ancestral territory or *Línea Negra* of the four indigenous groups located in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta (SNSM) (Decree 1500 of 2018).

The ecological health of the CGSM depends on the saltwater inflows from the Caribbean Sea and the freshwater inflows from the Magdalena River on the western side of the wetland, and four rivers on its eastern side – encompassing the western flank of the SNSM: Sevilla, Frío, Aracataca, and Fundación. The results of the CGSM's Hydro-Sedimentology Model (HSM) show that freshwater from the rivers of the SNSM is key for the hydrological and ecological dynamics of the ecosystem, as small changes in terms of temperature or nutrients, could have a detrimental impact on the ecosystem's flora and fauna. Two hydrological factors threaten the CGSM's biodiversity: (i) the alteration of the water balance (farmers and agri-businesses are capturing an excessive amount of water before it reaches the Ciénaga), and (ii) the low levels of water quality. In fact, in the last century, hydrodynamic disruptions in the CGSM caused massive mangrove and fish mortality: mangrove area decreased by 65% from 1956 to 1995, and fisheries were reduced by 93% from 1967 to 1987 (Vilardy, 2009).

The disruption of the hydrological dynamic affects the conservation status of threatened species, particularly of those endemic to the CGSM ecoregion. Indeed, according to the IUCN Red List, 30 species in the CGSM^[2] are threatened to some degree (vulnerable –VU-, critically endangered –CR-, and endangered –EN- categories). As for endemic species, the ecoregion boasts a total of 34 endemic or almost endemic species^[3] to Colombia (three of these species shared with Venezuela) (see Annex 1). Two (2) of the before mentioned species are endemic to the Colombian Caribbean; 19 are endemic to the SNSM, overlapping the Fundación, Aracataca, Sevilla, and Frío watersheds; and nine (9) more are restricted to the area of intervention. Therefore, targeting the causes of hydrological disruption in the CGSM's influence area is essential for improving the ecosystem's health and, ultimately, the conservation of these threatened and endemic species.

Cross-cutting barriers

The long-term solution to the CGSM hydrodynamic disruption consists of implementing a strategy for the delivery of multiple GEBs by overcoming the following cross-cutting barriers:

Barrier	Description
Lack of governance	Inefficient environmental governance and limitations to enforcing the environmental laws that protect the CGSM make the area more vulnerable to illegal use of natural resources, particularly of biodiversity (mainly through deforestation) and water (through inefficient and unlawful use). There are low levels of cooperation and coordination amongst the different stakeholders and institutions of the CGSM and many lack the technical information, capacities, and funds to implement decision-making processes based on scientific data. For example, the HSM of the CGSM is not fully incorporated in the decision-making process for water allocation or other issues related to natural resource management (permits, land tenure rights, amongst others). Consequently, the implementation of effective monitoring, control, and surveillance activities is ineffective. Local institutions, such as the municipalities, are particularly disengaged from the interinstitutional instances and other efforts geared towards the protection of the CGSM. Also, there are no formal schemes in place for the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSO), including indigenous groups and productive sectors, to articulate their conservation efforts with other stakeholders. Indigenous communal lands cover nearly 200,000 hectares in the Fundacion and Aracataca watersheds yet lack strategies for implementing conservation and restoration actions in line with the territorial planning tools. Two additional issues hinder governance: public awareness on the ecological importance of the CGSM is weak and many stakeholders lack the capacities needed to partake in building long-term solutions for the CGSM.
Forest fragmentation and reduced hydrological connectivity	Deforestation in the CGSM is mostly the result of the agricultural frontier expansion (Invemar & Corpamag, 2018). In the watersheds of the SNSM western flank, such land transformation results in extensive areas of pastures and crops, especially oil palm and bananas in the lower basin (CORPAMAG, 2015). The reduction in freshwater inflows and the increase of sedimentation due to deforestation threatens mangroves. Regarding the PAs, the implementation of the activities in their management plans is limited due to insufficient funding, and the application of ecological connectivity measures between them is incipient. Forest fragmentation is also affected by the inefficient system of water concessions, where allocations to the agroindustry do not consider the needs of the CGSM. Also, the inefficient and illegal use of water resources is widespread in the ecoregion, resulting in the rivers not reaching the wetland complex during the dry season (Aguas del Magdalena, 2009a and 2009b). Hence, because of deforestation and other unsustainable uses of biodiversity, the ecological connectivity of the region through forests and water is compromised.
Unsustainable	Agricultural production in the CGSM is characterized by low adoption of sustainable farming practices. Indeed, forest clearing for crops or pastures, the excessive use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and the inefficient use of water resources characterize the current production systems in the CGSM. Overall, agricultural producers fail to engage in sustainable farming practices because of: (i) l

unsustainable farming and livestock practices	Commonly, agricultural producers fail to engage in sustainable farming practices because of: (i) lack of technical assistance; (ii) limited knowledge about the long-term effects of degrading and depleting ecosystem services on agricultural productivity, and (iii) financial constraints that restrict the transition to environmentally sustainable production practices. The adoption of unsustainable farming practices and inadequate water management have been identified as significant causes of the decreased connectivity within the watersheds of the CGSM lagoon complex and as major sources of environmental impacts on the PAs (PNNC, 2004a; PNNC, 2004b).
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b) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Due to the critical ecological situation of the CGSM, a Ramsar Convention Advisory Mission was carried out in 2016. The Mission's recommendations focused on the need to restore the hydrological dynamics, design a monitoring system, and increase public and private stakeholder coordination and participation. As a result, the CGSM Ramsar site was categorized in 2017 as a high-risk wetland and added to the Montreux Record. Also, an Action Plan for the CGSM was designed, and it prioritized restoring the water flow between the SNSM and the CGSM.

The MADS established the Interinstitutional Coordination Committee (ICC) for the Integral Management of the CGSM (MADS Resolution No. 1300 of 2016). It comprises the regional environmental authority - CORPAMAG, the MADS, the National Parks System, the Magdalena department's government, and INVEMAR, among others. The ICC's approach to improving the ecological well-being of the CGSM includes the conceptualization of an EU-funded project and this GEF project proposal. The EU project "Territorial governance in sustainable, productive, and resilient landscapes" will work in the Sevilla and Frio watersheds. In coordination with the EU initiative, the present proposal will focus on the Aracataca and Fundación watersheds, allowing for a comprehensive approach for protecting natural ecosystems, restoring the water flow, and implementing sustainable production systems in the four watersheds.

The organizations that comprise the ICC invest resources in biodiversity monitoring and conservation activities. National Natural Parks of Colombia finances actions and activities framed within the PA Management Plans, but funding for the two areas is deficient. CORPAMAG manages the funds from a surcharge on toll fees for national highways located near Ramsar Sites (Law 357 of 1997) and has invested about USD\$7.4 million in the hydraulic maintenance of waterways connecting the CGSM wetland which are critical for mangrove rehabilitation, from 2012 to 2016. However, these investments are not coordinated amongst institutions and with other conservation or restoration efforts. Also, its cost-effectiveness can be enhanced by reducing the negative impacts of dredging, targeting areas of work according to the HS model, coordinating activities with local governments and engaging local communities.

The INVEMAR, IDEAM, and CORPAMAG occasionally monitor the state of mangroves and water quality in the CGSM and are piloting projects to define guidelines for mangrove restoration. This information will be an important input for additional investments towards mangrove rehabilitation in the future. INVEMAR is also currently generating some technical inputs for the Ramsar Site management plan update and maintaining the HSM of the CGSM. Additional efforts are needed to incorporate monitoring results in interinstitutional decision-making processes for the CGSM.

The Tayrona Indigenous Confederation (CIT) and the Territorial Council of the Indigenous Governors of the SNSM (CTC) are currently involved in the expansion of the indigenous reservation located in the upper basin of the Fundación and Aracataca rivers to consolidate and protect their ancestral territory. Indigenous groups have extensive experience in the conservation of their land. Still, their actions must be targeted and coordinated with other public institutions to ensure that policies and permits for the use of natural resources in this territory are in line with the indigenous territorial planning tools, thus increasing social and environmental benefits.

The Ministry of Agriculture and private sectoral organizations (livestock and agricultural sectors) led pilot programs to improve sustainability in the coffee, palm oil, cattle, and banana sector. Thus far, sustainable interventions have focused on implementing pilot farms to adapt and demonstrate technologies within the local context. Still, the land under sustainable practices is not sufficient to generate improvements on biodiversity or water dynamics at a landscape scale. However, the sectoral organizations have the technical capacities and learned lessons from the pilot experiences. They also have the motivation to foster the transformation to sustainable production systems. For example, the MADS reached Zero Deforestation Agreements with the oil palm and cattle industries for 2030.

Despite the efforts above, the scientific information generated for the CGSM does not provide a point of convergence for local governments to implement well-informed decisions nor to coordinate with the regional and national levels. Also, this information is not collected regularly, additional variables must be measured and assessed, and lack of funding is a significant risk for monitoring activities. Furthermore, the current governance model for the CGSM is incipient and lacks the effective participation of municipal governments, the private sector, indigenous groups, and CSO. Indeed, there is a lack of established mechanisms for coordination and allocation of resources among the stakeholders.

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

The proposed alternative scenario seeks to minimize threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services of global importance. Its implementation will have direct positive effects on the PAs and, ultimately, improve ecosystem health in the CGSM. The project components are:

Component 1: Strengthening environmental governance. This component seeks to improve the governance of the CGSM by promoting stakeholder agreements (i.e., local, national, private, and public) that result in an inclusive environmental governance model along with an action plan for its implementation. This governance model will determine the institutional arrangements (committees, representatives, tasks, budget, etc.) and commitments needed for interinstitutional articulation in the following areas: monitoring, control, and surveillance, as well as conservation, restoration, and sustainable production. The actions financed by this component will improve coordination between environmental authorities of the CGSM (including managers of the Ramsar Site, SFF CGSM, and VIPIS) and the Fundacion and Aracataca watersheds, as well as with private organizations and CSO.

A Governance Model Action Plan (GMAP) (output 1.1) will be developed. To engage the indigenous groups, the municipalities, and the private sector in the design and implementation of the GMAP, specific methodologies and activities will be supported. Workshops, exchange platforms, collaborative planning, training, and other mechanisms needed for effective stakeholder participation will be financed. A capacity-building program to improve the skills and abilities of the institutions linked to the CGSM will be carried out (output 1.3). This program will strengthen capabilities to use novel technologies for environmental monitoring, the application of the HSM for the allocation of water permits, among others. Through a partnership with the IADB's Natural Capital lab, the project will develop a strategy for the financial sustainability of the governance model (output 1.2) emphasizing on mangrove restoration activities. Moreover, an awareness campaign to promote a greater understanding of the environmental, social, and economic benefits associated with the wetland complex and ecoregion will be carried out (output 1.4). This campaign will also seek to promote awareness among policymakers to create an enabling environment for future policies in the CGSM. Finally, a policy brief (output 1.5) will be developed to guide future public investments (from national, regional, and local institutions) and scale-up sustainable production and governance models that transcend sectors and departmental boundaries.

Component 2: Protected Areas, Forest Conservation and Restoration. This component aims to provide the technical tools for the management and monitoring of biodiversity in the CGSM, including water use efficiency, forest conservation, and landscape connectivity.

The project interventions will support the main activities of the PAs' management plans to protect key habitat and species improving management effectiveness by 15%. The restoration of 110 km of hydrological connections will improve mangrove health (output 2.1). An estimated 1,650 hectares of mangroves will be restored by opening small canals within the mangrove area, in collaboration with local communities, and by dredging of the main wetland canals (with co-financing resources). A program for monitoring, control, and surveillance will be implemented to protect key species, forests, and mangroves, as well as to enforce effective water management (output 2.2). For this purpose, innovative and cost-effective technologies will be promoted (i.e., remote sensing technologies, drones, among others). Monitoring activities will provide information to refine the HSM and its application for modeling climate change scenarios and identifying adaptation measures.

The second set of activities are oriented to reestablish the water inflows from the Aracataca and Fundacion rivers to the CGSM. The project will finance the following key knowledge products: i) A study to establish a water allocation system that considers the ecological water requirements of the CGSM (output 2.3), based on a participatory method of behavioral economics; ii) a study to establish an ecological corridor that connects the natural ecosystems throughout the Fundacion and Aracataca watersheds, from the forests of the SNSM and the indigenous reservations in the upper basins to the wetlands of the CGSM (output 2.4); and (iii) an inclusive conservation strategy developed for indigenous territories, to define conservation and restoration actions, in line with the existing Safeguard Plan and other planning instruments (output 2.5).

The studies mentioned above will be crucial inputs to reach watershed management and conservation agreements with the productive sectorial organizations and the institutional stakeholders of the Aracataca and Fundación rivers (output 2.6), as well as for the implementation of conservation and restoration activities in public and indigenous lands (output 2.7). Each agreement will last for at least ten years and will include specific targets for water management and forest conservation, commitments by sector, financial contributions, among other aspects. These agreements will support existing initiatives in Colombia to incorporate producers in deforestation-free supply chains (i.e., the Zero Deforestation Agreements between MADS and the oil palm and cattle industries, supported by the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020). The implementation of these two watershed-level agreements and the achievement of their outcomes will be monitored through the activities proposed in output 2.2. Conservation agreements with productive sectors and its implementation will also be supported in the Frio and Sevilla watersheds through co-financing (UE Project).

Component 3: Sustainable Forest and Land-Use Management. This component aims to increase the area under sustainable production practices by working with the producers in the livestock, oil palm, banana, and coffee, sectors, in the Aracataca and Fundacion watersheds.

Under the umbrella of the watershed-level agreements (outputs 2.6 and 2.7), conservation agreements will be established between the environmental authorities and at least 500 water users in the sectors mentioned above (output 3.1). Conservation agreements are a voluntary mechanism to promote engagement by private stakeholders for biodiversity conservation in the CGSM. Specifically, they will aim to: (i) foster the transformation of current production systems into sustainable production systems; (ii) conserve/restore remaining patches of forest and its associated biodiversity (identified through output 2.4); and (iii) improve water efficiency. To achieve these purposes, the project will support agricultural producers by providing them with incentives that could include technical assistance, social acknowledgment, financing of sustainable technologies, market-based mechanisms, among others. Each agreement will have a ten-year duration and determine property-specific targets (i.e., hectares under conservation and restoration) that will be monitored during and after project execution.

Agricultural producers participating in conservation agreements will also benefit from the design and implementation of farm management plans. This tool establishes an action plan that will include the farm investments needed to improve productive systems' sustainability and define specific sections of the farm to be used for conservation or agricultural production (zoning). Emphasis will be placed on actions that aim to improve water use efficiency (output 3.3). The

incentives to promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, biodiversity conservation, and water use efficiency will be identified during the design phase in collaboration with key stakeholders of the agricultural sector, including investors (local banking), research institutions (INVEMAR, CIAT, CENIPALMA, universities, etc.) and producers.

The project will co-finance the implementation of such incentives along with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development –MADR- and several sectoral associations (FEDEGAN, Committee of Coffee Growers of Magdalena, banana organizations, and FEDEPALMA). USOARACATACA, the association of water users of the large-scale irrigation district of the Aracataca River will be included as a stakeholder with ample opportunities to participate in implementing water efficiency measures. The EU project (co-financing) will support the implementation of sustainable land-use practices and water efficiency measures in the Sevilla and Frio watersheds, contributing to the project outcomes.

Component 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Communication. This component aims to ensure: (i) measurement of outcomes and impacts; (ii) assessment and systematization of lessons learned, and (iii) Sufficient communication of project findings to stakeholders. Project monitoring will be conducted through intermediate and final evaluations with an in-depth analysis of gender and stakeholder engagement (output 4.1). An impact evaluation plan will be implemented to measure the causal effects of the intervention (output 4.2). Baseline and final surveys for the treatment (beneficiaries) and control (non-beneficiaries) groups will be performed to assess the spillover effects. The impact evaluation findings will reduce the existing knowledge gap on the development effectiveness of the project interventions. Finally, through the implementation of a communication strategy (output 4.3), the project will finance the dissemination of lessons learned to stakeholders in other CGSM watersheds. This strategy will strengthen the crosscutting extension and capacity-building actions, as well as the replicability of successful interventions.

d) alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies

The project is aligned with the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area, specifically with Objective 1: “Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors,” through including the biodiversity requirements into the land planning tools, water allocation system, and the incentive scheme to promote sustainable farming practices. It is also aligned with Objective 2: “Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate” through improving the management effectiveness of the two (2) national PAs located in the project area. The project has a strong component of inclusive conservation, as part of the area of intervention is a sacred site located in ancestral territories of the indigenous groups of the SNSM.

e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, SCCF, and co-financing.

If the business-as-usual scenario continues in the CGSM: i) uncoordinated and ineffective investments will be implemented without a real impact on conservation goals and threatening the CGSM biodiversity; ii) the local entities, productive sector, and CSO will not be fully engaged in conservation actions; iii) science-based information that considers the health of the wetlands will not be effectively included in land planning and water management of critical watersheds, and iv) isolated efforts to transition to sustainable practices will not achieve a “critical mass” for achieving system-level improvements and change current trends in biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems.

The GEF contributions will play a key role and value in:

1. Fostering an inclusive environmental governance scheme that will i) establish a shared vision for the CGSM among environmental authorities, research institutes, local entities, productive sectors, and CSO; ii) provide the tools to allocate resources and investments effectively and include science-based information in the planning cycle; and iii) improve monitoring, control, and surveillance measures.
2. Elevating the conservation goals of the protected areas of the CGSM to the regional agenda, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the concession system for water allocation, land use planning tools, activities conducted by agricultural organizations, and farm management plans.
3. Establishing an incentive scheme that can reach most of the livestock and agricultural farms in prioritized watersheds to foster forest conservation and improve land management focusing on water use efficiency.

f) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and

The CGSM is a strategic area of ecological connectivity, acting as a corridor that links the Magdalena River (the most important waterway of the country), the Caribbean Sea, and the SNSM. Being a highly productive area, the CGSM generates refuge for the reproduction and feeding of multiple species of resident and migratory birds, becoming a hotspot for global biodiversity. For instance, the CGSM wetland complex is the most critical habitat for migratory waterfowl species in the country. It has the highest concentration of shorebirds in the Colombian Caribbean (Johnson-González et al. 2006), including 14 endemic or almost-endemic bird species.

This project's alternative scenario focuses on activities that will improve the health of the ecosystem and, therefore, its ability to sustain GEBs. The GEBs are related to the total areas (hectares) that will be affected by the project, including the PAs, the endemic and threatened species of the CGSM ecoregion, and the Fundacion and Aracataca watersheds.

Current practices	Impacts on GEB	The alternative proposed by the Project	Anticipated GEB
Deforestation due to agricultural expansion generates high sedimentation rates and the alteration of the wetland's natural canals. Moreover, the unsustainable farming practices and inefficient use of water resources cause pollution and decrease of freshwater inputs that damage the natural habitat.	These practices affect the habitats for globally important biodiversity in the area of intervention, such as three (3) endemic or almost endemic bird species protected in the SFF CGSM and VIPIS, and an additional 26 species that are endemic to the SNSM or the area of intervention.	Forests and mangroves conserved and restored, implementation of sustainable development practices, improving water quality, and quantity, as well as the natural land cover. Rehabilitation of water canals within mangrove forests. Implementation of other mangrove restoration measures.	-83,613 hectares of PAs (SFF CGSM, VIPIS) with improved management effectiveness.
The limited capacity of public institutions and lack of planning tools to effectively manage, monitor, and control PAs and natural resources; local stakeholders are not adequately incorporated in participatory schemes for decision making.		Enhanced capacity of public institutions to fulfill their legal responsibilities and cooperate with other public and private stakeholders; increased participation and capabilities of the private sector and CSO to engage in the conservation efforts for the CGSM.	- 509,135 hectares under improved management to benefit biodiversity in the CGSM.

g) Innovation, sustainability, and potential for scaling up.

The project will design and implement an innovative governance scheme that is tailored to the CGSM, which will increase the efficiency of the stakeholder investments in biodiversity protection measures. In defining the different aspects of the governance model for the CGSM, the types of innovations expected will include new working procedures and management techniques (organizational design); improvement in the quality and coordination of the public services provided (process innovation), and the adoption of new forms of interaction with broad participation of stakeholders (conceptual innovation). The strategies for implementing these types of innovations must include engaging the indigenous organizations and productive sectorial associations in the decision-making processes, through partnerships to implement activities in the ecoregion. Also, the project managers should take advantage of Information and Communication Technologies to incorporate all stakeholders in the innovation processes, as part of the capacity-building workshops. The model can then be scaled-up to include other watersheds in the ecoregion, as well as other sectors of the SNSM.

New drone and passive acoustic technologies for monitoring and controlling illegal activities, such as deforestation, will be fundamental to the project, following the lessons learned from the IUCN study "The Internet of Things for Protected Areas: The Application of Innovative Technologies to Improve Management Effectiveness" (2016). Such technologies offer the possibility of scaling up in other areas of the country with complicated geographies that make traditional monitor and vigilance activities costly. Additionally, the project will invest in a financial model for mangrove restoration, which will be an innovative tool for defining mangrove restoration strategies and will support the financial sustainability of mangrove rehabilitation in the future.

An incentive scheme to foster forest conservation and sustainable production by farmers in the CGSM is new to the project intervention area. The scheme of incentives designed and implemented by the project will allow to scale-up the sustainable production measures of the agricultural sectors involved, from single point pilot interventions, to include a significant amount of areas with such efforts, with quantifiable results in habitat protection and biodiversity conservation at a landscape scale. Also, by the economic nature of the incentives, the scheme will provide financial sustainability to ecological production measures.

[1] Nearly 50% of the mangrove area on the Colombian Caribbean coast.

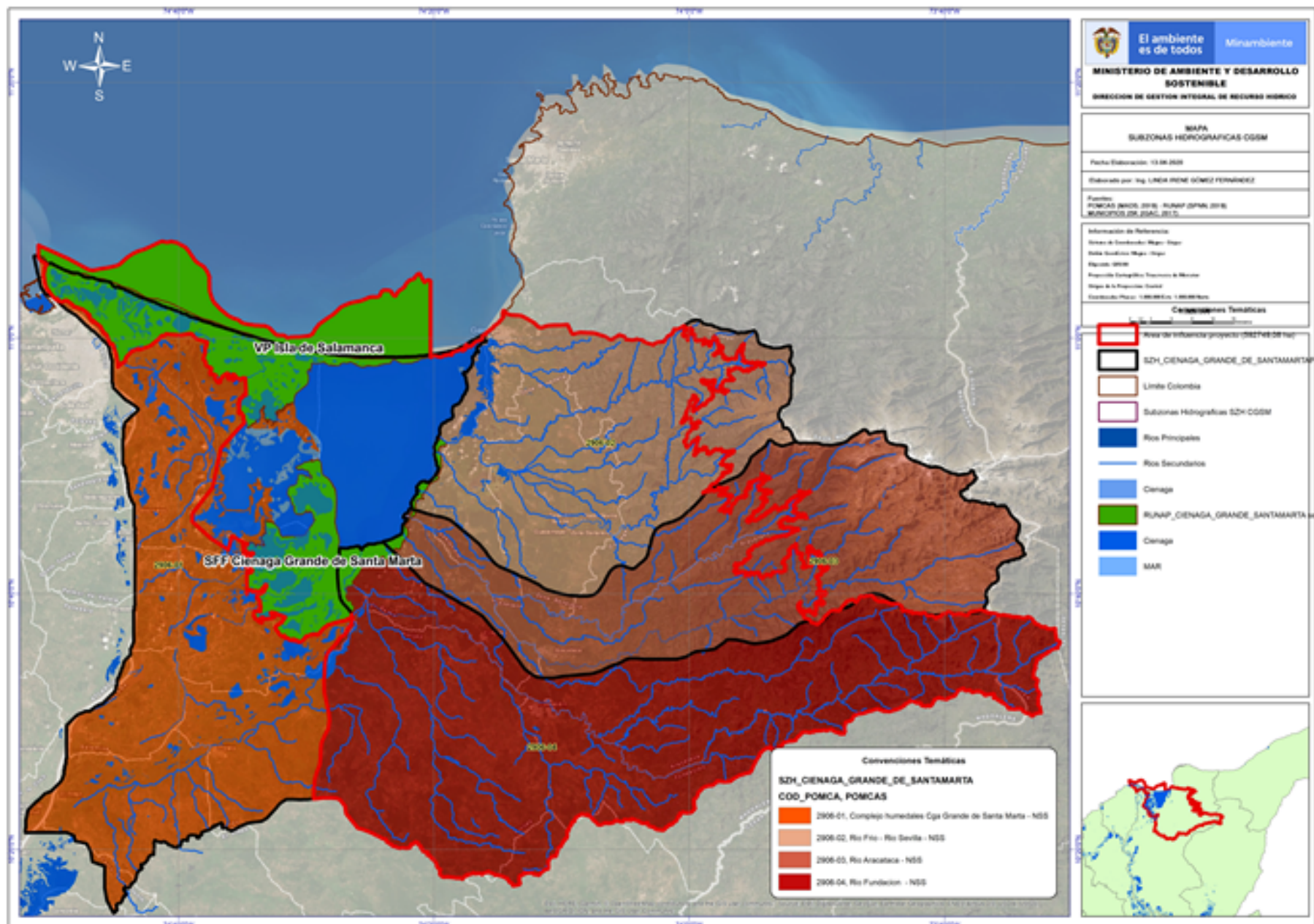
[2] Twelve (12) species of birds, one (1) species of reptile, three (3) species of fish, nine (9) species of amphibians, and five (5) species of mammals.

[3] Fifteen (15) species of amphibians, three (3) species of reptiles, fourteen (14) species of birds, two (2) mammal species.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The project's intervention area comprises 592,748 hectares under improved management to benefit biodiversity, focusing on 442,388 ha at the Fundación, Aracataca, Frio, and Sevilla watersheds that connect the SNSM to the CGSM. The geographic boundaries of the project area are between longitudes 74°51'42.07" W and 73°31'21.31" W, and latitudes 11°6'18.52" and 10°14'13.36" N. (The map is included as annex).



Item	Area (ha)
Flora and Fauna Sanctuary of the CGSM	27,020
Isla de Salamanca Parkway (VIPIS)	56,593
CGSM Wetland Complex	66,747
Frio and Sevilla Watershed*	122,109
Aracataca Watershed*	83,117
Fundacion Watershed*	237,162
Project Impact Area	592,748

**not considering the area within the SNSM*

National Park.

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

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

Stakeholder	Role in the Project
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development –MADS-	As head of the national environmental system of Colombia, MADS is responsible for the environmental policy, technical and regulatory instrumentation in the country. Likewise, it is responsible for the appropriate implementation of the project and will have an essential role in bringing together the different stakeholders; MADS is also the coordinating entity of the ICC for the CGSM.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development –MADR-	Head of the agricultural and rural development sector in Colombia, with the primary objective of the formulation, coordination, and adoption of the policies, plans, programs, and projects in this area. Investments in sustainable agriculture and rural development activities within the GEF project (Component 3) will be coordinated with and co-financed by MADR.
National Research Institutes	INVEMAR will lead the scientific monitoring of mangroves and the HSM for CGSM as well as the development of technical studies that support activities related to the model. INVEMAR and IDEAM will support the implementation of monitoring activities. The Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Biological Resources Research (IAVH) generates the knowledge to assess the state of biodiversity in Colombia to make sustainable decisions and as such, it will be part of the project's Steering Committee.
National Parks System –NPS	Entity administrating the two (2) protected areas in the study area; will participate in the planning and implementation of all the activities in the project, having a vital role in coordinating activities with the indigenous peoples of the SNSM.
European Union –EU-	The EU will provide co-financing through the project "Territorial governance in sustainable, productive, and resilient landscapes," which will support the implementation of sustainable land-use practices, forest conservation, and water efficiency measures in the Sevilla and Frio watersheds, contributing to the project outcomes.

CORPAMAG	Regional environmental authority for the project area, leading the monitoring, control, and surveillance plan for CGSM, ultimately responsible for the improved agricultural management and ecosystem conservation and restoration in locations outside the 2 PAs of the project. As the authority responsible for water concessions, CORPAMAG will accompany the technical studies that will support proper water management and implement the needed measures in that respect. Also, it manages the toll surcharges fund for the conservation of the Ramsar site.
Indigenous Organizations	The Confederation of the Tayrona Indigenous People –CIT- and Territorial Indigenous Council–CTC-Organization represent the Arhuaco and Kogui indigenous peoples of the SNSM. These indigenous groups are settled in the upper and middle watersheds of the Fundación and Aracataca rivers. They will participate in the implementation of all activities in the middle and upper watershed as well as in the coordination of project planning to ensure that activities are within the management guidelines for the ancestral territory, which covers the entire project intervention area.
Government of the department of Magdalena	Key actor in the decision-making processes for the department of Magdalena (covering the entire project area). This entity is responsible for coordinating actions among municipalities, traditional authorities (indigenous groups), CORPAMAG, and national-level institutions, regarding environmental monitoring, control, and surveillance activities.
Organizations of the Productive Sectors	The organizations include the Association of Banana growers (BANASAN and others), the Committee of Coffee Growers of Magdalena, the National Federation of Cattle Ranchers –FEDEGAN- and the National Federation of Palm Oil Producers –FEDEPALMA-, among others. They will have a role in supporting and scaling up the implementation of sustainable farming practices with producers.

The stakeholders mentioned above are aware of their role in the project. As part of the PIF preparation, in July 2018 and October 2019, the MADS, IADB, and CI held workshops with key stakeholders for the conservation of the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta to validate the project scope, as well as to identify the sources and type of co-financing.

The Project will have a Steering Committee (SC) made up of the MADS (International Affairs Office, Director of Biodiversity Forests and Ecosystem Services [DBBSE], and other technical units), NPS, IAVH, and INVEMAR. This Committee will be responsible for providing strategic guidance to the project, as well as the approval of the Annual Work Plans, among others. There will also be a Technical Committee, which will be comprised of technical counterparts of the same institutions of the SC, and technical staff from other relevant institutions and civil society partners.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

The project will include a gender analysis at the design phase to strengthen the actions foresaw at the PIF and propose appropriate solutions to overcome gender gaps and promote gender equality, especially by promoting women's participation. The project coordination unit and key execution partners will be trained to develop, implement, and monitor gender equity strategies throughout the project. Also, a gender specialist will be part of the project's executing unit. In addition, as part of the monitoring activities, gender-disaggregated data will be collected and analyzed to adapt the project's activities to promote women's participation. In terms of the governance component, the project will encourage and create the tools to guarantee the inclusion of women and youth in leadership positions in the CGSM governance model (Output 1.1.). The capacity-building program aims to reach a 50% woman participation (output 1.3) and strengthen gender egalitarianism through i) showcasing women's meaningful contributions to conservation and sustainable development, ii) implementing training activities to raise gender awareness and to build core gender equity capacities, and iii) incorporating gender equality in the governance model's bylaws and constitution, iv) promoting technical assistance with a gender approach (i.e. considering women's time availability, child care needs, including female technical assistants, etc.) among others.

The project will also integrate the gender dimension into the awareness campaign (output 1.4) by featuring success stories of local women involved in conservation and conducting activities without interfering with women's household work. Furthermore, opportunities to improve women's participation and decision-making will be fostered in the second component by i) implementing training activities with community groups to encourage women's participation in leadership positions (output 2.3.), ii) conducting female-only focus groups to ensure including indigenous women's conservation needs in the inclusive conservation strategy for indigenous territories (output 2.5), and iii) considering the female perspective and needs in the zoning activities and restoration measures in private lands (output 2.7). The project will pursue a "household approach," which means the primary beneficiaries in private lands will be the agricultural households rather than the owner or manager of the productive system, which are usually men. The project will target and prioritize female-headed households. Also, women will co-sign the conservation and water management agreements (output 3.1). They will be active decision-makers in identifying and implementing sustainable production practices and water efficiency measures (output 3.3).

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

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

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

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The associations of the productive sectors will be fully engaged in the project to ensure proper design and scaling-up of incentives, included in Components 2 and 3. In addition, the private sector will directly benefit from the conservation agreements to promote sustainable agricultural practices. In the middle basin, conservation agreements will focus on coffee growing farms; therefore, the Committee of Coffee Growers of Magdalena will be an active partner of the project. In the lower basin, the national organizations of livestock producers (i.e., FEDEGAN) and oil palm growers (i.e., FEDEPALMA) will be the organizations to consider in promoting water management efficiency and conservation agreements. Also, banana growers in the lower basin will be represented by the sub-national organization ASBAMA. Besides, USOARACATACA, the water user association of the large-scale irrigation district of the Aracataca river, will be a crucial stakeholder for reaching an agreement for the water allocation system and the restoration/conservation activities in the watersheds. The mentioned private sector organizations will be key in promoting sustainable practices and have an important role in supporting the stakeholder agreements that will be implemented as part of strengthening environmental governance (Component 1).

The project will identify and implement appropriate economic incentives for scaling-up the transformation of production systems in the Aracataca and Fundación watersheds by promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and technologies. These incentives must be geared toward fostering sustainable production while enhancing productivity. The specificities of these incentives will be identified during the design phase. Its design and implementation will involve collaboration with private companies specialized in the marketing of sustainable agricultural products and organizations that aim to promote the environmental sustainability of food systems.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

The overall risk rating for the operation is moderate considering security conditions in the project intervention area and the high level of coordination required among stakeholders. A full assessment of the risks will be performed during the preparation of the operation.

Colombia has policies in place that request the mainstreaming of climate actions across economic sectors and planning documents. It requires performing climate change scenarios for 10, 30, and 50 years. The climate change risks identified for the project assessment considered the Comprehensive Plan for Climate Change Management in the Department of Magdalena for 2040 – PIGCCT (MADS, 2015). According to the PIGCCT, the degree of the climate change threat and the sensitivity level of biodiversity to climate change are very low, despite projections of temperature increases and rainfall decline.

Type of Risk	Risk	Description	Rating	Measures proposed
Development	Climate change	Lack of local community participation due to floods, drought, decrease in fishing, and agricultural productivity.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritizing restoration activities in places where water conditions do not experience extreme drought. - Implementing adaptive management measures of sustainable, productive activities in drought/flood situations.
	Climate change and climate variability	Extreme weather events, such as flooding and drought, will accelerate the degradation of the wetland complex by decreasing fresh water inflows during “El niño” events. Moreover, it is estimated that, by 2100, the temperature in the CGSM will increase by 2.4°C and rainfall will decrease by 23%, on average.	Moderate	During the design phase, in-depth climate change risk assessment for the CGSM will be conducted, ensuring a comprehensive action plan for the project execution. The activities considered in the project will take into account the results from the climate change assessment to ensure the sustainability of the investments. Moreover, according to the PIGCCT recommendations, the project will support the following actions to foster resilience and adaptation to climate change: (i) enhance CGSM monitoring systems by including specific climate change indicators, (ii) implementing incentives for conservation in private lands; (iii) tackling deforestation and land degradation; (iv) i

				implementing measures for the efficient use of water resources, (v) restoration of the upper watersheds of the SNSM, and water governance agreements.
	Health and Economy	The COVID-19 crisis is currently restricting travel, meetings, and economic activity. This could delay project design and implementation.	Medium	Remote meetings will be used as much as possible for project design. In execution, the project will enforce and implement the biosafety protocols established by each local government. Stimulus post-crisis may be an opportunity to make the business case for conservation/restoration activities, sustainable livelihoods, and to include the project approach in any relief/stimulus package. Finally, the Colombian Government maintained biodiversity as an essential issue of its Green recovery Strategy for the COVID-19 crisis.
Social conflict	Safety issues	Delays or need to change the project scope due to safety conditions, which will limit staff mobility, decrease the interest of suppliers, affect the delivery of works and equipment, etc.	Moderate	-Linking to the project national and regional authorities to know the conditions of public order in the work areas and propose and action plan for its monitoring.
Governance	Stakeholder coordination	Delays in the project implementation, due to the lack of consensus between public and private stakeholders. This, regarding the actions prioritized for the management of the strategic ecosystem.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthening all stakeholders through the activities of the governance component -Allowing the appropriate times needed for coordination of activities that support a collective construction of the process. -Capacity-building of state and private sector officials on the rights and instruments of the self-government of Traditional Peoples

Per the Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy (OP-703), the project is classified as Moderate/Category "B," because it shows environmental and social impacts that can be mitigated through standard measures. The project intervention area comprises National Protected Areas and indigenous territories. However, no adverse effects are anticipated, and positive impacts are expected due to biodiversity conservation and the participatory governance that will be

encouraged. During the design phase, the Strategic Environmental and Social Analysis and its Implementation Plan will be developed, including a sociocultural analysis of the indigenous groups, and culturally appropriate consultations with main stakeholders will be carried out. The results will be published on IADB's website.

6. Coordination

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

The Project Executing Unit (PEU) will ensure coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation, and communication necessary to implement the project. Financial and technical management tools will also be developed to provide appropriate tools for follow-up and tracking of project objectives and results. The Steering Committee, led by MADS and other entities involved in the project, will use these tools as inputs for decision making in adaptive management. The tools will highlight the advances and delays in a synthesized and graphic manner and make evident the barriers to achieving project outcomes, outputs, and indicators, thus facilitating the revision and redesign of intervention strategies.

During the project's design, specific arrangements for monitoring and evaluation will be developed and agreed upon. CI will develop an Annual Work Plan (AWP) with its corresponding performance indicators. It will submit semiannual financial and technical reports, based on IADB's reporting policies to track the project's progress toward achieving the results indicated in the Results Framework. The project progress will be examined at least once a year by all parties involved in the execution and implementation. Project Implementation Reports (PIR) will be submitted annually to the GEF. The technical inputs for the PIR will be prepared by the executing agency, while the report itself will be submitted to GEF by the IADB. Per IADB policies and norms, an independent third party will perform the midterm and final evaluation in coordination with CI, the Steering Committee, and the IADB. The INVEMAR will lead and implement the monitoring activities in the CGSM. The impact evaluation will be carried out by an external consultant, supervised by CI, and directed by IADB, MADS, and MADR.

The project will coordinate actions with the GEF project "Consolidation of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) at National and Regional Levels" (GEF Project ID 5680), which is currently under implementation with support from the IADB. This project aims to consolidate SINAP's management and planning at the national and regional levels through the development of instruments that enhance its management effectiveness to increase ecosystem representativity and strengthen stakeholder participation. The strengthening of local protected area subsystems by part of the SINAP GEF has contributed to the study of connectivity and representativity of PAs in the Caribbean Region, identifying the CGSM as a national priority for implementing conservation actions. Another GEF project currently under implementation with support from the IADB is "Sustainable Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Magdalena River Basin" (GEF Project ID 4849). This project aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Magdalena river watershed through the protection of priority habitats, improved ecosystem health, governance, and strengthening of local capacity. As the CGSM ecoregion is part of the Magdalena River Basin, the activities implemented by that project will complement those proposed in this project.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

Yes

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

Colombia's National Development Plan (NDP) (2019-2022) puts sustainable development at the center of its agenda and mentions the restoration of the CGSM hydrodynamics as a priority action for the Caribbean region. The SINAP Policy (2020-2030) considers the project intervention area as a national priority for conservation, drawing upon conclusions from two studies. The first study, "Socio-ecosystemic connectivity of the Colombian Caribbean Region (FAO, 2019)," identifies the area of connectivity between the CGSM and the SNSM as one with the highest priority in terms of protection and restoration. It is also one of the two regions within the Caribbean, where PA structural and functional connectivity is still possible. The second study, "Ecological representativity of biomes in Colombia (PNNC, 2019)," shows that there are two unique mountain forest ecosystems in the SNSM not represented in the SINAP. Therefore, they are a national priority for conservation.

The Ramsar - Biosphere Reserve Management Plan, the Safeguard Plans for the Indigenous peoples and territories of the SNSM, the Management Plans for the PAs, and the Ordainment and Management Plan of the CGSM wetland complex, incorporate the guidelines for actions that support the protection of the CGSM ecosystem and its protected areas, in line with the national priorities for the conservation of the ecosystems present. Also, it is a priority of the Colombian government to remove the CGSM Ramsar Site from Montreux Record for wetlands at high-risk.

The project is consistent with the following national policies: The National Policy for Integrated Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2014), the National Policy for Integral Management of Water Resources (2010), and the National Environmental Policy for the Sustainable Development of Ocean Areas and Coastal and Island Areas of Colombia (2000). The project is aligned with the Biodiversity Action Plan of Colombia that emphasizes the importance of protecting strategic ecosystems, such as wetlands, to increase the environmental goods and services that are the basis of human development.

8. Knowledge Management

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

Activities under Knowledge Management will seek to document and systematize the lessons learned at regional and national levels through project implementation. These lessons will serve to (a) improve project implementation through adaptive management; and (b) inform the broader public of project activities, results, and environmental challenges for the Caribbean region through appropriate materials of communication in diverse media.

The project impact evaluation (output 4.2) will provide the information to scale-up conservation and sustainable production incentives in the Fundacion and Aracataca watersheds and implement a novel governance model (output 1.1), generating important lessons for replicating these activities in other strategic areas for biodiversity conservation.

As part of the Communication Strategy (output 4.3), the project will develop an external communication strategy that will define the communication challenges of the project from the first-year: dissemination of the project, its components, and main objectives and expected results, progress, key messages, audiences, required pieces of communication, types of media (print, social networks, etc.). An internal communication strategy will also be formulated to facilitate the sharing of decision-making procedures, activities in progress, etc. among the project partners. This strategy must be incorporated into the Governance Model Action Plan (output 1.1) to be fully integrated into the stakeholders’ institutional duties. It will encourage organizations to work together in generating and disseminating rigorous evidence to support decision making processes regarding the use and protection of natural resources. Additionally, the project will produce scientific information linked to the databases of national research institutions (INVEMAR, IDEAM, IAVH). It will contribute to consolidate the current national information systems and support the public policy-making process.

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

Per the Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy (OP-703), the project is classified as Moderate/Category "B," because it shows environmental and social impacts that can be mitigated through standard measures. The project intervention area comprises National Protected Areas and indigenous territories. However, no adverse effects are anticipated, and positive impacts are expected due to biodiversity conservation and the participatory governance that will be encouraged. During the design phase, the Strategic Environmental and Social Analysis and its Implementation Plan will be developed, including a sociocultural analysis of the indigenous groups, and culturally appropriate consultations with main stakeholders will be carried out. The results will be published on IADB's website.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
CO-G1014_SSF_20200211_1453	
CO-G1014_SPF_20200211_1453	

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

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
David Olarte	Head of International Affairs	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	9/22/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

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

The project's intervention area comprises 592,748 hectares under improved management to benefit biodiversity in the CGSM, focusing on 442,388 ha at the Fundación, Aracataca, Frio, and Sevilla watersheds that connect the SNSM to the CGSM. The geographic boundaries of the project area are between longitudes 74°51'42.07" W and 73°31'21.31" W, and latitudes 11°6'18.52" and 10°14'13.

