



**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)<sup>1</sup>**

**PROJECT TYPE:**

**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TF**

**PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Project Title:</b> Strengthening of governance for the protection of biodiversity through the formulation and implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (NSIAS).			
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Argentina	<b>GEF Project ID:<sup>2</sup></b>	
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	FAO	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and (SAyDS); Provincial Government of Tierra del Fuego Antartica	<b>Submission Date:</b>	26 March, 2012
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	BD	<b>Project Duration (months):</b>	48 months
<b>Name of parent program (if applicable):</b>		<b>Agency Fee:</b>	387,000
	• For SFM <input type="checkbox"/>		

**A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>3</sup>:**

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing <sup>a</sup>
BD-2	2.3: Improved management frameworks to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species. Indicator 2.3: IAS management framework operational score as recorded by the GEF tracking tool.	Output 2.1. Policies and regulatory frameworks (number).	GEF TF	3,686,000	17,432,888
Subtotal				3,686,000	17,432,888
Project Management Cost <sup>4</sup>				184,000	600,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>3,870,000</b>	<b>18,032,888</b>

**B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

<b>Project Objective:</b> Development of a strengthened framework for governance to enable the effective protection of biodiversity from negative impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the territory of Argentina.						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing
					(\$) <sup>a</sup>	(\$) <sup>b</sup>
1. Strengthening of institutional capacities at national and provincial levels for managing IAS	TA	1.1 Increase in effectiveness in the protection of biodiversity and sensitive ecosystem from adverse impacts of IAS measured as: a) articulated border control mechanisms among key institutions prevent the entry of IAS (number of	1.1.1 Lists of current IAS in Argentina including areas invaded and characterized in a White list and a Black list by the degree of negative impacts on ecosystems and native biodiversity based on recollected and systematized available information of IAS in Argentina.  1.1.2 NSIAS developed, agreed and signed by the Government of Argentina (GoA), Provincial Governments (GOP) and key	GEFTF	924,000	3,690,231

<sup>1</sup> It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

<sup>2</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

<sup>4</sup> GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

<b>Project Objective:</b> Development of a strengthened framework for governance to enable the effective protection of biodiversity from negative impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the territory of Argentina.						
<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Indicative Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Indicative Co-Financing</b>
		mechanisms in place and entries avoided); b) number of early detections and rapid responses to IAS; c) number of protected areas with a strategy for IAS management; and d) 8-10 of 14 possible points in score as recorded by the GEF BD tracking tool section 1, 2, 4, and 5 under the IAS BD outcome 2.3	<p>institutions including a country wide system for the prevention and control of entrance points, early detection and rapid actions, and protocols for the management of priority species which have already invaded specific ecosystems.</p> <p>1.1.3 Network of key institutions (provinces and relevant national agencies including INTA, APN, MAGyP, PNA, SENASA, INASE, etc.) involved in the issue of IAS established serving as the national coordination mechanism for the monitoring and implementation of the NSIAS.</p> <p>1.1.4 Protocols for risk analysis of introduction or import of alien species particularly for use in sensitive, susceptible or vulnerable areas (including as a consequence of climate change), validated by members of the NSIAS network, and including: a) database and lists of IAS characterized by their possible risks for Argentinean ecosystems and list of areas sensitive to the impact of IAS; b) definition of roles and responsibilities in risk analysis, monitoring, coordination and issuing of permissions for introductions.</p> <p>1.1.5 50-150 Staff of institutions participating in the NSIAS network has been trained in the implementation of the NSIAS including the use of surveillance tools, monitoring and control (GIS database, communication protocols, etc. ), procedures for early detection and rapid action, the protocols for risk analysis of the introduction of IAS, and socio-cultural and economic aspects of the use of IAS.</p> <p>1.1.6 Communication strategy developed and implemented and broadcasting material suitable for different cases of IAS and their prevention, control and management (brochures, television spots, radio broadcasting, website, informal education programs).</p>			
2. Strengthening of regulatory frameworks and financing mechanism supporting the implementation of the NSIAS	TA	2.1 Legal and policy frameworks at national, provincial as well as at regional level ensure the implementation of the NSIAS reducing entry, expansion, and negative impacts on native biodiversity (the frameworks obtains at least 3 of 5 possible points in score as recorded by the GEF BD tracking tool section 3 under the IAS BD outcome 2.3)	<p>2.1.1 Harmonized regulatory frameworks for the control of IAS in the trade, transport, tourism, agriculture, aquaculture and other sectors.</p> <p>2.1.2 Financial mechanisms sustaining the medium term implementation of the NSIAS including PES schemes involving the private sector in prevention, control and management of IAS as part of their production practices complementing efforts made by government institutions.</p> <p>2.1.3 Draft Law of minimum budgets on IAS developed and agreed with the provinces.</p> <p>2.1.4 Proposals on bilateral and regional strategies on IAS incorporated in the</p>	GEFTF	347,000	1,842,949

<b>Project Objective:</b> Development of a strengthened framework for governance to enable the effective protection of biodiversity from negative impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the territory of Argentina.						
<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Indicative Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Indicative Co-Financing</b>
			agenda of bilateral and regional agreements (Mercosur)			
3. Validation and implementation of protocols for the management of IAS in prioritized taxes and ecosystems included in the NSIAS	TA	<p>3.1 xx ha of priority ecosystems under effective IAS management measured in recovery of biodiversity affected or threatened and obtaining at least 5 of 6 possible points in score as recorded by the GEF BD O-2 tracking tool part VI issue 6 "assessment and best management practices applied"</p> <p>3.2 Awareness campaigns in the case of each protocol monitored through surveys of residence and key stakeholders in the area under validation, demonstrate a medium level of knowledge among at least 50% of the informants of the IAS impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity and key management and control strategies and prevention of reinvasion.</p> <p>3.3. NSIAS adjusted to lessons learned from the implementation and validation of 3-6 protocols for management of specific IAS included in the NSIAS</p>	<p>3.1.1 Inter-institutional agreements for the implementation of 3-6 protocols for management of IAS already present in critical ecosystems involving relevant stakeholders in each case depending on ecosystems and resources affected and type of expertise required considering technical, social, and economic aspects.</p> <p>3.1.2 Baseline and indicators including biodiversity recovery indicators for monitoring of the effectiveness of the implementation established for 3-6 protocols</p> <p>3.1.3 control, containment and/or eradication actions implemented and systems to control and prevent reinvasion above critical levels established</p> <p>3.2.1 Awareness campaign tailored to each of the 3-6 protocol implemented including broadcasting material specific for the target species distributed in key locations</p> <p>3.3.1 Experiences and lessons learned published and distributed in the network supporting coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the NSIAS.</p>	GEFTF	1,117,000	6,750,000
4 Development of pilot program for the eradication of the American Beaver, in the Province of Tierra del Fuego, based on governance of Invasive Alien Species	TA	4.1 14 000 ha of native forest and peatland ecosystem under effective control (xx ha) or eradication (xx ha) of the American Beaver in Tierra del Fuego measured in recovery of biodiversity affected or threatened and obtaining at least 5 of 8 possible points in score as recorded by the GEF BD tracking tool section 6 under the IAS BD outcome 2.3	<p>4.1.1 3-6 Eradication or Control Plans and protocols for each 3-6 demonstration units covering three types of demonstrations with different ownership and level of invasion: 1) demonstration units for eradication on private property; 2) demonstration units for eradication in protected areas; and 3) density Control in the rest of the occupied areas.</p> <p>4.1.2 3-6 inter-institutional and stakeholder agreements for the implementation of each plan</p> <p>4.1.3 Baseline of density of population and area affected and indicators including biodiversity recovery indicators for monitoring of the effectiveness of the implementation of the eradication and control plans</p> <p>4.1.4 50-150 staff of provincial institutions and authorities, private land owners, the forestry and agriculture sectors have the capacities to support the implementation of the eradication or control plans and</p>	GEFTF	1,168,000	4,849,708

**Project Objective:** Development of a strengthened framework for governance to enable the effective protection of biodiversity from negative impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the territory of Argentina.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing
		<p>4.2 xx ha under permanent control, monitoring and prevention of reinvasion keeping the population of the American Beaver to a level preventing adverse impacts on the native forest and peatland ecosystems</p> <p>4.3 Bi-national Massive Eradication Program of the American Beaver in Tierra del Fuego under implementation before two-five years after the end of the pilot projects in each country</p>	<p>protocols including understanding the dynamics of the beaver live-cycle, colonies and expansion patterns, approaches to eradication or control, detection indicators and ecosystem impact and recovery indicators (average score of trainees after capacity building program 75%).</p> <p>4.1.5 150-300 trappers, hunters, supervisors and key stakeholders in the eradication and control activities have the capacities to effectively implement the protocols for each demonstration unit (average score of trainees after capacity building program 75%).</p> <p>4.1.6 Control and/or eradication actions implemented</p> <p>4.2.1 Systems to control, monitor and prevent reinvasion established with sustainable financing</p> <p>4.3.1 Results monitored and lessons learned from the implementation of the eradication or control plans in each demonstration unit systemized and published and serve as the basis for adjustment of the NSIAS and the formulation a massive bi-national eradication and prevention of reinvasion program with Chile</p> <p>4.3.2 Bi-national Massive Eradication Program of the American Beaver in Tierra del Fuego agreed with Chilean counterparts for the eradication and prevention of reinvasion in Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego based on pilot experiences from both countries allowing for the implementation of the third phase of the joint program “Implementation of the Bi-national Adaptive Plan for Eradication of the Beaver (PACB)”.</p>			
5. Project progress monitoring and information dissemination	TA	<p><b>5.1</b> Project implementation based on results based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated</p>	<p>5.1.1 Project monitoring system operating providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets</p> <p>5.1.2 Midterm and final evaluation conducted and project implementation and sustainability strategy adjusted to recommendations</p> <p>5.1.3 project-related “best-practices” and “lessons-learned” published</p> <p>5.1.4 website to share the experience and information dissemination.</p>	GEFTF	130,000	300,000
			Sub-total		3,686,000	17,432,888
			Project Management		184,000	600,000
			Total		3,870,000	18,032,888

### C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	SAyDS	Grant	2.000.000
National Government	SAyDS	In-kind	2.375.863
National Government	Conicet y ANPCyT	In-kind	607.600
National Government	Conicet	Grant	200.000
National Government	APN	In-kind	545.283
National Government	Customs	In-kind	45.000
National Government	SENASA	In-kind	176.887
National Government	INTA	In-kind	82.547
National Government	Universities	In-kind	1.500.000
National Government	Universities	Cash	500.000
Provincial Governments	Tierra del Fuego Antartica and South Atlantic Islands (Comp. 4)	In-kind	2.090.000
Provincial Governments	Tierra del Fuego Antartica and South Atlantic Islands (Comp. 4)	Grant	1.160.000
Provincial Governments	Provincial Governments (comp. 3)	Grant	2.000.000
Provincial Governments	Provincial Governments (comp. 3)	In-kind	3.200.000
National Government	Military forces	In-kind	367.708
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Grant	50.000
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	In-kind	200.000
Private Sector	Farming producers (comp. 4)	In-kind	260.000
Private Sector	Farming producers (comp. 3)	In-kind	600.000
Private Sector	Trade and Industry Sector (comp. 4)	Grant	30.000
Private Sector	Transport and Tourism	In-kind	42.000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>18.032.888</b>

### D. GEF/LCDF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Funds	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c=a+b
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>						

<sup>1</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

### **A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:**

#### **A.1.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:**

1. The implementation of a National Strategy for Invasive Alien Species (NSIAS) contributes to the Second Objective of the GEF biodiversity Focal Area strategy “*mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors*”. In Particular the project will contribute to the outcome 2.3 “*Improved management frameworks to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species*”. The formulation of the NSIAS aims at strengthening the governance, improving skills and incentives to manage and regulate the use of IAS and prevent invasions of IAS with adverse impacts on the native biological diversity. The project will take advantage of opportunities to support biodiversity-friendly production applying safeguards to prevent and control negative impacts of IAS by resource managers as well as by users, including the private sector, like transport, tourism, trade and agriculture.

2. This initiative is also based on addressing the conclusion on the “*The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)*” and “*The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*” reports, which indicate that *ecosystem services are being degraded or used unsustainably with serious socioeconomic consequences, for human societies and the future of the entire life on the planet*” IAS standing out among the most important direct causes.

#### **A.2 NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NBSAPS, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAS, NIPS, PRSPS, NPFE, ETC.:**

3. The Argentine Republic has incorporated the environment in many policy regulations, such as Constitutional ones, adherence to International Conventions, and national and subnational legislation. The Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified in 1994 by Law 24.375. Subsequently the Degree 1.347/1997 approves the Convention and creates the National Advisory Committee for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity, CONADIBIO, which function is to establish mechanisms to facilitate adequate participation of government agencies and nongovernmental organizations with competencies and sphere of actions directly related to environmental issues and its close relation to the economic and social variables. CONADIBIO is contributing to the development of appropriate strategies, as well as plans and national programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and will be supporting the development of the NSIAS.

4. Article 8 h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity establish that each Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of and control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or native species. Argentina in its National Strategy on Biological Diversity (2003) created by resolution 91/03 includes within its scope of Biodiversity and agroecosystems Objective 1 item 1.3 “Assess the environmental impact and control the introduction and management of exotic species and genetically modified organisms, preventing the involuntary introduction of undesirable organisms (weeds, pathogens) and trying to minimize the risks associated to human health and genetic contamination and / or ecological displacement of species and local ecotypes”. In addition, the National Biodiversity Strategy has among its 18 areas of action the “Prevention and control of exotic and invasive species in order to apply the precautionary principle, whereby each introduction is assumed potentially harmful to the environment, biodiversity, quality of life and of human activities; the establishment of severe restrictions on the importation and voluntary or accidental introduction of new alien species; the strengthening of traffic control mechanisms of living species, including plant and animal health aspects, and in all cases requiring prior assessment of risks and impacts involved; the raising of awareness in the area of the different sectors of the community about the risks and damages resulting from accidental or intentional introduction of exotic species; the development of programs to reverse or mitigate the negative effects caused by the species already established.” The Strategy raises four specific objectives, the first one being the strengthening of the mechanisms of plant and animal health control, customs, etc. The second specific objective is to regulate the deliberate introduction of species and exotic varieties required for the production, research or any other use, incorporating mechanisms for assessing environmental impact. The third specific objective is to develop and define an agreed policy to prevent the introduction of exotic species and to encourage the use of native equivalent species. The fourth specific objective is to establish detection mechanisms and early control of new exotic species and reverse or mitigate the negative effects caused by exotic species already established.

5. The development of a NSIAS will also generate global environmental benefits to biodiversity while complying with the “Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use” of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets. Especially target 9 which provides that by 2020 “the invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”. With the pilot of the eradication of American beaver in Tierra del Fuego (where this invasive species causes serious degradation of the peatlands, watersheds and forests, resulting in significant carbon emissions at the country level stored in these ecosystems), the proposed project will also contribute to the Strategic Goal D: “Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.” Especially the target 15 which provides that by 2020 “ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.”

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

### **B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:**

6. The Republic of Argentina has a rich biodiversity in 18 (Eighteen) varied eco- regions including Antarctic environments, tropical forests, arid ecosystem of steppe and mountain, coastal marine environments, and temperate grasslands among others. For its geographical distribution, the Republic of Argentina has a 9376<sup>5</sup> km. border with 5 (five) countries, a boarder river, Rio de la Plata, and a 5117 km. coastline with the Atlantic Ocean. The country has numerous protected areas both at national and sub-national levels. At the national level there are 38 (thirty-eight) units under the category of National Parks, Natural Reserves, and Natural Monuments accumulating an area of 3,683,995 hectares. In addition the national protected area system also includes the Coastal Marine Southern Patagonia Park and the Pizarro National Reserve covering 4,515

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<sup>5</sup> National Geographic Institute (with: Brazil: 1.132 km; Bolivia: 742 km; Chile 5.308 km; Paraguay: 1.699 km; Uruguay: 495 km).

hectares. Considering the sub-national systems, there are more than 338 protected areas, as well as specially protected sites as the Ramsar sites. The main threats to biodiversity in Argentina are the elimination, segmentation, and degradation of habitats and ecosystem functions. Some causes are related to the productive sectors, either by extraction or conversion of habitats to other land uses such as agricultural production, forestry, and mining. Other reasons, which have been increasingly recognized due to their seriousness, as in the international findings in "The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment," are linked to the presence of IAS.

7. The presence of IAS detected in Argentina generates negative impact on biodiversity with economic and social implications and pressure on native species under some degree of threat of extinction. Wild populations of at least 22 species of mammals that were introduced for hunting reasons and fur, for their ornamental value or their offspring for food, industrial or recreational purposes, have been registered. Furthermore, only in northwestern Patagonia, from San Martín de los Andes to Esquel 300 species of exotic weeds have been found. (Rapoport & Brion, 1991). In Annex 1 is a list of some of the IAS in Argentina with adverse impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.

8. One of the most serious IAS threats to the unique ecosystems and biodiversity of peatlands and native forest in the southern Sub-Antarctic region is the American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*). The beaver was introduced in the Isla Grande Tierra del Fuego in 1946, and has achieved a rapid distribution in the Argentine territory in areas under the national protected area, Tierra del Fuego National Park, on private lands, provincial natural protected areas, in forest reserves, and has spread to the Republic of Chile including the peninsula, which will give it access to invade Chile's mainland forest. This IAS seriously affects the biodiversity of environments of high value and local, regional and global importance. Its actions including the logging of trees and construction of dams, impact forest ecosystems, main and sub watersheds, peatlands, and farmland. The biggest Sub-Antarctic forests of the Southern Cone Lenga, *Nothofagus pumilio*, have been seriously altered. The actions of the beaver have led to the death of individuals in the flood zone of the dam, causing a decrease in biomass and volume of forests, especially forests classified as protected forests along watercourses. The Tierra del Fuego peatlands represent more than 90% (110 million tons) of the national existence of peat. Anthropogenic exploitation is kept low, giving a substantial importance of the peatlands for regulating watershed; for nutrient retention and habitat for bird life, native flora and insects; for their fossil record (paleoenvironmental record) important for the study of geomorphology of the quaternary; and for their global contribution to carbon sequestration. The beaver changes the hydrology and sediment flow of this important ecosystem, and alters the water chemistry in watersheds (Lizarralde et al. 2004). Based on joint studies between Argentina and Chile a current population of 100,000 beavers is estimated for the Tierra del Fuego.

### **Baseline initiatives, investments and Barriers**

9. To confront the threats of IAS, the Argentine Government has started a strategy based on normative aspects which were primarily established on the basis of Article 5 of Law No. 22,421 of Wildlife Conservation, which established in 1981 that "the National Enforcement Authority may prohibit the import, introduction and establishment of live specimens, semen, embryos, hatching eggs and larvae of any species that can alter the ecological balance, affect economic activities or disrupt the performance of the purposes of this law." The Regulatory Decree No. 691/81, Article 116, established that the import of live wildlife will require the prior approval of the implementing authority. This regulation was based on the adherence to international conventions, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity. Simultaneously, additional rules have been issued especially considering alien species as in the case of Resolution 376/97 of the Secretary of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development of the Nation, whereby measures are taken to the control of introduction of new exotic species into the country. It specifically states that "Any introduction of a new exotic species into the country, whatever the cause or purpose is, should be preceded by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

10. The National Parks Administration highlighted in the 2005 annual operating plan that in 92% of protected areas there was a need to address management projects of IAS. Efforts made to address the management of exotic species in National Parks had until then been erratic, isolated and discontinuous. In 2007, the Administration developed the Strategic Guidelines for the Management of Alien Species in National Protected areas (Resolution No. 172/07). For this purpose, the database of the Biodiversity Information System that the same institution has developed and manages was used in combination with the Database System on Biological Invasions in Argentina (InBiAr). This system is collecting and organizing information related to the national problem of biological invasions in the framework of the Project I3N of the Inter-American Information Network on Biodiversity (IABIN). InBiAr records include so far a total of 649 exotic species and represents an investment as part of the proposed project baseline of USD 50 000. Of these, 445 belong to the Plant kingdom, 199 the animal kingdom, 4 to Fungi, and 1 to the Protists.

11. While all these important steps have been taken in improving the IAS regulatory and management frameworks, the lack of a coherent and sector integrated National Strategy for IAS, economic valuation of native biodiversity, and lack of cost information on the impacts of IAS at all levels (tourism, trade, forestry and agricultural production and administration) are main barriers preventing a strong implementation of the regulatory and management frameworks. Other important barriers are the lack of harmonization of regulations and actions of stakeholders involved at national and sub national levels and the absence of awareness programs about the effects caused by IAS. In some cases introduction of IAS has been encouraged for productive purposes, but without the relevant risk assessments, and in other cases exotic species have even gained popular support and are used as promotional icons for geographical areas. The latter applies to the Beaver in Tierra del Fuego. Lack of knowledge of the damage to biodiversity caused by IAS has deteriorated the environments and their provision of goods and services. Due to these barriers, there has been no progress in the integrated governance of IAS.

12. As the baseline for the development of the NSIAS, there have been numerous scientific studies which have demonstrated the presence and adverse impacts of different IAS. Among others, USD 1.8 million have been invested in studies and risk assessments related to IAS, prioritized as focus species for the NSIAS and for management strategies pilots for the proposed GEF project, supported by the National Board for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), national universities, and other financing entities.

13. Even though with limited results, there have been various experiences in development and implementation of management strategies of already introduced IAS representing a baseline investment of more than USD 4 million. As an example the management of the Acacia negra (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) in protected areas represent an investment of more than USD 2 million. Other management and control experiences include; the European Rabbit in Tierra del Fuego by biological control with myxomatosis virus; eradication attempt by the hunting of the European hare in Patagonia; elimination of Rosehip specimens at Perito Moreno, Los Glaciares and Los Alerces National Parks initiated in 2009; Like Willow removal projects in Perito Moreno and Los Alerces National Parks; control and/or eradication of tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) in various sectors of the National Park Lihue Calel; systematic elimination of ownerless or feral cattle from National Parks El Rey and Los Glaciares; and Restoration of natural environments affected by woody invasive plants at the Ernesto Tornquist Provincial Park (Buenos Aires). However, these experiences all suffered from lack of articulation and organization of all involved sectors and local stakeholders managing the use of lands in the development and implementation of IAS management strategies. Monitoring of ecosystem rehabilitation processes and systematic control of the re-invasion was also not put in place making the efforts un-sustainable in many cases.

14. The Province of Tierra del Fuego Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands, affected by the American beaver, is a young barely 20 year old jurisdiction, which nonetheless developed rules aiming at land use planning, and management of natural resources in a framework of sustainability, emanating from the local constitutional mandates. In that context, the province has a Provincial System of Protected Natural Areas, Act No. 272. Through the Provincial Law No. 696 of 2006 the American beaver was declared a harmful and damaging species in the area of the province because of its adverse impacts on native forests, watersheds and peatlands ecosystems. At present, and under the national enactment of Law No. 26.331 on Minimum Environmental Budgets for Protection of Native Forests, and on the basis of the Provincial Forest Act No. 145, the provincial authority of Tierra del Fuego has established the criteria for Forest Land Management (still under approval). The administration of the forest of Tierra del Fuego is managed within this framework limiting the areas available for forestry exploitation. In order to preserve the biodiversity from impacts from the mining activities and build a framework of territorial planning, the Government of the Province of Tierra del Fuego Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands passed Resolution No. 401 SDSyA at the beginning of 2011 which approves the land-use planning criteria and zoning of peatlands, and protects a very important ecosystem for carbon sequestration. However the success of the implementation of these land-use planning and ecosystem protection measures depends on the effective management of the beaver as an aggressive and destructive invasive species.

15. Since 1988 more than USD 0.6 million have been invested in baseline studies and investigation in the beaver and its impact on the native ecosystems.<sup>6</sup> A bi-national process was initiated in 2006 between the

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<sup>6</sup> “Estructura genético poblacional y análisis de autocorrelación espacial del castor (*Castor canadensis*) en el Archipiélago de Tierra del Fuego: implicancias de la estructura espacial para el control y/o erradicación.” The findings from this study are being used to develop the approach of the Control Units of the proposed project. “Evaluación de la alteración y restauración de los ciclos biogeoquímicos en bosques de *Nothofagus pumilio* de Tierra del Fuego afectados por prácticas de manejo forestal (IB – IA).”; “Bosques degradados de *Nothofagus* por *Castor canadensis* en Tierra del Fuego: ¿pueden



Governments of Argentina and Chile due to the increasing distribution of American beaver. Since then, technical, scientific, and experiences in the territory have been strengthened. Common goals have been articulated on the restoration of Southern Sub-Antarctic ecosystems affected by the beaver and the two countries have worked together in developing a bi-national eradication program, the "Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Beaver in Southern Patagonia" with the overall goal to eradicate the beaver in 7 million hectares and 27.000 km. of rivers. The the total cost of the Strategic Plan is estimated to USD 33 million, it should be implemented over ten years, and includes four phases: (I) "*Feasibility study and development of the project's overall strategic plan for the eradication of Castor*", which has been implemented representing a baseline investment by the two countries of USD 0.2 million; (II) "*Systematic Pilots to develop skills and test different strategies, techniques and methodologies for the eradication and monitoring, control and prevention of re-invasion and develop the Detailed Bi-national Adaptive Plan for the Eradication of Beaver (PACB)*", which will be supported by the proposed project (no GEF funds will be used for the eradication which will be paid by co-financing) plus a parallel project supported by FAO and proposed by the Chilean government to the GEF; (III) "*Implementation of the Bi-national Adaptive Plan for Eradication of the Beaver (PACB)*"; and (IV) "*control, monitoring and prevention of re-invasion*". Moreover considering cost-effective eradication options the approach is also intended to promote the resilience of the ecosystems freed from the beaver, assess and evaluate measures that may be necessary to restore the biodiversity of the affected ecosystems. The second phase of the programme is crucial to demonstrate the feasibility of eradication efforts in pilot areas and promote awareness among private and public stakeholders in order to achieve the needed financial support for the third phase.

### **Project approach**

16. In order to preserve, value, and/or restore healthy ecosystems, the National Government in the framework of the CONADIBIO has decided to initiate a process of development of a National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (NSIAS) for aquatic and terrestrial environments, continent and islands of Argentina, that will be supported by the proposed project. Further, the master document of the NSIAS will serve as a baseline for the development of the proposal for a National Law on Minimum Budgets for the governance of IAS. The overall purpose of the National Strategy is to build a systematic and integrated approach to the problem of IAS, with an emphasis on "prevention efforts", "early detection and rapid action", and "control and management" of IAS already established and constituting a threat on native ecosystems. During the process of formulation as well as implementation of the National Strategy on IAS, risks will be evaluated and prioritized, allowing for an improved quality decision-making on the possibilities of: allowing the entry of certain species, establishing monitoring, control and/or supervision mechanisms of entry points of IAS, unintentional or clandestine introductions, especially on roads or access points of high risks. The NSIAS will be made up of national priority targets, based on IAS listings, supported by scientific knowledge, socio-economic variables, and management systems which will determine the present of IAS in the territory, access routes, speed and route of invasion, and vectors of entrance and/or dispersion. With the establishment of official lists of prohibited and permitted IAS, public policies for the conservation of biodiversity and socio-economic valuation of cultural environments and sectors are constituted.

17. Based on existing studies of risks and levels of impact on ecosystems and biodiversity, the government has established a list of IAS for different taxa found in different types of high priority ecosystems which will be included in the NSIAS including: black wattle (*Acacia melanoxylon*), the privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), the chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), the Mink (*Mustela vison*), the boar (*Sus scrofa*), the pinto Stornino (*Sturnus vulgaris*), the giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*), the mucus Stone or rock Snot (*Didymosphenia geminata*), the American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), Squirrel (*Callosciurus erythraeus*, and *Callosciurus finlaysonii*), and the American Beaver. Particularly in the case of the American Beaver considering its significant impact on the unique ecosystems of peatlands and Sub-Antarctic native forests, the bi-national characteristic of the problematic, and that the government of Argentina has made formal agreements with the government of Chile, the beaver has been selected as a test case for which a management strategy will be piloted from the beginning of the development of the NSIAS.

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recuperase? (IB)."; "Estudio de la presencia del puyen, *Galaxias maculatus*, en los cursos de agua del Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego. APN. (IA)" studying the impacts of the Beaver on a native fish species. "Wildlife Conservation in Tierra del Fuego"; "Evolución y desarrollo de las formas del paisaje, el bosque fueguino y otros ecosistemas terrestres litorales en la Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego y en la Isla de los Estados en los últimos 15.000 años (IA - IB)" the Beaver is in this case mentioned as a main cause of drastic modifications in the ecosystems and biodiversity of the Island of Tierra del Fuego the last 50 years as is the case of the las two studies: "Diversidad de coleopteros caminadores en el Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego (IB - IA)"; and "Patrones geograficos, mecanismos y consecuencias demográficas de los cambios en la distribución de especies forestales: un análisis comparado en áreas óptimas y marginales (IB)."

18. In the development of the strategy, particular emphasis will be placed on the identification, participation and involvement of stakeholders, both national and sub-national government institutions, as well as private sector. The aim is to increase ownership to ensure long-term commitment to achieve and then maintain the goals established for each case of IAS. In addition to the master document, the National Strategy will include other sub-components aimed at strengthening national and provincial institutional capacities; strengthening of regulatory frameworks and national policies to support the implementation of the NSIAS. The regulatory framework must be consistent with the Argentine normative pyramid ranging from constitutional mandates to sub-national standards, including international commitments ratified by Argentina, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. Another subcomponent will be the establishment of a strategy of communication and dissemination to promote public and institutional awareness for the implementation of the Strategy. Once the development of these sub-components has been completed, the phase of validating of the Strategy begins through the implementation of protocols for management of priority IAS introduced in the country and constituting a threat on local and global important biodiversity and ecosystems. This phase will allow putting specific management frameworks into practice through assigned roles to different actors in each case, training of involved actors and awareness raising processes. The pilots will generate valuable experiences, validation of techniques in the field, and obtain lessons learned to enable the implementation management protocols for other IAS already introduced in the country and with an adverse impact on native ecosystems.

**B. 2. INCREMENTAL / ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADDITIONAL (LDCF/SCCF) ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF/LDCF/SCCF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ASSOCIATED ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF) TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:**

20. The continuity of the current situation will increase the possibility of threats to native biodiversity by the introduction of IAS. The IAS already established in the country will continue their expansion increasing the vulnerability of ecosystems, including areas with biodiversity of high global significance. With natural resources under the responsibility of the provinces without Minimum Standard Budgets for protection against IAS, in a country with a federal administration, poor harmonization of regulatory and legal framework there is a high risk of des-coordination between agencies. This lack of coordination weakens the monitoring and control systems, increasing the fragility of systems to the entry of exotic species resulting in a constant threat to biodiversity, of local and global importance.

21. The co-financing and incremental GEF funding will help through this project to advance the compliance with national and international commitments regarding governance of IAS by developing and implementing a National Strategy on IAS, supplementing it with pilot experiences on control and management of IAS prioritized for their serious adverse impacts and an experience on eradication of the American Beaver in Tierra del Fuego financed by co-financing. With these experiences, building of capacities, and strengthening the policy framework and legislation, incremental benefits will be achieved from improving the governance of the management of IAS, and applying lessons learned nationally and globally. To achieve this incremental impact, the project is presented in the following 5 components:

22. Component 1: *Strengthening of institutional capacities at national and provincial levels for managing IAS*

At the beginning of the project, the National Strategy for Invasive Alien Species will be developed (NSIAS) based on the consensus on concepts established in the National Biodiversity Strategy. This component will support Institutional Strengthening that promotes governance, interagency and inter-jurisdictional agreements, and development of protocols assigning roles and responsibility of each of the actors or key institutions in the control and management of prioritized IAS with adverse impacts on native ecosystems. A network system of the institutions involved will be formed, allowing the exchange of information and application of appropriate management strategies in situations of risk, invasion and / or monitoring of introduction of IAS. Early detection and response systems and contingency plans associated with them are established. These systems will contain agreed action protocols, budgets, and tools and interactions allowing for quick and cost-effective responses to new invasions and at the same time preventing new incursions. Furthermore, government staff will be trained in the application of the NSIAS, particularly in the use of risk analysis of potential IAS, prevention and monitoring tools, and control and management of already introduced IAS in order to remove critical barriers of lack of knowledge and institutional capacities.

23. Taking into account that the consensus and buying in of all sectors is a central premise for the development and implementation of NSIAS, which will need the participation of various public institutions at national and provincial level as well as the private sector (tourism, transport, agriculture, forestry, aquaculture etc.) a communication strategy of the NSIAS will be developed. Social communication will be an important tool in strengthening the National Strategy in order to establish the awareness needed to enable cost-effective

actions. For this purpose, the local community, farmers, visitors, tourists and carriers, will be informed about the risks posed by IAS, and actions and responsibilities for prevention, early warning and control and management of species already established in the territory.

The co-financing commitment of the national government to this component and component 2 include financial contributions, staff time, and a political commitment to insert the importance of the IAS problematic in the national agenda resulting in complementary regulations as well as a new bill on minimum budget for IAS control and risk mitigation. The commitment of the government also includes supporting the inclusion of IAS strategies in the regional agenda with neighbor countries in the context of MERCOSUR.

The co-financing commitment of the national government in support of this component and component 2 amounts to USD 7.8 from budget and extra budgetary resources from Autoridad Ambiental Nacional (SAyDS – National Environmental Authority); Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (Conicet – National Board for Scientific and Technical Investigation); Parques Nacionales (National Protected Areas Administration); Aduana (Custom); Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (Senasa - National Food Safety and Quality Service); Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agrícola (INTA - National Institute for Agricultural. Technology); public universities; and Fuerzas Armadas (The Army).

*24. Component 2: Strengthening of regulatory frameworks and financing mechanisms supporting the implementation of the NSIAS.*

Based on protocols, systems and plans developed in component 1 for the prevention, early detection and rapid action, and control and management of the IAS, regulatory standards for the control of IAS in the sectors of trade, transport, tourism, agriculture and others are harmonized. As a medium-term objective and to ensure the financial sustainability of the implementation of the NSIAS, there is a need to formulate a National draft law on minimum management budgets of National Invasive Species which shall contain a special chapter on the origin of the resources. As in other policy frameworks the funds will be integrated from the national treasury, donations, fines, and insurance premiums implemented on behalf the state. Since natural resources are under provincial jurisdiction, it is expected to reach implementation agreements which will allow complementing the national minimum budgets with provincial funds.

25. To provide sustainability in the medium and long term of the implementation of the NSIAS, the state minimum budget will be supplemented by looking for other financial mechanisms. It will explore various short, medium and long term sources. In the first case, the sources of national treasure from specific plans and programs integrating matching funds will be analyzed. All the mechanisms of synergy of national laws promoting activities and minimum budgets already issued, which may contribute to a common cause of conservation of biodiversity will be studied. Funding mechanisms and/or grants from foundations and/or international organizations will be explored.

26. Special attention will be paid to the development of self-supporting mechanisms for biodiversity protection. As such, it seeks to take advantage of the experience gained on Payment for Ecosystem or Environmental Services (PES) and certification schemes of environmentally friendly products. Management tools and control of IAS could be incorporated as a criterion in these certification schemes and the related productive activities. This would allow the mainstreaming of IAS management in key sectors important for the prevention and control on a voluntary basis especially at subnational levels. In the case of forest certification, actions on IAS which include management, reforestation, and conservation of forest ecosystem services, etc., should be part of the requirements for obtaining the benefits of the same certification, which is not currently the case. To access the economic benefits of the certification scheme, the control of IAS as for example the American beaver in the Tierra del Fuego should be included in sustainable forest management plans. The income derived from payment mechanisms for environmental services (PES), could complement and increase the institutional capacity for restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forests and forest areas affected by the beaver. Another example to explore would be to include actions and control measures and management of IAS in PES schemes in watersheds following the recommendations of the declaration of Arequipa, developed in the framework of the III Latin American Congress on Watershed Management, which emphasizes the urgency to adopt or increase payment systems for environmental services in watersheds. IAS, as in the case of the American Beaver, may cause physical alteration of waterways and habitat degradation due to deforestation or other native vegetation and measures for its management, control, and eradication should be included in watershed management plans and conservation of environmental services compensated through PES schemes. Another example would be the incorporation of best practices in prevention and warning on IAS in Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) schemes through an awareness campaign in particular addressing emblematic companies involved in environmental goods and services provided by the national biodiversity.

27. **Component 3: *Validation and implementation of protocols for the management of IAS in prioritized taxes and ecosystems included in the NSIAS***

By conducting workshops, and using consultation and participatory approaches, validation of protocols for the management of IAS already established in the territory and prioritized during the design process of the National Strategy is performed. Impacts on specific areas and native vulnerable species, biodiversity and its goods and services will also be validated as well as economic and sociocultural implications. With the support provided by such information, possible strategies for the management of each IAS will be developed together with specific protocols. The management protocols may include control, containment and eradication measures depending on the risks and mitigation options in each case. However, no GEF resources will be used for eradication measures. All eradication actions assessed to be necessary and feasible in a management strategy will be financed by government or private co-financing. Through agreement with local stakeholders the protocols will be implemented to provide pilot experiences and lessons learned for the adjustment of the NSIAS. The provincial governments in pilot areas will support with an indicative amount of USD 8.4 million in co-financing for this component.

28. **Component 4: *Development of pilot program for the eradication of the American Beaver, in the Province of Tierra del Fuego, based on governance of Invasive Alien Species***

The project will support the implementation of a pilot program for the management of the beaver in the southernmost island territory of Argentina in the Province of Tierra del Fuego Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands. This component is the second phase of the "Strategic Plan for the eradication of the beaver project in southern Patagonia" implemented in agreement between Chile and Argentina and will be implemented in close coordination between the two countries. There are two types of activities to be developed under this program: "*Eradication in demonstration units*" and "*Control of density in the rest of the occupied areas*". As for component 3 GEF resources will not be used for any eradication actions in the field. These actions will be paid by private and government co-financing.

29. ***Eradication in Demonstration Units (DU)*** will be financed by government and private co-financing and will allow for the validation of technical and economic assumptions made in relation to the eradication and the generation of missing technical and practical experiences to support later cost-effective scaling of the eradication in the entire island of Tierra del Fuego. To achieve this aim, sustained capture efforts in the selected "demonstration units" (Mímica River, Moat River, Pipo River, Arroyo Gama) will be used. Based on previous studies (Lizarralde and Escobar 1999) best practices will be applied using trapping efforts superior to 40,000 traps held at night for more than a year. The objective is to generate 5 (five) demonstration units with the participation of local hunters, workers and land owners under different beaver population densities, vegetation cover, difficulty of access, types of watershed and in different scenarios of land tenure conditions. To achieve this objective, four rivers located in demonstration areas of the characteristics mentioned above and which have information that would provide a baseline will be selected. These areas correspond to different "population structures" that are distributed spatially. In addition these pilots will represent "typical" environments invaded by the beaver in the island of Tierra del Fuego. In order to validate actions on private lands managed exclusively by their owners, and inspected by the enforcement authority, a fifth demonstration unit will be established on a farm of the agro-ecological zone "Ecotone" selected through a participatory process with the Producers Association of Tierra del Fuego.

30. ***Control of density in the rest of the occupied areas*** in the Island of Tierra del Fuego financed by government and private co-financing amounting to USD 4.8 million will include stimulation of control of the invasion by independent hunters and the inhabitants of rural areas, especially in forest areas, leading to the conviction and trapping culture aiming at biodiversity conservation. This will help to decrease the pressure of the species and the re-invasion of the demonstration units. The goal of control is to trap all the beavers present in all beaver dams (family units). The GEF resources will finance: development of tools and capacity building for control and containment of the beaver in these areas outside the eradication demonstration units; establishment of monitoring system for rehabilitation of biodiversity and native ecosystems (including key biodiversity rehabilitation indicators for peatlands, sub-Antarctic native forest, and watersheds) and development and implementation of eventual rehabilitation support strategies; and capacity building in systematic monitoring and control of re-invasion.

31. To implement the removal of beavers in both DU and control areas international standards such as the Agreement International of Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) and the relevant EU regulative from 1991 will be applied. The Patagonian beaver fur sector exports to the EU market and is already complying with EU regulations for humane trapping and handling of the animals. Further, in Argentina trapping of animals with fur purposes complies with the regulations established by CITES (Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora). This is by virtue of being a member country of the Convention. Argentina also participates in the negotiations of TC191 (Technical Committee of ISO relevant for trapping of animals with fur purposes). After the trapping of the animals there are various alternatives for the use of the animal (meat for gastronomic use and fur) depending on the agreements reached with public and private sectors. Previous experiences have also demonstrated that the meat can also be used in the crab industry substituting horse meat in crab traps. When the distance and accessibility do not allow the remains will be disposed away from the hunting site applying the standards mentioned above.

Several strategies will be implemented to support the management of the beaver: i) payment will be made to independent hunters through a established monitoring plan to prevent re-invasion, avoiding application of perverse incentives; ii) traps will be delivered on consignment to farmers who will hold hunting on their land; iii) bodies of hunters dependent on the NPC and Provincial Ranger will be formed, iv) collaboration by military forces in hunting and the destruction of dams where populations are eliminated will be agreed on; and v) agents of the provincial and national parks will be trained in successful techniques for assessing, monitoring, and control of re-invasion. The provincial institutions will also be institutionally strengthened, specifically in governance and management of IAS, updating the current regulations, development of management strategies, generating incentives, development of programs for monitoring and assessment of ecosystem impacts, development of proposals for economic sustainability of program beyond the end of the project, formation and training of human resources.

32. In order to keep progress made in the joint implementation with the government of Chile in phase II of the "Strategic Plan for the eradication of the beaver project in southern Patagonia" special emphasis is placed on identifying and putting into operation finance mechanisms (options listed under component 2) for the implementation of the following two phases of the Strategic Plan with the government of Chile which are III "*implementation of Bi-national Adaptive Plan for the Eradication of the Beaver (PACB)*," and IV "*Control, monitoring and prevention of re-invasion.*"

Through the pilot program, experiences and lessons learned of control and eradication of an IAS will be obtained. It will demonstrate the needs of appropriate regulatory frameworks, and of policies necessary to maintain the sustainability until the final elimination. It will allow for validation of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in all stages of the management of the demonstration units, especially monitoring and control of re invasion, mainly considering the rehabilitation of the watershed and vegetation cover as early indicators of biodiversity recovery.

33. Component 5: *Project progress monitoring and information dissemination*

To contribute to institutional learning and to the formulation of policies based on concrete evidence, organizational effectiveness and development, the project will include a system for monitoring project monitoring and dissemination of results. The monitoring system will have two parts, one for the monitoring of the implementation of the NSIAS and one for the monitoring of the project itself. This component will support the development of skills that will contribute to a cost-effective governance and management based on monitored results through indicators and graphical outputs, such as dynamic maps of sensitive areas, susceptible or vulnerable native biodiversity, existence and risk of IAS. These mechanisms must be conformed and be validated by image databases, indicating morphological features that facilitate their identification, including field verification. Monitoring of project outputs and outcomes will be carried out especially in places where the pilot tests are performed.

34. **The global environment benefits (Gebs)**, will be expressed in an enhanced protection of native biodiversity from the alterations and destructions caused by IAS.

Particularly, the fourth component of the proposed project generates tangible global environmental benefits in conservation of unique biodiversity and ecosystems in the island territory of Tierra del Fuego under processes of rapid degradation by the American Beaver. Sub-Antarctic Forest goods and services including biomass will increase resulting in increased carbon sequestration, water quality will increase and sedimentation will be reduced, the Patagonian peat lands, which are one of the most important carbon reservoirs in America, will be conserved also providing services for watershed regulation and habitats for unique Sub-Antarctic biodiversity. With the eradication of the beaver in at least 14 000 ha. in demonstration units, the project will allow the recovery of native biodiversity in these sub- Antarctic ecosystems unique worldwide.

35. When formulating and implementing the NSIAS, through all its components the speed of entry and spread of new species, and the risk of IAS on biodiversity will be reduced. At regional level this strategy will also influence the IAS governance agenda within MERCOSUR by integrating border controls with the member countries of South American bloc. Furthermore, the risk analysis carried out, the good practices

implemented, and lessons developed in the country will be offered to the member countries, in order to be incorporated in the regional strategy of MERCOSUR, reducing the vulnerability of the ecosystems of the Southern Cone America, promoting the resilience of biodiversity in the region. Global environmental benefits also are achieved through the conservation and recovery of natural environments used for regional and international tourism that enjoys observing natural landscapes, native flora and fauna.

**B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS(GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF). AS A BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ [MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE GEF.](#)":**

36. The socioeconomic benefits consolidated in the long term of the implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species in Argentina will be linked to improvements in biodiversity and in the provision of goods and services of maintained or restored ecosystems affected by IAS mainly through the conservation of protected natural areas and tourism activities linked to them in pristine environments. The inbound tourism in Argentina in 2004 represented 1.6% of GDP. The currency generated by the sector accounted for 7.2% of the exports of goods and 50.0% of the export of services. 50% of visitors come on vacation and nearly 30% of tourists chose areas of natural environments (Federal Plan of Tourism - Argentina 2016). The tourist sector is very important in socio economic terms because it integrates and links all economic activities in its value chain. It also provides foreign visitors social and cultural benefits related to leisure, recreation and the use of "free time" outside the everyday environment. Reducing the threat of IAS, will tend to maintain and potentially improve long-term indicators for the tourist sector. It may increase the scientific tourism, and observation of birds, currently strongly developed in some destinations.

37. In all components, particular attention will be paid to gender equality and tending to provide capacity building activities on IAS specifically focused on women and youth. In turn, the actions generated by the National Strategy, will decrease the vulnerability of indigenous peoples territories by incorporating these into a national integrated and inclusive plan. It will also contribute to maintaining knowledge, and customs of their cultures by conserving their traditional food sources, natural materials and equipment threatened or replaced by invasive alien species.

38. In the long run, the presence of a consolidated framework of IAS will provide socio-economic benefits to other economic activities such as forestry (timber and non-timber) where the economic damage of the beavers is increasing. Agricultural activities will also be benefited with the conservation of native grasslands and ecosystem services like pollination. Furthermore, the project will deliver indirect economic benefits by allowing the development of research on valuation of environmental goods and services, as well as direct costs and / or indirect costs imposed by IAS.

**B.4 INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE, PROPOSE MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPED DURING THE PROJECT DESIGN:**

Riesgo	Nivel	Medida de Mitigación
National and provincial authorities may not include measures for the control of IAS in the institutional priorities	Low	The participative and consensus building processes used to develop the National Strategy require the participation of stakeholders from all sectors. So the risks of invasive alien species will be identified and the need for control will be established. The project will specifically address the barriers that have so far prevented effective IAS government and management. By providing regulatory frameworks, management tools (such as protocols and specific mechanisms of control) and measures of funding for implementation, adoption of measures by the institutions will be facilitated. The project will also mitigate this risk by generating awareness programs and institutional strengthening oriented to allow the provincial authorities to assume their roles outlined in the National Strategy on IAS which will also be supported by the project in addition to valuing the costs generated by the IAS not controlled.
Climate change could increase the risk of IAS.	Medium	Climatic variations generated by the effect of climate change increase the vulnerability of ecosystems to the threat of IAS. The dramatic events such as floods increase the risk of species introduction. Also, as climatic conditions change, the native populations may come under increased stress levels and reach limits of overcoming the problem becoming less resistant to the threat of invasive species. The project will consider climate change as

Riesgo	Nivel	Medida de Mitigación
		one of the variables to be considered in risk analysis which will form the basis for determining priorities in strategies for the ISS.
Institutional changes in the various local governments could provide incentives for economic activity conflicting with the National Strategy on IAS	Low	The diffusion and awareness programs will be permanent, providing local knowledge through integration into a network of institutions and organizations involved and identified as key stakeholders. For the current maintenance of this network, self-financing mechanisms will be promoted related to processes of continuous improvement activities in the awareness of local people and economic activities, especially tourism, transport and trade. The maintenance of levels of awareness of the risks and costs of adverse impacts of IAS maintain a state of alert for suspicious situations of introductions of IAS that may not be listed in the National Strategy
Financing for strengthening of contention of the IAS not available	Medium	The project will advance on a law on minimum budgets on alien species, which will contain a financial budget to identify funding sources for implementation. Including mechanisms of payments for environmental services generated by the protection of biodiversity, and synergies with other programs implemented in the territories. In addition, the possibility of inspection charges, fees, and the creation of trust funds will be explored.
Local communities and the main actors in key sectors (forestry, tourism, agriculture) are not completely committed and do not adopt the practices proposed by the National Strategy.	Low	The project will coordinate efforts to ensure that the control of IAS integrates the key stakeholders in the knowledge of the need to adopt the principles of the National Strategy. Strengthening and regulatory adaptation will narrow the margins of possibilities of adoption of practices at odds with the objectives of the National Strategy. The provincial authorities who are constitutionally responsible of National Resources are strengthened by the project, for early detection of inappropriate practices. The draft law on minimum budgets on Exotic Species will also contain a chapter of penalties and sanctions that will operate in dissuasive way.
Access to private land is restricted and interferes with the adoption of strategies established	Medium	Through processes of dialogue, consensus, and interagency interactions carried out under the project and with the accompaniment of the GoA and GoP measures are implemented designed to overcome this barrier. In the case of the pilot test of Tierra del Fuego the beaver was declared a harmful and damaging species in the area of the province through the Provincial Law No. 696 of 2006, a situation that paves the way for the involvement of private land owners.
The restoration of biodiversity does not happen in a spontaneous way after eradication actions of IAS.	Low	Processes will be developed to investigate what is the balance of positive and negative economic and ecological effects, to encourage assisted recovery mechanisms, if it becomes a suitable option.

**B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, NGOS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:**

39. The formulation of the NSIAS and implementation of the project will be led by the Working Group on Conservation of Biodiversity (SAyDS) in close coordination with key institutional actors which will be the national and provincial environmental authorities and representatives from the private sector (tourism, transport, agriculture, forestry and fishery) and other key government institutions (SENASA, APN, INASE COFEMA, CONADIBIO, Argentina Naval Prefecture, Gendarmerie, CONICET, INTA). The key players in designing the National Strategy will first be detected, and simultaneously the main leaders needed for the implementation from both public and private sectors will be identified. In the medium and long term private sector stakeholders become relevant, particularly those involved in trade, transport, tourism, and agriculture. In the long term, as new protocols and / or regulatory programs are established, farmers have an important role in the diffusion and adoption of production practices for the control of IAS with adverse impacts on biodiversity and for which the land and agricultural practices are pathways. Civil society will play an active role during the project, through the participation of NGOs. For the implementation of Component 4 Development and implementation of pilot program to eradicate American Beaver the execution will be led by the Department of Wildlife SAyDS in close coordination with Chancellery, the Government of the Province of Tierra del Fuego, PNTDF APN, and the CADIC.

40. The involvement of the media will contribute to the governance of the IAS, both by broadcasting the National Strategy, as well as on the importance of preserving the biodiversity of IAS to be able to sustain its goods and services. They will also be extremely useful in warning systems for early detection of new introductions.

## B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

41. The connection and coordination with other national, regional, and implementing agencies initiatives, in progress or starting up, will help optimize resources by avoiding duplication and creating synergies. In the field of regional coordination, it will be important that the project is embedded in and coordinated with the implementation of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy as IAS can often be a of cross-border problem. The Regional Biodiversity Strategy is in the context of the MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) Ad-hoc Biodiversity Group which in August 2005 decided to propose a series of points. General guidelines for the future of MERCOSUR Biodiversity Strategy were identified including strategies for invasive alien species. Later, in the First Extraordinary Meeting of Environment Ministers, 29 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, the principles, objectives and guidelines of the Biodiversity Strategy were declared. Lines of action and guidelines relevant for coordination with the proposed project are: a) *"Promote and support the joint implementation of biodiversity inventories, seeking to come to an agreement and systematically assess the methodologies adopted for its implementation, so as to structure a coordinated system of records of species, with special emphasis on the endemic ones and those which are threatened or in danger of extinction, as well as **invasive aliens species, especially in border areas and in shared ecosystems**"*; and b) Guideline specifically IV.3 *Prevention and control of invasive alien specie.*

42. At the national level for the implementation of the NSAIS, in particular the component of early detection and action on AIS, the project will collaborate with already existing biodiversity and ecosystem conservation programmes to take advantage of resources available and biodiversity conservation capacity building processes already ongoing at the local level within which the proposed project will mainstream the AIS early detection and action component. Further, one of the selection criteria for AIS, to be managed through the pilot implementation of management protocols in component 3, has also been the existence of resources through other projects available for the areas and ecosystems they have invaded. This will facilitate synergies in terms of: already existing baseline data on native biodiversity and ecosystem threats from IAS; data on current health status of biodiversity and ecosystems; and resources and local institutional capacities available for the implementation of the management protocol for specific IAS and monitoring of the ecosystem recovery as an indicator for the effectiveness of the protocols. The coordination with these projects and sources of financing will be further formalized during full project preparation but will mainly be done through the SAYDS which different offices and departments are already involved in many of these projects. Another important coordination mechanism will be the sub-committee for IAS created under the CONADIBIO which has the participation of SAYDS and other sector institutions of the national government, the private sector and NGOs.

The projects relevant for this coordination which will provide information on impacts from IAS on biodiversity in specific ecosystems that needs to be considered in the formulation of the NSIAS and provides a local institutional platform for capacity building in early detection and action: (i) Sustainable Management of Water Resources of the Plata Watershed with Respect to the Effects of Climate Variability and Change (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) that will provide important information on the climate change impacts on changes in species including AIS to be considered in the NSIAS; (ii) Environmental Protection of Rio de la Plata and its Maritime Front (FREPLATA), (Argentina and Uruguay); (iii) Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Guarani Aquifer System; (iv) Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Bermejo River Binational Basin; (v) Subregional Action Programme for Sustainable Development of the Gran Chaco (Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay); (vi) Integrated Project Management Master Plan for the Rio Pilcomayo, funded by the European Union (Argentina Bolivia and Paraguay);(vii) Sustainable management of arid and semiarid ecosystems to control desertification in Patagonia, which has a specific component on the impacts of AIS grass species on native grass-species and how this invasion is contributing to desertification processes; (viii) Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ballast Water (GloBallast) which will implement long-term coordinated measures to minimize adverse impacts of aquatic invasive species transferred through ballast water from boats to coastal and marine ecosystems; (ix) Strengthening governance of fisheries to protect the fluvial biodiversity and wetlands in Argentina, which are ecosystems particularly threatened by IAS in Argentina; (x) Rural Corridors and Biodiversity Conservation (pending approval) which purpose is to provide greater continuity and connectivity to the various ecosystems of the country as well as greater consistency in the protection of biodiversity. In this project the capacity building of local communities in risk management related to AIS and early detection in the corridors will be very important; (xi) actualization and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Actionplan wherin the issue of IAS needs to be strengthened in synergy with the proposed project; and (xii) "Establishment of incentives for the conservation of ecosystem services of global significance" with the Its aim to overcome existing barriers in the country to implement a payment schedule for Ecosystem Services (PES), testing the PSE mechanisms and



development of systems that allow replication to ensure the protection of ecosystems of Argentina and the services they provide. The coordination with this project will be particularly relevant for the incorporation of IAS risk management measures in PES schemes as an innovative measure to support the financial sustainability of the implementation of the NSIAS and involvement of the private sector and local communities.

43. At the provincial level of Tierra de Fuego and other provinces involved in the implementation of pilot protocols for the management of priority IAS already introduced the Directorate of wildlife (Dirección de Fauna Silvestre) has initiated in 2011 the initiative for "the Coordination of Studies and projects on AIS" supported by technical assistance from CONICET. The aim is through more coordinated interventions to give more integrated solutions to priority wild fauna IAS including prevention, control, containment and/or eradication within the framework of national biodiversity conservation policies. This coordination mechanism will play an active role in the implementation of the Beaver Eradication Programme and AIS management protocols linking scientific studies and specialist with the actual development of methodologies and protocols and management decision-making. A special group of specialists in IAS in Argentina (GEEI -for the abbreviation in Spanish) has been created to support this link. Further for the Tierra del Fuego beaver component 4 the "Binational Agreement between Argentina and the Republic of Chile on the Restoration of southern ecosystems affected by the American beaver (*Castor canadensis*)" constitute the framework for the coordination between the two countries impacted by the beaver IAS and their common work on the development and implementation of a bi-national eradication project. The proposed project will be implemented in close coordination with the proposed FAO/GEF pilot eradication of the American beaver in the Chilean territory.

#### **C. DESCRIBE YOUR AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:**

45. FAO has considerable experience in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management including invasive alien species and the protection and health of plants, trees, forests, agricultural landscapes, aquatic species, wildlife and livestock. The FAO Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture aims at ensuring the sustainable management of native, exotic and invasive breeds in ecosystems, including agricultural ecosystems. The FAO Forestry Department has been working for many years on the management and control of plant pests, often insects, which exhibit an increased spread potential in times of global changes. Moreover, a new FAO Forestry Paper on "Wildlife in a changing climate" is giving significant attention to invasive species and their management featuring case studies such as on the invasion and eradication of the coypu or nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), a semi-aquatic rodent native to South America which causes immense damage to natural riverbank vegetation and adjacent crops in many countries of Asia, Europe and North America, very similar to the problem of the beaver invasions in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. In this respect, FAO has established good collaboration with renowned experts such as the Chair of the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group and is able to draw upon these contacts for the preparation and implementation of the proposed project.

FAO has further been much involved in the discussions and work on invasive alien species within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and regularly contributed inputs on the issue, for example through its participation in the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and the Ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG), and by delivering statements at CBD SBSTTA meetings. At the recent SBSTTA 15 meeting in Montreal, FAO concluded that it "gives great importance to all issues relevant to Invasive Alien Species, which impact on ecosystems and on the ability of these ecosystems to provide products and services that seriously impair human life and economies."

FAO is currently developing tools to maximize the benefits of adaptation to climate change of agricultural, livestock and forestry development programs, including adaptation to new dynamics in IAS based on experiences in projects supported by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLA). Specifically on the issue of IAS FAO has considerable experience in the methodologies and practices in establishing a network for forest dynamics and IAS and pest management in the Southern part of Latin America, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia with the aim to provide adequate information for proper decision-making.

46. FAO is also supporting the government of Chile in formulating a project proposal co-funded by the GEF to implement Phase II of the "Strategic Plan for the eradication of the beaver project in southern Patagonia" between Chile and Argentina. As FAO is agency of this project like the present project it will facilitate coordination between the two countries and processes and makes a coordinated technical support to implement the second phase of the plan in both countries.

**C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT YOUR AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT:**

47. FAO could provide a total of USD 250,000, of which USDD 50,000 in grants and USD 200,000 in kind for project implementation.

**C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO YOUR OWN AGENCY'S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND YOUR STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:**

48. The project addresses the Strategic Objective (SO) E of FAO, corresponding to the "Sustainable management of forests and trees." Further the project will contribute to FAO organizational results (OR): OR E1, policies and practices that affect forests and forestry are based on timely and reliable information; and OR E6, effective strategies for the conservation of forest biodiversity are applied. Moreover, Argentina has an UNDAF signed in October 2009, which stipulates the direct result 1.3, the country "will have implemented strategies and policies for the management and sustainable use of natural and environmental resources", whose products are : 1.3.1 Policies and strategies designed and implemented for the management and conservation of lands, forests, water resources and biodiversity, in a sustainable and equitable way at national, provincial and local level; and 1.3.2 Strengthened capacities to incorporate environmental sustainability in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and sector and territorial programs. For both products the FAO has an important participation with resource mobilization in the order of USD 3 million. The FAO Representation in Argentina has 7 employees, both technical and operational, including specialists in fisheries and agriculture that have implemented projects on water resources in Mendoza Province (USD 3 million), and is currently implementing a project of USD 3.7 Million in formulating investment projects in water resources at national level, both funded by the World Bank. To support the implementation of the proposed project and considering that the Representation does not have a wild life specialist the office will be backed up by forestry, plant protection and wild life experts from the FAO Regional Office in Chile and IAS experts from the Forestry Department in FAO Headquarters in Rome. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit in the Investment Center Division in FAO Headquarters in Rome will also support the project preparation and provide oversight to the implementation. All these divisions and specialists will be collaborating in the support of the project through a multidisciplinary Project Task Force.

**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 [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DATE (Month, day, year)</b>
ING. Graciela B. Conesa	GEF operationsl Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	November, 29, 2011

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.</b>					
<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date (Month, day, year)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Charles Riemenschneider Director, Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153, Rome, Italy		26 March, 2012	Rikke Olivera, NR Programme Officer, Investment Centre Division, FAO, Rome	+39 06570 55701	Rikke.Olivera@f ao.org
Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:Barbara.Cooney@fao.org">Barbara.Cooney@fao.org</a> Tel: +3906 5705 5478					

## ANNEX I

Scientific Name	Common Name	Local Distribution	Locality	Damage to Biodiversity	Economic Losses	Population Situation
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Acacia Negra	Bonaerense. Riparian zones		Progress on Talares.	Expanding on the talares. Small population centers that are played only in close partnership with parents (mountainous areas). Reduce and interfere with grazing. Cause severe damage to the cattle.	Small population cores that are played only in close partnership with parents (mountainous areas).
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Ligustro	Bonaerense, Central, Northeast, Northwest.	Talares de Magdalena, Delta, Yungas, Provincial park Ernesto Tornquist, National park El Palmar.	Retraction mountain jungle, exotic birds advancing. The forests invaded by <i>L. lucidum</i> displayed simplification in structure and floristic composition, sometimes even to be monospecific.	Reduce and interfere with grazing.	Healthy populations with high reproductive capacity (riverside and mountainous areas, and roads and railways of the Pampa region).
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Paraíso	Bonaerense, Central, Northeast	National park El Palmar, Yungas en Tucumán.	Retraction native species.	Reduce grazing	Healthy populations with high reproductive capacity (riparian areas).
<i>Mustela vison</i>	Visón	Provinces of: Río Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, Buenos Aires (?), Tierra del Fuego.	National park Los Alerces, riverside Chubut, National park Nahuel Huapi.	Cause serious damage to native wildlife.		Healthy populations with high reproductive capacity.
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Jabalí y cerdo cimarrón	Provinces of: Buenos Aires, Neuquén, Río Negro, La Pampa, Chubut, Entre Ríos, Córdoba, San Luis, Santa Fe (?), Mendoza, Santa Cruz (?).	Natural areas of Patagonia (National park Nahuel Huapi, National park Los Alerces, Lake Buenos Aires), natural grasslands San Luis, Mar Chiquita, Espinal. RAMSAR Reserve Laguna de Llanquanelo and MAB Reserve Ñacuñán (Mendoza, Argentina).	Destruction of the vegetative cover, displacement of native fauna.	Damage to crops	
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Stornino pinto	Coastal area in the Province of Buenos Aires: between the Tigre and La Plata. Small nuclei in Mar de Ajo and Mar del Plata.		They aggressively displace native birds, in some cases killing them using their beak, and compete for nesting sites and food. Example of displaced bird: the hornero.	Damage to crops, feedlots, orchards, cabling and buildings. Diseases transmitter to human and livestock: salmolenosis, Histoplasmosis, Blastomycosis, toxoplasmosis, coccidiosis, parasites and viral diseases	Healthy populations with high reproductive capacity.
<i>Achatina fulica</i>	Caracol gigante africano	Province of Misiones	It is found in a wide variety of environments, including natural wooded areas and implanted, agricultural areas, urban and suburban areas. It is clear that occurs most frequently in anthropic environments.	This species is considered agricultural plague. It has a high adaptability to different environments. Natural dispersion is slow accelerated by human action. High reproductive potential. Represents a high risk to native terrestrial molluscs.	It can act as disease vectors of medical and veterinary importance. Also one must consider the potential economic losses because of the threat this plague poses to more than 100 types of crops and stored grains	Healthy populations with high reproductive capacity.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Local Distribution	Locality	Damage to Biodiversity	Economic Losses	Population Situation
				A. fulica can act as hosts of nematodes of the genus Angyostrongylus. represent a risk for human health.		
<i>Didymosphenia geminata</i>	Piedra moco. Moco de roca	Futaleufu River area. The National Park Alerces		It is capable of producing large blooms that cover up to 1 km2 with a thickness sometimes exceeding 20 cm, and up to 100% of the substrates of aquatic environments, causing severe alterations in physicochemical and biological properties that lead to strong declines in some native wildlife species, specifically in invertebrates and some fish.	Produces large economic losses in the tourism industry to interfere with sport fishing and other outdoor activities.	Healthy populations with high reproductive capacity.
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Rana toro americana	Aquatic environments. Have been reported in Misiones, Buenos Aires y Córdoba.		Kind of voracious appetite is a powerful predator that can cause local extinctions of native species by ingestion.		Healthy populations with high reproductive capacity.

## ACRONIMOS

APN	National Park Administration
CC	Climate change
COFEMA	Federal Environment Council
CONADIBIO	National Advisory Committee for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity
CONICET	National Council for Scientific Research and Technical
DU	Demonstration Units
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GEB	Global environment benefits
GEF	Global Enviromental Facility
GOA	National Government
GOP	Provincial Government
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Developmen
INASE	National Seeds Institute
INTA	National Institute of Agricultural Technology
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAGyP	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
NS	National Strategy
NSIAS	National Strategy about Invasive Alien Species
PACB	Adaptive Plan for the Eradication of bi-national beaver
PNA	Argentine Naval Prefecture
PNTDF	Tierra del Fuego National Park
PSA	Payments for Environmental Services
PSE	Payment for Ecosystem Services
SAyDS	Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development
SENASA	Health National Service and Agrifood Quality
SIFAP	Plan Adaptiva de Erradicación del Castor Binacional
S&E	Tracking & Evaluation